



Finding A Voice

When words become the key to unlocking the gates of identity.

'... I work towards the day we can hold hands, and we can reach for our dreams, together...'

FILM INFORMATION

FILM TITLE

Finding A Voice

LOG LINE

When words become the key to unlocking the gates
of identity

CONTACT INFO

@Finding A Voice on both Facebook and Instagram

Jonelle Christensen – Producer

0435944841

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Kimberly Henderson – Director

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TECHNICAL INFO

Running Time: 08.05.00

Exhibition Format: YouTube 1080p

Aspect Ratio: 21:9

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Short Documentary film, Finding A Voice, seeks to put a face to insecurities and self-doubt
Brisbane, OR - [insert date]

CONTACT:

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Finding A Voice is a ten-minute documentary covering the success of discriminated youth prospering from their rough beginnings. Sparked by the on-going issue of racial discrimination that occurs worldwide, we follow the Australian youth, bringing light to an issue that is generally not discussed frequently. We tackle this topic by following the heart-warming success story 20-year-old Griffith Law student, Anisa Nandaula who has made a name for herself within the poetry scene.

Discrimination in Australia is a topic that is irregularly addressed - especially when we discuss the success our multicultural youth. The issue of discrimination factors greatly as 55.8% of 6000 that partook on a survey have expressed they have experienced discrimination in an educational institution. With 48.6% expecting these individuals to conform to Australian lifestyle and disregard their cultural traditions, with 43% believing asylum seeker boats should be turned back, we lose sight of those who are being affected. With these statistics, we want to address the ongoing issue of racism and bring light to Anisa's success as we follow her journey of how she's become the impressive individual she is.

In the south-east suburbs of Brisbane, Australia lives a full-time Law student and part-time public speaking, and poetry phenomenon. Coming into Australia at the age of 8, living in Rockhampton - Anisa found herself being the only dark-skinned child in her class. To moving to Runcorn, Brisbane at the age of 10, Anisa has finally found a dark-skinned companion. From being surrounded by people with the same ethnicity to a multicultural country, Anisa felt like she transforms from being just a human being to now identifying herself as a dark-skinned minority. With the pressure of being a different race to the mass population of caucasian citizens, her choice of conforming to society has shaped her to become the person she is now. By changing the she dressed, pronounced words, and how she acted - Anisa broke her conformist ways, starting to embrace her natural, authentic and highly cultural self.

Defeating her identity crisis and rising to find her voice - through her love and passion for spoken word and poetry, Anisa is now a national recognised spoken word poet, performer, educator and published author. Now mentoring youth to find their voice and break out of the struggle she once endured, Anisa recounts her past - touching on what motivates her, why she's created a poetry community to help the cultural youth, touching on what she hopes to achieve through her work. Following on the ongoing theme of identity - Finding A Voice will highlight the cultural inequality and stereotypes individuals are given based on their appearance and their ethnicity.

SYNOPSIS

Political slam poet, Anisa Nanduala reflects on her journey of personal rediscovery through the art of spoken word.

Paragraph Synopsis

After living in Australia for the past fourteen years of her life, a young poet aspires to create a community for self-expression. Finding a Voice follows the twenty-one year old slam poet, Anisa Nandaula as she recounts her journey of rediscovering and defining her identity. Migrating into Australia with her immediate family at only seven years of age, Nandaula spent her adolescence years torn with guilt from leaving the remainder of her family behind in Africa, and anxiety due to her physical differences from the European beauty standards. After realising the change she can make to society, Anisa seeks to create a relationship with her flaws to enable herself to connect with those who resonate with her struggles. Recounting her core flaws and hardships experience during her journey of rediscovery, Finding a Voice is a story of hope, and self acceptance through the art of poetry.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Director's statement

My primary motive through this documentary is to allow the audience to have an understanding of Anisa's journey. Effectively deliver a visually striking documentary that doesn't over-power Anisa's presence, however empower her words. Political slam poet, Anisa Nandaula endured a childhood of self-loss and loss of identity. Through Finding a Voice, I aspire to allow Anisa to recount her journey of rediscovery and self-love through the power of spoken word. Her passion of self-expression, and drive of sharing it and encouraging it to youth inspires myself to allow others to know of her. Her support to those who endure the same battles drives my objective for others to follow, and support her. Find a love for spoken word. A love for self-expression.

Throughout this subject of identity loss, I aspire the audience to understand the struggle that not only Anisa, however many immigrants endure. The combination of Anisa's spoken word and the striking visuals to aid, I work towards creating a strong combination to give audience an emotional connection to her and resonate, grief and find inspiration from Anisa. Her story needs to be heard, and through spoken word - there's no other way to tell it.

I've known Anisa personally since 2010, January where we became acquainted in High School. She was the new girl that started school late as she was coming back from home, Uganda. I watched her slowly change and fade away to becoming a duplicate to society, slowly losing her identity. However, in 2013, I watched her slowly find her voice and speak up. Fast forward to 2015 where she started taking up spoken word to supporting her once she kickstarted Voice's of Colour.

I have been an avid supporter of Anisa's, and believe that her story is one that I and many other can resonate to. Being dark skinned, woman and considered a minority - many can understand how inferior one may feel, and I hope for those that don't resonate to understand through Finding A Voice. Knowing her, and watching her story in person and given the opportunity for others to understand it, I aspire to deliver it in the most effective and powerful manner possible.

CREDITS

Written & Performed Anisa Nandula
Director Kimberly Henderson
Producer Jonelle Christensen
DOP Jack Cohalan
Editor Uyen Bui

Associate Producer Mikaela Hourigan

Anisa stand in
Rainbow Wendell

Silhouette
Jaylin Purtill
Sabrina Matruglio
Skylar Melody
Kaitlyn Anderson
Rainbow Wedell

Open mic attendants

Alaa Osman
Massah Sheriff
Madeleine Chae
Rachael Serow
Carolina Pollcarpo
Rebecca amaril
Sana Vij
Sarah Sommers
Hannah Grecesar
Tula Bushman
Ashleigh West
Happiness Munezero
Vongaishe Gambiza
Olivia Karlsson
Vy Nguyen
Inari Saltau
Claudia Bitanart
Natasha Bitancurt
Aline Anundwanayo
Allyssa Ablon
Rolve Kuot
Edward Cordery
Phillippa Sandy
Chiedza
Miyn Vo
Mikhara Ramsing
Loshane Jothilnana

Skipping girls

Mila safaia
Teleah Maddock
Berhani Knife

Crowd

Andie rosel
Samantha Ashcroft
Amy Markula
Mila safaia
Teleah Maddock
Berhani Knife

Script Editor Liam Hartley
Production designer Caley Miles
Gaffer Thomas Spry
Camera assistants Edward Mitchell
Taj Kirkham
Grips Edward Mitchell
Taj Kirkham
Tom Walder Wolfe

Sound recordist Reanna Jones
Taylor Brent

Boom Operator Reanna Jones
Jermin Sonquit

Sound Designer Taylor Brent

Visual Effects Uyen Bui

Colourist Uyen Bui

Composer Mikaela Hourigan

Wardrobe Pierangela Hidalgo

Hair and makeup Mikaela Hourigan

Hair and makeup Keely Hall

Continuity Jacqueline Rashad

Data Wrangler Uyen Bui

Marketing & BTS Taj Kirkham

Assistant BTS Nic Cave

Executive Producers Jonelle Christensen

Phoebe Hart

Kimberly Henderson

Jason Markland

Sean Maher

Jason Tolsher

Wayne Taylor

Tfer Newsome

Tony McGrath

Jo Kenny

Special thanks to

David and Mandy Gillan

Liv Holt

Ericson Tang

OUT ELC

Luck Duck Cafe & Bar

Boundary Street Markets

ZAGAME Corporation

BIOS



JONELLE CHRISTENSEN- PRODUCER

Jonelle Christensen is a graduating QUT Film student who has predominantly undertaken producing roles throughout the past three years. She is very passionate about film and works to bring out the best of the story and crew. Jonelle has had experience in many roles as a part of university productions as well as professional sets where she has gained knowledge that has helped her with her approach to filmmaking. 'Finding A Voice' has been a rewarding journey for Jonelle to undertake from concept to screen; working hard alongside other passionate individuals to tell Anisa's story and spread her unique messages .

KIMBERLY HENDERSON - DIRECTOR

Kimberly has worked previously as a producer on productions through film school at Queensland University of Technology. Working on a music video and multi-cam show as a producer, Kimberly aspired to test her directing capabilities. Being apart of Finding A Voice from early development, Kimberly was fortunate enough to let this dream possible by directing the documentary. Knowing the film subject Anisa Nandaula, she foresaw herself as the best candidate to showcase her story in the most authentic, and honest way possible. Being fortunate to know Anisa for the past seven years, Kimberly has been able to closely work with a team to understand Nandaula's struggles, and encourage them into a realm of self-expression. Attaining a close relationship to Nandaula, and having many close friends and family that resonate to her story, Kimberly found this common factor as encouragement to share Anisa's story knowing there's a community that spiritually connect to her hardships. Growing up with parents that have migrating from Indonesia and England, Kimberly understands the struggles mainly her mother faced when she moved to Australia for a better life and the resent that overshadowed her by leaving her family behind. Knowing how fortunate Kimberly, and her family are in Australia compared to her mother's family's living condition in Indonesia, this allows her to understand the guilt that's fuelled by opportunity and hope her mother was given. Kimberly not only wants to share this story for her friend, however share it for the selective individuals that understand Anisa's struggles, just like Kimberly's mother did.



LIAM HARTLEY- STORY EDITOR

Liam has been an avid film student since high school, working on projects in a wide variety of roles. Since starting at QUT, he has settled into his role as a screenwriter, and "Finding A Voice" proved to be a strong but rewarding challenge to script. He worked alongside Anisa and Kimberly to create the screenplay for this project and found the process unique and exciting, with the hopes that "Finding A Voice" reflects that in its distinct style.

MIKAELA HOURIGAN - ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Throughout her 3 years as a QUT film student, Mikaela has had a diverse range of on-set and post-production roles. Through her roles ranging from continuity to DOP, Mikaela has gained experience in many areas of filmmaking. Her largest role to date was directing the multi-camera sitcom pilot, Unteachables. This role involved coordinating with a large cast and crew, and organising multiple technical aspects of the production. It was this experience that allowed her to fulfil the organisational role of Associate Producer on this project. Mikaela's many past collaborations with the Producer, Jonelle Christensen, allowed the pair to manage this production and successfully communicate,



**JACK COHALAN- DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Jack is currently completing his bachelors degree in fine arts, majoring in Film, TV and new Media Production at Queensland University of Technology. While studying, Jack also works for a media company based in Redland City that creates video and photography content for clients in the real estate and property development market. Jack has gathered his skills in camera and editing from both his university and professional careers while also working on various short films that have been screened across Australia. For the past four months Jack has devoted his time to working as a DP on a short form poetic documentary titled Finding A Voice. As Finding A Voice's production has finished, Jack is excited for what the future holds for the project and hopes it will find success with an audience and film festivals.

UYEN BUI - EDITOR

Uyen Bui is the dedicated vision editor of Finding A Voice. As an international scholar and filmmaker, Uyen is captivated by Anisa Nandaula's powerful story. Through Uyen's connection to the concept and its message, she aims to help create a personal story that holds universal resonance. "I have the privilege to tell Anisa's story through Finding A Voice, and I will tell it with passion, determination and understanding. This unique documentary can change the way we look at each other".

**TAYLOR BRENT - SOUND DESIGNER**

Taylor Brent is an aspiring filmmaker who carries her passion for sound design and creative storytelling into the production of Finding A Voice. Through sound design, Taylor aims to capture Anisa's powerful performance and connect with audiences on a deeply personal level. Drawn in and captivated by Anisa's emotive and compelling story, Taylor is thrilled to work alongside such a talented group of creatives to help bring this unique yet universal story to life as its message is one she believes everyone needs to hear.

CALEY MILES - ART DEPARTMENT

Caley Miles is a graduating QUT Film Student who works predominatly within the art department. She has a keen interest in specifically scenic art, design and prop making. In February she attended the Scenic and Prop Making Intensive at AFTRS which allowed her to expand her knowledge and experience under the guidance of her teachers. She has previously worked on stylised music videos and professional and student made short films. Caley thoroughly enjoyed working on 'Finding A Voice' and working with the director to bring to life her vision. She hopes this film succeeds not only in the festival circuit, but in truly telling the lovely subjects story.

**PIERANGELA HIDALGO - COMPOSER**

Pierangela attends the Queensland University of Technology where she studies Bachelor of Music. She has been involved with music since an early age and has specialised in composition, production and performance as a vocalist and guitarist. Since 2017, her main projects have included, fronting Brisbane's Alternative Rock group, Fatal Aphrodite as well as the newly formed indie duo, Ekhos Dream. Her composition work began in high school where she began creating soundscapes for art installations and score sheets for student short films. Recently, her work in the documentary Finding A Voice involved creating a different kind of world, both rich yet subtle enough to support the powerful spoken poem of Anisa Nandaula. This project showcases Pierangela's developed skills for composition as well as production, along with her new liking for electronic music that she hopes to include in future projects.