

MR. ZOOT SUIT

Press Notes



Documentary |16 minutes| USA

Log line

After putting his dreams on hold, a university housekeeping supervisor follows his passion for dancing and educating others about the history of the zoot suit.

Synopsis

Moses Porras is the head of housekeeping at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. While his day job is to keep the university clean, in his free time, he follows his passion for dancing, particularly zoot suit performances. Though he had a promising career in the performing arts, certain circumstances caused him to put his dreams on hold. Over 30 years later, Moses is putting on the iconic 1940s men's suit, readjusting his tando hat, and showing the world that it's never too late to follow your dreams.

Director's Bio

Chan'Cellore Makanjuola is a filmmaker from Dallas, Texas. She graduated cum laude in Spring 2018 from Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) in San Antonio, TX where she received her BA in Digital Film and Multimedia Production with a minor in English. During her college career, she made several short films and videos for her undergraduate portfolio. She served as news anchor and reporter for OLLU's student-produced newscast, The Lake Front, where she interviewed guest speakers, writers, students, and faculty to name a few. She later went on to serve as The Lake Front's news director, producing several newscasts on current events relating

to the OLLU community. The journalism skills she gained in The Lake Front, as well as what she learned as a film major, piqued her interest in documentary filmmaking. “Mr. Zoot Suit,” is a short documentary she directed, edited, and co-produced for her senior undergraduate portfolio. Chan’Cellore wants to continue making documentaries and share inspiring stories of people who make positive differences in their communities.

Director’s Statement

I first met Moses in the Fall of 2016. He and his family were hosting a zoot suit event at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) for Hispanic Heritage Month and my job was to report on it for the student newscast. I had never met him before, and this was my first time learning about the zoot suit: a wide-legged, high-waisted, men’s suit commonly worn during the 1940s. Moses and his family put on a spectacular performance that night and after I got my interview with him, I hurried back to the editing lab to make my news package. I didn’t think much about it then, but it was that encounter with Moses that eventually led to the production of “Mr. Zoot Suit.” I made the film as part of my Digital Film II course at OLLU under the guidance of my professor, Antoinette Winstead. What drew me to feature Moses as the subject of my documentary was the fact that he was an unsuspecting person with a huge talent. Despite adversity, Moses continues to pursue his dreams and I hope this film will inspire others to do the same.

Production Credits

Director, editor, co-producer: Chan’Cellore Makanjuola

Director of Photography: Jessuly Suarez

Executive Producer: Antoinette Winstead

Producer: Karina Martinez

Co-Producer: Maria Elena Cruz

Asst. Camera/Sound Operator: Daniel Bommer

Production Asst./Sound Operator: Anna Boone

Lighting Designer: Jesse Arenas

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