



J▶M
Junction Arts & Media

Summer Feature Film Intensive (SFFI)

A filmmaking education experience,
feature film production,
& ode to **Coming of All the Ages**
in the
Upper Valley
of NH & VT

UVJAM.ORG

What is the JAM Summer Feature Film Intensive?

JAM's inaugural Summer Feature Film Intensive (SFFI) will offer a **learning experience in professional filmmaking for all involved** – including high school and college interns, local actors moving from stage to screen, JAM staff, regional freelancers, volunteers, and (eventually) audiences near and far who will experience JAM's **first scripted feature film**.

The **process** will elevate our regional capacity for high-quality filmmaking. The end **product** will be an entertaining, heart-felt feature film intended for theatrical and streaming distribution that captures what **makes the Upper Valley so special** – our distinct identity, character, and sense of place. Our production will **pilot a nonprofit filmmaking model** intended to seed future Upper Valley filmmaking.

The film will capture **Upper Valley places and rituals that connect us** – from summertime tubing on the White River to the Norwich Fair to mile-high ice cream cones at Fore-U. At a deeper level, the film will tell a story about the **intergenerational relationships that hold our social fabric together** and join us in a **common destiny**. The SFFI is designed for participants to gain **real-world experiences that mirror the fictional film's themes**. We will forge bonds through shared work, creative collaboration, longtime and new friendships, and challenging conversations that lead us to common ground.



JAM Cinematographer Chico Eastridge with Summer Film Intensive 2024 participant Adelaide Jones, Storrs Hill, Lebanon, NH

JAM SFFI: Film Snapshot

Valley Transit

(working title)



JAM crew filming Advance Transit "How-To" videos, JAM Summer Feature Film Intensive 2024, White River Indie Festival 2025

Genre: Character-driven coming-of-age comedy (feature film, approx. 90 mins)

Budget: \$299K

Status: Pre-production: Spring 2026

Timeline: Production: Summer 2026

Producers: Wei Dai & Ali Reza Punjani

Director of Photography: Chico Eastridge

Cast: Auditions in progress. The production is committed to casting Upper Valley and regional actors.

Production Entity: JAM – Junction Arts & Media, a 501(c)3 nonprofit community media arts organization

Primary Selling Points of the film: Place-specific story with universal themes appealing to multigenerational audiences.

Primary Selling Points of the Summer Feature Film Intensive (SFFI): Educational opportunities under professional leadership, local employment, strengthening regional filmmaking networks, elevating local voices, pilot a nonprofit production model for future filmmaking, putting Upper Valley way of life and values on the map for national and international audiences.

Expected completion: Spring 2027 for festivals and streaming

Producer, Writer & Director: Samantha Davidson Green

Casting Director: Kiersten White

What distinguishes the JAM SFFI? **Learning objectives**



Emerging Filmmakers of the Upper Valley at WRIF 2025

The primary objective of the SFFI is to provide an expansive **educational opportunity** across **all aspects of the filmmaking process**: casting, financing, production, and exhibition to benefit a **wide range of people**, including aspiring filmmakers and actors at the high school, college, and professional levels in the Upper Valley.

Growing local capacity, nurturing local talent: Alongside our peers in music, theater and the visual arts, JAM is working to establish film and media arts among the burgeoning world-class arts culture of the Upper Valley. With a cadre of adult professional film and media makers at the SFFI helm, this ambitious but achievable project will give high school and college interns hands-on experience and mentorship, employ up to 25 local film professionals, provide paid speaking roles for up to 40 local actors and many more for background roles, and elevate the quality of Upper Valley filmmaking.

Investing in the UV filmmaking community: The professionalization of the production process will elevate our collective local knowledge base, provide skill-building through doing, offer employment, and encourage local people to stay in our community by modeling sustainable media career paths. Filmmaking is among the most collaborative and complex of art forms: The process itself forges enduring social bonds, and the final product will offer a source of pride and collective accomplishment that we hope will engender the production of more Upper Valley stories on film.

What's the story?

Logline & Synopsis

Valley Transit

— *It's never too late to come of age.*



Logline: When an elderly man and teenage girl find camaraderie on public transit, the unlikely friendship that sparks leads to a summer of discovering the world through new eyes, enabling each to mend bonds with loved ones at home and prepare for their next life transitions.

Synopsis: Misery loves company. George and Lizzie discover unlikely camaraderie one summer day when trouble at home lands them both on public transit. George has quarrelled with Mary, his wife of 60 years, as they absorb an unwelcome diagnosis; Lizzie's mom has grounded her for breaking curfew again. Free-spirited Lizzie invites George to join her and friends for an afternoon of river tubing – a last chance for summer fun. George can't refuse, despite certain consequences at home. Friends since kindergarten, carefree teens Lizzie, Drew and Woody take George along for the ride of “senior summer” before facing the unknown of life after high school. The teens invite George to make summer pledges: Drew wants to make money, Woody wants to save the planet, and Lizzie wants to win the love of her crush; George pledges simply “to live.” As the summer progresses, George and his young friends begin to see their shared world through each other's eyes. George comes to understand the teens' anxieties about their future; they help him break his silence to join them in standing up for a liveable world at a local protest. Lizzie and friends gain sympathy for the griefs George has carried, as a veteran and failure in business, and the ultimate grief – his terminal diagnosis. By summer's end, George helps Lizzie believe in herself and mend with her mom, while Lizzie and her friends help George mend with his wife before facing his own unknown. With the Upper Valley of NH and VT as both place and character, the film tells a story about intergenerational friendship, community continuity, the lifelong possibilities for growth, and how chance encounters among people who've “probably passed each other on the street a million times” can lead to transformative connections for souls in transit.

Why this story? Why now?

Value Proposition #1

The **story** is the beating heart of any film. For JAM's first Summer Feature Film Intensive, we've chosen an emotionally engaging story that is both timely and timeless with broad appeal across generations and demographics. Both the story and the filmmaking process will be guided by the values of:

- **The central importance of community:** As “Drew” states late in the script, he probably walked by George “millions of times before” without speaking to each other. We believe social isolation and polarization are harming our collective well-being, a sad irony of the social media age. Our story features an ensemble cast with many background players representing both longtimers and newcomers, takes place in iconic Upper Valley gathering spots, and grapples with the tensions that can divide us while pointing to hopeful actions we can choose to bring us together.
- **Intergenerational friendships:** Among the divisions we are suffering in our time is the loss of connection across generations. We recognize the detrimental role of media in diminishing time spent together in extended families and civic organizations. Our story follows teen and elderly characters who discover what they have to learn from each other, the joy to be had in “seizing the day,” and the possibilities for finding “shelter in the comfort of each other” – a deep sense of belonging and peace in life’s transience. Through JAM’s year-round programs, JAM has become a place where intergenerational connection is happening with benefits for all.



Advance Transit & Kendal guided ride (2024)
JAM Digital Media Creation for Seniors (2025)

Why this process? Why now?

Value Proposition #2



In the process of making a top-quality film, we aim to offer meaningful **learning experiences, both in filmmaking and as human beings**. Our process is rooted in the following values and priorities:

- **Include the community in all stages of storytelling:** From script to screen, we are actively inviting input and participation to illuminate the process and improve our story.
- **Learn by doing:** We can only improve the skills we practice; this production gives many local people the chance to grow.
- **Learning is mutual and lifelong:** Mentorship flows in both age directions when it comes to media technology and art, and the learning is never done.
- **Better together:** Filmmaking is among the most collaborative of art forms; learning to work together in film grows skills that carry over to all aspects of community life. This project also strengthens JAM's ties with Film in VT and VT Production Collective.
- **Pay it forward:** We aspire to pilot a nonprofit, collaborative production model to sustain ongoing filmmaking for future Upper Valley storytellers to realize their visions and younger generations to find fertile ground for their work.
- **Visual media is the dominant medium of our time:** Against a relentless volume of visual media and platforms designed to profit from consumers' attention and aggravate conflict, we believe it is crucially important to grow our skills for human-centered visual storytelling that encourages ethical growth, sparks joy, and builds bridges of empathy.

Valley Transit screenplay work-in-progress community table read at White River Indie Festival 2026
Hosted by Northern Stage, White River Junction, VT

Why make an independent film here? Why now? Value Proposition #3

In 2026, the film industry has become a hard landscape to navigate for independent/starting filmmakers:

- Studios have consolidated and are prioritizing cost cutting, reducing the number of buyers and greenlight opportunities
- Franchise and IP-driven films dominate the box office, with top 10 titles accounting for ~40% of total box office revenue
- Productions are increasingly shifting overseas for cost efficiencies

Leading to...

- Fewer original films being financed and released, as studios and financiers become more risk averse
- Fewer job opportunities for emerging filmmakers as the labor market tightens
- Buyers favoring proven talent over emerging voices, even in spaces traditionally meant to discover new artists

At this pivotal moment, SFFI offers a new model by combining education, workforce development, philanthropy, and professional production into one integrated pipeline. The program creates:

- A pathway for emerging filmmakers to develop skills, gain experience, and produce work outside traditional gatekeeping structures
- Employment for local crew and actors
- Hands-on training that bridges classroom learning and real-world production
- An opportunity to showcase the Upper Valley through stories that resonate with broader audiences

How London Became the New Hollywood

As L.A. sound stages sit empty, fat tax incentives and saner politics are turning Britain's capital into a mecca for streamers, studios and stars. Will Trump's tariffs halt the exodus?

BY LILY FORD | MAY 8, 2025 12:28PM

The Decline of Originality in Hollywood: a Look at the Numbers

BY SEBASTIAN WINTERKAMM

The U.S. Has Been Losing Movie and TV Production for Years. Where Have Lawmakers Been?

The Pih star Noah Wyle and IATSE president Matt Loeb testified at a hearing over a federal tax incentive and the Paramount-Warner Bros. Discovery merger.

BY WINSTON CHO | MARCH 20, 2025 3:41PM

Netflix's plan to buy Warner Bros. throws the theater industry into upheaval

PUBLISHED: FEB. 02, 2025 12:48 PM EST | UPDATED: FEB. 02, 2025 10:08 PM EST

BY Sarah Whitten

SHARE: f X in

It will take a Valley... SFFI Leadership Team/Key Crew



Producer: Wei Dai is a graduate of the USC Peter Stark Producing Program and Boston Univ., moving to the Upper Valley in 2025 with his wife, a scientist at Dartmouth. A Beijing native, Wei is also an Associate Producer at Without Exception Films.

Producer: Ali Reza Punjani is a Tuck School of Business student (2026), Emory graduate, and Tuck Fellow for the JAM Board. A Georgia native, Ali brings live comedy and TEDx producing experience to his first film producing role for JAM.

1st Assistant Director: Jordyn Fitch is a Dartmouth '20 and Production Manager at JAM where they manage a robust year-round schedule of local productions, direct the White River Indie Festival, mentor media artists of all ages, and are producing their own documentary on the UV housing crisis.

Casting Director: Kiersten White is a graduate of Spelman College and NYU's Tisch Graduate Film School and producer/director of *Black Girls Kissing*, a JAM PitchFest winning short series funded by VT Community Foundation with JAM fiscal sponsorship.



Producer, Writer & Director: Samantha Davidson Green is a UCLA Film School grad, JAM Executive Director, and former Dartmouth film faculty. Her first feature film, *Thrasher Road* (2019, now on Amazon, TubiTV), featured local actors and locations and brought home festival awards, including the Spirit of Indie Filmmaking and Best First Feature.

Director of Photography: Chico Eastridge is Senior Producer & Technical Director at JAM where he has inspired a devoted following of young filmmakers in past summer camps and short-film intensives. He is in good health according to his most recent blood count.

Sound Recordist: Daniel Felicetti is a freelance sound designer/artist living in Plainfield, NH. A graduate of Keene State and Savannah School of Art & Design, Dan has contributed to many local films that have gone on to festival and broadcast success.

Art Director: Cedar O'Dowd is a film and multimedia artist serving as JAM's Community Outreach Coordinator, generating all-ages media exhibits, events, and workshops. A film graduate of Colorado College, Cedar came to the UV as a WRIF Emerging Filmmaker in 2021.

... SFFI Leadership Team/Key Crew (cont.)



Location Manager & Script Supervisor:

Julia Anderson is from Hartford, VT. An award-winning screenwriter/filmmaker with BA and MA from Penn State, Julia's debut film "You Don't Know" premiered at WRIF 2025; they are currently in the 2025-26 VT Production Collective Incubator program.

Storyboard Artist & Title Design: Noah Mauchly is a NH native, graduate of Kingston Univ. London, award-winning animator with a large and devoted YouTube following, and JAM Media Education & Membership Coordinator.

Storyboard Artist & Graphic Design: Ana Liu is a graduate of the Center for Cartoon Studies who stuck around to be JAM's Communications Coordinator. A native of NJ and graduate of the Univ. of Chicago with a film major, Ana is also an accomplished freelance illustrator.

Editor: Peter Ciardelli studied Theater at UVM and got his MFA in Film Production from the Univ. of New Orleans. He worked in music video, commercial, TV and feature film before coming to Dartmouth as Technical Director for Dept. of Film & Media Studies and Hop Film.



Location Manager & Craft Services: Kate Barber is a Windsor, VT native, photographer & JAM flex crew member who takes care of all creatures great and small.

Drone Pilot & Post-Production Supervisor: Mike Cannon lives in Hartford, VT with his family, serves as JAM Operations Manager, aka master gadget tinkerer, is a licensed drone pilot and keeps JAM FAA-compliant.

Production Coordinator: Phil Noble is an Emerson College grad who recently returned to the UV, works at Artistree Arts Center, and has joined the JAM flex crew as a gov't producer.

Assistant Editor: Jordan Slusser is a recent Hartford High graduate who brings digital editing expertise and an appetite to learn film production.

... and an estimated 7-10 more local and regional freelance film professionals to fill crucial roles, such as: Camera Assistant, Gaffer, Grip, Boom, Intimacy Coordinator, Transportation & Safety Captain.

It will take a Valley: **SFFI High School & College Interns**



The SFFI will **nurture connections** among high school and college interns with roots in the Upper Valley, seeding our next generation of storytellers and media professionals. This film production builds on JAM’s year-round media education and internship programs that are effectively creating a **home base for media artists in the Upper Valley across the lifespan.**

For young people in particular, JAM’s High School Media Fellowship, summer film intensives, college intern program, and job shadowing have contributed to a growing network of aspiring young media makers. With support from donors, JAM is striving to offer the SFFI experience **tuition-free internship opportunity** with a transportation stipend to ease the burden on young people seeking educational experiences in our challenging economic times.

The hills are alive... **With the sound of UV music**

Imagine closing your eyes and listening to the finished film...

You will hear not only an audio topography of summer in New England but also an **original soundtrack** of songs by the many **rising rock, folk, indie and pop stars who share roots in the Upper Valley**. JAM has a long history of musical partnerships – from our CATV days, such as when Hanover High student Noah Kahan came into the studio to record a song in 2017, to a recent rock opera co-production with Sir BabyGirl (Kelsie Hogue), and countless live music events at JAM giving new bands a platform to create music videos and find audiences. JAM will also engage rising film composers from our region to create an original score, advancing the careers of many musicians as well as actors and film crew. Funding raised for this project will enable us to compensate artists to license and commission their work.



UV musicians pictured:
Phin Choukas, Sir BabyGirl, Brooks Hubbard, Chodus, Hans Williams, Allison Fay Brown, Caring Babies, BeeCharmer duo Jakob Breitbach & Jes Raymond, Lisa Piccarillo & Noah Kahan

A message from the Director

When the JAM staff gathered to plan our summer 2026 programs, our vision for a feature film production that will serve as a media education opportunity for all came into focus. To mark our fifth summer since CATV and White River Indie Films merged to form **JAM – Junction Arts & Media**, we want to embrace a new challenge that will tap the talent and energy that has gathered here. We want to live up to our strategic goal to “improve the quality of life in the Upper Valley through high-quality, locally produced media.” In these times, we want to bring people together above all.

A brief personal backstory: As a kid growing up in the Upper Valley, I never imagined I’d come back to raise my own kids, much less do so as a filmmaker. My story echoes many others’... My studies took me out west, work took me to Asia, and family brought me back to Brooklyn. As our toddlers grew, however, my husband (who also grew up here) and I longed to give them (and ourselves) the access to nature and family that shaped our childhoods. We accepted the “sacrifices” of film work opportunities and urban cultural life to move back to the Upper Valley.

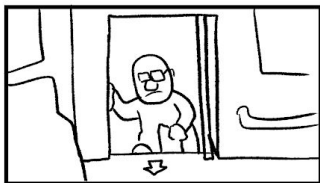
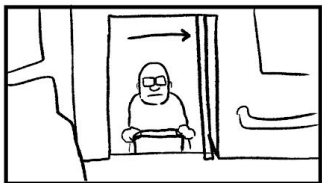
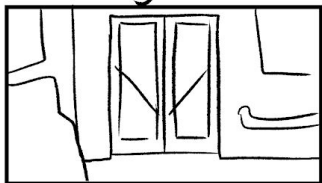
How wrong we were. In the years of our absence, the arts and media have blossomed here. In 2004 the founders of White River Indie Films (WRIF) envisioned an annual festival, now in its 23rd year, of global and local cinema that catalyzes dialogue and positive change. Upper Valley Music Center, Northern Stage, Shaker Bridge Theater, NCCT, THT, AVA Gallery, the Center for Cartoon Studies and many more organizations and freelance artists have sunk roots here, contributing to the fertile ground we now enjoy for filmmaking. It was this community that made my first feature film possible. In my role as Executive Director at JAM, I’m inspired by Upper Valley people – longstanding and newcomers alike – who walk in the door daily with powerful stories; it’s our great privilege to help them access instruction, equipment, and collaborators to get them told. Together we’ve been upping our creative game in film and media. This summer, we invite the community to go to the next level, discovering our capacity as we tell one big story together.

Finding the story of *Valley Transit* has been a particular joy. The inspiration is everywhere. In our fall planning session, the staff brainstormed story elements: Upper Valley locations! Summer rituals! Coming of age! Comedy with heart! Multigenerational! Local actors! *Puppets!* As a local screenwriter/director of character-driven films, this was right up my alley, or should I say, valley... Thank you for considering joining our big adventure. The JAM staff and board welcome all the help we can get to reach this milestone. And please let us know if you’re willing to hop on a bus or into a crowd scene... You’re already part of the story!



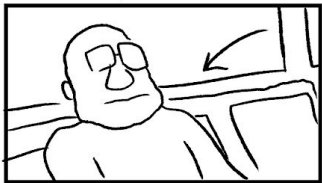
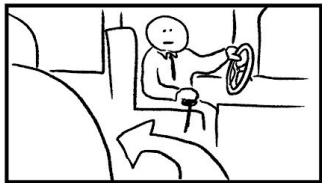
Valley Transit

Storyboard & screenplay in-progress

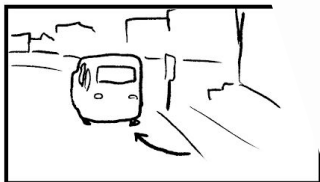
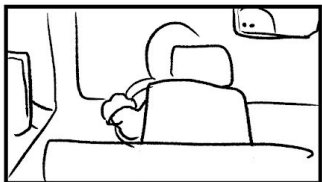
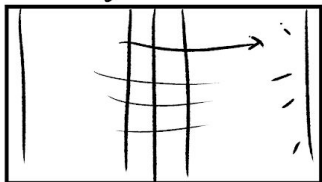


Bus door opens

George enters



"Morning, George."
"Morning, Matt."



Doors close

Bus leaves

INT/EXT. VALLEY TRANSIT BUS, LEBANON, NH GREEN - MORNING
The doors open and the bus kneels for: GEORGE CAPRA (79), who collapses his walker and makes a labored ascent.

BUS DRIVER MATT
'Morning, George.
GEORGE
Good morning, Matt.

George settles in the front seat. MATT (30s, amiable) lifts the bus, checks mirrors, and makes a careful re-entry into morning traffic.

BUS DRIVER MATT
What sort of trouble are we in today?

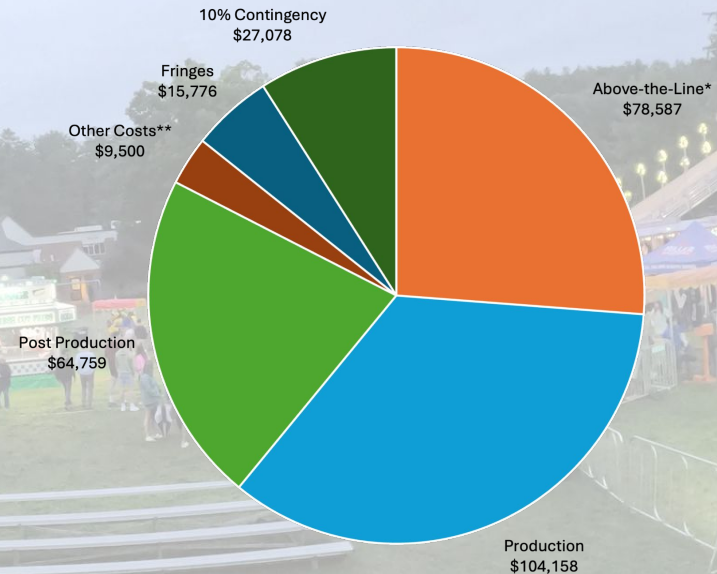
GEORGE
It's too ridiculous to mention.
BUS DRIVER MATT
Go ahead. Get it off your chest.

Production Plan: Budget Breakdown & Narrative

Every budget also tells a **story**. Ours demonstrates a commitment to the **core values** of the SFFI, JAM, and our thrifty **New England ethos** of creative reuse and ecological responsibility:

- **Home-grown:** The production aims to hire cast and crew locally. The project will provide employment while improving our skill base in the Upper Valley.
- **Existing local locations:** No need to build sets or travel far when our beautiful landscape and donated homes and businesses will tell our story best.
- **Fair compensation:** With more than 70 cast and crew likely to join the production, we aim for an equitable if modest nonprofit pay structure that resists the “do-it-for-free” model of indie film that exploits young professionals at vulnerable stages of their careers. We will also depend heavily upon volunteers and contributions from those who can.
- **Recycle/Reuse:** JAM’s community access media equipment, post-production editing, and work space available at no additional cost, lowering costs greatly.

Total Budget: \$299,858



*Above-the-Line includes cast, director, and producers.

**Other Costs include legal, insurance, and other overhead.

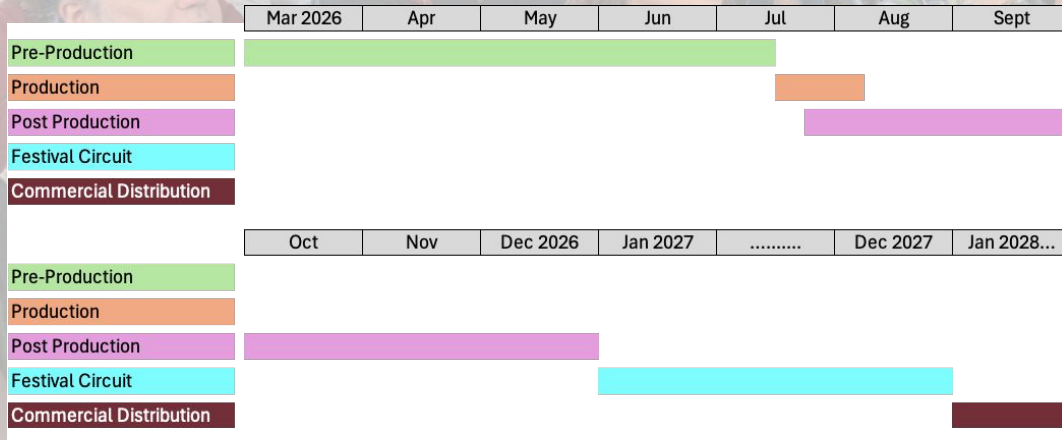
What's the business plan? **A nonprofit funding model**

Unlike the traditional film financing approach which emphasizes private profit for financiers, our nonprofit 501(c)3 business model seeks to **return your investment *in and to the community***. Your charitable contribution will:

- elevate the quality and capacity of film production in our region, strengthening our creative economy and helping to keep talent in our area;
- give Upper Valley youth crew and actors tuition-free opportunities for transformative educational experiences to advance their artistic and career development;
- result in an enduring piece of copyrighted intellectual property with strong prospects for commercial distribution. All proceeds will be reinvested in JAM – Junction Arts & Media, a 501(c)3 nonprofit media arts organization, to fund future Upper Valley storytelling.

When will we see the movie? Schedule & Distribution

Building on the expertise of local indie filmmakers serving as advisors, the journey to bring *Valley Transit* to big (and little) screens will include professional-level post-production, festival circuit exhibition, and commercial theatrical and online distribution for local and global audiences, including an outreach campaign to share our SFFI model. We aim to have work-in-progress screenings for community feedback as soon as January 2027, with festival screenings through 2027, followed by widespread theatrical/ online availability in early 2028.



How can we help? **Ways to Support**

JAM needs to raise dedicated funding to make the Summer Feature Film Intensive possible. Through diligent effort, the producers have developed an ultra-low budget for a film of this scale that economizes on equipment and locations available at low cost. To complete this project, we need to raise **\$299,858 in total**. If we succeed in raising \$235,000 by June 1, 2026 we will have confidence to move into production. We currently seek major donors who are able and willing to show faith in the program's immediate goals and long-term vision to catalyze broader community giving to follow. As a contribution to JAM, a 501(c)3, your donation may be tax-deductible.

Thank you for considering a contribution
to make *Valley Transit* and JAM's first
Summer Feature Film Intensive **possible!**

For more information, please contact:
Samantha Davidson Green at samantha@uvjam.org

FADE TO BLACK.