

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My vision of Sherman is a character-driven film of empowerment and healing, set in the complexities of 21st century America.

As a creative team comprised of Black people, women, and immigrants, we are personally invested in these questions and themes. A blend of artistry and activism, our goal is to express our unique perspectives, create empathy, and carve out space for ourselves and others, so we all can live freely.

By blending Sherman's personal search for growth and empowerment with Osman's innocence as an Arab child amidst a divided world, Sherman is a story that honors our differences, while also shedding light on any shared impact of injustice.

At its core, Sherman is a story of inner healing and coming into one's own identity, while gently questioning – what does it mean to be a “we?” More broadly, Sherman reverberates with the universal themes of family, identity, growing into your own self, as well as healing from past wounds. What most excites me about this story is how the narrative asks such personalized questions within the folds of relationship, family, and community.

Sherman is a story of how learning to care for others can mobilize us beyond our own pain, empowering us to find a deeper strength to love, heal ourselves, and achieve our dreams. In today's America, we need this story now more than ever. As a country scarred by race baiting, scapegoating and othering, we live in a reality hallmarked by silos and echo chambers. Sherman reminds us of what it means to be an ally, form community with, as well as truly love and become family with someone who is different than you.

Perhaps more importantly, Sherman reverberates with the power of love. We live in a world where wounds are common enough; no one is unscathed. This film explores how to reclaim your individual identity and purpose while in community with others.

Ultimately, Sherman's purpose is to honor and empower us to live our most authentic selves, to make the world more livable for all of us, and to move the needle so we can understand, dream, and live in a new way.