

A Mind of Its Own

DIRECTOR AND WRITER'S BIOGRAPHY



My name is **C.C. Randle** (Courtney Cierra Randle), please do not call me Courtney, and **A Mind of Its Own is my very first film**. It is my thesis. I have always possessed a passion for movies and filmmaking and have made homemade movies and performed in plays throughout my childhood and teenage years, as well as improv in my undergraduate college days. I attended Oxford University in England where I studied Shakespeare and Modern Literature, allowing me to develop a deep appreciation for storytelling and character development. One of my favorite memories of my time there is being a part of the Oxford Film Club.

After earning my undergraduate degree, I began my teaching career which I call my “really cool day job” teaching middle and high school students English and Film Philosophy for over a decade; while teaching, I earned a Master's of Science in Human-Computer Interaction from DePaul University. While at DePaul, I took a screenwriting class on The Hero's Journey, which renewed my interest in filmmaking and storytelling.

I decided to follow my passion for film and continued my education with my MFA in Film and Television Directing at DePaul University. *They weren't kidding when they said Black women are the most educated in America.* During my time there, I explored experimental film, animation, and Black storytelling. I gained valuable experience working on a variety of film projects and honing my craft as a director.

As a filmmaker, I am known for my “in your face” approach to storytelling, often incorporating elements of experimental film and animation into my work. With a focus on black storytelling, I hope to be recognized in the film industry as a champion of Black film.

My passion for film and storytelling continues to inspire my work, and I am committed to telling stories that challenge conventional thinking and push the boundaries of traditional filmmaking.

A Few Cool Facts About the Film:

- As a **sneakerhead**, I sold 80% of my collection to make the film. C.J. is named after Madame C. J. Walker, the first American Black woman self-made millionaire for **her hair care products**.
- The salon scene location is the Chicago hair salon where the **Obamas** would get their hair done while living there.
- Look closely, the hair's eyes are the same as **Fozzie Bear's** eyes!
- The voice of the hair, Time Brickey, is also one of a handful of **professional black puppeteers** in the United States.

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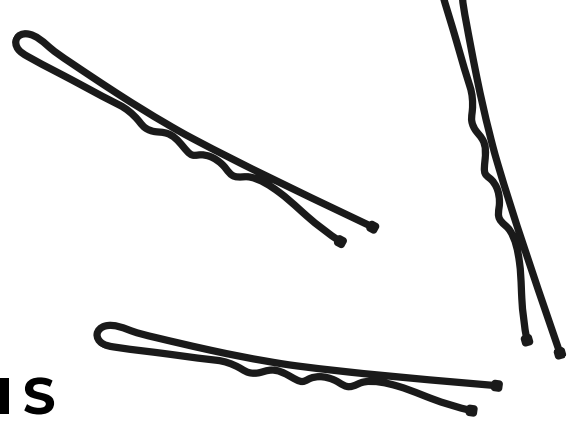
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LINKEDIN



A Mind of Its Own



SYNOPSIS

C.J., a black woman, is a hard worker and is looking to move up the corporate ladder. When she comes into work on the day of her big presentation sporting her natural hairstyle, her **literal**, loud-talking hair causes her coworkers to react in a less-than-ideal manner where she faces racial microaggressions. After a wild trip to the hair salon, she must then decide: is her hair worth the headache, or will she just let her hair have a mind of its own?

FILM'S WEBSITE LINK

Click on the text above to see BTS and interesting stuff.

PHOTO STILL

Separate image files have been attached below this document.





(HEADSHOT)



(A STILL FROM FILM)

**HBO® SHORT FILM AWARD SHOWCASE
ABFF SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

FILM INFORMATION (this information will be posted at abff.com and FilmFreeway.com and collected at FilmFreeway.com where entrants will upload their films.)

HBO Short Film Award Showcase (maximum running time 20 minutes)
Deadline for Submission: February 28, 2024, at 11:59 PM PT.

FILM

Title: A Mind of Its Own

Running Time (20 min. max. incl. of credits): 12:12

Year of Production: 2023

Genre: Comedy

Original Film Format: Digital; 16:9; RED Epic

Screening history in the U.S. and abroad (incl. festivals, online exhibition or any other means of distribution, and any prizes/awards received):

All Screenings have been in person: DC Black Film Festival (Winner Best Short); Black Harvest Film Festival (Chicago); Greenwood Film Festival; Seattle Black Film Festival; Oklahoma Black Film Festival (Semi-Finalist)

PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON (MUST BE DIRECTOR OF FILM)

Name of Director: C.C. Randle

Address:
1408 Westside Trail

City: Zion State: IL Zip: 60099

Primary Phone: 224-730-1481 Secondary Phone: _____

E-mail: 224-730-1481

HBO SHORT FILM AWARD SHOWCASE RELEASE

I certify that the film that I am submitting to the HBO Short Film Award Showcase (the “Film”) for the 2024 American Black Film Festival (the “Festival” or “ABFF”) is original to me, that I own all rights to the Film necessary for submission, and that the Film and I meet all of the Eligibility Requirements for the HBO Short Film Award Showcase set forth online at abff.com and FilmFreeway.com. I represent and warrant that no rights in the Film have been transferred to any third party, and that I will not transfer any rights in the Film prior to the selection of the five (5) finalist films to be screened at the Festival. I acknowledge that HBO and American Black Film Festival receive other films that are similar to the Film or the ideas expressed in the Film that I am submitting. I further understand that any ideas or materials submitted or communicated by me to HBO as part of the application process and/or during or after the Festival may reference ideas, themes, subjects or issues that are incorporated or dealt with in a project already under consideration, in development, or in production at HBO, and that HBO is under no obligation to compensate me for any such ideas or materials, or for any ideas or materials: (a) in which HBO has no interest; (b) that are not novel, unique or protectable under United States law; (c) that are in the public domain or publicly known or available prior to the date of the submission by me; (d) that are in HBO's possession or available to HBO from another source prior to or after the submission by me of the ideas or materials; or (e) that become part of the public domain or publicly known or available by publication or otherwise subsequent to the submission by me of the ideas or materials.

I hereby authorize HBO and American Black Film Festival to exhibit the Film at the Festival and to use the publicity information and photos submitted by me or on my behalf in their marketing and publicity efforts in connection with the Festival. If the Film is selected as one of the five (5) finalist films to be screened at the Festival, I further authorize the use by HBO and American Black Film Festival of stills and clips from the Film, not to exceed two (2) minutes in the aggregate, in any and all media for advertising and promotional purposes in connection with HBO and/or the Festival.

I UNDERSTAND THAT EXCEPT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS OF THE HBO SHORT FILM AWARD SHOWCASE, NEITHER HBO, AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL, NOR ANY OTHER PARTY SHALL BE UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR CREDIT ME IN ANY WAY FOR THE USE OF THE FILM OR ANY IDEAS OR MATERIALS COMMUNICATED BY ME TO HBO OR AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL DURING OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SHOWCASE OR THE FESTIVAL, AND I HEREBY IRREVOCABLY RELEASE AND DISCHARGE HBO, AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PARENT, SUBSIDIARY AFFILIATE COMPANIES, LICENSEES, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS AND THE EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE FOREGOING (“RELEASED PARTIES”) FROM ANY CLAIMS WHICH I NOW HAVE OR MAY EVER HAVE FROM OR RELATING TO ANY USE OF THE FILM OR ANY COMMUNICATIONS WITH HBO OR FILM LIFE DURING OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SHOWCASE, THE FESTIVAL, OR IN ANY MANNER PERMITTED HEREUNDER.

I further hereby warrant, represent and covenant to HBO as follows:

1) The Film, and any portion thereof, or any other footage or element provided to HBO hereunder, or any advertising, promotional, publicity or other material supplied by me in connection with the HBO Short Film Award Showcase, will not contain any language or material that is obscene, libelous, slanderous or defamatory and will not violate, infringe upon, or give rise to any adverse claim with respect to, any common law or other right whatsoever (including without limitation any copyright, trademark, literary, dramatic, comedic, musical or photoplay right, right of privacy or publicity or contract right) of any person, corporation or other entity, or violate any other applicable law.

2) I have acquired, currently own and am in possession of all rights required to grant necessary rights to HBO hereunder, and if the Film is selected as a finalist film, will deliver to HBO copies of all such documents as evidence of my acquisition of such rights (including without limitation all copyrights, music rights, still photo, film or videotape footage licenses, individual releases or clearances, or other appropriate licenses of all elements of the Film), or that such constituent elements are owned by me or are in the public domain.

3) With respect to each musical composition contained in the Film and all other materials provided to HBO hereunder, the non-dramatic music performing rights necessary for HBO's exercise of the rights granted hereunder are: (a) either (i) controlled by American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), Society of European Stage Authors and Composers (SESAC) or Global Music Rights (GMR) in the United States, (ii) in the public domain, or (iii) owned or controlled by me, so that no additional clearance of, or payment with respect to, such rights is required by HBO for use of the Film hereunder.

4) I agree to furnish to HBO a music cue sheet setting forth with respect to each musical composition contained in the Film such composition's running time, composer, publisher and performing rights society.

5) The credits contained in the Film as delivered to HBO are complete and accurate and omit no party or entity entitled to any credit for providing services on the Film, nor is any credit provided therein inaccurate, improper or insufficient.

6) There are no claims, litigation or other proceedings pending or threatened against the Film or any elements therein.


7) I hereby irrevocably release and discharge the Released Parties from any claims that I now have or may ever have from or relating to any use of the Film or my participation in the competition.

HBO will be collecting personal data about entrants online, in accordance with its privacy policy. Please review HBO's privacy policy at: <https://wbd.com/privacy-notice/>. By participating in the Showcase, you hereby agree to HBO's collection and usage of their personal information and acknowledge that they have read and accepted HBO's privacy policy. Entrants also agree to the FilmFreeway Privacy Policy available at: <https://filmfreeway.com/page/privacy-policy> and Terms of Service available at: <https://filmfreeway.com/page/terms-of-service#tos-festivals>.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE CAREFULLY AND I UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. No representations have been made to me other than those set forth in this Release and this Release states my entire understanding with reference to the Film. I acknowledge and agree that this Release will be governed by and construed under the laws of the United States and the State of New York, without regard to choice of law provisions. I further acknowledge, agree and hereby submit to the jurisdiction of, and waive any venue objections against, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and the State Courts of the State of New York, New York County, in any litigation arising out of the Release.

Date: 1.28.24

NAME: (Please print) C.C. Randle

SIGNATURE:  _____

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