# FIRST RESPONDERS

In Theaters October 24 and 25, 2022 Not Rated: Treat as PG-13 Run Time: 1:45

Official Website: <u>https://firstrespondersmovie.com/</u> Ticketing Page <u>Here</u> Key Art and Headshots <u>Here</u>

National First Responders Day - October 28, 2022.



**LOGLINE:** After her firefighter husband suffers a life-changing blaze, trauma therapist Karen Williams discovers the limits of her professional experience and must face her own fears while trying to save her marriage.

SHORT SYNOPSIS: *First Responders* is an inspirational movie that celebrates the vitality of marriage and the bonds of friendship, which carry our film's firefighters, police, and EMTs through their challenges. The movie tells the story of Karen Williams, a trauma therapist, who has witnessed firsthand the special courage that shapes those who work in emergency services. But then her husband, a career firefighter, returns from a life changing blaze. Karen

discovers that a degree, along with years of counseling first responders, has done little to personally prepare her to help her husband's battle with PTSD. Unable to see a path to save her marriage, she turns to God and celebrates the truth that through Him all things are possible. Perhaps no one knows this better than the brave men and women who provide emergency services: the ones we call "first responders." **FULL SYNOPSIS:** Trauma therapist Karen Williams has witnessed the special courage and suffering that shapes those who work in emergency services. They selflessly face death each day and only hope to come home to their loved ones at the end of their shift.

By day, Karen supports them with professional group therapy. By night, she supports them with friendship through a bowling league. After her best friend, Officer Nia, gets shot on duty, Karen remembers the fear that lurks in her own heart: her husband's dangerous profession could leave her alone.

Karen musters all of her counseling skills to support the now hospitalized Nia and to help her family navigate their crisis. Fear comes a step closer when her firefighter husband, Mark, returns from a devastating blaze and experiences symptoms of trauma. Karen discovers the limits of her expertise as Mark tries on his own to make sense of his inner turmoil.

When Mark bowls a perfect game but can't remember it, he takes action and consults a doctor who prescribes medication for PTSD. He also takes time off of work in hopes his suffering will subside, but when his symptoms continue, he realizes he can't do the job safely anymore. For his good and to keep his fellow firefighters safe, Mark takes early retirement.

At first, his decision provided relief. Karen and Mark bond over fun activities and time spent together daily, but Mark's intensified symptoms surprise them both. Time, medication, and prayer do not appear to be helping, and Karen fears losing her husband despite her efforts to walk with him through his suffering.

Mark keeps a diary of his experiences but spirals into depression. Karen watches him slip away and cries out to God in her desperation. That day, as Mark struggles to write in the quiet darkness of his house, God helps him finally see that healing is a combination of companionship and counseling. Mark recognizes both in his wife.

Meanwhile, Karen's therapy group acknowledges her private struggle and ministers to her like a patient instead of a facilitator. As she leaves her workplace, she discovers Mark standing at her car, ready to follow her into the counseling center for help.

Karen and Mark are a united team again, enjoying the company of a healed Nia and her family at the bowling alley. Mark's game is back to its sub-perfect normalcy, but Karen sees that he's a better man for it. "It's about progress, not perfection."

As an inspirational movie, *First Responders* reminds us that family and friends are the primary responders to crises in our lives. Their willingness to walk with us in our darkest times proves that love can sustain us while God guides our steps toward the light of healing and peace. Perhaps no one learns this better than the brave men and women who provide emergency services: the ones we call "first responders." Perhaps no one needs it more.

#### AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:



### **CAMERON ARNETT**

Character in FIRST RESPONDERS - Darnell Taylor

Haitian born actor, author, speaker, and director Camy "Cameron" Arnett carved out a successful career in arts and entertainment in the late '80s and '90s. He continues to gain momentum and influence in the industry.

Cameron was awarded 2020's Best Supporting Actor for his role in *DISCARDED THINGS* by CIFF, the Canadian International Faith and Family Film Festival.

He was named ICFF's 2020 Actor of the Year by the International

Christian Film and Music Festival. He was also nominated for Movieguide's 2020 Grace Prize for Most Inspiring Performance for Movies for his role in OVERCOMER.

Most recent appearances include Season 2 of *Vindication,* Jarod O'Flaherty's episodic faith-based crime-drama series. He also plays a lead role in the upcoming feature *RUNNING THE BASES* and appeared in the BET + Original *Redeemed*.

He has appeared in publications including Fox News, Movieguide and on the cover of January 2020's Believer's Voice of Victory. Past television credits include NBC's *Miami Vice*, Fox's *Star Trek: The Next Generation, ABC's China Beach* and *Doogie Howser MD,* VH1's *Single Ladies* and Tyler Perry's *Meet the Browns.* 

More recent film successes include his roles in *I STILL BELIEVE* (Seventeen Magazines #1 Romantic Movie of the Year), *OVERCOMER* (the Kendrick Brothers' #1 Family Film for 2019), *MATTIE: The Discovery*, (Cameron's directorial debut), Karen Abercrombie's *DISCARDED THINGS*, *THE CHALLENGER DISASTER*, *CHAMPION* and the five Dove.org Award-winning, *Stand Your Ground*.

Cameron has also appeared in *THE WAGER*, *TULSA* and *ORDER OF RIGHTS*. TULSA has been seen in Regal Theaters around the country and is the second highest grossing self-distributed film. Soon to be released are *ANGELS UNAWARE*, *PREACH*, *ELEANOR'S BENCH* and *DON'T SAY MY NAME*.

Today, Cameron is the CEO of Camy Arnett Production Studios (CAPS), a television, film and entertainment company. He is the producer and director of the CAPS originals, *Jesus Is My Booski, BJA Today*, and *Pivotal Times*.

He and his wife, Mrs. BJ Arnett, are executive producers of their first feature film, MATTIE: THE DISCOVERY. They are also the producers of the films DESTINED TO LOVE YOU and HOSEA: AN UNDYING LOVE.

The Arnetts are also the founders of Saving Destinies, a nonprofit that is raising and uniting people who are providing opportunities and resources to the born, unborn, disabled, aged or defenseless.



## ABOUT MARI WHITE

Character in FIRST RESPONDERS - Nia Taylor

In addition to being a gummy bear addict, cat lover and book worm—Mari White is a two-time Emmy® Award Winning TV Host, Actress and multi-award winning Producer. Trained by mentors from the Actor's Studio, Mari has performed in various New York Off-Broadway theaters, appeared in multiple films, shows and commercials. She has graced the cover of various magazines, been featured in numerous print ads, and walked fashion week runways. As a versatile host, her credits range from Monday Night Football with ESPN to the first ever live online morning show, AOL Rise. Mari has had the honor of creating, partnering and producing with Christian bands and celebrities to uplift and entertain others through God and family centered media.



## ABOUT RICK ELDRIDGE

Writer / Producer

With more than 35 years in the entertainment business as a musician, producer, director, and entrepreneur: Rick Eldridge makes projects happen. Whether sports programming, live production, animated series, or feature films, Rick has been involved in every facet of creative development and production management in the entertainment industry. He is a graduate of Brevard College with advanced studies at the University of North Carolina Charlotte and Full Sail School of Recording Arts. He serves on several charitable, civic, and college/university boards.

In addition to THE MULLIGAN, his creative projects include: THE ULTIMATE GIFT (feature film trilogy); BOBBY JONES: STROKE OF GENIUS (feature film); HERMIE & FRIENDS (animated series); GIGI (animated series); RUNNING THE SAHARA (feature documentary); NEVER AGAIN (feature documentary); FIRST RESPONDERS (releasing Oct 2022); and WHEN WE LAST SPOKE (feature film).

For media requests: MediaRequests@biscuitmediagroup.com