

**IFC**Films

P R E S E N T S

# HOLD YOUR FIRE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY STEFAN FORBES



Official Selection



## *PRESS NOTES*

*STARRING*

**Harvey Schlossberg – Shu’aib Rahim – Jerry Riccio**

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95 MIN / 2021 / ENGLISH / COLOR

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Brooklyn, 1973. When Shu'aib Raheem and his friends attempted to steal guns for self-defense, it sparked the longest hostage siege in NYPD history. NYPD psychologist Harvey Schlossberg fought to avert a bloodbath, reform police methods, and save the lives of hostages, police, and the four young Muslim men at the heart of the conflict.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I first learned about Harvey Schlossberg I was amazed to discover a maverick, pacifist, intellectual cop with a Ph.D. in psychology teaching radical empathy to the police. Harvey played a key role in the longest hostage siege in NYPD history. It took place in 1973 Brooklyn, the home of *French Connection*, *Serpico*, and *Dog Day Afternoon*. I discovered that this harrowing ordeal, captured on gorgeous film by award-winning NYC photojournalists, is the origin story of modern hostage negotiation, and that Dr. Schlossberg's teachings provide hope for repairing America's broken methods of policing.

Working on this film throughout the killings of Michael Brown, Ahmed Arbery, Brionna Taylor, George Floyd, and countless others, I was dismayed to learn that most policemen aren't trained in Harvey's 'defuse and de-escalate' approach. This has to change. America tends to glorify macho guys adept at violence, such as heavyweight boxers and Special Forces Ops. I'd like to glorify a 99-pound intellectual police psychologist who upended traditional notions of masculinity and police use of violence. In the words of NYPD Captain Al Baker, who was initially skeptical of Schlossberg: *"It was revolutionary. We started to transcend street justice...It's an internal strength, the opposite of the eternal, explosive strength. That's true manhood. Violence is a weakness."* There are challenging and disturbing interviews in *Hold Your Fire*. I hope they'll help spark the messy, difficult, and honest discussions America needs to have around policing and criminal justice.

In making this film and my previous one, *Boogie Man*, about the divisive political strategist Lee Atwater, I've come to think of our nation as a dysfunctional family, full of love and compassion along with conflict, trauma, false narratives and toxic denial. As the spectre of coming political violence looms over America, can we hold this family together? Can we follow Harvey's lead and listen deeply to each other even as we strongly disagree? Can we absorb the truth that "violence is a weakness" and learn to hold our fire? The future of our multicultural democracy may well depend on it.

- Stefan Forbes

## CAST BIOS

**Harvey Schlossberg** was an NYPD officer, Freudian psychoanalyst, and the founder of modern crisis negotiation. He founded the Psychological Services department in the NYPD, where he pioneered treatment for violence-prone police. In the Handbook of Police Psychology, Schlossberg was called a "father of modern police psychology" for his role in changing the tactics police employed in hostage situations.

**Shu'aib Raheem** works as a Trauma Support Consultant. He previously served as the Program Coordinator for the Brownsville Arches Transformative Mentoring Program for criminal justice-involved children and families. He is the founder of the Jawala Scouts Leadership Training Program. He holds a master's degree in Pastoral Counseling from the New York Theological Seminary. He currently serves on the board of The Fortune Society.

## CREW BIOS

**Stefan Forbes** is an Emmy-nominated director. His award-winning documentary *Boogie Man: The Lee Atwater Story* (2008) won the IDA Emerging Filmmaker Award, the national Edward R. Murrow Award, the Polk Award for Excellence in Journalism, and was nominated for a WGA Award for Best Theatrical Documentary. It played 40 US cities theatrically and was seen on PBS's *Frontline*, The BBC's *Storyville*, the CBC's *Passionate Eye*, and was a Critic's Pick in newspapers worldwide. The *Washington Post* called it "one of the best political films ever made." Mr. Forbes' award-winning hourlong documentary *One More Dead Fish* (2004), about environmentally-friendly fishermen in Nova Scotia fighting globalization, was broadcast on PBS. Ken Loach called it "excellent" and Howard Zinn termed the film "an inspiring example of working people resisting the giant forces of globalization, in the great tradition of civil disobedience on behalf of justice." Mr. Forbes wrote and directed the cinematic musical performance *Monk Recut* with Grammy-nominated jazz ensemble MONK'estra, which Monk biographer Robin D.G. Kelley called "fabulous...breathtaking." Mr. Forbes is a former New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow and has served on the nominating committee of the Independent Spirit Awards.

**Fab 5 Freddy** aka Fred Brathwaite is an American visual artist, filmmaker, actor, hip hop pioneer, and criminal justice activist. He is considered one of the architects of the street art movement. Freddy emerged in New York's downtown underground creative scene in the late 1970s as a graffiti artist. In the late 1980s, Freddy became the first host of the groundbreaking hip-hop music video show *Yo! MTV Raps*. He is an actor and director, known for *Wild Style* (1982), *New Jack City* (1991), *Rachel Getting Married* (2008), and *Grass is Greener* (2019).

**Tia Wou** is a producer of the award-winning documentary film *Boogie Man: The Lee Atwater Story*, a Critic's Choice in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, which called it "one of the best political films ever." She is also a noted accessories designer who founded the company *Tote Le Monde*.

**Sam Pollard** is an Emmy Award-winning and Oscar-nominated producer, director and editor. His films include *MLK/FBI* (2020), *Sammy Davis, Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me* (2017), *When The Levees Broke* (2006), *Bamboozled* (2000), *Four Little Girls* (1997) and *Eyes on the Prize* (1987).

**Amir Soltani** is an Iranian-American filmmaker, writer and historian. He directed the Emmy-nominated documentary film *Dogtown Redemption* (2015), and wrote *Zahra's Paradise*, a *New York Times* bestselling graphic novel about human rights in Iran which has been translated into 16 languages.

# CREDITS

Directed, Shot, Written And Edited By

Stefan Forbes

Produced By

Fab 5 Freddy, Stefan Forbes, Tia Wou, & Amir Soltani

Consulting Producer

Sam Pollard

Music Composed By

Jonathan Sanford

Additional Music

Stefan Forbes

Rufus Cappadocia

John Beasley

Terreon Gully

Jessica Jarvis

Amanda Yamate

Brad Harper

With The Support Of

The Jerome Foundation

The Better Angels Foundation

Principal Cast

Harvey Schlossberg , PhD.

Shu'aib Raheem

Jerry Riccio

Antoinette Collarini-Schlossberg ,PhD.

Gerald Lefcourt, Esq.

Alice Buckner

NYPD Commissioner Ben Ward (archival)

NYPD Commissioner Patrick Murphy (archival)

Capt. Al Baker

Dawud Rahman

Sgt. Jack Cambria

Al Sheppard, ESU

Brian Tuohy, ESU

Rosemary Catalano

Drums

Terreon Gully

Piano

John Beasley

Bass

Edwin Livingston

Cello

Rufus Cappadocia

Guitar

Brad Harper



Flute

Taddeusz Poehl

Assistant Editor

Mary Kerr

Re-Recording Mixer / Sound Designer

Gregory King

Sound Editors

Jeffrey Dyal

Yann Delpuech

Brandon Bak

Foley Artist

Stefan Fraticelli

Foley Mixer

Ron Mellegers

Assistant Sound Editor

Amanda Roy

Sound Design and Mixing Services

King Soundworks

Cultural Consultants

Kenyatta Bey

Third Settlements

Additional Sound Recordist

Sean O'Neill

Archival Research

Lillian Baulding

Caila Bowen

Conform Editor

Tom Moser

Colorist

Allan Duso

Music Editors

Harriet Tam

Jenny Barak

Music Recording

Talley Sherwood, Tritone Recording

*"Don't Mess With People"*

Written by Carlos, Louis, and Ric Wilson

Performed by Mandrill

By arrangement with Polydor Records

*"War Is Coming"*

Written by Papa Dee Allen, Harold Brown, B.B. Dickerson,

Lonnie Jordan, Charles Miller, Lee Oskar, Howard Scott

Performed by War

By arrangement with Universal Music

Legal Counsel

Justine Jacob

Andrew Hurwitz

Transcripts

Chaitanya Kanala

Archival Images Courtesy Of

ABC News Videosource

KinoLibrary

NYPD

Associated Press

NYC Municipal Archives

Al Baker, NYPD

“A Cop Named Gilroy”, dir. Jerry Izenberg

Lenny Bazerman

NBC

CBS

Oddball Films

Antoinette Schlossberg

Jack Cambria, NYPD

The New York Times

Getty Images

New York Daily News

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Sean Patrick Griffin, PhD.

Stanley Richards

Danielle Sered

John Fischer

Kris Manjapra, PhD.

Andrew Delbanco, PhD.

Rico Blancaflor

Sandra Lucchese

Susan Hoenig

Lisa Gossels

William Bratton, NYPD Commissioner ex-officio

Antoinette Collarini-Schlossberg, PhD.

Capt. Jack Cambria, Ret. NYPD HNT

NYPD Commissioner ex officio William Bratton

Charlotte Reekers + Milton Tabbitt, The Gotham

Dan Braun + Ben Schwartz, Submarine Entertainment

Mark Purushotham

Gregory Middleton

Ray Bordonaro, NYPD

Katia Lund

Doug MacMullen

Judy Reese

Lewis Erskine

Jessica Gilroy

Bo Forbes

Mark Towfigh

St. John's University, Queens, NY

Deputy Chief Julie Morrill, NYPD

Deputy Chief Emanuel Katranakis

Sgt. Antoinette Henriquez, NYPD

Capt. Al Baker, NYPD

Lt. Jack Casey, NYPD HNT

Karen Page and Andrew Dornenburg

Patricia Gilroy

Nancy Gilroy

Michael Bazerman

Jennifer Gilroy Ruiz

Geralyn Dreyfous

Danuta Forbes

Adam Marshall

Thom Powers

Darlene Gilbertie, Getty Images

Dina Elsayed, Getty Images

Eric Simon, Getty Images

Jesus Chavez

Craig Bolotin

Rob Pike

Ted Braun

Janet Yang

Shawn Watkins

George Vecsey

Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine

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