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presents

CYZON GRIFFIN

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Logline

A New York City based drummer recounts and relives his past in the middle of Central Park.

Cyzon Griffin

“My name is Cyzon Griffin. I was born In 1995. Raised in Niagara Falls, NY - I been playing since the age of three. My mother and father raised me in the church environment, along with me attending band. At age 16 I had auditions for America’s Got Talent in NYC. Shortly after that visit, all I could think of was the big city! My mother told me if I graduated she would send me to NYC and that's what she did. At age 19, I'm out on my own in the big city. I am now 24 and have accomplished so much. For example, I have played with the Blue Man Group, I have played on TV for a famous rapper by the name of Action Bronson. My biggest achievement of all? I got to bring my mom to her dream city and introduce her to some of her favorite artists.”



Producer's Statement

1/2

As part of a summer internship at Birds Nest Foundation, four student filmmakers and myself were asked to sit down with and interview New York City based artists. As a musician, I knew I wanted this assignment to reflect my long-standing relationship with music. When we found Cyzon Griffin, we found someone whose passion for music was only amplified by their love and determination to the craft. This short film, scored by its subject, creates an intimate space out of Cyzon's public stage.

It all happened relatively quickly. We received our video assignment and spent a few days scouring Instagram for artists to profile. Some of them were interesting, but most had little interest in entertaining our efforts. When we found Cyzon, (@cyzongriffin) we immediately reached out to ask where and when he could be found, and if he'd be willing to speak with us.

Less than twenty-four hours later we were lugging gear through Central Park, searching for the sound of a drum-kit. We found Cyzon in The Mall as he was still building his kit. It was early in the morning. I asked him how often he was here, to which he quickly responded, "Every day, eight hours a day."

Producer's Statement 2/2

Behind the drum set, Cyzon's body relaxed. His mindset shifted. Starting slow, he builds a distinguishable rhythm. Before long, limbs start speeding up. The tempo throttles as unwilling spectators have no choice but to glance. Within a minute, Cyzon has created his stage.

At this point all subtlety has been thrown out the window. I was so mesmerized by the performance I forgot we were there on a job. Onlookers tip, and the occasional aspiring photographer will stop to take photos on a DSLR, but Cyzon does not stop. While this is his living, he's not here for tips. Cyzon drums for his late mother, who passed after supporting his dream of moving to the city.

In its essence, this short film shows the inherent link between music and its impact on the life we choose to pursue. Music, as a form of expression, links the physical and the emotional.

Crew & Credits

Birds Nest Foundation Internship Coordinator Executive Producer
Rob Arevalo *Avis Richards*

Co-Producer/Director/Editor/Cinematography
Andrew Hallenberg

Co-Producer
Pipi Gao

Production Assistants
Seo Young Nam
Honzo Smilek
Johnny Parry