**PRESS RELEASE:**

March 11, 2018—Local veteran Paramedic and Filmmaker David K. Jarreau teamed up with Acadian Ambulance to produce Unit 68, an inspirational fantasy short film that addresses the shortage of EMS workers nationwide. The main character is a young boy named Mack, named in honor of a fellow beloved EMT, Mark McBride, who passed away several years ago.

Mack, who doesn't know what he wants to be when he grows up, has an encounter one night with a mysterious ambulance in his front yard. In it, he sees the future version of himself saving his friends’ lives who he sees at Career Day the following morning.

The film was written and directed by Jarreau with financial backing from Acadian Ambulance and its Chairman & CEO Richard Zuschlag. Jarreau came up with the concept several years ago and was inspired to write the screenplay by his sons during the flooding of 2016. EMS staffing continues to be challenging locally, as well as nationwide, so it was a great time to produce a film geared to younger viewers who will be making career decisions soon. The producers hope to generate an interest in EMS careers through this inspirational and imaginative storyline.

Although Unit 68 had plenty of veteran actors, there were a few who were playing themselves. Local New Roads Fire Chief Pedro Leonard played the extra firefighter in the ambulance.  Gonzales Paramedic Dena Lolley played the paramedic delivering the baby. In fact, she actually delivered a baby shortly after filming her scene. Unit 68 also feature some young talent.  In addition to Mrs Liz Browns 6th grade classroom students, Unit 68 featured Gavin Hughes, a local young actor and son of Melissa and Josh Hughes from New Roads who played the part of Mack.  Kaleb Hobgood, also from New Roads, son of Julie Hobgood played Skylar. "Being in Unit 68 has helped Kaleb come out of his shell. I have really seen a boost in his self confidence since working with David in this inspirational film", Julie said. Addis, LA based young actress Kennedy Anthony, daughter of Jesse and Crystal Anthony also made an appearance in the classroom scene. "We are honored that David cast Kennedy to play the role of Becky in Unit 68!" She added, "Although it was a smaller role, we all fell in love with the story and wanted to be a part of it! David has since provided Kennedy with several more opportunities to continue growing her craft through the local Louisiana Film Industry. "And for that we will always be grateful", she said.

“Acadian Ambulance is happy to support David’s longtime dream. He’s been a dedicated medic for more than 27 years, and he truly has a passion for helping others. Through his film, we are able to share a unique perspective in the calling toward an EMS career. We encourage youth to consider pursuing an EMT and paramedic path, and we see this film as a way to spark inspiration,” said Richard Zuschlag, CEO of Acadian Ambulance Service.

Unit 68 is based off of the real Acadian Ambulance unit assigned to Pointe Coupee Parish. Jarreau still works on that unit where he and Mark McBride shared many shifts.

Unit 68 was shot over several days in St. Francisville, New Roads and Baton Rouge with a cast and crew of 48. Jarreau brought along a talented local crew of camera, sound and lighting technicians. As the Vice President of Tourism in Pointe Coupee Parish, he is a big supporter of filming in Louisiana, as well as using local talent and crews. With renewed tax credits already attracting big budget movies in the area, the area is seeing a stimulus in the local economy in the form of tourism and dollars being spent on local businesses.

Unit 68 will premiere March 26 at the Celtic Studios in Baton Rouge. The cast and crew, along with a select few of McBride’s friends, will be invited. The film will be released shortly after on social media. Cast and crew interviews can be found on the Unit 68 Facebook page as well as the Unit 68 Youtube channel.

Jarreau is going into production on his next short film titled Paul later this month, once again keeping everything, including cast, crew and spending right here in Louisiana.

For more information on careers in the EMS field go to [www.becomeamedic.com](http://www.becomeamedic.com). When applying, mention you saw Unit 68!

Unit 68 Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlnr5-NCCNI>

Article submitted by:

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