

American School of Dramatic Arts student will be featured in a coming of age Civil Rights Film

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New York, New York City, Feb 4, 2021 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - **Cian Genero** a first-year student at the American School of Dramatic Arts is portraying **John Hill** in the coming of age Civil Rights Film “**Son of the South,**” directed and written by two times Oscar nominee **Barry Alexander Brown**. Oscar-winning **Spike Lee** is the film's Executive Producer.

The film which took ten years to make is based on Prominent Civil Rights Leader Bob Zellner's autobiography “*The Wrong Side of Murder Creek.*” The film's synopsis “**A grandson of a Klansman comes of age during the early '60s in the Deep South and eventually joins the Civil Rights Movement.**” The film set in Alabama focuses on Bob Zellner being inspired by the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and others involved in the struggle.

“**Son of the South,**” was filmed in Montgomery and Tuskegee Alabama in the spring of 2019. HBCU

Tuskegee University was also a location used. The film premiered in 2020 at the prestigious **American Black Film Festival (Virtual)** and recently on MLK Day (Martin Luther King Jr., Day) was awarded by **New Generation In Action's A.F.I. World Peace Initiative**, a **United Nations-supported cultural arts organization with "Consultative Status,"** through ECOSOC. Past alumni "films of purpose," honorees include Hollywood veterans such as **Ron Perlman, Jeff Bridges, Danny Glover, and the late Peter O'Toole** (just to name a few). **"Son of the South,"** received two honors **"Best World Peace and Tolerance,"** Narrative Feature Film, and **"MLK I Have A Dream,"** Award. **Cian Genaro** also spoke at the private zoom event that was also supported by the **UNESCO Center for Peace** in front of diplomats and global peacemakers offering congratulatory warm wishes.

"Son of the South," stellar cast includes **Lucas Till** who plays **Bob Zellner**. Till is known for his work in CBS reboot of the television series **"MacGyver," "X-Men: Days of the Future Past," "X-Men: Apocalypse,"** and **the** new face William River Mossek the grandson of the late Civil Rights journalist **Sally Belfrage** and the late American playwright **Bernard Pomerance** (Elephant Man). This marks Mossek's first film role in his portrayal of teenage Bob Zellner having started in theatre productions. This includes Mirror Theater production, "To Kill A Mockingbird" starring Tony Award nominee, Marla Schaffel, and after filming went into starring in the Mirror theater's "Miranda" at the Highland Center For the Arts.

Barry Alexander Brown took pride in discovering fresh new talent. In Genaro's senior year of High School, he played Hamlet where Eve Pomerance saw him and asked him to audition for the role which was based on a true person named John Hill. Genaro an avid lover of history saw this as a dream come true. **Eve Pomerance** is also **"Son of the South,"** Casting Director and one of the main producers (from the conception).

"As a young actor working alongside Brian Dennehy and Lucas Till, it was my desire to deliver my best performance. Observing Brian Dennehy on the set was surreal and beautiful. I was watching this master immersed in his element. I could not walk away, his talent demanded my attention. The entire cast believed in the project and was supportive of me. I was the youngest along with William River Mossek and this was my first time on a movie set. I will always be grateful to Mr. Barry Alexander Brown for giving me this life-changing experience," stated Cian Genaro. Continuing his theatrical passion in the summer of 2020 Genaro was cast in the late Bernard Pomerance's play "Melons," which aired on Footprint TV and Mirror Theatres LTD and GAAR production of Bernard Pomerance's "Hand of Light."

Genaro's creative arts and acting has developed his confidence and self-esteem having struggled with dyslexia since childhood. Now the first-year student at the American School of Dramatic Arts will see his work on the big screen with major A list stars based on Casting Director and Producer Eve Pomerance's discovery.

From seeing Cian play Hamlet in Winston Prep School production I felt compelled to tell him he should try out for "Son of The South" the movie I was casting and producing. Watching Cian is like watching a young Philip Seymour Hoffman, who has soul, gravitas, humor, and wisdom beyond his years. When Barry watched his audition he was utterly blown away and immediately cast Cian on the spot. In fact, he expanded his role because he liked him so much. Cian recently auditioned for another Civil Rights movie I was casting that Nick Castle is directing. I can see a great future ahead of Cian."

Additional cast members include Cedric the Entertainer who is known as a comedian and has appeared in "Barbershop," film series who portrays the Rev. Ralph Abernathy and is co-founder of the Montgomery Improvement Association and the Southern Leadership Conference. Lucy Hale of "Pretty Little Liars" fame; Julia Ormond of "Mad Men," and "Witches of East End," Hale portrays Zellner's

girlfriend (Carol Anne). Veteran actor Brian Dennehy, who won a Tony and Golden Globe (plays Zellner's grandfather). Dexter Darden who appeared in the "Maze Runner," movie series portrays the Civil Rights icon, John Lewis. The cast also includes Lex Scott Davis (Joanne), Onye Eme-Alwari (Charles McDew), Michael Aaron Milligan (Jack Young), Shamier Anderson (Reggie), Chaka Forman (who plays his activist father Jim Forman), Jake Abel, Julia Ormond (Virginia Durr), Matt William Knowles (Jim Zwerg) Ludi Lin (Derek Ang), Mike Manning (Townsend Ellis) and Sharonne Lanier who portrayed Rosa Parks.

The film was produced by Eve Pomerance, Bill Black, Colin Bates, Stan Erdrich, and Michael Jefferson. Vertical Entertainment is handling the domestic releasing schedule. On February 5th a "limited theatrical release" is in place due to COVID-19. The film will also be made available on major online streaming platforms on Feb 5th.

"Son of the South," has also qualified for an Official Oscars submission and is in "Consideration."



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Source : Cian Genaro Featured in Son of the South

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