

Starring
Phillip E. Walker-MFA



8:10pm
May 1, 2020



Vahan Bedelian's WINEGAME

FREE Silent, Absurdist, Micro Short Movie

<https://Meetup.com/First-Fridays-Film-Premieres>

Already having earned two film festival Awards and 6 nominations from 320 planned screenings in 10 countries on 3 continents plus 2 United States and counting, WineGame absurdly retells the Sisyphus punishment myth with the stone rolling up the hill being a worker's wagon fueled by the Nectar of the Gods.

Below Inland Empire resident WineGame solo performer **Phillip E. Walker** (Phile) interviews LA's Loyola Marymount University School of

Film and Television 1st year graduate student WineGame Filmmaker **Vahan Bedelian**

THE INTERVIEW

Phile: Hello there Vahan. We thank you for allowing the 2nd ever online edition of <http://FirstFridayFilms.com> to deliver the WORLD Preview of your new petite motion picture and for your taking part in this Meetup Discussion!

In your <https://WFCN.co/film/winegame> Director's Statement you say "I feel like we can all relate to trying to carry too many things". Can you talk about how that inspiration effected all aspects of this micro short film Creation?

Vahan: I just think that we can all relate to trying to do too many things at the same time. So I tried to create in Ro, a character on who's face you could really see a full life of work and struggle. That also came down to the clothes he wore, and the way his back bent as he moved.

Phile: Well, it really worked Vahan.

What does Ro do after drinking that last bottle of wine?

Vahan: I had a first draft written where we see Ro return to the village and sell the last remaining bottle of wine for a barrel full of coins. But we ended up deciding this story was best left on the hill. In the final cut, the audience sees Ro open the last bottle, so we know he doesn't choose to sell it. I think he goes right back to the village and quits his job.



Phile: Good for Ro!

My long experience has been that the best productions come out of smooth workings from beginning to end. Talk about how that was true in the WineGame creation process.

Vahan: One thing I'll say is that we had a very small crew for WineGame. It was four people on shoot day #1 and three people on shoot day #2. I actually am a fan of small crews, I think they run smoother. We also had top notch people on that crew, and obviously an amazing actor in yourself.



PhilE: Thanking you for that complement, I agree that small crews are best. Especially when everyone knows and does their jobs.

Starting with first viewing WineGame's LA Casting audition breakdown, I have been most impressed with your understanding that movie making is a visual art form, not a literary art form. Talk about how this vision effects your work.

Vahan: I always try to break scenes down into pieces of action, you can call them "beats." Ideally, they are "a character DOES something." (Ro pulls the cart up the hill, Ro loses control of the cart, Ro chases after the cart) I think we watch movies because we want to SEE things happen. And if a movie can't be broken down that way, there's probably not much happening.

PhilE: I'm going to quote you a lot from that statement.

Even on the <https://Facebook.com/winegame.film> fan page you have said "It's the first film that I made that I like". As its audience, what in particular do you like about WineGame?

Vahan: I think it's not trying to be anything more than it is. It's simple, it's funny, it's relatable. A guy tries to carry too many things at the same time while going up a hill. But it also takes you to another world through the wardrobe and props, which is something I always try to include in my productions.

PhilE: Yeah, I remember that after its 12/10/19 Class presentation, one of your professors said that WineGame was her favorite student film of the semester - partly because of your production values.

Whenever I have a hit show people treat me differently. How have the other students and your professors treated you since the Class viewing of WineGame?

Vahan: I like to think Winegame gave my classmates a good impression. There are a lot of talented filmmakers at LMU, and every time there's a screening, people are always paying close attention for who they want to work with. But I still don't think I've really shown people what I'm capable of at our School. Hopefully, if things go back to normal next semester, I'm going to make something even bigger.

PhilE: It will be amazing if the next one is better also.

Did you think about the Sisyphus myth when you were writing WineGame?

Vahan: You know, I wasn't thinking about that when I wrote it, but people always brought it up to me afterward.

PhilE: Yes. I often use it in marketing this Movie.

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8:10pm PST
FirstFridayFilms 5/1/20
WineGame
AWARDEE PANJIM International Film Festival INDIA 2020

1 Award
5 Nominations
WineGameMovie.com
short film dark comedy
320 screens on 3 continents

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Helan Hong Golden Tree International Film Festival - Wine Industry Edition
9/19-20/2019 Chengdu, China

Special Guest
Festival Cinématographique International de Montréal
6/22/2020

10/9/2020
AADC 6th Philip E. Walker Acting Retrospective Series
Rancho Conejo, CA

OFFICIAL SELECTION
BeBop Channel Content Festival
New York City 2021

Hollywood Actor Jobs
CHICO Independent Film Festival
Online 11-6-20

OFFICIAL SELECTION
The Lift-Off Sessions
2020

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Miller Family Reunion
Fremont, CA 2021

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Inland Empire Film Festival
10/11-12/2020

OFFICIAL SELECTION
International Film Festival di RIVOLI
Torino, Italy 2020

OFFICIAL SELECTION
KINNO
6/1/20 thru 1/31/21

OFFICIAL SELECTION
BlackMovieFest
20/21

Most Important Festival
Ten Top PhilE Awards
10/11-12/2020

Semi-Finalist
Lisbon Film Rendezvous
2020

March Award Winner
SHORT TO the POINT
Romania 2021

AWARD Finalist
HOLY GRAIL International Film Festival
2020 November, Israel

Directed, Written & Edited by
Vahan Bedelian
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01-213-437-6834 voice mail

Starring **Phillip E. Walker**
LMU | LA IMDb | School of Film and Television
Sophia Zhu-Producer & 1st AC
Zi Xiang Lin-Cinematographer
Alexa Feeney-Design, Wardrobe & Grip
Myuu-Composer
Jeff Cardoni, ASCAP-Music
Kevin David Kiner, BMI-Music
Lawrence Howard Brown, BMI-Music
Xin Tian-Wardrobe Designer
Alexandra Damiani-Art Department
Yiran Chen-1st AC
Hea Lin Kweon-Grip
Donald Nam-Previz DP
Phillip E. Walker-Development Executive
Richard Bannister & Jim Stewart - City of Los Angeles Park Activity Monitors

PhilE: Speaking of getting this Work out there, my dream was to secure more than 100 Worldwide WineGame screenings. But now with Moscow promising to show our Short 300 times during this coming fall-winter, I've adjusted my goal to 500 screenings. What's your dream future for WineGame?

Vahan: I would love for WineGame to screen at a nice medium-level festival. Maybe not Sundance or Tribeca, but a place where it can screen alongside other great short films and I can meet potential collaborators who are looking to make a feature film in the near future.

PhilE: We should be able to make that happen, even in the COVID-19 era.

Now that we have formally launched Winegame, do you have any final words for this Meetup Discussion?

Vahan: Yes. Thank you to everyone who helped me with this Film. Phillip, Sophia, Zixiang, Alexa, Thea, Alexandra, Donald, Yrian, and Hea Lin. Please go watch the Short whenever it's in festivals. It means the world to me when someone watches one of my films. And look out for more great things I'll be working toward in the future.

PhilE: We can't wait!!!!!!

Showcasing online a different single short film showing one time every month at 8:10pm PST, coupled with a pre-screening Meetup Discussion production team interview and a post-screening real time online live chat with the year's winner gaining a 2021 LIVE screening, First Friday Films is accepting submissions for its June 5, 2020 presentation and beyond at <https://WFCN.co/festival/fff>.

8:10pm PST



Panjim IFF 2020 BEST DIRECTOR Award winner Vahan Bedelian was born May 6, 1991 of Armenian heritage. This American graduate student now studies at the Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television in Los Angeles. He first got into filmmaking by shooting and editing documentaries on martial artists. From this background, he brings a strong understanding of rhythm and action in visual storytelling. He combines these elements with his love of setting, production design, and generally strange imagery for a style that he hopes can feel unique and fresh to audiences.

What with during his last five LA years having had more than 900 talent gigs or appearances (such as this FFF Event), Phillip E. Walker-MFA is a volunteer director of multiple, live, COVID-19 physical distancing friendly, Rancho Cucamonga California based short film marketing desert retreats. These include the regional Inland Empire Film Festival and the international BlackMovieFest. He says that "WineGame is the best" of 55 short films in which he has acted since becoming employed as a full-time Hollywood entertainer in 2015.



Phillip E. Walker as Ro

For more information log onto <http://WineGameMovie.com>