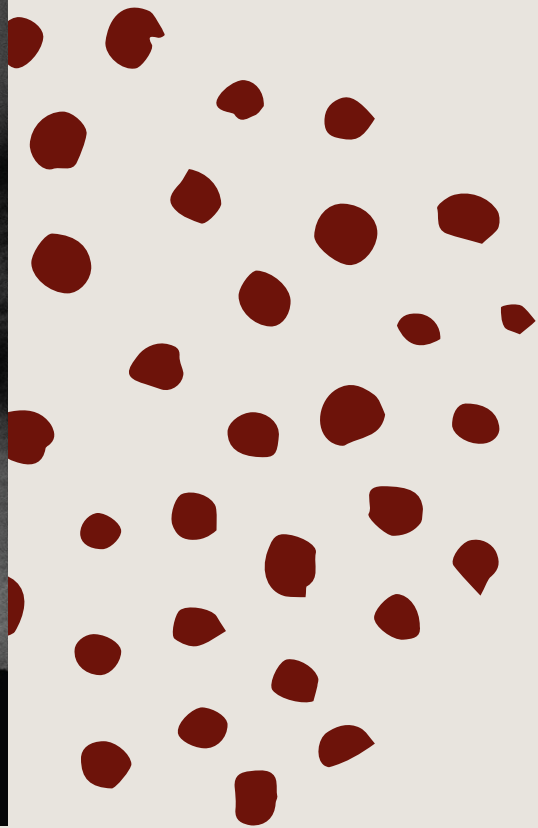


PRELIMINARY PRESS NOTES

Press Contact:

Tracey Davis 318-572-4313

Untestedlove@gmail.com



**TRT 14 MINS 53 SEC | NOT YET
RATED | USA | ENGLISH | COLOR**

Logline

Is a love that has not been put to
the test a love at all?

Short Synopsis

Untested Love follows Mya, a 25-year-old teacher, as she spends the day trying to get in contact with her boyfriend. What starts as a simple phone call turns into a life-evolving situation.



Director's Statement Part 1 - The Director's Message

My storytelling goal is to deliver messages that are meant to encourage you to question and broaden your perspective. As a creator, I am influenced by my emotions and experiences as well as those of others. Additionally, I am influenced by nonwritten southern rules and old wives' tales.

Untested Love is rooted in generational curses that grow in dark moist places, like mold. Fertilized by fear and shadowed with unacceptance, these curses grow to cause debilitating stress and anxiety to all it touches. It is one of the many stories about life that I intend to create that will shine a light and blow fresh air on in the hopes of busting long-held enshrouded myths.



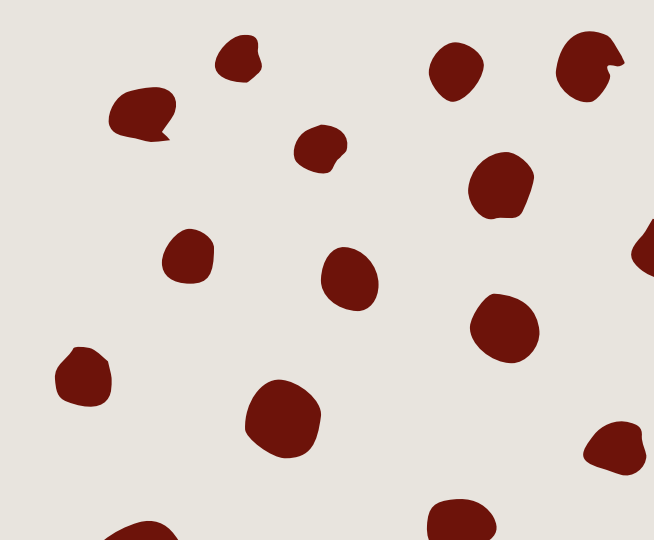
Director's Statement Part 2 - The Process

Untested Love began as a completely different story than what it is now. I begin writing the first rendition of the story in 2017, while in grad school at Howard University. It was intended to be a tv pilot titled Sarah, Mya, Sage - the Black Female Gaze. Inspired by Girlfriends and Sex in the City, I aimed to capture Black millennial women coping with dating and adulthood. After working on the pilot and pitch deck I decided to enter the Annapolis Film Festival 1st annual pitch competition. As a top-five finalist, I received great feedback which helped spark the creation of Untested Love.

A little before the competition I was diagnosed with a life-changing disease and was hospitalized. During the competition, my face was swollen due to my medication. Before being diagnosed, I was dating but after I was diagnosed, I lost my confidence and my dating life was put on a hold. It was a frustrating feeling, like a burden of not being able to participate in certain activities due to my health. This inspired me to turn my pilot into a short film centered on a character who struggled with dating while balancing a serious health threat.



I realized that according to people with more serious health problems than mine, my issues with dating became a bit trivial in comparison to theirs. I couldn't fathom dating with a more serious disease such as HIV, so I did the research. When researching many HIV positive people, I came across a woman I had the pleasure of interviewing who married and had healthy children while being HIV positive. How she contracted HIV was so familiar. Trusting someone who she thought loved her as much as she loved him. Her situation could have been me, or anyone for that matter. Dating and letting your guard down and suffering the consequences later, is something we all have done for acceptance and love. What started to be a dating story based on her experience, turned out to be a fictional but possible story of her lover. Why, would he put her life into danger? What traumatized him so much that he wasn't able to have a conversation or stay away? These are the answers she or I could not answer. Combining my experience, the previous script, and my research, I created Untested Love.

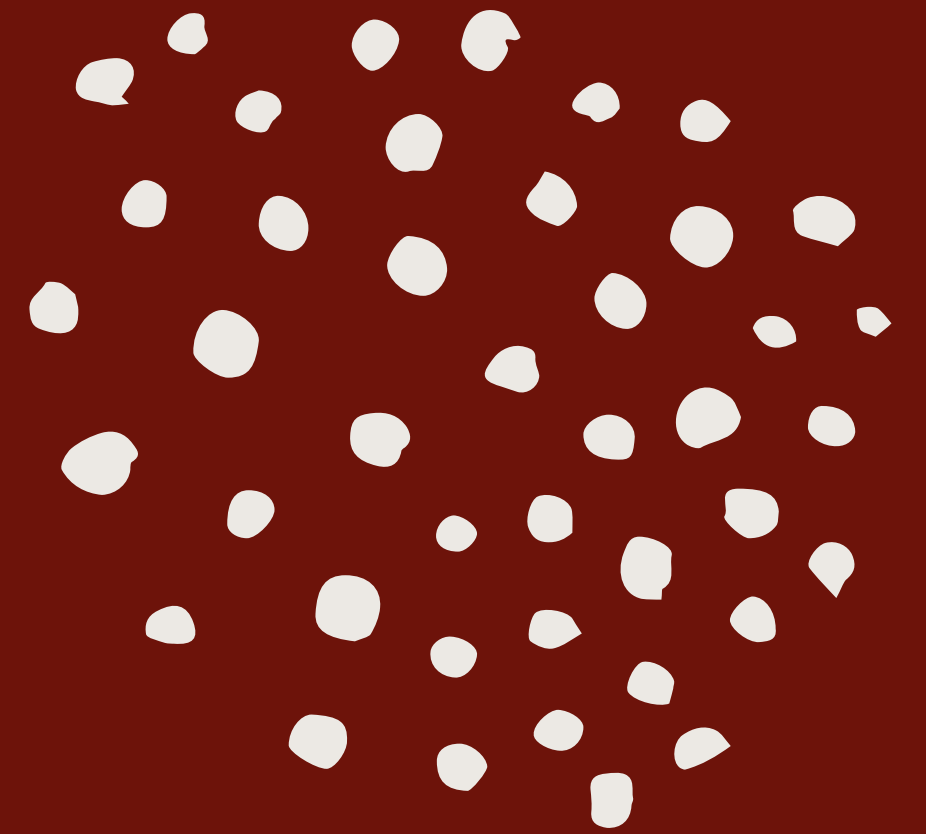




Untested Love is special because it holds a message. It warns people that every selfish and/or careless actions have consequences that are foreseeable and preventable if thought out and executed responsibly. This film also displays a generational curse that continues to live because it stays hidden. After viewing this film, the audience should walk away with a crucial awareness of sexual health, the importance of discussing generational curses, and the importance of self-accountability.

Untested Love is my MFA thesis film at Howard University. It was written, directed, produced, and filmed by three Howard Women. Before filming we ran a campaign on Indiegogo which raised over \$3,000 to fund the film. Our crews were mostly volunteers, rehearsals were held for a month before filming, and our production was sponsored by The Jerk Pit in Maryland, which donated free food during production.





Untested Love was shot in seven days. During those seven days, we dealt with icy weather, 5 different locations, and reshoots. But in the end, we pushed through and created a film the entire tribe was proud of. We accomplished a message of HIV awareness and I graduated from Howard with honors from the MFA film program.

OUR TRIBE



The tribe we had surrounding this film showed nothing but love and respect during the process of creating Untested Love. Three women from Howard University led the cast and crew of Untested Love on a successful journey that we will always treasure in our hearts. We encountered obstacles but this amazing cast and crew were willing to work hard to see the film through and I am forever grateful.

Tracey Davis

Louisiana native, Tracey Davis, brings her southern style to the film scene. As a producer, writer, and director, one of her biggest desires is to create timeless art that would influence generations to come.

With nearly a decade of experience in dramatic arts, Tracey has come to realize her true passion for visual storytelling. Specializing in writing and directing and with an interest in comedy and activism. Since obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in theatre from the Northwestern State University of Louisiana, she has gained a Master's in film from Howard University, May 2019.



Writer Director
Executive Producer

Tashira Merritt

Tashira Merritt is a multimedia producer residing in Washington, DC. The Jersey City native discovered her love for media as a teenager and went on to graduate with a BA in broadcast journalism from Howard University. She has since worked for large media companies such as Sirius XM and BET. As a producer, Tashira is passionate about bringing life-changing content to the tv, movie, phone, and computer screen.



Producer

Rachel Jones



Rachel Jones is a cinematographer from D.C who has a passion for storytelling through images that display a strong message. "This black girl behind the camera" takes filmmaking to a whole new level. Over the years Rachel has worked with Oscar Nominee Bradford Young, independent filmmaking guru Haile Gerima, and many more. With her eye for detailed and remarkable images, Rachel is born to be one of the best up and coming cinematographers.

Cinematographer

Naomi Rahn

as Mya

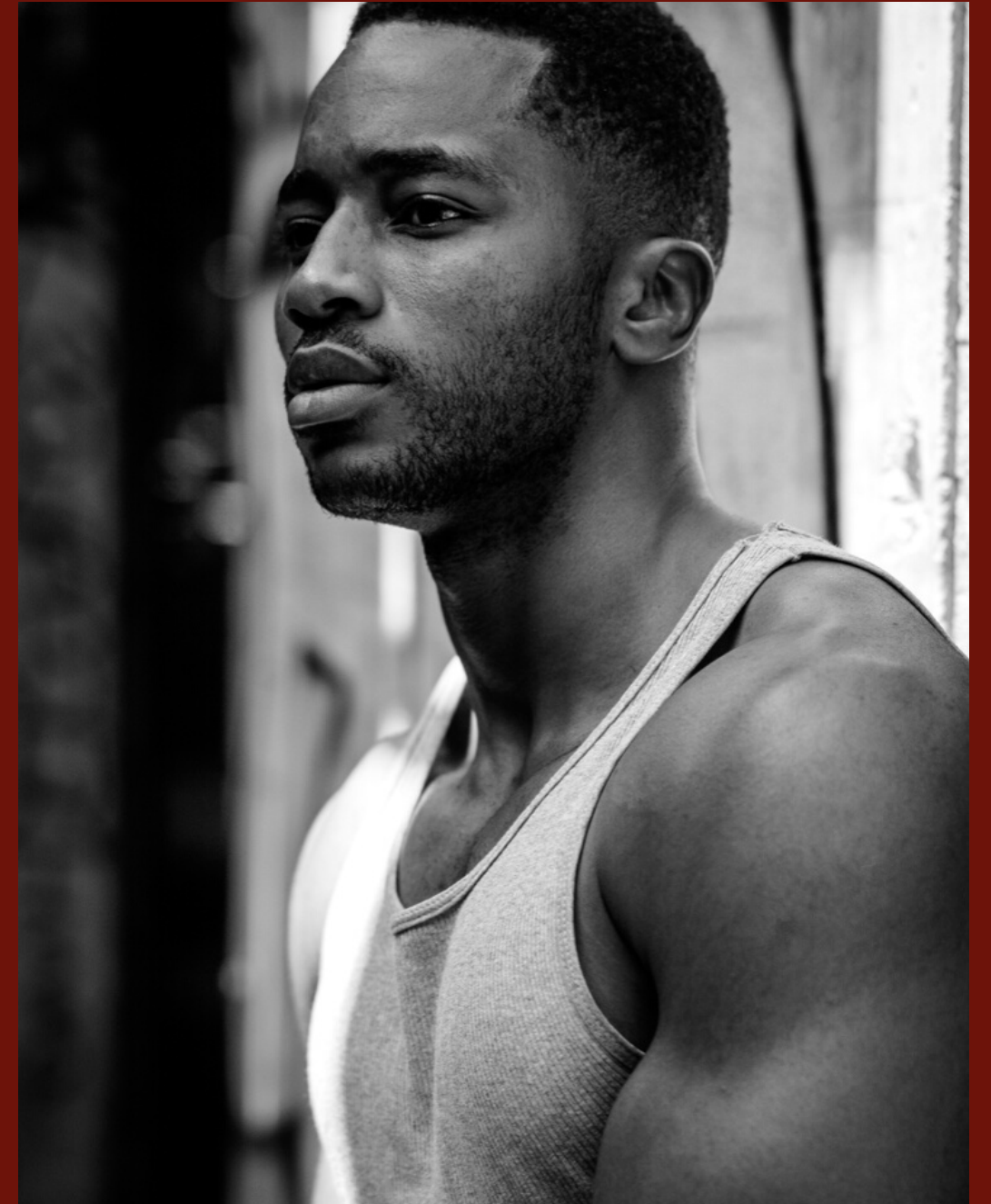


A native of Washington State, Naomi began acting in the world of theater at the age of 13. She continued her thespian journey at Rust College with the Black Genesis Theater Company, during her undergraduate years. Her biggest role and premiere to the industry is Jasmine, a supporting character in the SAG Film, *Kringle Time*, directed by Matthew Lucas. Naomi also participates in the pageantry world and has won several titles. 2007 Miss Hal Jackson Talented Teens International, 2011 Miss 1906, 2015 Miss Rust College, and 2018 Miss Black DC USA.

Obum Ezekwum

as Ramone

Obum Ezekwum is originally from West Africa but has been living in the DMV for 8 years. He attended George Washington University and graduated with a degree in Biological Sciences. Upon graduating in 2014, Obum began the journey to develop his craft, acting. The reason he fell in love with acting is that he enjoys storytelling and giving breath to the characters on the page.





Llogan Peters *as Sage*



Llogan Peters is a native of Upper Marlboro, MD. She began acting in her junior year of high school at the age of 16, and now she is continuing her thespian journey at Howard University. Llogan has taken on roles in plays, films, and web series.



Full Credits

Writer and Director

Tracey Davis

The Producers

Executive Producer

Tracey Davis

Co-producer

Margaret Mims

Co-producer

Rachel Jones

Associate Producer

Jason Rhodes

Associate Producer

Keshanna Ashton



Cast

Mya Jones

Ramone Casey

Sage Townsend

Judith Jones

Yasin Jones

Young Mya Jones

Principal

Nurse

Jerrod

Naomi Rahn

Obum Ezekwem

Llogan Peters

Ngakiya Camara

Justin Deville

Courtney Harris

Lorenzo Jones

Claire Schoonover

Jared Swain

Extras

Sex-Ed Girl 1

Sex-Ed Girl 2

Sex-Ed Girl 3

Sex-Ed Girl 4

Sex-Ed Girl 5

Sex-Ed Girl 6

Sex-Ed Girl 7

Older Lady 1

Party Goer

Party Goer

Jerrod's mom

JC Lynn (Gloria) Clark

Sarah Cooper

Asia Coleman

Ciara Hargrove

Ravin Payne

Jasmine Pardue

Tanisha Cardwell

Yolanda Henry

Dwight Smith

Jordan Moseley

Norma Vargas



Crew

Assistant Director

Script Supervisor

Cinematogrpher

Assistant Camera 1

Assistant Camera 2

Gaffer

Best Boy

Key Grip

Sound

Onset Photographer

Directors Assistant

Make-Up Artist Nikki

Malikkah Rollins

Robel Ameha

Rachel Jones

Zoe Davidson

Bria Granville

Ray Jones

Linda Lawson

Ahmed Uthman

Nicholas Gross

Robert Anderson

Arif

Nina Young

Desirae Lee

Caliph Riley

Smallwood



Craft Services

Graphics

Poster

Edits

Tashira Merritt

Nigel Martin

Aaron Allen

Rachel Jones

Tracey Davis





Music Composition

Lucci Gucci

Composed By

Written and Performed By

Recorded By

Mama Song

Written and Performed By

Recorded By

Insync

Body Heat

Say Sorry

Performer

Randolph Johnson

Jared Michael Swain

Kyle Murdock

Jared Michael Swain

Kyle Murdock

Halo Wheeler



Thank You

Rhonda Fleming

Carlisha Jennings

Raquel Walker

Vanessa Saleem

Ambessa Berhe

Idit Dvir

Allen Jackson

Special Thank You

Howard University

Jerk Pit (301) 982-5375 9078

Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740





We're everywhere!



UntestedL



Untested Love



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