

Thesis Screenplay Summary for *Jacaranda*

Ryan W. Smith - MFA Film

Jacaranda is a feature-length screenplay, set in 1986, South Africa, during the height of the Nationalist Party's Apartheid reign. It follows the story of a young black freedom fighter, Macie Thepo, who sets out to rescue her father, Raphael, after he is wrongfully arrested for a bombing she caused.

In pursuit of Raphael, Macie is pulled far from the urban sprawl of Johannesburg, to an unknown side of her country. Along the way, she comes face-to-face with the grotesque underbelly of the Apartheid regime, and, to her surprise, forms an unlikely friendship with a member of her perceived enemy.

Jacaranda is a story about bravery in the face of insurmountable obstacles. It explores the complexities of cultural allegiance, and the degree to which compassion is possible, when in the thick of gross injustices.

For more information about this screenplay, please contact the Graduate Program in Film at gradfilm@yorku.ca.