Director Lawrence Ribeiro used a JVC GY-LS300 4KCAM handheld camcorder to shoot his short film, The Chase.

The Customer:
Director and action DP Lawrence Ribeiro.

The Challenge:
Shoot a short film, The Chase, in two days using only handheld shots.

The Solution:
Ribeiro shot with the JVC GY-LS300 4KCAM handheld Super 35 camcorder paired with an Olympus ED 12 40mm f/2.8 lens to achieve a cinematic look.

The Result:
With the help of a professional stunt team and top Hollywood post houses, Ribeiro created The Chase, which is essentially a 90-second car chase preceded by stylish establishing shots of Los Angeles. He considers it his own high-quality showcase, a polished contrast to the “down and dirty” previsualization sequences he shoots for various films and commercials.

“To some degree, it’s a very fancy business card,” Ribeiro said. “The images are quite good, and I didn’t even use the camera’s full 4K capabilities.”

Ribeiro trained for six weeks to prepare for the project and chose the GY-LS300 specifically for its design. “A lot of times you’re in awkward positions and camera weight can make the difference between getting a shot. I think one key factor is how the camera combines lightness, ergonomics, and 4:2:2 recording capabilities,” he explained. “That lends itself to speed and more dynamic filmmaking. Without that combination, I couldn’t have made this piece.”

The zoom lens allowed Ribeiro to get the shots he needed without changing lenses, while the camera’s built-in LCD display allowed him to frame shots without an external monitor. “I’m all about efficiency,” he said. “If you have a bigger or heavier camera, you end up getting less cutaways, less insert shots, less texture for the edit because you can’t move fast enough. I was able to manipulate settings with the JVC camera that you’d normally have to do in post.”