

A person with curly hair is seen from behind, sitting in a church pew. The scene is dimly lit, with a stained glass window visible in the background. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Bad Blood

A short film by Caitlyn Johnson

Table of contents

3 STORY

- 4 THE STORY + OUR AUDIENCE
- 5 MISSION STATEMENT
- 6 DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

8 THE TEAM

- 9 CREW
- 13 CAST
- 15 FULL CREDITS

16 PRODUCTION TIMELINE

X XXXXXXXX



story



The story

On an Autumn Friday, 10-year-old Olivia receives her period for the first time. However, she shields the truth from her mother, Sharon, and her older sister, Andrea, in hopes of attending a sleepover at the family's church. Blind to her young sister's experience, Andrea continues to defy her mother's wishes as she searches for freedom and her identity outside of their family unit. Unable to communicate as they wish they could, these two sisters find themselves navigating their coming-of-age stories as they try to overcome inevitable changes in their relationship.

Our audience

This film is especially for anyone who is unlearning the terrible lessons we were taught or taught ourselves as children. It is especially for Black folks of all ages who struggle/d with the similar themes expressed and investigated in this short film.



Bad Blood was created by a team of enthusiastic, collaborative individuals. Our Black women, and gender non-conforming led crew is dedicated to expanding the narratives of coming-of-age films to encompass Black women and girls.

Coming-of-age stories typically center on one individual's journey from adolescence to adulthood, but what happens when you and someone close to you are on different journeys simultaneously?

Bad Blood explores the challenges of clashing coming-of-age journeys, something we all experience but rarely see.

director's statement

I am drawn to storytelling that reflects Black girlhood through its varying stages. These stages offer life-changing experiences that alter our trajectory and give insight into lessons we keep as we are molded into autonomous individuals. What is unique about stories of Black girlhood is our understanding of the world and how that world may view us in return. With that in mind, I wanted to interrogate the formative lessons of my own life and how experiences of my youth are prevalent in my day-to-day life as a Black woman.



RIGHT Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet

What I was able to trace led me back to my body and the two emotions I quickly began to associate with this vessel: shame and embarrassment. This film investigates how our environments and familiar relationships lie pivotal in the roadmaps of our lives. Furthermore, it attempts to relay the tradition of the Black Coming of Age stories. Burnett's *My Brother's Wedding*¹, Lee's *Crooklyn*², and Lemmons' *Eve's Bayou*³ have greatly influenced my understanding of the genre and how that looks when the Black experience is centered in those narratives.

These films prompted me to ask myself what a Coming of Age story looked like for Black youth from traditional backgrounds growing up just as the world around them began to rapidly change.



1 Everett Silas in *My Brother's Wedding*, 1983



2 The children of *Crooklyn*, 1994



3 Eve and Cisely in *Eve's Bayou*, 1997



The team

Crew

CAITLYN JOHNSON
WRITER, DIRECTOR, EDITOR and PRODUCER

Caitlyn Johnson (CJ) is an award-winning director- producer and is currently an MFA candidate at NYU's Kanbar Film Institute. CJ's work is rooted in providing outlets for marginalized and underserved communities to produce their own stories through independent filmmaking. Her background includes cinematography, editing, development, documentary, and film festival programming concentrated in interdisciplinary and radical storytelling. In 2018, CJ co-created and directed the highly acclaimed web series, *Seeds* (OTV), which follows four Black young women while navigating relationships, politics and sex through their friendship and conversation. CJ also directed OTV's *THOTless* pilot that further interrogates those same themes as they pertain to queer and marginalized identities. As CJ continues her MFA program, she hopes to continue the tradition of radical storytelling as it pertains to the varying Black experiences in the US.



Crew

ANDREAS NICHOLAS PRODUCER

Andreas Nicholas is an award-winning writer, director, and producer born and raised in Chicago. He is currently a second year MFA candidate in the writing/directing program at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts where he is pursuing his passion for making underrepresented (specifically queer) stories accessible to mainstream audiences. Most recently, he was the lead producer on the film *Little Sky*, which gained a 3 year distribution deal with HBO. Prior to grad school, he ran a branded content and story design company for which he is the recipient of 16 international creative awards. He has created commercial content for clients such as the Harvard Medical School, Gates Foundation, and Caring Across Generations. Andreas is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design and is known among peers for his skill in combining entrepreneurship and artistry with storytelling to create positive change in the world.



Crew

BETHIAEL ALEMAYOH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Bethiael Alemayoh is a filmmaker and producer based in New York and Texas. After interning for Richard Linklater, she created and directed the short film series, *We Are*, which was distributed by Issa Rae Productions. Her short film *Yirga* had its world premiere at SXSW and went on to screen at Blackstar Film Festival, Palm Springs International Film Festival, and more. She has produced short films, music videos and social media campaigns. Currently, she is in her second year of study in NYU's Tisch School of the Arts graduate film program.

MARSHALL WAYNE COOPER III
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Marshall Wayne Cooper III is a director and cinematographer from Harlem, New York. He is currently a part of NYU's Grad film program and is pursuing his MFA in Directing. In 2019, he left broadcast television to pursue his directing/cinematography career. His commercial credits include Adidas, Alpha Industries, Reebok and more. Marshall's stories take a deep look at American culture with a focus on inner city life.



Crew

ALVIN COBB JR.,
COMPOSER

A native of metropolitan Atlanta, Alvin Cobb, Jr., is an musician, producer, photographer, and educator currently based in Chicago, IL. In addition to Atlanta's urban music scene, his earliest influences consisted of his father's eclectic record collection, the rich tradition of southern drum corps and the marching bands of historically black colleges and universities (HBCU's), and the a cappella gospel singing he grew up hearing on Sunday mornings. Alvin formally studied jazz percussion under Leon Anderson, Jr., and Willie Jones III. He is a graduate of Florida State University (B.A. in Music Performance and Jazz Studies, 2013) and Northwestern University (M.M. in Jazz Studies, 2015).

Alvin's first post-collegiate professional opportunity occurred with trumpeter and veteran Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra member Marcus Printup and his quartet. Since moving to Chicago in that same year, Alvin has continued to advance his resume, working with countless artists, including Victor Goines, Sherman Irby, Patricia Barber, Sarah Marie Young, and Dee Alexander. He has performed at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Chicago Jazz Festival, and Hyde Park Jazz Festival. In 2015, he had the opportunity to work on Nico Segal & The Social Experiment's critically-acclaimed album, SURF, featuring Grammy-Award winning artist Chance the Rapper. Alvin has collaborated as a performer and/or composer with numerous dance, theater, and film organizations including Mandala Arts, American Rhythm Center, Pivot Arts, Black Harvest Film Festival, and ChloelsaBow +Co (London, UK). He currently leads a trio with bassist/vocalist Katie Ernst and pianist Julius Tucker. He also co-directs a duo collaboration with Indian movement artist, Ashwaty Chennat.



Cast

MADISON SPICER “OLIVIA”

Madison Spicer is a Native New Yorker in the 8th grade whose favorite subject is English. Madison has appeared in several commercials, print ads, voice over projects and films including *Karma's World*, *Suicide by Sunlight*, *Nickelodeon*, and *Con Edison*. Madison's ability to adapt to any situation on cue makes her a director's dream. Madison loves to sing, speak in different accents, watch anime, eat sushi, drink boba tea, and dance any chance she gets. She loves to write and hopes to publish her own children's book in the near future.

CHINONYEREM ACHILIKE “DRE”

Chinonyerem “Chi” Achilike is a New York-based actor who has had the opportunity to study theater in DC and London. Being able to live around the world is a big part of my identity and has contributed to my approach to life and how I assess the roles I take on! My passion for acting came from the stories I would hear passed down from my family members, and their stories inspired me to become a storyteller! When I'm not taking classes, doing projects, or sadly working in corporate America, I like to travel and read plays!



Cast

BERNICE WALLACE “SHARON”

Born and raised in the Bronx, Bernice always had the desire to become an actress. In her adult years, she began to pursue acting full-time. She landed her first local commercial/print job while balancing college and a full time Job. Since then, Bernice has performed Film,TV, commercials, print, industrials and Off-Off Broadway shows. Bernice’s career is moving forward and she looks forward to more projects to come.

LAURALIE MUFUTE “BRI”

Lauralie has been singing, acting, and dancing since she was eight years old; she has appeared in several local Jersey City productions, such as “Annie Jr.” playing the role of Annie. She has also appeared in several off-broadway productions at TADA! Youth Theater in New York City and played Lil’ Inez in Hairspray for the Morristown Performing Arts Center in New Jersey. At an early age, Lauralie knew she wanted to perform as an actress on stage or on film. With that goal in mind, she has trained at several programs such as the Lee Strasberg Theater & Film Institute. When she’s not acting, she loves to write music and has released her own original songs on music platforms. She hopes to continue to share her love of performing with the world.



Full credits

WRITER, DIRECTOR, and
EDITOR

Caitlyn C. Johnson

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Bethiael Alemayoh

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

Jeremy Marder

PRODUCTION DRIVERS

Jeremy Marder

Andreas Nicholas

SHOP STEWARD

Leonardo Gastel

DIRECTOR OF
PHOTOGRAPHY

Marshall Wayne Cooper III

SET PHOTOGRAPHY

Jeremy Gumener

Joshua Reed

FIRST ASSISTANT

CAMERA

Carlos Cagin

KEY GRIP and SECOND
ASSISTANT CAM

Joshua Reed

GAFFER

Joecar Hanna

BOOM OPERATOR

Sasha J. Manning

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Oona Baker

SOUND DESIGN and
MIXER

Leonardo Gastel

Ben Kruse

COMPOSER

Alvin Cobb Jr.

PRODUCERS

Caitlyn Johnson

Andreas Nicholas

CO-PRODUCERS

Sara Crow

Ahlaam Delange

Sierra Jackson

POST-PRODUCTION
SUPERVISOR

Chantel Chavon

CAST

Olivia

Dre

Sharon

Bri

Madison Spicer

Chinonyerem

Achilike

Bernice Wallace

Lauralie Mufute

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Bushwick United Methodist
Church