

WHEN LOVE LETS YOU DOWN, TELL IT TO YOUR GUITAR

come back to me



AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE PRESENTS "COME BACK TO ME" DAVE MAYS TOKS OLAGUNDOYE AND ROBERT O. GORMAN
WRITTEN BY MICHAEL EDWARDS PRODUCTION DESIGNER LESLIE ANDREW RIDINGS COSTUME DESIGNER JULIETTE POUGHON CINEMATOGRAPHER TAL UNREICH
WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY JUSTIN EDWARDS DIRECTED BY KYLE SOEHNGEN

American Film Institute presents

come back to me

LOGLINE:

Ben thinks the best way to get his girlfriend back is to write her a love song.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Ben thinks the best way to get his girlfriend back is to write her a love song.

He buys his first guitar from Albert, the story-telling guitar shop owner, and gets some lessons from a burnt out Senegalese singer-songwriter named Seritou.

He writes his song and plays it for Anna, but finds that guitar is not just a means to an end.

LONG SYNOPSIS:

"Ah, the guitar. Where rhythm and melody, story and song, emotion and poetry, altogether belong."

After Anna dumps him, Ben is bound and determined to win her back. Surely the way to her heart is to serenade her with a love song.

Ben has never played guitar before, but that isn't going to stop him.

Together, with the help of a storytelling-guitar-shop-owner and a once-famous-singer-songwriter-from-Senegal, Ben sets out to win back the love of his life.

His plan fails miserably, however, when Anna interrupts him mid-song and tells him she is already seeing someone else. He flips out and smashes his guitar to pieces.

Ben returns his broken guitar to Albert's shop, angry at first, claiming it didn't work. He realizes how silly this sounds and walks away, embarrassed.

Albert and Seritou stop him and get him to play his song for them, secretly trying to keep him from walking away from guitar.

Ben reluctantly agrees, and begins his relationship with guitar anew.

POSITIONING STATEMENT:

COME BACK TO ME is a romantic comedy musical short about the challenges of overcoming a broken heart. Ben learns the guitar in order to try to get back his ex-girlfriend, and learns the hard way that guitar is not just a means to an end.



***"AH, THE GUITAR.
WHERE RHYTHM AND MELODY, STORY AND SONG,
EMOTION AND POETRY, ALTOGETHER BELONG."***

AFTER ANNA DUMPS HIM, BEN IS BOUND AND DETERMINED TO WIN HER BACK. SORELY THE WAY TO HER HEART IS TO SERENADE HER WITH A LOVE SONG.

BEN HAS NEVER PLAYED GUITAR BEFORE, BUT THAT ISN'T GOING TO STOP HIM.

**TOGETHER, WITH THE HELP OF A STORYTELLING-GUITAR-SHOP-OWNER
AND A ONCE-FAMOUS-SINGER-SONGWRITER-FROM-SENEGAL,
BEN SETS OUT TO WIN BACK THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE.**



about the filmmakers



KYLE SOEHNGEN - DIRECTOR

Kyle studied at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he received a Bachelor of Arts in film and served as a student ambassador to the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. His short films, *BROTHER JOHN* and *AMERICAN BULLDOG*, were both featured at the CineVegas Film Festival where he was awarded the CineVegas Emerging Filmmaker Award for excellence in directing in both 2008 and 2009. He is currently finishing his 2nd year at AFI in Directing with two thesis films.



JUSTIN EDWARDS - WRITER, PRODUCER

Justin studied film production at the University of Texas, Austin, and received his Masters of Education from Bowling Green State University in 2006. In 2008, he founded the World Story Organization to deliver film production curriculum to schools around the globe, and directed *BRIDGING THE GAP*, a short documentary on Kenya's first suspension footbridge. He collaborated with his brother, Michael, in writing and recording all of the music for *COME BACK TO ME*.



TAL UNREICH - CINEMATOGRAPHER

Tal is an Israeli filmmaker and cinematographer. He has shot and directed several film projects. A select few include: *HEAVEN*, an official selection of the LA Short film festival, *LADDERS*, a feature length documentary developed for BET Networks, *THE BINDING OF ISAAC*, a pilot for "The Ripple Project," a 3D animation collaborative project with photographer Charles Lindsay, and a video expedition with artist Clifford Ross and National Geographic in the Pantanal of Brazil.



JULIETTE POUGHON - EDITOR

Juliette graduated from Université Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand, France in 2006. She worked as a production assistant for Zap Entertainment, a junior editor for the European network Canal+, and was recently an assistant editor on a pilot for CBS in the spring of 2011. She directed and edited a documentary on Cannes Film Festival prior to AFI, where she has since edited eight short films on her way to finishing a Master of Fine Arts degree.



ABOUT THE LEAD:

DAVE MAYS (BEN)

Dave moved to Hollywood from Philadelphia to pursue acting full time after attending numerous acting workshops in New York City while he attended university classes. He has been in a series of commercials and shorts, including a WAL-MART commercial, the HP LESSONS WITH SHAWN improv comedy shorts, and the sports primetime spot, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ROOSEVELTS, BABY.



KIMBERLY MCCONNELL as ANNA and DAVE MAYS as BEN in a whimsical flashback in COME BACK TO ME



STEVE BLOEM as GUITAR HERO and DAVE MAYS as BEN rock out in a dream sequence in COME BACK TO ME



DAVE MAYS as BEN and TOKS OLAGUNDOYE as SERITOU have a guitar lesson in COME BACK TO ME



ROBERT O'GORMAN as ALBERT and DAVE MAYS as BEN discuss Ben's new guitar purchase in COME BACK TO ME



DAVE MAYS (BEN) and KIMBERLY MCCONNELL (ANNA) prepare for their kissing scene in COME BACK TO ME



COLBY OLIVER (Cam. Op.), JEFFREY ASHKIN (Heart Dancer), DAVE MAYS (Ben), TAL UNREICH (Cinematographer), CARY GALLAGHER (1st AC), CHRISTY WILLIAMS (Heart Dancer), and NICK RONZIO (Boom Op.) prepare for a love ballad scene in COME BACK TO ME



KYLE SOEHNGEN (Director), DAVE MAYS (Ben), and KIMBERLY MCCONNELL (Anna) discuss how they should break up in COME BACK TO ME



DAVE MAYS (Ben), BEN KITCHENS (Dolly Grip), COLBY OLIVER (Cam. Op.), KYLE SOEHNGEN (Director) and TAL UNREICH (cinematographer) prepare for the rock concert dream sequence scene in COME BACK TO ME