

STRIVE

A teenager from the streets of Harlem aims get into Yale and pursue her dreams, but must push against the world holding her back.

Rights: Worldwide
Feature Drama: 82 Minutes

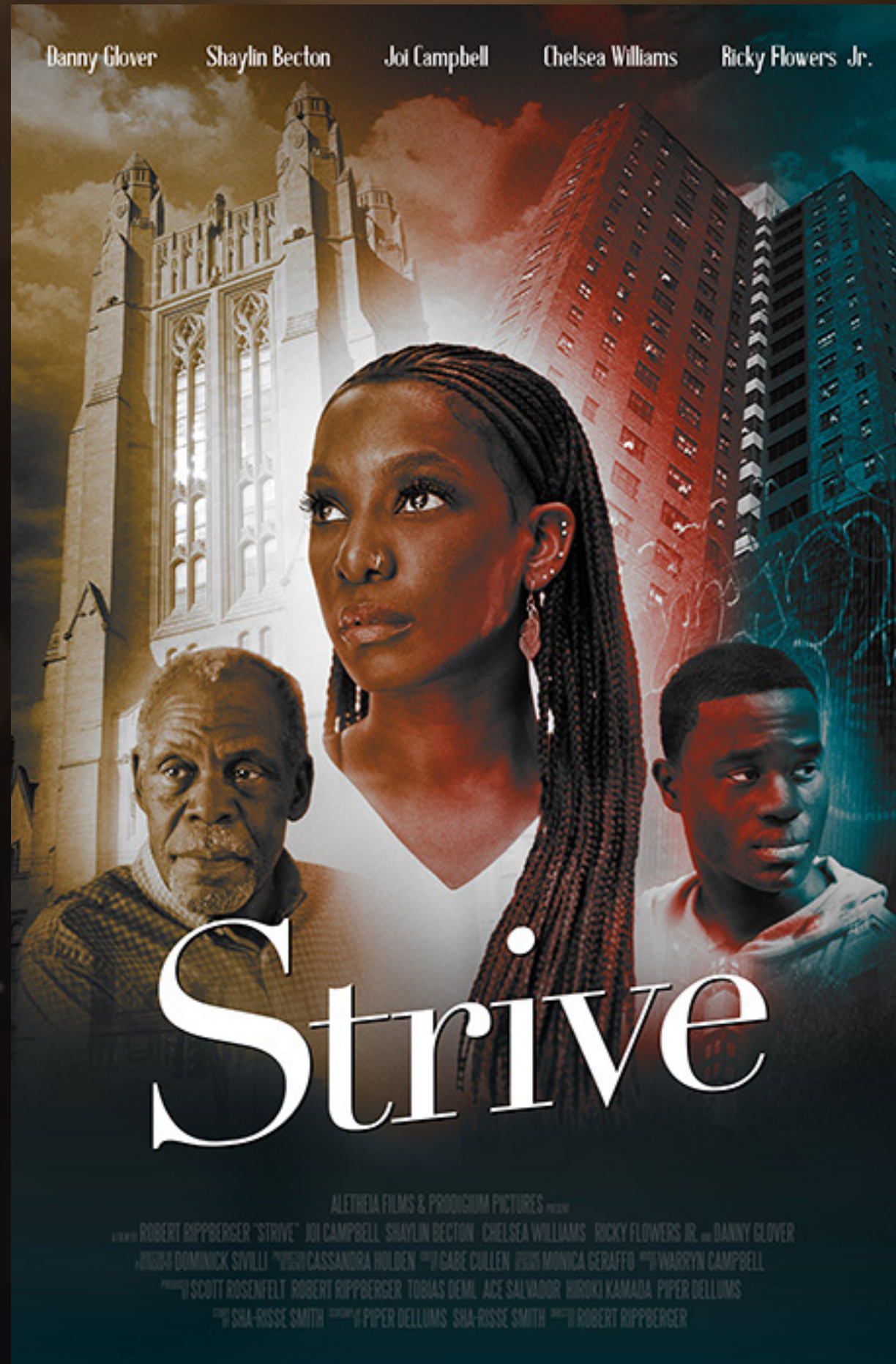


FLOURISHING
FILMS


STRIVE

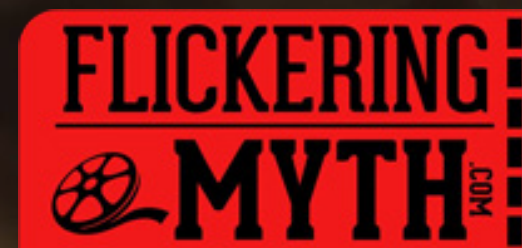


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Kalani (Joi Campbell) is a teenager living in Harlem, New York with her older brother Jacob and her younger sister Bebe while her mother struggles to make ends meet. Her college counselor Mr. Rose (Danny Glover) sees great promise in her future.

As Kalani's siblings get caught in a myriad of problems, Kalani teeters on the brink of ruin as she struggles to keep both her family and her dream of getting into Yale intact. Strive reminds us that hard work, optimism, and perseverance in the face of overwhelming adversity is the essence of what it is to be alive.



Press: [Danny Glover Joins Harlem Drama](#)



MARKMEETS
ENTERTAINMENT

Press: [Interview with the Writer and the Director](#)

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Filmmaking Team

PRODUCED BY SCOTT ROSENFELT (MYSTIC PIZZA, HOME ALONE, SMOKE SIGNALS) WRITTEN BY HARLEM NATIVE SHA-RISSE SMITH DIRECTED BY ROBERT RIPPBERGER (7 DAYS IN SYRIA) CASTING BY GRAMMY NOMINATED JOI CAMPBELL, SHAYLIN BECTON (FRESH OFF THE BOAT, BROADWAY'S THE LION KING), DANNY GLOVER (THE COLOR PURPLE, LETHAL WEAPON, SORRY TO BOTHER YOU) MUSIC BY WARRYN CAMPBELL (9 TIME GRAMMY WINNER PRODUCING FOR ALICIA KEYS, MARY MARY, MISSY ELLIOT, AND KANYE)



Writer's Statement

I was very inspired by Lee Daniel's Precious, based on one of my favorite books "Push" by Sapphire, which was set in Harlem. I remember when that film came out, being struck by how raw it was. It was like no film I had ever seen before. And then for it to be nominated for an Oscar—it was really like, wow, our stories are being recognized and they're ready to be told.

Harlem has always been a special place for the arts. It was where the Renaissance for black novelists, philosophers, painters, and poets occurred. Harlem has so much to share with the world and that's why I chose it as the backdrop.

The film is based on true stories of my experiences and the people that I know, but a lot has been changed. I am not Kalani. Strive is a patchwork of everything that I know about growing up in Harlem. And yes, I did go to prep school. And I did go through something a little worse than what's portrayed on screen. If anything, Kalani is the super hero on screen that I wish I was.

My main goal of this film is to inspire young women. I wish I had a film like this when I was going to boarding school. I wish I had something like this when I was going to prep school. A lot of times these issues aren't shown, and I want people to watch this and say, "if Kalani can do this, I can too."



Harlem Native
Sha-Risse Smith

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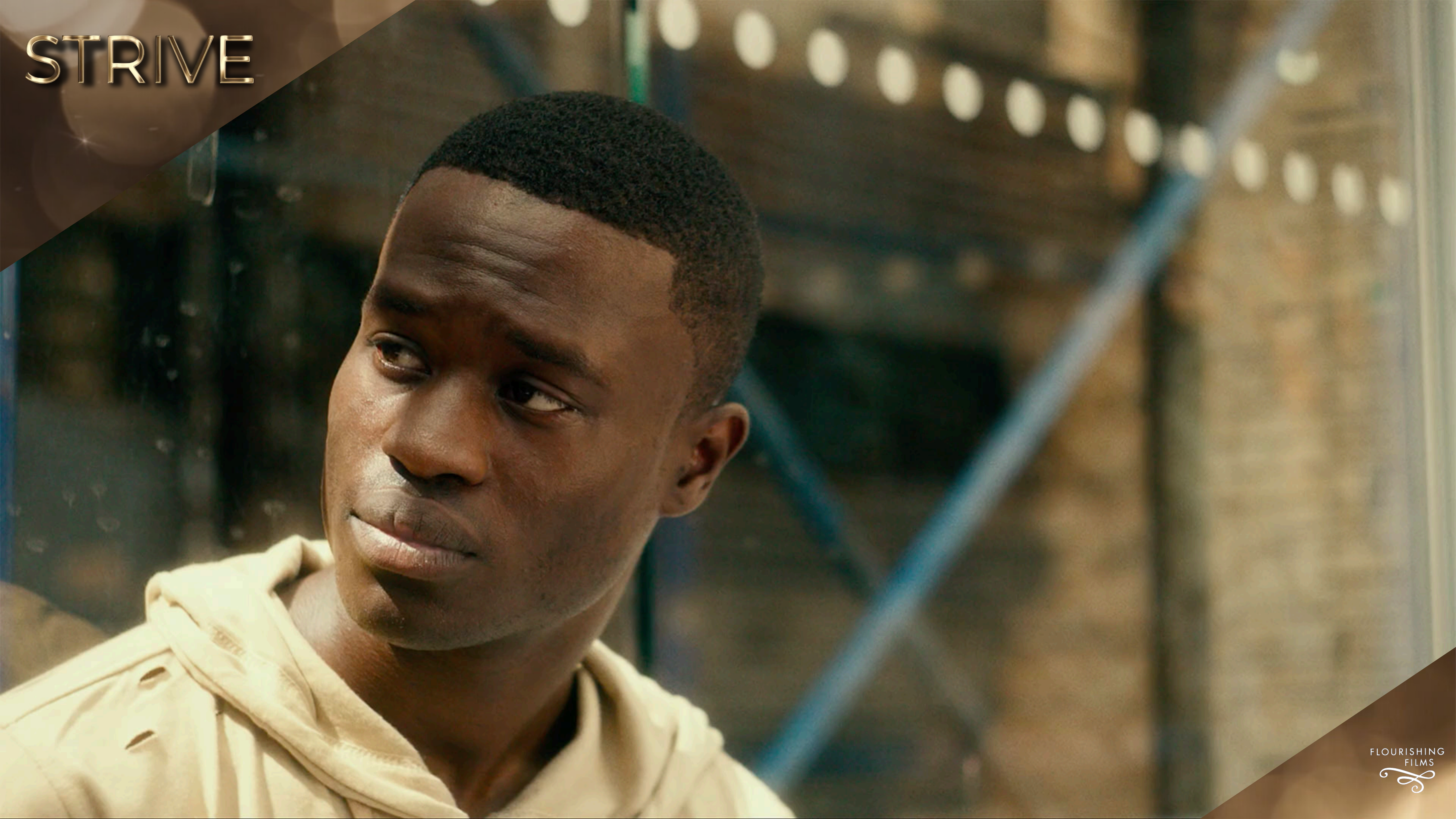


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