

BECAUSE EVERY MAN NEEDS ONE

ISSUE 39 | 2024

# WINGMAN

MAGAZINE

## **BROTHERLY LOVE**

*Philadelphia  
Eagles  
Dynamic Duo  
NAKOBÉ DEAN &  
NOLAN SMITH  
Soar!*

### **MORE STARS!**

★ DORINDA MEDLEY ★ DASH MIHOK ★  
★ MARISA RAMIREZ ★ GERALD WEBB ★ JOSH PAIS ★  
★ PAUL BEN-VICTOR ★ MICHAEL ESPER ★ JOE CHREST ★  
★ TYQUAN THORNTON ★ MEREDITH GORMAN ★

# EDITOR'S NOTE

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# A

s we bask in the warmth of the sun and witness the world around us burst into full bloom, we are reminded that summer is a season of vibrancy, energy, and growth. The long days and bright skies invigorate our spirits and infuse us with a renewed sense of possibility. Summer is not just a time for leisure and relaxation; it's a powerful symbol of transformation and an invitation to embrace change in both our personal lives and our business endeavors.

In the business world, summer's vitality serves as a metaphor for the dynamism required to thrive in today's fast-paced environment. Just as plants need sunlight and water to flourish, businesses need innovation and adaptability to grow. This season encourages us to harness the energy and optimism of summer to push boundaries, explore new opportunities, and expand our horizons. By adopting a mindset of continuous improvement and openness to change, businesses can cultivate a culture of resilience and sustained success.

On a personal level, summer is a time for rejuvenation and rediscovery. The extended daylight hours and warm weather beckon us outdoors, urging us to reconnect with nature and ourselves. It's a season to break free from routine, embark on new adventures, and nourish our passions. Just as summer encourages growth in the natural world, it inspires us to grow internally by stepping out of our comfort zones and embracing new experiences. This period of renewal can lead to profound personal transformation and a deeper appreciation for life's journey.

As we immerse ourselves in the joys of summer, let us draw inspiration from its energy and abundance. Let this season be a reminder that change is not only inevitable but essential for growth and progress. Whether in business or personal life, embracing the spirit of summer can lead to new discoveries, greater achievements, and a more fulfilling existence. As we move through these sunlit days, let us seize the opportunity to cultivate our potential and shine brightly in our journey.

SINCERELY,

**MICHAEL J. MCCARTHY**

Editor-In-Chief/CEO

# WINGMAN

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# *GERALD'S* *WEBB*

*Powerhouse Producer*  
*GERALD WEBB*  
*Is An Unsung Hero*

**Photos Taken At The Park South Hotel**

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Photo taken at The Park South Hotel  
New York By Aundre Cannon  
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When it comes to being a true power player and savant, the little-known secret that is strangely so rarely discussed in terms of what makes the cream rise to the top in this business that seems so shallow and empty, is that the people that are truly the best at what they do actually *care* about what they do, and that they are fans first. The best storytellers are really those who love stories, and that can't wait to pass on that same tradition, and it is very clear when talking with the inspiring Gerald Webb that he definitely puts that love, passion, and TLC into the stories he tells.

A natural renaissance man that seems to be the master of all trades, this moviemaker has skillfully worn pretty much every hat that show business has to offer – again, like many of the greats in the industry. Super skilled across the board, Webb has splashed around in the waters of everywhere from in front of, to behind the scenes, while making a huge splash in every arena. Soaking up the knowledge that every area has to offer like a sponge, Webb has intuitively learned what is important when it comes to every facet of filmmaking, and he clearly puts forth that learned savvy in every crevice, making everything that he touches extremely detail oriented at every turn from the creative side to the business side.

And what's most impressive about this juggernaut is just how much he excels in both worlds, never placing importance fully on one or the other. As strong a businessman as he is an artistic creative, Webb is genius at finding the careful balance between the two as he celebrates each equally in showbusiness.

And perhaps all of this can best be demonstrated with his latest film, "*The Unstoppably Championed Unsung Hero*," which at this moment is very far from unsung. Exceeding all expectations, the movie has garnered mass acclaim and success, going on to an outstanding box office result, and becoming one of the most heroic and unexpected blockbusters of the season! It appears along with Candace Cameron Bure, and Candy Rock Entertainment, Webb has been able to certainly spin his own web into solid gold, and seemingly not stopping, slowing down, or losing any steam, the persevering company has plenty more on their plate.

So with so much in the pipe, and plenty more undoubtedly on his plate, with a slate of projects ahead of him, Webb is quickly garnering his own buzz as he dominates entertainment, and we here at *WINGMAN* couldn't wait to sit down with this powerhouse and ask him all about his upcoming work, his future ambitions, and get a few tips on how to produce a hit! So to find out more, read on to see what Webb had to say!

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**WINGMAN:** First and foremost, let's discuss "*Unsung Heroes*," which is a huge hit. What initially drew you to telling this story?

**GERALD WEBB:** I started working with CandyRock Entertainment in late summer 2022, just a few months before "*Unsung Hero*" started filming. CandyRock had three films shooting over the next three months with "*Unsung Hero*" last in the order. The first two were quaint Christmas films. "*Unsung Hero*" was a completely different animal. Before I was halfway through reading of the script for the first time, I realized this was a special story that had a tremendous shot of becoming an amazing film. I have always felt like an underdog throughout my life, even do now in some ways, so the film's themes of perseverance, working your way out of hard times, and belief that you have and are willing to do what it takes, with integrity, to work your way out of hard times to ultimately achieve your dreams, all resonate deeply for me. The film is truly special, I am grateful and honored to have been a part of it. The movie's true story of the Smallbone family and the chal-

lenges they faced is a bright reminder to all of us of what is possible- even when times are so dark we can't see possibility. It is a love letter to mothers, and a testament to families that reminded me to hold mine close and cherish them.

**WINGMAN:** This film definitely has elements of faith in it, but you would like the world to know that this is also a film that can transcend beyond the faith-based genre and appeal to any audience. Can you touch on that a bit?

**WEBB:** Yes, “*Unsung Hero*” has faith weaved throughout its storyline. But I personally believe it is not solely a faith-based film. It is so much more and has an extremely wide appeal. The film tells the amazing story of David and Helen Smallbone experiencing financial ruin and immigrating to the USA for a second chance only to be greeted by devastating obstacle after obstacle. Their faith in God as well as their belief in each other and themselves ultimately guided them through life's most difficult challenges. Their grit, determination, work ethic, adventurous spirits and love for one another shine in every moment of the

film. Richard Ramsey and Joel Smallbone who co-wrote and co-directed “*Unsung Hero*” did a masterful job of conveying how the family navigated and relied upon all of these admirable traits and their faith to overcome. These are universal themes that are relatable to audience members across racial, religious, gender and age lines. A friend of mine who is a staunch atheist, went to see “*Unsung Hero*” and called me to ecstatically say how much he loved the film. He was deeply impacted by the emotion of the film, respected the portrayal of the Smallbone's faith and never felt religion was being forced on him.

**WINGMAN:** In general, you work with Candy Rock Entertainment, alongside Candace. How did you get involved in the company, and how is it working with Candace in a producer sense?

**WEBB:** I have known Jeffery Brooks, the Chief Visionary officer at CandyRock Entertainment, for over 15 years. He has been working for years to find the right time and projects for us to work together. In that pursuit, Jeffery and his business partner, Ford at Red Rock Entertainment asked me to consult some of their projects dating back several years. When they partnered with Candace Cameron Bure to create CandyRock Entertainment, they asked me to come help with their first three films. I was very familiar with the empowering culture at Red Rock and expected the culture with CandyRock would be equally supportive. But Candace and I had only briefly met on a zoom call, so we were definitely X factors for each other at the time. I think we both relied on our trust in our relationships with Jeffrey and Ford in that early period. Within a couple of weeks, Candace and I were in Oklahoma then Kentucky deep in the trenches of two productions. Necessity is the mother of all inventions, having to jump right in helped us find a workflow pretty quickly. The first film, “*A Christmas Present*,” won a Movie Guide Award and the second was “*Unsung Hero*,” I'll take that for a start anytime. Candace is hands on in development and production and is very diligent in shaping our projects. She is successful for a lot of reasons; maybe the biggest of which is her work ethic. She walks the walk and works extremely hard, harder than most people I have encountered in this industry and does so with a great deal of grace. We are still growing as a company. I am excited about what the future holds as we continue to move forward.

**WINGMAN:** You guys also have the Ainsley McGregor Mysteries on the way. What can fans expect there?

**WEBB:** CandyRock specializes in family friendly entertainment and the Ainsley McGregor Mysteries will be enjoyable for the entire family. They are crafted in the classic silhouette of Agatha Christie's “cozy mystery” style. These light-hearted films will challenge viewers to pay keen attention to try and figure out whodunnit before our dynamic protagonist Ainsley McGregor,







Photo taken at The Park South Hotel  
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played by Candace Cameron Bure, exposes the culprit. The film series will offer cliffhangers, intrigue, and the fun of solving mysteries without gratuitous violence and nightmares. The first installment, “A Case For The Wine-maker” is complete with the next installment is currently in pre-production. Candace is known for her standout performances as Aurora Teagarden, audiences can expect to see her build off that great legacy and for the bar to be raised significantly.

**WINGMAN:** You also just finished another film “Just in Time.” What drew you to that project, and what can fans expect there?

**WEBB:** “Just In Time” took on the challenges of a couple struggling through in vitro fertilization and the toll that working through that process took on their relationship. They follow their faith back to one another. Laura Osnes is amazingly authentic starring as Hannah, while Paula Elle does a fantastic job directing a script written by Masey McLain and Taylor Kalupa. This was a bit of a departure from the normal romantic comedies you see on Great American Family and most other TV networks. I give kudos to Candyrock Entertainment CEO, Candace Cameron Bure, who executive produced and developed the script as well as Great American Family President, Bill Abbott for opening opportunities for faith-based films on the network. One fun fact is we shot this spring movie during the worst winter snowstorm Victoria, Canada has had in decades, without it being evident to the audience.

**WINGMAN:** In general, as a producer, filmmaker, and storyteller, what kind of stories do you ultimately seek to tell?

**WEBB:** In my career I’ve had to fight to find the balance of making films for commerce and making films for my love of the arts. As a result, I’ve been all over the board with lots of genre films of many different types. Sometimes, we make Dr. Pepper because people, like me, love that taste. It is a product that people enjoy and we fulfill that need in the marketplace. By Dr. Pepper, in my case I mean make a Christmas, family or sci-fi film. They fill audience demand, and I’m happy we can offer films that grant audiences little escapes from the stress of their everyday lives. Don’t get me wrong; I learn, grow and enjoy the filmmaking process on every film I am a part of, but some more directly to my heart and soul. The “*Unsung Hero*” messages of perseverance, family and faith fed my core. “\$STACK\$” ([www.StacksMovie.com](http://www.StacksMovie.com)) a short film I directed, wrote and produced was driven by my disappointment and anger in how we as a society devolved and poorly treated one another during the opening days of the pandemic. It allowed me to



channel those feelings, with a twist by making a social commentary with my art. They were emotions that I could not deny and “\$STACK\$” was the healthy way for me to express them. It also landed Mark Christopher Lawrence an Outstanding Actor Emmy nomination and had the rights acquired by FoxSoul a division of Fox. So, sometimes you can serve your artistic soul while satisfying the need for commerce at the same time. Currently I’m writing a feature film on an 1800’s voting rights activist whose story is unbelievably amazing. It’s another underdog story forged with perseverance, integrity, honor and grit, all of which resonate to my core. In the end my goal is to tell stories that have an impact for people in their daily lives. A film just makes someone laugh enough that they can make it through another day, a film that leaves them feeling nostalgic and closer to their family and friends at Christmas or sometimes a film that offers a profound shift for the audience, those are the types of stories I hope to find, and make as a filmmaker.

*All types of stories we hope to see, so hopefully, Webb keeps telling them for us! □*

# THE RULES OF A WINGMAN

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## RULE #1

HE WHO APPROACHES, CHOOSES

## RULE #2

MAVERICK IS ALWAYS RIGHT!

## RULE #3

KNOW THE CODES

## RULE #4

HOLD YOUR OWN

## RULE #5

NEVER LEAVE A MAN BEHIND

## RULE #6

HAVE YOUR FRIEND'S BACK

## RULE #7

DON'T LEAVE UNTIL THE JOB IS FINISHED