



# FEVER

## *SERIES CONCEPT BIBLE*

Created by Jeremy Feight



# FEVER

*THE SERIES*

When unresolved trauma, mismanaged mental health and deeply imbedded racism emerge at an explosive birthday party, the lives of two very different families are revealed to be connected through a father's mysterious suicide.

# FEVER

*THE SERIES*



Inspired by the short film, **FEVER**, this 8-Episode, 40-min, Drama/Thriller series chronicles the lives of Jay, Andre, and Tayla, dealing with and healing from the effects of privilege and poorly-managed mental health on their relationships platonically, sexually, professionally, and romantically, all anchored in the traumatic events of a family birthday party.

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**FEVER** the Short Film can be viewed by clicking on the Vimeo icon below:





# FEVER

## THE SHORT FILM

Jay and Andre, in love and free, finally escape Jay's racist family to start a new life together. When making a stop at Andre's mother's birthday party — Jay's mental health begins to unravel as he unearths the complexities of his interracial relationship and the dangers of his privilege.

**Genre:** Psychological Thriller

**Length:** 20mins

**Starring:** Janet Hubert, Alice Ripley, Jeremy Feight, David J. Cork

### MAIN CAST



**GRACE**  
*Janet Hubert*



**TAMMY**  
*Alice Ripley*



**JAY**  
*Jeremy Feight*



**ANDRE**  
*David J. Cork*





# **FEVER FILM WORLD PREMIERE**

## **BFI FLARE 2022**

The FEVER team had the pleasure of premiering our short film proof-of-concept at the **British Film Institute's Flare Festival**. This event - the **UK's second-largest film festival and Europe's largest LGBTQIA+ festival** - offered FEVER the opportunity to be presented in front of a wide array of diverse audiences in consecutive sold-out screenings. The **responses were overwhelmingly positive**, specifically in relationship to the film's ability to ask audiences to reflect on privilege and mental health in their own experiences.



Director Angele Cooper, Writer/Creator Jeremy Feight, and BFI Programmer Jay Bernard



FEVER Series EP Sheila Nortley, Writer/Creator Jeremy Feight, and Director Angele Cooper

### **REVIEWS**



“Well written and directed, Fever is definitely a conversation starter. . . As some [audiences] have to deal with uncomfortable truths and harsh realizations, others of us experience a sense validation as we witness a lived reality. . .this film should be both appreciated for its frankness as well as its creativity. . .it holds itself accountable.”

- DOM FISHER (CRITICS CHOICE/GEEK VIBES NATION)



“[FEVER] takes a complex, provocative approach to themes aren't as straightforward as they seem to be. . .Characters are lively and often funny, interacting in earthy, engaging ways that continually touch on racial issues from intriguing angles. . .Where the film goes is properly wrenching, thanks to committed performances from the excellent cast.”

- RICH CLINE (LONDON FILM CRITICS' CIRCLE/SHADOWS ON THE WALL)

# GENRE

The series will play with genre as it explores various tones to tell its story.

Throughout, it will use cinematic storytelling in the genres of:

Family Drama  
Psychothriller  
Dark Comedy



## COMPS

"I May Destroy You"

"Behind Her Eyes"

"Station Eleven"

"Euphoria"

## THEMES

Race

Privilege

Mental Health

Sexuality

Family

Love






# TARGET AUDIENCE

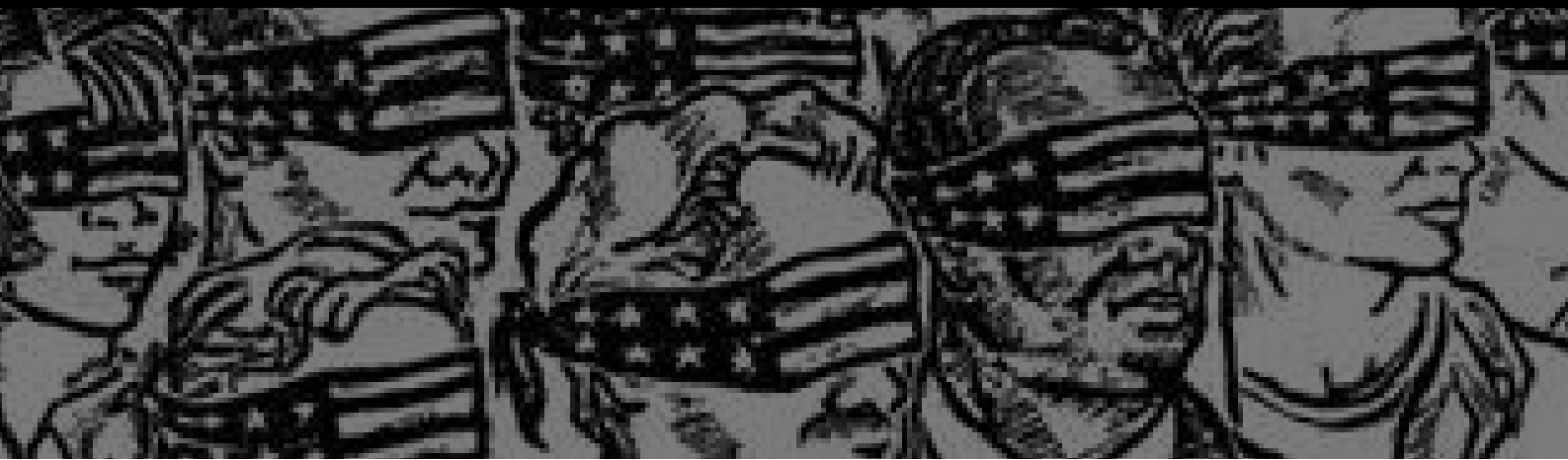


Adults 20-35

Audiences who have varied experiences of the reality of privilege - from both sides of the fence - which is often not accurately depicted in media.



The goal of this project is to create empathetic communities around issues that, to date, are not often or accurately expressed by the modern media. By unveiling truths behind very specific scenarios born from interracial and interclass relationships, we plan to provide a mirror for those whose eyes need to be opened to their own privilege, and a warm embrace for those who have yet to 'see' themselves on screen.



# SEASON 1 EPISODES



## 101 - *FEVER* (2019)

[Click Here to view Pilot Screener](#)

Jay and Andre escape the confines of their conservative hometown to start a new life together in Brooklyn. On the way, they make a stop at Andre's mother's birthday party and Jay's mental health begins to unravel as he mixes his medication with alcohol.

Meanwhile, Tayla, Andre's sister who has just returned from a longer-than-expected stint in London away from her son, attempts to mend the bruised bond between herself and her mother - while attempting to share a hard truth about their late patriarch's time in Europe.

When Jay's spiral reaches a climax, his own family gets involved, unearthing the complexities of his interracial relationship and the dangers of his privilege.

## 102 - *Tayla in London* (2017)

Tayla is in London, where she has been since the week of her father's funeral, working a travel nursing job and attempting to start anew. She's staying with her British cousin, Afia, who is coaxing her into exploring the city and finding ways to tend to her grief. For all intents and purposes, Tayla seems to be doing a little bit too well - but, it becomes clear that she's avoiding the fact that she's left her son behind in the US.

Tayla takes Afia's advice and heads to a local happy hour. There, she meets an older man, Ovie, who recommends that if she really wants to reset, she's got to try mushrooms. During the trip, she has the opportunity to look her grief, dreams, and trauma in the face - and realizes that she doesn't need to carry the past with her to live a joyful future.



# SEASON 1 EPISODES

## 103 - *Jay in the Institution* (2019)

After the tragic events of Grace's Birthday Party, Jay has since been in an institution - where Tayla helped him to check in. Jay feels he is ready to check out, reach out to Andre, and win him back. But, as he is navigating the effects of his new medication, Gianni returns to justify his actions at the party. He takes Jay on a "Ghost of Christmas-Past"-esque journey through his family traumas, the dark threads of he and Andre's relationship, and the first night that Jay met Gianni - the real Gianni - in the flesh.

As Jay is being taken on this journey, his nurse, Ginger, shows him how accountability can lead to freedom by urging him to join the center's Sex and Love Addiction group - a group of which she is also a member. There, he learns that his family is more connected to the pain held by the Lawrence family than he had previously realized.



## 104 - *Andre in London* (2017)

Andre arrives in London to host an intervention and bring Tayla back to her son. This plan backfires as Tayla calls Andre's own destructive tendencies into question. She suggests he takes a moment to let loose in SoHo while she works an overnight shift. There, in a bathhouse, Andre meets a Bisexual Pakistani man named Huzair who teaches him that he doesn't need to conform to labels or rules to engage with his sexuality.

He later finds Ovie waiting for him at home, who interrogates Andre about his father's death. They're interrupted by a call from an emotionally turbulent Tayla who threatens to call the police when she realizes Ovie is there, referencing that Afia had told her everything about Ovie's "violent past" with their family. Ovie reveals that he was Andre Sr.'s teammate with whom he had a quite emotionally complex history.



# SEASON 1 EPISODES



## 106 - Everyone's a Kid (2001)

20 years earlier, after a debilitating injury, a wheelchair-bound Andre Sr. has a moment with an arm-cast-wearing Young Afia before he takes off for the USA. He tells her that all will remain the same as long as they keep what really happened with Ovie their little secret.

Andre Sr.'s return home is realized to be bittersweet as he is not the same man who left them a year before. As he battles with depression and reliance on his medication, he also pushes Young Andre Jr. to take over where he left off as a pro athlete. Grace pressures Tayla to keep it all together and be her support in maintaining the family's order in the face of their judgmental community.

Meanwhile, Young Jay is dealing with his budding sexuality, leading to an attachment to a boy at school - Connor. Jay's obsession leads to Connor's parents reaching out to Jay's family, as the foundation of Jay's Mom-trauma and codependency is showcased.

## 105 - Tammy's for 4th of July (2019)

Jay has been released from the rehab program, and is picked up by his brother, Dakota. On their way, Jay explains his plan to host his own intervention with his family. Dakota shares that this might be a bad time since their father had abruptly left their mother the night before.

When they arrive at home, Tammy is preparing for a family 4th of July party. She is totally resistant toward discussing anything related to Herald having left - she's got her baby back, after all.

What Jay had planned to be an intentional family discussion turns into backwoods warfare as he confronts his mother about her connection to Andre Sr. 's addiction. The family structure that bred Jay's lack of awareness around his own privilege is seen for what it is.



# SEASON 1 EPISODES

## 107 - *Moms in Therapy* (2019)

After the events at both family's parties, Grace and Tammy have both resorted to therapy to lean into unravelling their personal issues.

Therapy is a new experience for Tammy. She can't seem to wrap her head around how any of this could possibly be her fault. Her therapist doesn't exactly help, as she seems to validate many of Tammy's experiences rather than critiquing them.

Grace is a therapy veteran. Having received a letter from her husband's ex-teammate revealing the truth about his time in the UK, Grace finally grapples with the painful history of their deep, open relationship. She also decides that it just might be time for her to take this Tammy issue into her own hands. Grace calls her children during her drive home to finally share with them the truth about her relationship to their father but is interrupted by a terrible accident.



## 108- *The Funeral, Hospital, and Flat*

(2017) - At Andre Sr.'s funeral, the family are all grappling with who could be to blame for this tragedy. Tayla abruptly shares that she is leaving for London to start afresh.

(2001) - Andre Sr. and Ovie are celebrating a massive win for the London Lions - they both take mushrooms for the first time, and their underlying love comes to light. They are caught by Young Afia, who is accidentally pushed down the stairs and seriously injured.

Meanwhile, Young Jay is having a life-threatening asthma attack. Tammy drops everything to be by his side.

(2019) - Therapy isn't working for Tammy, and she decides to attempt to end it all. At the hospital, they see a familiar face entering the Emergency Room. It's Andre, coming to see his mother who has just been rushed to the hospital after a car accident. A potential reconnection, as their mothers are slipping from their grasps.



# CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

**\*\*JEREMY FEIGHT ATTACHED  
FOR ROLE OF JAY**

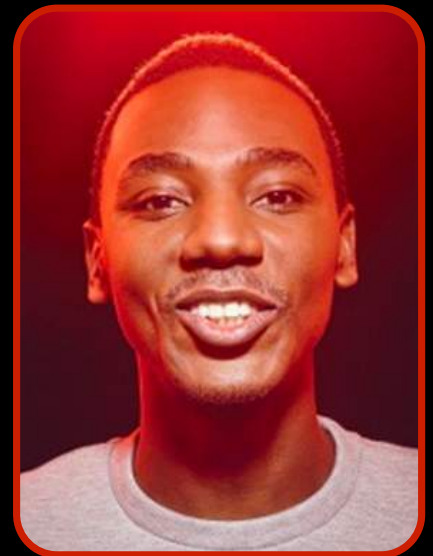


**Jay - (Late 20s, white, he/him)**

Romantic, self-critical, codependent. Takes a journey of the discovery of his privilege and its roots in his close-minded family after he causes a traumatic event at his boyfriend's family party.

**Andre - (Early 30s, Black, He/Him)**

Extrovert, Accommodating, Contemplative. After the loss of his father to suicide, Andre searches for identity, power, and meaning in relationships platonic, romantic, and familial



**Tayla - (20s/30s, Black, She/Her)**

Free-Spirit, Avoidant, Peacemaker. Andre's sister. Embarks on her own journey of self-examination to the UK when her fear of abandonment reveals she isn't quite ready to care for her 2-year-old son.

# CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

**\*\*JANET HUBERT ATTACHED FOR  
ROLE OF GRACE**

**Grace - (60, Black, She/Her)** - Dignified, Protective, Big-Hearted. Andre and Tayla's Mother. A traumatic event at her birthday party cracks open a world of revelations in connection to her husband's complicated past, her children's present wellbeing, and her grandson's future - while trying to hold it all together the best she can.



**Andre Sr. - (50s, Black, He/Him)** - Spirited, Disciplined, but Wayward. Grace's Husband, Tayla and Andre's Father. A semi-pro basketball player (whose career was cut short by a knee injury) with secret indulgences of the flesh and mind who still attempted to hold the family together. His life's mysteries continue to plague his loved ones.

**Tammy - (50s, white, She/Her)** - Protective, Insecure, Strong-Willed. Jay's Mother. She feels Jay's mental illness is a by-product of his proximity to a local family with which she has dramatic history - rather than of any fault of hers. Despite her problematic life philosophies, Tammy is doing her best to be the mother she believes Jay needs.



**Ovie - (50s, Black, He/Him)** - Playful, Broken, a Caretaker. A teammate of Andre Sr.'s on the London Lions. When a well-intentioned romantic exploration turns to a scandal that takes his lover away, he takes a life-long journey of soothing the wounds left by what could never be.

# CHARACTER BREAKDOWN



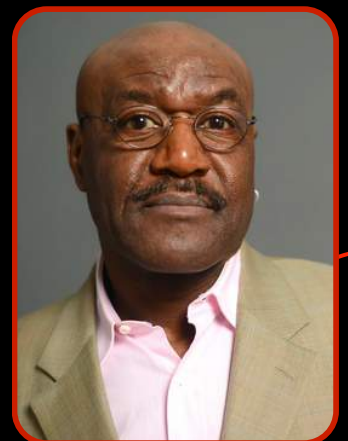
**Afia - (30s, Black, She/Her)** - Skeptic, Lonely, Knows more than she lets on. Andre Sr.'s British niece. She had a special connection with her uncle while he was in the UK. So when Tayla comes to stay with her in London, she finally has the opportunity to find closure - and confront the closeted skeletons that come along with her.

**Gianni - (20s-30s, Black, He/Him)** - Sly, Sexy, a Disruptor. One of Jay's past lovers manifest as a representation of his codependency. He eggs Jay on to a point that requires him to look at the harm he caused others. Is it fair that a Black man is trapped in this role?



**Ginger - (40s, White, She/Her)** - Careful, Contemplative, Whistleblower. Jay's Nurse at the institution who has been there for 20 years. She also treated Andre Sr. in the time after his return from London. She holds a dark secret that she wrestles with bringing to light.

**Uncle Ray - (50s, Black, He/Him)** - Bold, Honest, Conservative. After witnessing his brother spiral into depression, he feels its his duty to ensure his nephew takes after Andre Sr.'s footsteps as a professional athlete. The to-the-point patriarch of the Lawrence family.



# CREATIVE TEAM

We believe that the presentation of truth within storytelling begins with a team that represents diversity. Not just for optics; the diversity found on our team permeates the experiences, backgrounds, and thoughts of the creatives involved. Therefore, we have built a team of change-makers who create from perspectives that accurately represent and effectively challenge the "truths" of our stories we have set out to illuminate. Our proposed collaborations with other teams of creatives will continue to bolster and accentuate this focus on intentional inclusion.



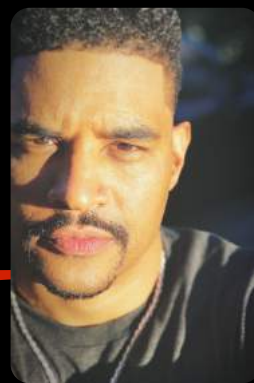
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**SHEILA NORTLEY**  
Writer/EP



**ANGELE COOPER**  
Director/Producer



**JASON M. COX**  
Producer



**MARIA MARSH**



**TEMI YUSEF**



**BIBI MAMA**

Development Assistants

# *THANK YOU*

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