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# AN UNINVITED GUEST

A short film by Richard B. Pierre

Afro Flix, Inc

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## SHOOTING FORMAT

Red Gemini

Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

Screening formats available: ProRes HQ & 2K DCP 24fps Stereo

running time: 3 minutes 22 seconds

## LOGLINE

When a Black man is viciously assaulted by a police officer right outside their window, all of the guests at a dinner party seem to consider the attack unremarkable except for one.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Three White people and one Black man wordlessly enjoy dinner while in the front yard a Black man is brutally assaulted by a police officer. The sounds of his suffering seem to only momentarily distract these strange people from their meal. However, as events outside escalate, one of the guests, the Black man, grows increasingly anxious. As his demeanour changes from numb to responsive, the people around him grow uncomfortable. Moments later, in a wordless interaction, the police officer singles out the Black man for detention. He is placed in a police car but on the way to the station he senses something sinister is about to occur and he escapes but not for long...



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## LONG SYNOPSIS

The film is set inside a luxury home, as three White people and one Black man wordlessly enjoy dinner while in the front yard a dishevelled Black man is brutally assaulted by a police officer. The sounds of his suffering seem to only momentarily distract these strange people from their meal. However, as events outside escalate, one of the guests, a Black man, grows increasingly anxious. As his demeanour changes from numb to responsive, the people around him grow uncomfortable.

Moments later, in a wordless interaction, the police officer singles out the Black man for detention. He is placed in a police car but on the way to the station he senses something sinister is about to occur and he escapes. Eventually, he finds himself outside the same luxury home, he's confused at first then slowly, almost inexplicably he realizes that through some mysterious force his fate is sealed. The police officer converges on him and the cycle repeats.

## SCREENINGS

- 2020 San Diego Black Film Festival [World Premiere]
- 2020 CaribbeanTales International Film Festival [Canadian Premiere]
- 2020 Montreal Black Film Festival [Quebec Premiere]
- 2020 Social Justice Film Fest
- 2020 Grimmfest [European Premiere]
- 2020 ReelWorld Film Festival
- 2020 Aesthetica Short Film Festival

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"As I watch these videos replay on a seemingly endless loop, I could so easily become numb to the horror and yet each time they play it's as fresh and real as if it had happened right in front of me. As I watched these videos of cops killing Black people often in broad daylight, I knew I needed to do something more than just get angry. I needed to do something that would provoke people and that is when I began thinking of this film."

## RICHARD B. PIERRE - Filmmaker

Richard B. Pierre is a multiracial person of Black, white and if you believe his recent DNA test, Indigenous descent. As a multiracial filmmaker, Richard's goal is to tell stories that depict the lives of diverse individuals and their cultures while making films that are deeply

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personal.

A graduate of Ryerson University's film program, Richard's professional experience ranges from writing, shooting, editing and directing. Richard's first feature-length screenplay 'Crooked' was selected as a quarter-finalist for the 2009 Nicholl Fellowship, sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Richard's work has been selected for the St. Louis International Film Festival, HollyShorts Film Festival, the ReelWorld Film Festival and many others worldwide. In 2011 he received the Naish McHugh Award for Emerging Filmmaker at the Toronto Urban Film Festival. His first dramatic 35 mm short film 'The Toboggan,' funded by the Ontario Arts Council, premiered at the 2011 Chicago International Children's Film Festival. In 2012 his first interactive short film 'Far From The Heart' was nominated for a Golden Sheaf Award and he was named a ReelWorld Film Festival 2012 Emerging 20 Filmmaker. He received the 2015 Curtissima Award for Best Short Under Five Minutes for his film 'The Toboggan.'

### **GAYLE YE - Cinematographer**

Toronto-based cinematographer and director Gayle Ye's works focus on the Canadian identity. With a broad range of work from commercials to music videos, Gayle applies a sense of integrity and thoughtful story telling across the spectrum. Gayle is an award-winning filmmaker with work screened internationally at the Cannes Court Metrage and Toronto International Short Film Festival.

### **CALEB JOHNSTON - Composer & Sound Designer**

Caleb is a composer, sound designer, and mixer. His passion is to help create an engaging, inspiring and creative finished product with music and sound.

## **CAST**

### **RICHARD WALTERS - Echo**

Richard Walters is an actor and producer, known for Hudson & Rex (2019), Diggstown (2019) and Frankie Drake Mysteries (2017).

### **FRANCKIE FRANCOIS - Carl**

Franckie Francois is an actor and writer, known for Anne with an E (2017), Supernatural (2005) and Brown Girl Begins (2017).

### **JAMIE MAC - Police Officer**

Jamie Mac is known for his work on Murdoch Mysteries (2008), Played (2017) and Republic of Doyle (2010).

### **M.E. LEWIS - George**

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Born in Liverpool, England, and raised chiefly in the deepest, darkest suburbs of Vancouver, M.E. Lewis currently resides in Toronto. He has made many Film and TV appearances, most notably in episodes of Reign, Murdoch Mysteries, and The Kennedys: After Camelot; and in the feature films Scratch, Footsteps Into Gangland, and Dark Island. He can currently be seen in the short films The Confession (which he also co-produced) and See You Tomorrow (which he also co-wrote). He continues to hone his craft with the excellent community at The Actors Place in Toronto.

### **HANNEKE TALBOT - Betty**

Hanneke Talbot is a British/Canadian actress with a diverse and international upbringing. She got her unusual name by being born in Holland and spent most of her childhood in Malaysia, having also lived in the Netherlands, Australia and England. She studied at the highly acclaimed London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) and made the move from London to Toronto in 2018, she has since worked consistently for both American and Canadian productions. Recent credits include, "Star Trek: Discovery" (CBS), Ready or Not (Fox Searchlight), "Titans" (DC/Netflix), and "Supernatural" (CW/Netflix).

### **NOLA MARTIN - Melania**

Nola Martin is based in Toronto. Recent credits include: Jupiter's Legacy (Netflix), Ginny and Georgia (Netflix), Mrs. America (Hulu), The Handmaid's Tale (Hulu) & Designated Survivor (ABC).

### **ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL - Filmmaking Grant**

Ontario Arts Council (OAC) is an agency that operates at arm's length from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. The OAC's grants and services to professional, Ontario-based artists and arts organizations support arts education, Indigenous arts, community arts, crafts, dance, Francophone arts, literature, media arts, multidisciplinary arts, music, theatre, touring, and visual arts. The OAC is directed by 12 volunteer board (council) members who come from communities throughout the province. They are appointed by the Government of Ontario for a three-year term. The OAC's board is responsible for setting OAC's policies and oversees the organization's operation.

For more than 55 years, the OAC has played a vital role in promoting and assisting the development of the arts for the enjoyment and benefit of Ontarians. In 2018-19, OAC invested \$61.1 million in 228 communities across Ontario through 2,252 grants to individual artists and 1,424 grants to organizations.

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