

# New Film Family Thanksgiving to Premiere Exclusively on Select Streaming Services Beginning November 1st

*Film by First-Time Feature Film Director/Screenwriter Brings Comedy and Chaos During First Family Thanksgiving Gathering in 5 Years*

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When the dysfunctional Walden family decides to get together for Thanksgiving for the first time in 5 years, one can only expect that mayhem, familial clashes and truths will emerge. [Family Thanksgiving](#), premiering exclusively on Roku on November 1st followed by Amazon, VUDU and Hoopla on November 2nd, is a classic comedic tale of love, self-realizations and family acceptance. It was written and directed by feature film newcomer Jeanelle Warren and distributed by Maverick Entertainment.

Says Warren, "I wanted to capture all the emotions of an Black family Thanksgiving gathering—the chaos and drama as well as the joy when they come together after 5 years. The Waldens are a reflection of my own experiences and stories within my family. It was on a family Thanksgiving cruise when I began writing the script and the process was so authentic that the first draft was finished in 2 weeks. Because the story is based on my family, along with my family and members of the production staff being involved in its development, it only made sense to take helm of the production. It was challenging to assume the roles of both producer and director on set, but I knew that I could do it and be proud of the finished product."

The film follows the Walden clan as the new family matriarch, Great Aunt Edna, feels that it's finally time for the family to get together for the holidays after the death of her sister. Edna's niece and nephews, Delle, Brian and Claudia, have been missing the family get-togethers, but the feeling is not the same with out their mother. Claudia's son, Elliott, is the oldest of her four



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children and has been experiencing financial hardships due to a gold-digging girlfriend. He sees salvation in the last-minute holiday invitation from his rich great-aunt as he believes she is dying. Ellie, the only girl of the four, makes her way back home with the best intentions and is on the verge of her big break into the entertainment industry—but runs into an old high-school crush and faces unresolved confrontations with her mother which make her feel like an adolescent again. Byron, Brian's son, is excited to come home and introduce his...friend, Patrick, to the family for the first time.

The Family Thanksgiving cast includes among its stars Coco Brown (Claudia), Anika McFall (Monica), Austin Freeman (Michael); Imani Monae (Delle), Prince Oliver (Byron), Terrell Majette (Brian) Jacob Jenkins (Jaylin) and Valerie Burgos (Rosaline). The movie introduces actors Tracy Mazyck (Elliot), Jokella Herbert (Ella), and Loretta Foster (Aunt Edna).



Jeanelle Warren

Screenwriter/Director Jeanelle Warren

Concludes Warren, "I'm hoping that all families, not just Black families, can see themselves in Family Thanksgiving as the dynamics and challenges presented transcend race. I'm also excited to join the burgeoning group of Black and female film directors. As I continue to hone my craft, I look to these women for inspiration and reflecting their excellence."

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*Jeanelle Warren,  
Director/Screenwriter*

Executive Producers for Family Thanksgiving include Nikki D. Pope and Ronald Van Pope and Jeanelle Warren, Derrick Hammond, and Angela Burris serve as producers. The film is distributed by Maverick Entertainment and produced by [JellowQuake Productions, LLC](#)

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Editor's note: For interviews with Ms. Warren as well as high resolution jpgs of the film, please contact Ginger Campbell at 213.760.7414 or email [ginger@snap-productions.com](mailto:ginger@snap-productions.com).

About Jeanelle Warren:

Warren was born in San Diego and has been writing since she was six years old. A graduate of Alcorn State University in Mississippi with a degree in Business Administration, she moved to

California in 2016 to pursue a career in the entertainment industry and went on to receive a Masters in Legal Studies at Santa Barbara Colleges of Law in California. After writing, directing and self-funding several short films and producing numerous others, she began to focus on screenwriting and directing her first feature film.

Ginger Campbell  
SNAP Productions, Inc.  
+1 323-933-4155

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