



WINSTON

a short film by

Tanya Taylor

A young thief commits the unthinkable to survive,
crushing his humanity in the process....



WINSTON

Nighttime in Kingston Jamaica.

Dancing. Drinking. Murder?

On a secluded Kingston beach, our protagonist, WINSTON unpacks his true feelings and explores the ultimate betrayal, while denying his sexuality.

WINSTON's year long undercover relationship has been discovered by his life-long friends. A victim of his community and his socialization, he can only be what he knows. His absent father, his bible thumping grandmother, his prostitute mother, his hustling friends. In an attempt to save face and prevent himself and his children from being a community target, he goes along with his friends and ends his relationship ...

... permanently.

who is WINSTON?

Winston is a 23 year-old from the ghettos of Kingston. He has 2 children and baby mothers that he knows of. He spends most of his time hustling and stealing with his 2 best friends Leroy and Stamma. All three of them grew up understudying the local don-led posse of their garrison community.

Winston was primarily raised by his church going grandmother until she was killed by a stray bullet from a community shootout, when he was 15. She was a housekeeper in an affluent community and attempted to keep him on a good path. When she died, he was left with only his mother, who had a revolving door of men passing through their rooms in tenement yard.

Winston quit high school at 16 as his mother didn't want to continue paying for it, and he had to help pay the bills at home and for his new baby. His friends Leroy and Stamma had long been roaming the streets and he joined them full time in their hustles.

The trio love to party and consider themselves a dance group. They can often be seen practicing a new dance move on the corner when not involved in that days hustle.

Winston sleeps where he lands for the night but keeps most of his belongings at his mother's house.

For the past year, Winston has spent most nights at his lover's affluent home. A fact he keeps from his friends and family. Behind the gates of his lover's uptown home, he leads a life he's only seen on television. He experiences love, true friendship and wants for nothing.

Directors Statement

Jamaicans are a proud group of people. Not to say other nationalities aren't. But Jamaicans take their swagger to a whole other level. Jamaica has long been considered one of the most homophobic societies in the western hemisphere.

All my life I've been surrounded by a group of people that I never knew had a label. I never saw it. Maybe because I didn't care.

I've realized that many have escaped their idyllic island home just to save their lives. When they do, they become "their truest true it's true". They thrive away from the stigma and shame associated with homosexuality in Jamaica.

Where, many have escaped to more accepting territories, some remain on the island. And while not closeted, though they may have carved a place for themselves in society, they still don't live openly. Never displaying affection in public for fear of prying eyes. Many engaging in down low gay for pay relationships.

In my Docu-fiction feature **Jamaican Pride**, I explore the impact that the Jamaican homophobia continues to leave on our psyche using interviews with LGBTQ Jamaicans and short narrative fiction pieces.

Winston is one of the short narratives. Exploring what happens when a gay for pay relationship goes wrong.

TANYA TAYLOR

[DIRECTOR | WRITER | PRODUCER]

A multifaceted Jamaican director who has produced over 400 hours of content during her 17-year career .

At her core, she's still the 5-year-old sitting on the terrazzo tiled floor, too close to the black and white television. Grinning as the station identifier cross dissolves into the Jamaican flag billowing in the wind to the national anthem. The beginning of transmission of the island's only television channel. Her love affair with the escapism promised by the screen began then and has intensified over the decades.

She made her transition to television after a three-year tenure in Advertising. That experience inspired her to get behind the camera and embark on directing commercials and long form content.

In 2002, Tanya founded Anyhoo Productions, a boutique company that specialized in creating branded content from concept to completion. During her time overseeing Anyhoo, she co-created and directed the nine-season kids' series the *KFC Quiz Show* and a DJ competition reality series, *Heineken Green Synergy*. She also produced and directed several other series including the international game show (*Digicel's Deal or No Deal*).

In 2015, Tanya relocated to New York to continue developing diverse content for the global market. She continues to write, produce and direct in the Jamaican commercial world. With her work securing 7 Caribbean Addys and a Jamaican Chamber of Commerce award.

In 2019 she wrote, directed and produced her first independent narrative short, WINSTON. Garnering a nomination for best screenplay and 2 best actor awards for the titular character thus far. While, WINSTON continues to screen in festivals, Tanya is currently producing the short film *Black Girl Magic* and the series *SNITCH*. She is also developing the docu-fiction feature *Jamaican Pride*, and the dramedy series *How to be Jamaican*.



LETITIA GUILLORY

[PRODUCER]

Letitia Guillory is a writer/performance artist/producer/theatre director. Her mixed-media solo performances include of *The Further Adventures of Gussie Mae in America*, *MAE*, *THE (beginning of the End)* and *Crossing the Holy Waters*. Letitia's other writing credits include the plays *Dust of Life*, *SHELTER: A Photograph of Hope*, *Free at Last*, *Dancing in Her Head: The Life of Katherine Dunham*, *Crawfish Tales*, *RED, 8:42*; and the screenplays: *Baby Love*, *Hound Dog*, *Hotel California*, *Dirt*, *Grace*, *The Last Time*, *Lights Out* and *Shanghai '37*. Her work has been presented at the Eugene O'Neill Playwright's Conference, National Black Theater, PS 122, Billie Holiday Theater, Rutgers University, National Black Theatre Festival, New Perspectives Theater, Dixon Place, New York University, Cincinnati Black Theatre Company, Aaron Davis Hall/Harlem Stage, College of Charleston, Lincoln Center, among others.

In addition to the above, she produces events for NYC Parks and curates the award-winning Movies Under the Stars Programs for Brooklyn. Through this work she has fosters partnerships with the American Black Film Festival, Hip Hop Film Festival, African America Women in Cinema, Black TV & Film Collective, Art of Brooklyn Film Festival and the Austin Film Festival, among others. Letitia also produced the award-winning short film, *Pas Honteux*. This French New Wave comedy has screened at the Pan African Film Festival, International Black Film Festival, Martha's Vineyard Film Festival, Ft. Worth Indie Film Showcase, American Black Film Festival among others.

Letitia has received funding from the Puffin Foundation, National Performance Network, Brooklyn Arts Council and the Brooklyn Arts Exchange for her work. In addition, she is the recipient of the ABC Entertainment Award for Creative Excellence and the J. Ndkaku Amankulor Memorial Award for Academic Excellence from New York University. Letitia is a member of New York Women in Film & Television, Black TV & Film Collective, Harlem Writers Workshop and Dramatists Guild. She is a proud alum of the University of Texas (BFA, Drama) and New York University (MA, Performance Studies), respectively.



KYVON EDWIN

[WINSTON]

Kyvon C. Edwin is a young man from the island of St. Lucia currently based in New York City. He is currently studying at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute earnestly developing his acting skills. He has over eight years of experience in the theatre with recent credits including: *Spring Awakening*, *An Enemy of The People*, *Parade: The Musical*, *Antigone* and *The Legend of Tom Fool*. Recent film credits include: *Crush*, *Winston*, *The Island* and *Black Magic For White Boys*. Kyvon is the type of actor who thrives on creating layered characters, ranging anywhere from a distraught low life to an awkward coworker or potential love interest. He is a rare breed of one whose passion for the art of acting shines bright. Kyvon's most recent production of the short film '*Crush*' which he starred, co-wrote and produced has been a selected film at the Festival de Cannes-Short Film Corner. Kyvon is also a skilled spoken word artiste whose poetry is afro-caribbean in nature. His life motto is: "To go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined!"



AYANA BARAKA

[DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY]

Ayana Baraka was the Cinematographer for *Behind the Curtain: Eclipsed*, starring Lupita Nyong'o and Danai Gurira. She was also a Cinematographer on *The Hunting Ground*, a documentary directed by Kirby Dick (*Invisible War*), which premiered at Sundance 2015 and was short listed for the 2016 Oscar for Best Feature Documentary. In 2012, Baraka became IATSE Local 600 Camera Union qualified. She was named a person on the rise in Hollywood by Producer Mel Jones in an October 2015 Amsterdam News article. She is a winner of the 2016 award for Best Cinematography at the Victoria TX Independent Film Festival. She is the content creator for *Greenwood Avenue: A Virtual Reality Experience*, a virtual reality experience about Black Wall Street and the Race Massacre of 1921. She's a 2018 YouTube VR Creator Fellow and a 2019 Black Public Media Incubator Fellow. Baraka is a graduate of the USC School of Cinematic Arts film program and holds an MFA in Film and Television Production. She is also a mom, wife, and educator at Montclair Film Festival's Film Academy in New Jersey.









WINSTON

FEATURING
KYVON EDWIN



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
TANYA E. TAYLOR