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FILM TAMPA BAY PRESENTS FIRST-LOOK SCREENING OF PAPER MADE IN TAMPA ON AUGUST 28

Landmark screening brings pioneering Black martial arts stars Michael Jai White, Taimak and Walter Emanuel Jones together on screen for the first time

Tampa, Fla. (August 10, 2026) — **Wats Tower Films**, in partnership with **Film Tampa Bay**, will host a special first-look screening of its highly anticipated film *Paper Made* on **Friday, August 28**, at AMC West Shore 14 in Tampa, with members of the cast and creative team in attendance. The Tampa screening offers audiences an opportunity to experience the film ahead of its wider release while celebrating a milestone moment in Black martial arts cinema, bringing together [Michael Jai White](#), [Taimak](#), and [Walter E. Jones](#), three pioneers who helped shape the presence of Black martial artists on television and in film, on screen together for the first time.

Paper Made, directed by Ryan Watson, and written by Watson and Jerron Horton (Forever), follows Tavon Watkins, a defiant college student whose life changes after a brutal hazing incident draws him into a secret fraternity of Black martial artists. The film blends action, drama and coming-of-age storytelling while exploring brotherhood, discipline, identity and the power of finding one's place.

"The love and support we've received from the Tampa Bay film community helped make this incredibly ambitious project possible," said Ryan Watson, the film's producer and writer. "To premiere *Paper Made* here in Tampa, on a day that carries such profound significance in American history, is incredibly special. There's no better place or more meaningful moment to share this story with an audience for the very first time."

The screening date carries particular significance, as it marks the 63rd anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, the historic gathering where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. Bringing *Paper Made* to audiences on this anniversary creates a meaningful connection between the film's themes of identity, resilience, community and Black excellence and a day that remains deeply rooted in American history.

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About Wats Tower Films

Wats Tower Films is an independent film production company founded and led by writer-director Ryan Watson, based in Tampa, Florida. For more information, visit www.instagram.com/papermademovie & www.watstowerfilms.com