

# AT EASE

## THE STORY

**Tagline:** Our brave military men and women fight for freedom in battle, many never return, and - for some - their biggest battles begin when the war follows them home.



**Synopsis:** As veteran Chris Holden sits in an airport awaiting the return of his wife from deployment, a stranger strikes up a conversation with him. Chris soon realizes he isn't just any stranger, but a fellow combat veteran with uncanny life similarities.

John Booker's life was spared after a war-related tragedy caused a downward spiral with an attempt to end it all, and his new mission is to help Chris and other military brothers from the same potential fate.

AT EASE is a poignantly dramatic short film depicting some of the wrenching impact from war on military troops and their families suffering both the losses of loved ones in combat and the emotional challenges.



### The Mission:

Raise awareness of veterans' post-deployment struggles and the impact of loss from war.

Partner with a 501(c)(3) non-profit veteran organization during the fundraising phase, with a portion of these funds going to said organization for recreational and therapeutic programs that serve veterans with PTSD and other illnesses associated with combat.

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## THE TEAM



### **Christopher Shawn Shaw— Director and Producer**

Christopher Shawn Shaw is an Award-Winning Filmmaker who specializes in film and video directing, producing, editing, creative consulting, writing, and even acting. He is also the Founder and Producer of the [Night Of Comedy & Short Films FUNdraiser \(NCSFF\)](#) LIVE events designed to support the production of high-quality, redemptive film and video content *and* help supplement the hosting church fellowships' yearly budget.

A native of the Buckeye State, Christopher is a graduate of Otterbein College (now Otterbein University) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance (Acting/Directing) degree. Since relocating to California, Christopher has performed on numerous television series, commercials and short films, and has produced and directed numerous short films, both comedies and dramas. For more information on Christopher, visit [www.ChristopherShawnShaw.com](http://www.ChristopherShawnShaw.com) and [www.NCSFF.com](http://www.NCSFF.com)



### **Jamie A. Hope — Screenwriter and Producer**

Jamie A. Hope is an author, national contributor, screenwriter, and substitute teacher. She is the author of *Illusion*, a young adult science-fiction novel, and has contributed numerous articles for top online magazines. She currently has several screenplays in the works.

Jamie was born and raised in Pure Michigan! She is currently raising her own family there. Jamie was previously chief of staff for a Michigan legislator, and an ensign for the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. She is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. For more information on Jamie, visit [www.jamieahope.com](http://www.jamieahope.com).



### **Jerry Della Salla—Actor, Military Advisor and Army Veteran**

Jerry studied with Stella Adler, and is a graduate of the NYU Tisch Drama Program. He co-starred with the late Victor Argo in his last film, PERSONAL SERGEANT (2004), and opposite Matt Damon in GREEN ZONE (2010), directed by Paul Greengrass. Jerry also performed with Edward Norton Off-Broadway in “Waiting for Lefty” at the Kampo Cultural Center, NYC (1992), and with Peter Dinklage in “Taming of the Shrew” at the NJ Shakespeare Festival (1993).

On April 2nd, 2005, SGT. Della Salla was wounded in a three hour long base attack while serving in Iraq. The battle to this day has also held a unique place in the wars history, because every single military component (Army, Navy, Marine, Air-Force and Coalition troupes) fought side by side to fendoff the enemy. For his actions, Jerry Della Salla was awarded the Combat Action Badge and is under review for the Purple Heart. Other Medals and citations include the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, The Generals Coin for Excellence, The Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

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## PRODUCTION

### LOCATION

Pending location availabilities, this one-week shoot is to take place in mid-Michigan.

### BUDGET

The projected budget for this film is \$50k-\$75k, depending on talent and location costs. This will include pre-production, production, post-production, distribution and P&A (These figures are a general estimate based on a variety of factors.)

The objective is to partner with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit veterans organization. AT EASE will raise money for the organization through the film and provide a link to the organization for immediate donation following the short film. Twenty percent of the profits from AT EASE will also be donated to the organization from the first year of sales. The non-profit will provide the AT EASE production with a line item in their organization so all funds raised for the project and subsequent donations will be tax deductible.



### DISTRIBUTION

One goal of this project is to have AT EASE played at select theaters before feature films screen. This will allow people to watch a “support our troops” effort akin to the old “support the war” efforts played in theaters during WWII. AT EASE will have a link at the end of the film for theater-goers to donate, including from their mobile devices.

Another goal is to work with theaters to have a *coupon* readily available that pops up on the contributors’ confirmation, giving them up to a couple dollars off their next theater outing. This incentive gives an *immediate* payoff.

Along with theater viewing, the movie will be available via digital download or ordered via DVD, for a price yet-to-be-determined.

During the fundraising efforts (with the help of the non-profit veteran organization), we will be offering digital download and DVD *pre-orders*.

All donations will be tax-deductible.



### PRINTS AND ADVERTISING (P&A)

Our goal is to garner a mass grassroots campaign, highlighting that a portion of the fundraising efforts go to the 501(c)(3) non-profit veteran organization with which we are partnering. With the help of collective contacts from those involved in the project and said non-profit organization, AT EASE intends to generate tens of thousands of interested viewers, just in the fundraising phase alone. Aside from this, there is a yet-to-be-determined designated portion of the budget for P&A and where those funds will be used.

**For more information, please contact Jamie A. Hope at: [jamiannahope@gmail.com](mailto:jamiannahope@gmail.com), Cell: 517-290-1249**

\*Pictures of Matt Damon and Jerry Della Salla by Jasin Boland, Universal Studios (2010)