

ROOTED

THE FILM

Rooted follows Kay, a 28-year-old struggling musician, and his studying anthropologist girlfriend Sky. After Kay receives his surprising DNA results, he gets a mysterious mask that allows him to see into the slave dungeons of his African ancestors. The power grants him the opportunity to witness his roots literally. Still, things begin to go awry when he realizes that his ancestors can see him as well.

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ROOTED

AN ADDO FILM



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Who are we? Do our answers lie within our chromosomes? I believe DNA is just the beginning. With the explosion of genealogy testing, we have begun to answer one of humankind's most long-standing questions accurately. We can trace our roots, heritage, language, and everything that existed before us as individuals. Rather than our chromosomes being the final answer to our story, our linked DNA serves as the foundation of who we are. So what happens next?

With *Rooted*, I wanted to explore the psychological side of DNA testing. While some may be apprehensive about taking the test, others can be fearful of facing the part of them they don't know. What happens when you find out that everything you knew about yourself, culture, history, and ethnicity was all wrong? Do you disregard the facts or accept an identity entirely foreign to you? What about cultural barriers like language, location, and acceptance? As popular as genealogy testing is today, the process of self-discovery can be a frightening thought. The results can be world shifting, complicated, and at the same time, incredibly meaningful. Facing these fears is where our stories begin. Our roots are the origin of our identities.

SEAN ADDO

writer/director

Sean A. Addo is a Ghanaian-American filmmaker by way of Cincinnati, Ohio. While attending the University of Cincinnati, Sean juggled his passion for animation, motion graphics, and VFX while playing Division-1 football. He would eventually further his visual storytelling by gaining a Masters in Production degree from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. His thesis, entitled DEEPER THAN BLACK, has been celebrated globally for its honest exploration of identity and the "Third Culture Kid" syndrome.

Following his short film AMERIKAFO, Sean was deemed one of the top ten black filmmakers to watch in 2019 by Diversity in Cannes. Other notable awards are top rankings on Coverfly's Red list, a finalist for both Screencrafts Film Fund and Shore Scripts. Sean's blend of culture, history, and genre allows for a uniquely personal voice that resonates globally. His work wildly challenges the African narrative with a passion for bridging the gap between the diaspora and creating bold entertaining stories through dramatic thriller, horror, and historical epics. Sean's professional experience combined with learning alongside Clark Johnson and the late John Singleton has prepared him to direct his highly anticipated feature debut, THE HOMESICK.

Website: www.seanaddo.xyz

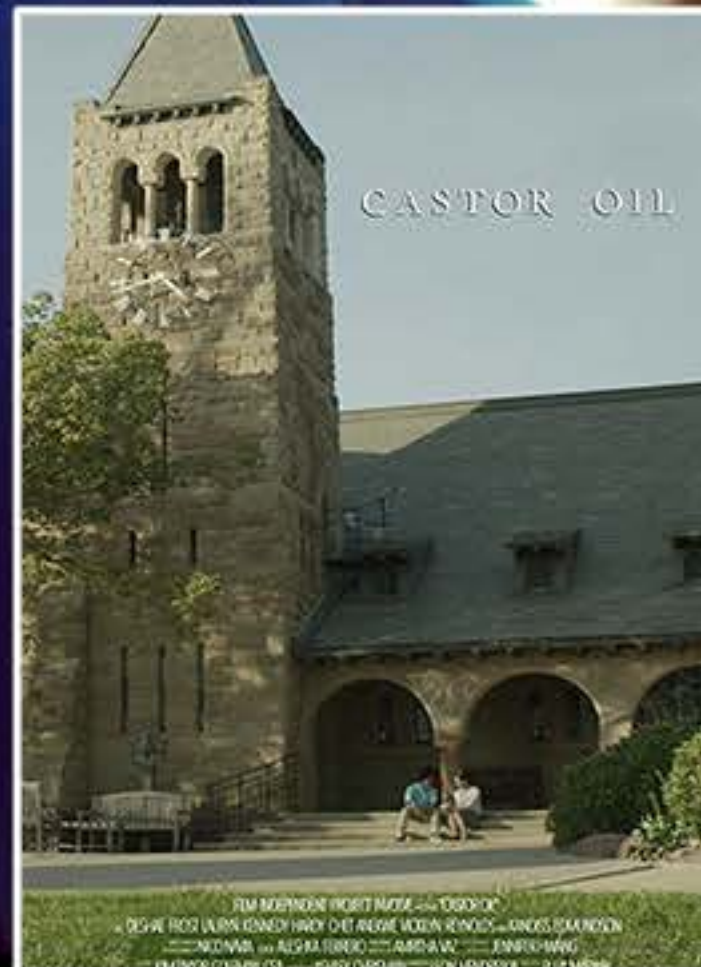
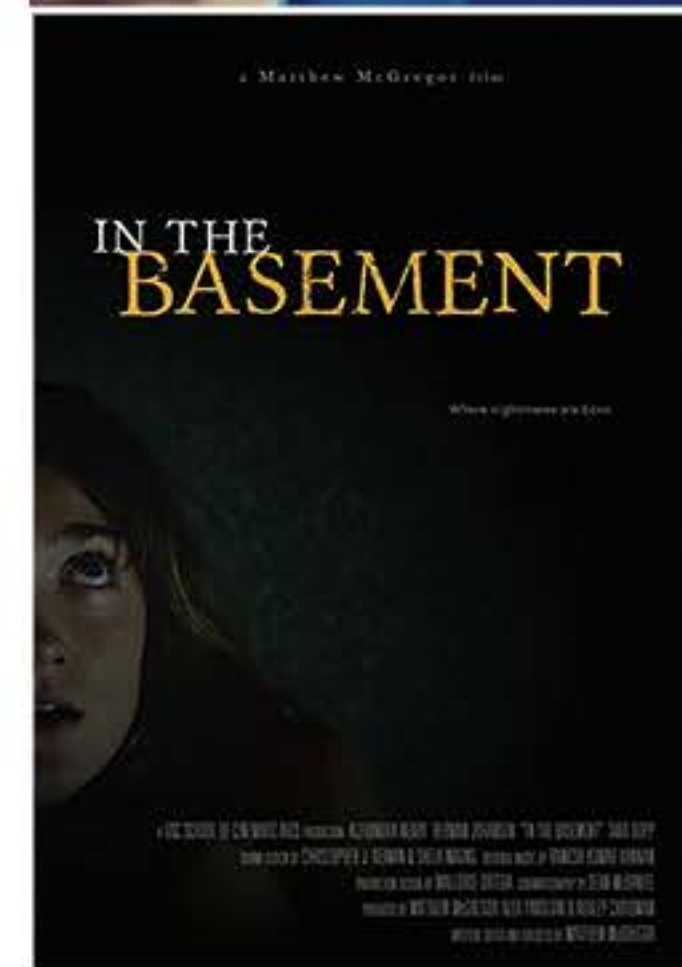


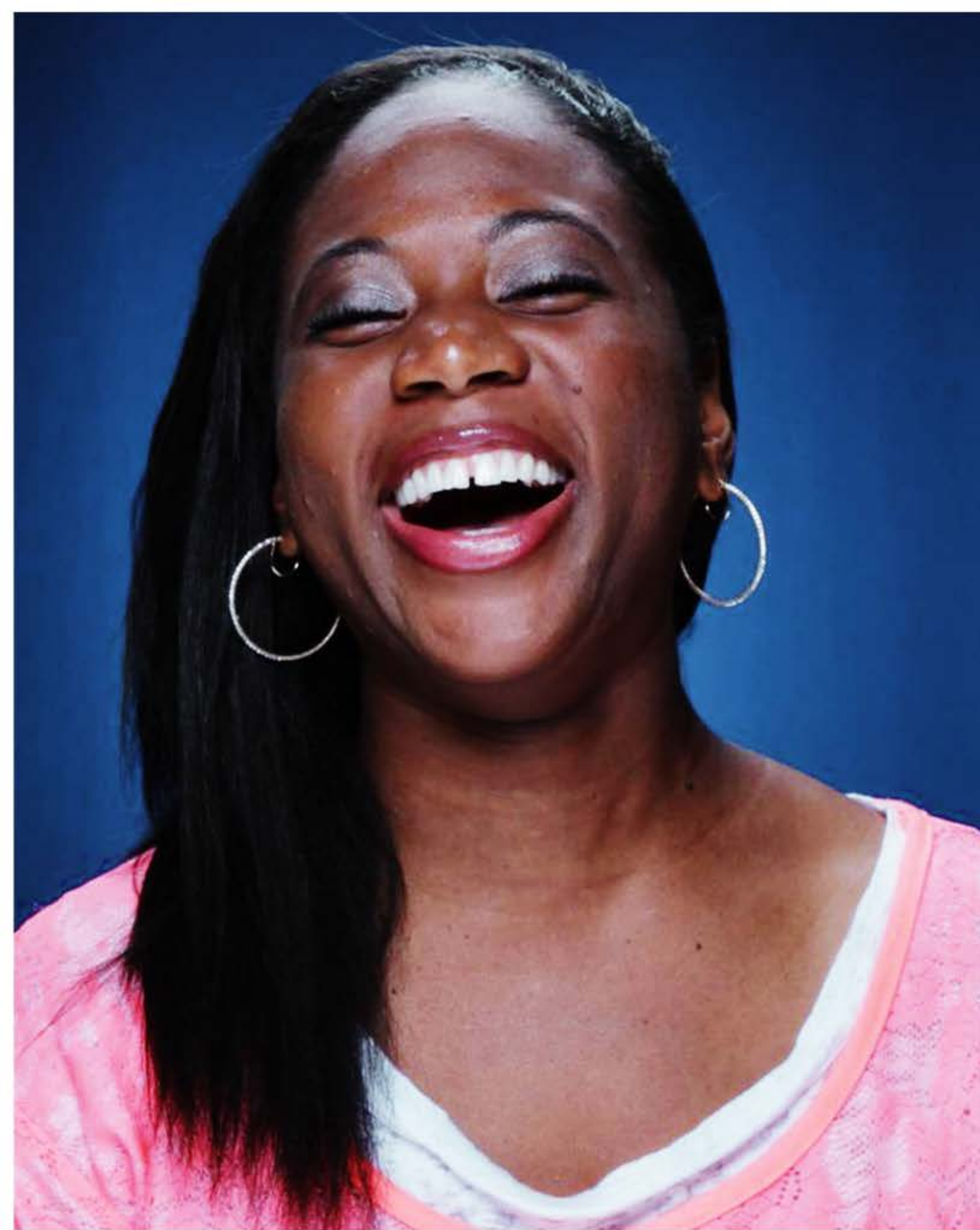


ASHLEY CHRISMAN

producer

Ashley Chrisman is a filmmaker from the south side of Chicago. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and received her Masters of Fine Arts in Film & Television Production from the University of Southern California. Chrisman was a Film Independent, Project Involve Producing Fellow, and an Industry Academy Fellow with the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the Locarno Film Festival. She is currently a fellow in the Blackhouse Multicultural Producer's Fellowship, as well as the Deutsche Bank Frize LA Fellowship. Most recently, she produced *GROWING PAINS*, which was commissioned by the Black Harvest Film Festival in honor of its 25th anniversary. Prior to that she produced *SUITABLE*, which has played at festivals such as Urbanworld and American Black Film Festival and was acquired by HBO. Ashley has a plethora of production experience, ranging from galas and live events to music videos, as well as digital and branded content. She is currently in pre-production for an upcoming televised comedy/variety special for the CW and developing one feature length project, *THE HOMESICK*, an international social thriller, along with three TV pilots, and two digital series. Chrisman resides in Los Angeles, where she also works at Women In Film, an organization that advocates for gender parity in the entertainment industry.



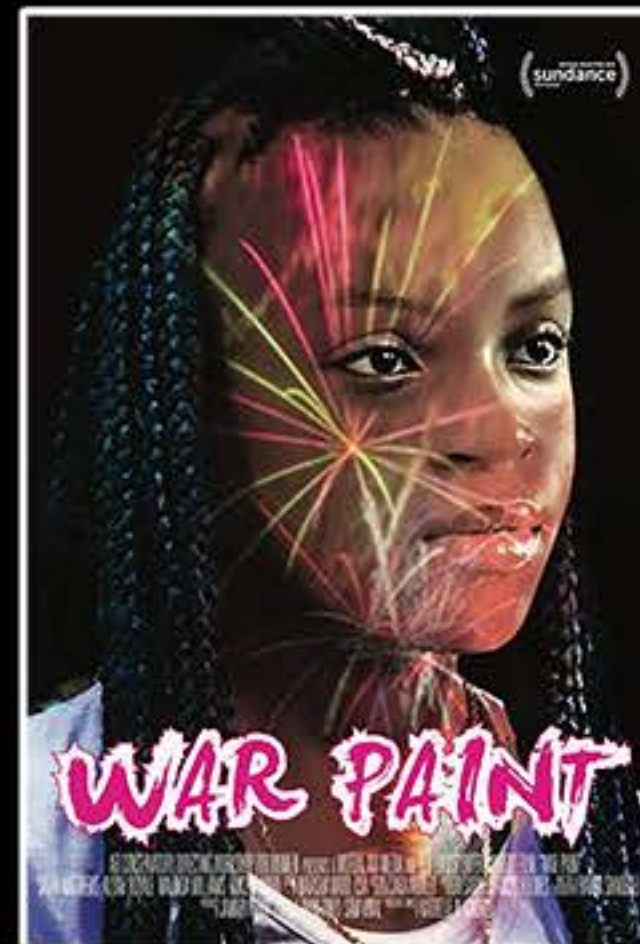


JAMARI PERRY

producer

Jamari Perry is an accomplished filmmaker from the Bay Area, CA. With an MFA in Film and TV Production from USC's School of Cinematic Arts, Jamari works as a freelance producer and director. Her films focus on popular culture and community empowerment. She has produced and directed several works for television, live events, and documentary feature films. Her experiences range from serving as a public relations intern at CBS in undergrad to producing a Sundance premiered short film. Jamari is currently developing and pitching digital content, episodics, feature films, and a global media campaign for violence prevention all under the banner of her own production company, Red Locus Ent.

"Great things can be slowed down but never stopped." - Mr. Perry



MATTHEW HALLA

director of photography

Matthew Halla is from California's Central Coast. Before getting his masters at USC's School of Cinematic Arts, he worked as a television photojournalist in San Francisco, covering everything from the Oscar Grant Oakland BART riots to presidential dinners at the Getty Mansion. He received five Emmy nominations and one win. Matthew is about the image, an observer, looking deeply at the communities and cultures around him for inspiration in crafting fiction and documentary storytelling characters and worlds. He enjoys travel, hanging out with family and friends, and riding bikes.

Website: <http://matthewhalla.com/>





MAIN CHARACTERS

“KAY” / NICAN ROBINSON

Late 20's, an alternative artsy African American man.

Kay is a talented songwriter with a struggling career. His rockstar artistry has always been inspired by his partial native American identity. When his girlfriend Sky persuades him to take a DNA test, his life is changed him forever.

“SKY” / RILEY DANDY

Late 20's, bright and a bit nerdy. She was raised in the UK and is currently studying for her Anthropology masters at USC.

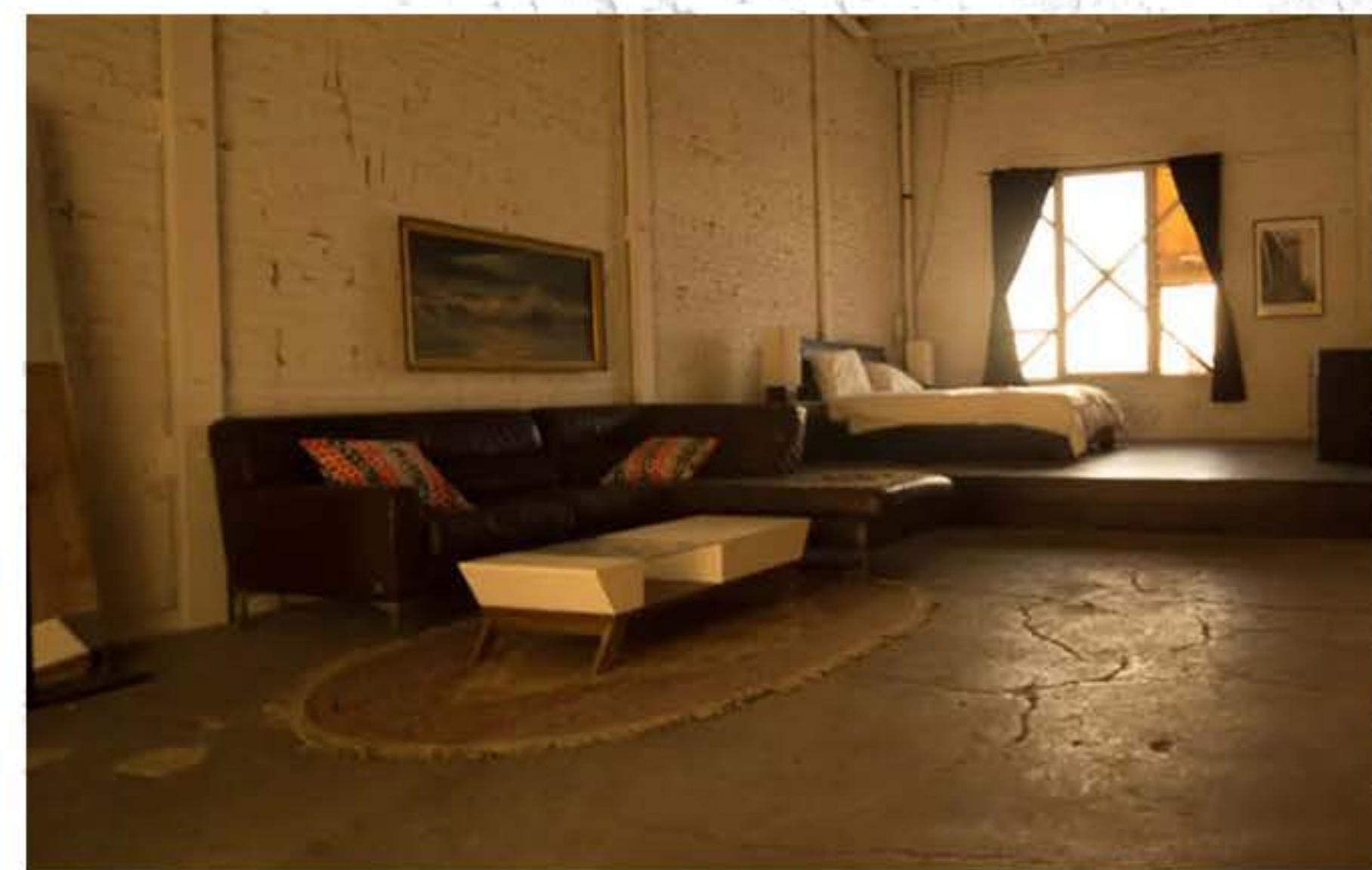
Identity, history, and culture has always been her passion. Sky is the driving force behind Kay's exploration into his ancestry. Unfortunately for Sky, Kay's results might have a devastating impact on both her and their relationship.



VISUAL STYLE



LOCATIONS



SOCIAL HORROR FILMS

Modern day horror has become a reflection of today's society. With successful titles such as *It Follows*, *Get Out*, and *the Babadok*. Socially conscious horror films have become a way to challenge culture and address the taboo.

“Some of the best horror films of the last few years haven't been about zombies or aliens — instead, they're challenging, brave, and modern, taking a firm stand on global issues.” - JENNIFER PARK

Title - Subject Matter

It Follows - Sexually Transmitted Disease
Get Out - Race Relation in America
Babadook - Depression
Rooted - Identity Crisis





THANK YOU