

ALBERT'S FLOWER

Starring
James Pickens Jr.
& Éilis Cahill

Directed by
James Glossman

Executive Producers
James Pickens Jr.
& Christopher Wright

The past is never dead.
It's not even past.

— WILLIAM FAULKNER



JAMES PICKENS JR. presents Albert's Flower

Producer & Director
James Glossman

Executive Producers
James Pickens Jr. & Christopher Wright



Website | Social

AlbertsFlowerFilm.com
IG: [@Alberts_Flower_Film](https://www.instagram.com/Alberts_Flower_Film)
YT: [@AlbertsFlowerFilm](https://www.youtube.com/AlbertsFlowerFilm)

USA
20 min.
Color/UHD
Release: 2025

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BAY SPRINGS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "ALBERT'S FLOWER" JAMES PICKENS JR. ÉILIS CAHILL
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER GAVYN PICKENS BASED ON A STAGE PLAY BY JOHN PIETROWSKI MUSIC COMPOSER JUSTINE F. CHEN EDITOR AND LINE PRODUCER ERINNISSE REBISZ
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY EDWARD ROSINI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES PICKENS JR. CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY JAMES GLOSSMAN

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Logline: James Pickens Jr. is Albert; a man drawn back to his childhood home, trying to turn the page on long-buried pain. That's how he finds Greta, the current owner of his childhood home, keeper of his past and its hidden secrets.

Allies arrive in unexpected places; in an unfortunately timeless story.

Synopsis: Albert (Pickens) is drawn back to his childhood home on a quiet tree-lined street. Barefoot and seemingly lost, he encounters Greta (Eilis Cahill), the current owner of the house. As she tries to discern the level of truth, sanity, stability—or possible danger—she is facing, an old wound of Albert's past is revealed. Caught in the moment, he is grappling with whether or not redemption is possible when a reckoning is so long overdue.

Albert's Flower is a taut, heartfelt journey into a present relentlessly haunted by the past, and the courage required to face uncomfortable, unexpected truths about who we are and where we come from...those "flowers" that go untended in our lives.

Albert's Flower stars James Pickens, Jr. (*Grey's Anatomy*, *42*, *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*) and introducing Eilis Cahill (*Mind-Set*, *MAD*); in a directorial-film-debut by award-winning theatre director James Glossman (*This World of Tomorrow*, co-written with Tom Hanks).



Director James Glossman's Statement:

What do we do with – what do we do about – the maddening, ungainly, exhausting, and sometimes ridiculous baggage we carry around with us, that hurts with every step we take; and at the same time makes us, for good and bad and in-between, who we actually are?

How on earth, even in the most infinite of worlds, did we somehow get here from back there – and more to the point:

What do we do NOW?

This is the question, the endlessly exciting dynamic – the Weight of the Past on the Present – that gets me up in the morning as an artist. And it is very much the central core of *Albert's Flower*. Am I the sum of each and every thing that has happened to me, or its hostage? Do we get second chances to make who we are? And more than this: Can the heart, once locked, find a working key?

An old man, at a stark turning point, heads straight back to a long-lost childhood street like it's a red-flashing homing beacon. Something has to happen, right here, right now, before it's too late.

Somebody else lives here now, several somebodies down the line, in the house he grew up in: a young woman raising her family on this weekday afternoon, who knows nothing of the past of this place, of the ground she lives on and its hidden, lost lives.

Can these two people – in this brief chamber piece, this desperately quiet 18-minute pas de deux on the edge of an emotional cliff – can they actually manage to see each other, to find a bridge across the chasm, before one of them tumbles over the edge in the dark?

Anyhow, that's the sealed box *Albert's Flower* is there to snap open.



Project Origination

from Director, James Glossman

In October of 2020, I was sent a new, ten-page play for the theatre by John Pietrowski, my friend since college. More recently, I'd worked with John, directing plays for him at Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, of which he was the Producing Artistic Director. He decided to go get back to writing after many years as a producer. He asked me to read this short play, *Albert's Flower*, which he wrote, he told me, as a kind of exercise at the start of the MFA Playwriting program which he'd just began.



James Glossman & James Pickens Jr.

As soon as I read it, I called John to say that I loved it - this play with two people on a sidewalk - and would he be willing to let me do it as a benefit reading for a couple of regional theatres. This was after Covid lockdown had begun and actors were doing Zoom readings of plays - or outdoor performances with distanced actors and audience - to help keep otherwise closed nonprofit theatres all over the country alive.

I also asked if I could make one major change in the play as originally written: Instead of the play taking place in 1990, with Albert as a 19-year-old, wouldn't it enhance the power of the piece to place it right now, in the present, and with Albert a man in his late 60s...carrying the weight of his childhood trauma for decades?

John thought this was a fine idea, and I approached James Pickens Jr. about doing a benefit reading of the play. He read it and said: "I love this script, but I think it should be a film." Something that had never occurred to me, and I was immediately struck that he was absolutely right.

That was as far as we got at that time, however. Jim's TV series, *Grey's Anatomy* - shooting under tight Covid protocols - kept him in LA, and then once theatres were starting to reopen, I got very busy again as well.

Flash forward a couple of years: I was directing *A Tailor Near Me*, a new two-character comedy by Michael Tucker, at New Jersey Repertory Theatre, with James Pickens Jr. and Richard Kind, and somewhere in the first week of rehearsals in NYC, either Jim said to me, or I said to him - and we honestly can't remember which - "Hey, what about *Albert's Flower*? Let's do it!"

And that's when Chris Wright came on as Co-Executive Producer to help make the film possible; and then Eilis Cahill came down to Long Branch, New Jersey - where our play was running - for a table read with Jim, and to talk about how we would turn it into a film. It was obvious to us all that the chemistry was right...and we were off and running.



James Pickens Jr. & Christopher Wright



CAST & CREW

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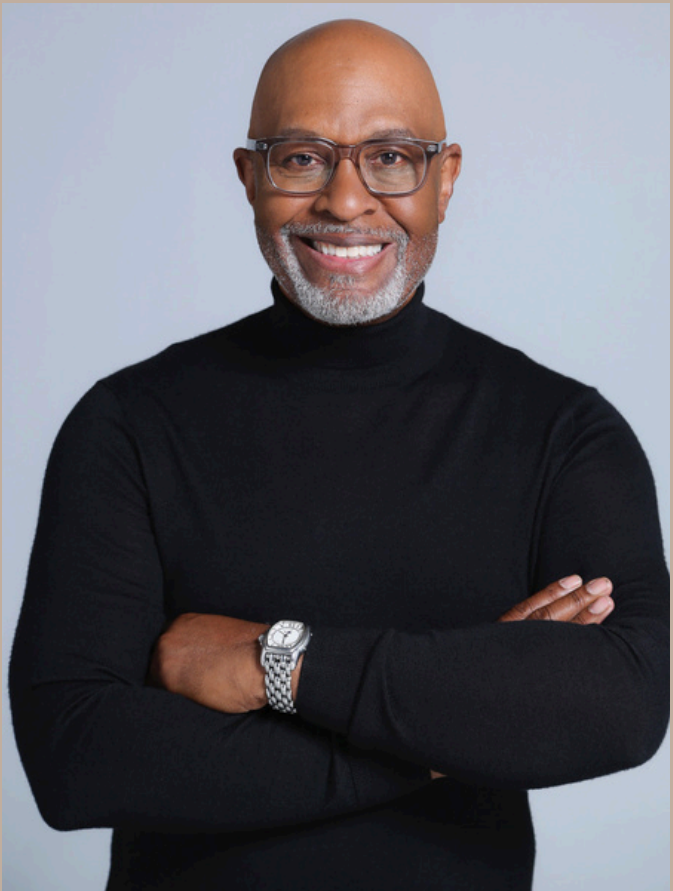
James Pickens Jr | Executive Producer & Albert

James Pickens, Jr. stars as Dr. Richard Webber for 22 Seasons on the hit series *Grey's Anatomy*. He is a Co-Executive Producer on the series which continues its amazing run winning SAG-AFTRA Screen Actors Guild Awards, multiple People's Choice Awards, and close to his heart, the NAACP Image Award.

He has worked with some of film's finest Directors including Steven Soderbergh (*Traffic*), Oliver Stone (*Nixon*), Warren Beatty (*Bulworth*), and four Barry Levinson films: *Sleepers*, *Sphere*, *Jimmy Hollywood*, *Liberty Heights*. He portrayed Medgar Evers in *Ghosts of Mississippi* (dir. Rob Reiner) and memorably played Angela Bassett's ex in *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*. Other films: *42*, *Menace II Society*, *Home Room*, *Gridlock'd*, *Just Wright*. James has turned his attention to producing with numerous projects in development.

On Television James has performed on many high-profile series including *Station 19*, *The Conners*, *The Lyon's Den*, *NYPD Blue*, *The X-Files*, *The Practice*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Six Feet Under*, *The West Wing*, *Roseanne* & *Beverly Hills 90210*.

A native of Cleveland, James began his career in the theater at Cleveland's legendary Karamu House, the oldest African American theater in the U.S. In NYC, he performed in Charles Fullers' *A Soldiers Play* at the renowned Negro Ensemble Company with Denzel Washington and Samuel L. Jackson. As a member of the famed Circle Rep/Steppenwolf Theatre he performed in the co-production of Lanford Wilson's *Balm in Gilead*. He starred as Walter Lee in the 25th anniversary revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*. He memorably played Dr. Martin Luther King in Crossroad Theatre's *Roads to the Mountaintop*. He performed with stars Brad Pitt and George Clooney for dir. Rob Reiner in the LA production of *8*, based on the Prop 8 marriage equality case. Most recently, he starred with Richard Kind in the world premiere of *A Tailor Near Me* at New Jersey Repertory Company.





Christopher Wright | Executive Producer

With over 40 years of experience in the entertainment industry, Christopher Wright has asserted his brand of passionate advocacy to forge partnerships with his clients in the long-term commitment to helping them achieve their professional, artistic and business goals. He is Founder/Owner/President of Wright Entertainment, Inc., a full-service talent management company committed to an international list of extraordinary artists.

Chris has represented James Pickens, Jr. since 1985, and is proud to be collaborating with his production company Bay Springs Productions, Inc. as Jim's producing partner. Together, they are dedicated to telling stories that need to be told with passion, sensitivity, and love.

Éilis Cahill | Greta

Éilis Cahill is an actor whose film credits include *Mind-Set* (Best Picture, Midlands Movie Awards, Best Feature, Manchester International Film Festival), *Stake Land* (dir. Jim Mickle), *Mad* (Jury Prize, Victoria TX Independent Film Festival), *Mouthful* (Best Short Film, Boston Underground Film Festival), and *Oi, Meu Amor*. She played four roles in *The Road to Jerusalem* at Shadowland Stages, and starred as Eleanor in *Make Believe* at New Jersey Repertory Company in early 2025. She originated the role of Carmen in *Safe Home*, a play cowritten by Tom Hanks and James Glossman.



James Glossman | Producer & Director

James Glossman makes his film directorial debut following an acclaimed theatre career that includes co-writing and directing the world premiere of *Safe Home* with Tom Hanks, and directing sold-out benefit readings of *Grant & Twain* starring David Strathairn and Tony Shalhoub. Named “Best Director of the Year” by the New Jersey Star-Ledger, Glossman has helmed world premieres featuring James Pickens Jr., Richard Kind, Dan Lauria, and Jay O. Sanders, while his collaboration with the Grammy Award-winning Emerson String Quartet on Shostakovich and the *Black Monk* has been performed at prestigious venues from Tanglewood to Seoul, South Korea.

His innovative adaptations range from classic literature to contemporary works, including productions with Jack Klugman, William Schallert, and Frankie Faison. As Associate Artist at Shadowland Stages, he has directed theater legends including Richard Benjamin, Paula Prentiss, John Astin, and Orson Bean. His upcoming projects include the world premiere of *This World of Tomorrow* (co-written with Tom Hanks) at The Shed, NYC, directed by Kenny Leon and starring Tom Hanks, Kelli O’Hara, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, and Jay O. Sanders; world premiering October 2025.

Glossman holds degrees from Northwestern University, American Conservatory Theatre Advanced Training Program, British American Drama Academy (BADA) - Balliol College, Oxford, and Yale School of Drama (MFA). He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), Dramatists Guild (DG), and Actors' Equity Association (AEA).





Edward Rosini | Director of Photography

Edward Rosini spends most of his time on stage as an actor/musician - recent credits include *The Old Man and the Old Moon* (KC Rep), *Gorgeous* (short film) and *The Night Agent* (Netflix). As a Director of Photography, he's had the pleasure of working on web series projects such as *Every Exit* and *Burn The Ships*.

Ed shares, "*Albert's Flower* is such a slice of home for me - shot on a street I practically grew up on in my own home town - I'm so grateful for the experience as a whole, and the final product as a reminder of that gratitude."

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Erinnisse Rebisz is a producer and editor with over 15 years of experience in film/digital media production. Erinnisse has crafted compelling content for major networks including HBO, PBS, TLC, Food Network, Travel Channel, Magnolia, History Channel and Ovation. Additionally, she has produced commercials, Vlogs, sizzles, web-series and PSA's for brands like Microsoft, Patron Tequilla, BIC, ADP, P&G, NYCDOT, AMNH, Nova Nordisk and Ozempic. In 2015 she released a feature documentary, *Shoulder The Lion*, co-created with her husband—FIPRESCI honor recipient—a tribute to resiliency of the human spirit. Born in New York City to a playwright and singer-songwriter, she now is a mother of two boys living in the Hudson Valley with her inspiring and talented husband.

Erinnisse Rebisz | Line Producer & Editor



Gavyn Pickens | Associate Producer



Gavyn Pickens is an actress and up-and-coming producer with 10+ years of experience in front of and behind the camera. On screen, you may have seen her on shows like ABC's Grey's Anatomy and Netflix's Orange is the New Black. Behind the scenes, Gavyn is proud to have production experience on exciting reality shows such as Top Chef and the beautiful new short Albert's Flower. She hopes to continue to perform in TV and Film, and looks forward to producing more wonderful projects with Bay Springs Productions Inc.

Christopher & Justin Swader | Production Designers

Christopher and Justin Swader are New York-based scenic designers for theatre and live events. Previous designs in NYC include collaborations with: Primary Stages; Red Bull Theater; Fiasco Theater; Tectonic Theater Project; Mint Theater; The New Victory Theatre; Classical Theatre of Harlem; Lincoln Center Education; York Theatre Company; Trusty Sidekick; Penguin Rep; and Mason Holdings.



Their designs have been seen regionally at: The Old Globe, Signature Theatre, Hartford Stage, Dallas Theater Center, Goodspeed Musicals, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Two River Theater, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Geva Theatre, Everyman Theatre, People's Light, Miami New Drama, Dorset Theatre Festival, Weston Theater Company, SpeakEasy Stage Company. Collaborations with A\$AP Rocky, Sotheby's, Big Apple Circus, National Geographic.

Christopher & Justin are recipients of a Lucille Lortel Award nomination, 7 Henry Hewes Design Award nominations, AUDELCO Award, IRNE Award & Carbonell Award. Originally from Indiana, they are graduates of Ball State University and members of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

Justine F. Chen | Composer

Theater is where we gather to understand the richness and injustice of human experience; it is where together, we mourn and celebrate. Chen's work strives to inform and engage, and to bring forth the reinvention of our expectations for our society.

Always fascinated by the expressive possibilities of dramatic narratives, Taiwanese-American composer Justine F. Chen draws inspiration from animation, film, television, theater, classical Indian dance and music, ballet, and contemporary dance. Recent works include *Shallow Breath and Stealth*, for The Crossing on data-mining (text by Jena Osman), a song cycle with poet *Ophelia Hu Kinney*, and *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing* (librettist *David Simpatico*)_commissioned by *American Lyric Theater*, premiered by Chicago Opera Theater, and named "Best 2023 World Premiere" by the Chicago Tribune.

Current projects include work with playwright Lloyd Suh (THE CHINESE LADY), a satirical, dystopian choral project with The Crossing, an Asian female Lear chamber opera with librettist Marcus Yi, and a multidisciplinary work inspired by Twa Sisters and Christina Rosetti's Goblin Market.

Chen has been commissioned and performed by: WQXR; The Crossing; New York City Opera; New York City Ballet; The Juilliard School; JACK Quartet; American Composers Orchestra; New York Festival of Song; Washington Ballet; Long Leaf Opera; Chicago Opera Theater; Tapestry Opera; Banff Music Centre; Merola Opera; Bowdoin International Music Festival; and the Brooklyn Philharmonic.



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John Pietrowski was the artistic director of Writers Theatre of New Jersey from 1991-2019, a company he helped found in 1986. For the past four years he has been the Director of Arts and Events at the Madison Community Arts Center, a space he designed and programmed over 1100 scheduled events in 2024. At Writers Theatre, he directed over 30 world-premiere productions, including 19 co-productions. As an actor, he has most recently worked at Vivid Stage, Writers Theatre, NJ Rep, Shadowland Stages, and InterAct Theatre in Philadelphia. He received a NJ State Council on the Arts Playwriting Fellowship in 2012 and 2018, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry in 2012. He has taught at Drew, Fairleigh Dickinson, Seton Hall, Centenary, and Kean Universities, as well as Bloomfield College. He is currently teaching at Union County College, and will be directing a production of a new play there in November 2025. He holds a BS in Performance Studies from Northwestern University, a MPA in Nonprofit Management from Seton Hall, a MFA from Goddard College in Playwriting, and a Master’s Certificate in Creative Placemaking from the Bloustein School at Rutgers. He lives in Long Valley with his wife, Stage Manager, Properties Designer, and Director Danielle Constance.



John Pietrowski | Playwright

STILLS & BTS PHOTOGRAPHY



Film Stills

BTS – medium format

BTS – large format

Key Art







CREDITS

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Cast
Albert
Greta
Day-Day

James Pickens Jr.
Éilis Cahill
Paul Murphy

Crew
Associate Producer
Second Camera
Assistant Camera
Gaffer
Sound
Grip
Production Assistant/2nd AC
Production Assistant/
Script Supervisor

Gavyn Pickens
Alexander Fischetti
David Darlington
Francisco Florencio
Walid Alhamdy
Romain Meneg
Tyler Thornton
Hanna Frances Al-Kowski

Wardrobe
Wardrobe Assistant

Bettina Bierly
Nancy Priscu

Production Designers

Christopher Swader
Justin Swader

Set Photographer
Equipment Czar
Picture Car

Ari Elgharsi
Patryk Rebisz
Matt Messano
Lost Soul Entertainment

Piano
Percussion
Recording Engineer

Carol Wong
Danny Mallon
Sean Swinney

Color Grading/Online &
Sound Design/Mixing Facility
Colorist
Re-Recording Engineer/
Sound Designer
Post Production Supervisor
Post-Production Coordinator

Hell's Color Kitchen

Ian Heifetz
Bob Barzyk

Sheila Lynch
Karla Rodriguez

Legal
Production Accountant
Accounting Assistant
Executive Assistant
Executive Assistant

Luca Ognibene
Jeffrey Joiner
Chris Mohd
Emily Saex
Sal Owen

Special Thanks

Artists and Representatives, Brian Street, Emily Downs,
Annie Jeeves - Cinematic Red, Lauren Tobin - Panther PR,
Gina Taylor-Pickens, Deborah Nugent, Rachel Murphy,
Alex Glossman, Nicky Glossman, Ali Breneman, John Astin, Michael Tucker,
Jean M Murphy, Shirley L. Dunitz, everyone at Walk & Talk Productions

and

The City of Montclair, NJ

In Memory of

Scott Manners
Richard Currie
and
Freddie Scelsa
– sui generis –

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THE PAST IS NEVER DEAD. IT'S NOT EVEN PAST.

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William Faulkner