

MANNEQUIN

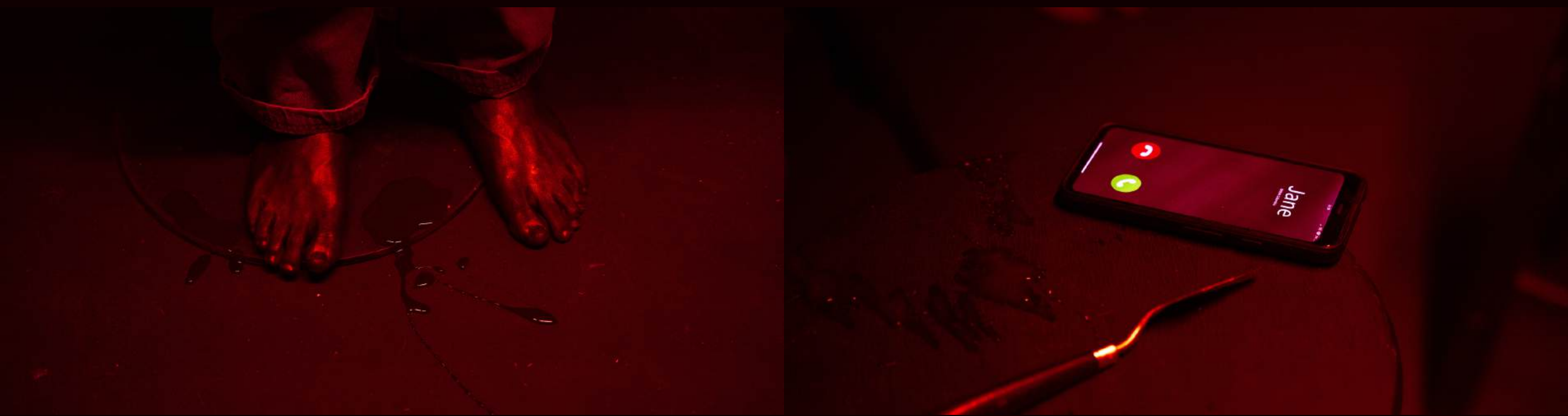


Electronic Press Kit

Mannequin - A Horror Drama, Short Film



A forsaken Nigerian man's rejected mannequin art collection evolves into a celebrated symbol of diversity, concealing a haunting truth unbeknownst to others.



Running Time	12:25
Country of Production	Canada
Date Of Completion	June 2024
Shooting Format	Cannon C70, 2.35:1
Production Company	RAMAR Productions
Shooting Formats	DCP and ProRes Available
Sound	Dolby Digital 5.1 Theatrical
Language	English



SYNOPSIS

Mannequin follows Tunde, a talented Nigerian craftsman, in his quest for recognition as a mannequin craftsman. The narrative unfolds with a supernatural twist when a little girl witnesses a mannequin on a display blink at her.

Flashbacks reveal Tunde, the sole black artisan at Peveril Mannequins, facing exploitation but earning a racially diverse commission from his boss Jane. As Tunde delves into his identity for art, he forms a therapeutic bond with his specialized mannequins. Conflict arises as Jane's racist business approach leads to the destruction of Tunde's mannequin art, pushing Tunde to transform himself into a mannequin. Sacrificing his own flesh, he creates the a masterpiece which becomes Jane's marquee display at Peveril Mannequins.



DIRECTOR'S VISION STATEMENT

Mannequin's story is close to my heart as it is inspired by my Nigerian friend and fellow filmmaker in Vancouver. More often than not, nobody wants to sit next to him, even in crowded trains and buses. He finds this experience of being marginalized frustrating. To an extent that his wife and him are contemplating to move out of Vancouver, BC. My hope is to bring forth some awareness about **passive racism** through this story. I want to weave in elements of horror and mystery to make the irony and impact stronger. My intention is for the audience to leave with a few burning questions.

Passive racism is hard to fight as it happens subconsciously at many levels. This bias is based on centuries of oppression and prejudices that have made their way into our daily lives. I have always loved telling stories inspired by real life incidents. It started with street theater in India two decades ago, where I had written and performed plays pertaining to current affairs. Fast forward to 2024, with *Mannequin*, my objective is to bring awareness to the topic of passive racism and marginalization.

The pitch for this film made it to the Top 40 at the prestigious Crazy8 competition in Vancouver. Running for 25 years, Crazy8s is an annual 8-day short filmmaking challenge in Vancouver.



THEME

The film explores the boundaries of creativity, racial identity and artistic desperation. Being marginalized is a real problem in our society. And done passively it can push someone to the edge. The film challenges societal norms and the cost of validation in the marginalized.



DIRECTOR

Ram Rajagopalan is an emerging filmmaker based out of Vancouver. His stories have made it to the top 40 at prestigious local film festivals like Crazy 8s and Run N Gun. A recent alumni of Vancouver Film School, he has produced three noteworthy shorts - *Spiral*, *Mannequin* and *Oh My Cow*) of which the last two he also directed. He has worked on other roles like 1st AD, Script Supervisor, DOP in different student film projects while at VFS.

Prior to filmmaking Ram spent close to two decades in the technology industry leading product and software teams for Amazon and BlackBerry. He is passionate about building creative teams. The zest for visual storytelling made him take a few part time courses in Toronto (Metropolitan University, and The Second City) a few years back. He eventually decided to pursue filmmaking full time. He loves telling stories that are inspired by real life experiences.





STARS

Elly Hiraani Clapin is an actress, writer and producer currently based in Vancouver, Canada. She recently appeared with Rose Byrne in Nash Edgerton's cult short film *Shark* (TIFF 2022; now streaming on Hulu) and in feature film *The Longest Weekend* (Official Selection Sydney Film Festival 2022, now streaming on Prime). She has also written and produced several films that have played in festivals around the globe - from Sydney to Nashville - and recently worked on Season 3 of the award-winning FX comedy-crime drama *Mr Inbetween*. Elly trained at Howard Fine Acting Studio in Los Angeles, and studied speech and screen acting at NIDA.

David Hashby hails from Egypt. Ever since his childhood, all David has wanted is tell stories. To be able to share and tell one's story is both an honor and obligation. Tunde's story is one many racial minorities experience. To be able to tell this story is a privilege to him.





WRITER

Avery Chapman is a multi-talented actor, writer, and producer with diverse experience in film and theatre. He has contributed to various productions, including writing for *Mannequin* and producing *She Can't Be All Bad*. His acting credits span student films, theatre plays at WCHS, SFU capstone projects, and professional theatre companies like Rumble Theatre. Avery's training includes a BFA program at Simon Fraser University, Theatre at Artstrek, Alberta, and a writing diploma from Vancouver Film School. Notably, he has earned the 2020 Veronica Award for his role in *Revolution or Slumber* and the 2018 Mahon Award for his contributions to Drama 30 projects.

PRODUCERS

Jenna May Bourque has worked as a producer on four short films, *Within*, *Wrong Potion*, *Epicedion*, and *Mannequin*. She also loves the Art department, being production design to two short films, *Mari* and *Heirloom*. She went to Vancouver Film school and specialized in producing and production design. Currently she shuttles between Vancouver and New Brunswick on projects.

Joydeep Bose is a versatile filmmaker with roles as Producer, Director of Photography, and Music Composer. His IMDb credits include *Cafe on Sale*, *Once Upon A Time*, *Khwabeeda*, and *Once A Boy*, shot across Canada, Singapore, Japan, Dubai, and India. Known for his imaginative and passionate approach, he gained acclaim as the Cinematographer and Producer of the award-winning *Cafe on Sale*, available on Amazon in the US and UK. Joydeep excels in collaborating with diverse actors and crews and has a strong background in music composition and production.





EDITOR

Utku Banci has aspired to be a filmmaker since a kid. At 15, he enrolled in a film direction course, where his first lesson was video editing. As he grew, he began editing his own short films. His first major project was editing *The Night Hag*, which was accepted into the Las Vegas Fear Fair Film Festival. A year later, he directed and edited a short film called *The Transilience*, which received significant local acclaim in Turkey. In 2023, he joined the Vancouver Film School (VFS), specializing in post-production and directing. This education enhanced his skills and helped him secure editing jobs after graduation. During his time at VFS, he edited a short called *Bubblegum Ice Cream*.

FINDING THE RIGHT CUT

Utku did over 50 cuts of *Mannequin* before the final one! The journey was a rigorous one, marked by five distinct test screenings. The initial two, conducted after the director's cut, were presented to a closed group of Vancouver Film School instructors (Connor Gaston, Directing Instructor; Will Meadows, Post Production Instructor and Arun Fryer, Producing Instructor). Their insightful feedback prompted a series of changes, after which the film was shown to a larger audience in the next two rounds of test screening. The feedback was positive but not satisfactory. By the fourth screening, significant improvements had been made. Audience while elated, felt the narrative lacked a punch. Each screening ended with the need for an explanatory session to elucidate the narrative.

Utku identified the core issue: the beginning was dull and overly lengthy in setting up the story. He devised a bold solution—starting the film with its most thrilling scene, thus crafting a non-linear narrative. This approach not only introduced a hook but heightened the suspense. Through carefully crafted match cuts, he made the story more engaging for the audience. At the final test screening, this strategy paid off. We got an overwhelming response.





PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Tegan Dobrich formerly worked in the art department back in Edmonton, Alberta on a number of feature films projects but after deciding to attend VancouverFilmSchool specializing in production design and cinematography she got the opportunity to start trying out what it is like to take the role of production designer. *Mannequin* was a fun challenge for her because there are so many different elements of the design that are vital to the story telling like the mannequin collections! As the PD for this project her team and she designed and painted each of the mannequin art pieces that were shown on screen as Tunde's work.

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Suhail Puri is a cinematographer from Langley, BC. Raised in Surrey, Suhail has had aspirations to make film since the days of his youth. Watching Bollywood at home, Hollywood at school and intertwined with watching YouTube, he has always had a passion for creation. He recently finished Vancouver Film School, specializing in cinematography. He worked across the camera, grip and lighting departments honing his skills over the year in multiple short film projects. *Mannequin* is his breakout film after school.

CREATIVE CHALLENGES

Mannequin features over 40 mannequins made of fiberglass, cloth, plastic, and wood, sourced over three months from various vendors, retail stores, thrift shops, and film set liquidations in Vancouver. Led by Tegan, Tunde's mannequins and sketches were crafted by a production design team of 10 artists. The makeup for a mannequinized Tunde required two tests to perfect. With a tight budget, Suhail used creative camera techniques, employing handheld and slider moves due to complicated blocking. The biggest challenge was lighting the entire basement, allowing actors space while ensuring all lights could flicker.





COMPOSER

Pablo Khan is a multifaceted music composer and musician with a lifelong passion for creating captivating soundscapes. Beginning his musical journey at the tender age of 6 with piano lessons, he soon expanded his instrumental repertoire to include drums, guitar, and bass. With extensive training in music performance, composition, audio recording, and studio production, Pablo's expertise spans a wide range of genres, from progressive and ambient rock to contemporary jazz.

AFRO INSPIRED COMPOSITIONS

Pablo has scored for a few shorts before *Mannequin*. With *Mannequin* he has the unique challenge thrown at him to weave in Afro inspired themes. While he took his inspiration from key percussion instruments and beat patterns in afro music, the need to infuse soul into the compositions made him bring Tolu Obaseki - a Nigerian musician to the table for collaboration. Tolu lent his voice and lyrics to the compositions which created authentic Nigerian inspired soulful renditions. Two of the original sound tracks in the film were the result of this collaboration.





THE TEAM

Nancy
Bob
Kelly Chau
Retail Employee
Customer

1st AD:
Production Manager:
Camera Operator:
1st Assistant Camera:
2nd Assistant Camera:
Key Grip:
Grip:

Still Photographer:
Gaffer:
Art Director/props:
Set Decorator:

Set Dresser:

Art Assist:

Assistant Props:
Key Make-Up:
Assistant Make-Up:
Costumer:
Assistant Costumes:

Rory Rose
Loic Freynet
Metta Rose
Ella Ferneyhough
Brett Magdee

Pablo Khan
Zoreb Malick
Zixi Wu
Brett Magdee
Pedro Mawaad
Juan Velandia
Gaven Mlait
Vijayan Srinivasan

Camilla Ketib
Samuel Perrin
Ella Fernyhough
Dani Vicencio
Jasmine Hans
Felipe Ramirez Vinatea
Colton Ferber
Aiden Culligan
Zhansaya Khaidarova
Ligia R. Rosa
Kathleen Degrandis
Nix Dobson
Nathan Ellingson
Aidan Culligan

Excecitive Producer
Excecitive Producer
Excecitive Producer
Co- Producer
Co- Producer
Line Producer
2nd Assistant
Script Supervisor

Art Director:
Graphic Designer:
Concept Artist:

Boom Operator:
Sound Mixer:
Sound Design:
Vocals and Lyrics:
Data Mgnt Tech:
Assistant Editor:
Colourist:
2nd AE and Trailers:
Motion Graphics:

David Habasgy
Tolu Obaseki
Vivek Puri
Amir Arab
Hooman Nematolahi
Sahil Varma
Isa Arnold
Huy Hoang

Agnes Asplund
Juan David Velandia
Dani Vicencio
Eric Antunes Chust
alejandra cienfuegos mao
gökcan çakmak şevki
Sylvan Hamburger

Pedro Campos
Pedro Campos
Valentina Ferreira
Tolu Obesaki
Anasthasia Putri
Rohan Singhal
Adrian Kurbegovic
Leo Monada
Juan David Velandia

MARKETING

Producer (s): Jenna May Bourque (+1 506 863 9341)
Joydeep Bose (+65 9783 2744)
Ram Rajagopalan (+1 778 319 8240)
Email: themannequinshortfilm@gmail.com
ramgopal.rajagopalan@gmail.com

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/o2G7PQEmvGc>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/themannequinshortfilm>
Filmfreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/TheMannequinShortFilm>
IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31157752/>



RAMAR PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

DAVID HABASHY ELLY HIRAANI CLAPIN

STARRING



How much of you goes into your craft

MANNEQUIN

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY

RAM RAJAGOPALAN JENNA MAY BOURQUE JOYDEEP BOSE

PRODUCED BY

PRODUCED BY

EDITED BY

MUSIC BY

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY

WRITTEN BY

UTKU BANCI PABLO KHAN SUHAIL PURI TEGAN DOBRICH AVERY CHAPMAN

RAMAR
PRODUCTIONS