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AN UNINVITED GUEST

A short film by Richard B. Pierre

Afro Flix, Inc

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AnUninvitedGuest.com

SHOOTING FORMAT

Red Gemini

Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1

Screening formats available: ProRes HQ & 2K DCP 24fps Stereo

running time: 3 minutes 22 seconds

LOGLINE

When a Black man is viciously assaulted by a police officer right outside their window, all of the guests at a dinner party seem to consider the attack unremarkable except for one.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Three White people and one Black man wordlessly enjoy dinner while in the front yard a Black man is brutally assaulted by a police officer. The sounds of his suffering seem to only momentarily distract these strange people from their meal. However, as events outside escalate, one of the guests, the Black man, grows increasingly anxious. As his demeanour changes from numb to responsive, the people around him grow uncomfortable. Moments later, in a wordless interaction, the police officer singles out the Black man for detention. He is placed in a police car but on the way to the station he senses something sinister is about to occur and he escapes but not for long...



LONG SYNOPSIS

The film is set inside a luxury home, as three White people and one Black man wordlessly enjoy dinner while in the front yard a dishevelled Black man is brutally assaulted by a police officer. The sounds of his suffering seem to only momentarily distract these strange people from their meal. However, as events outside escalate, one of the guests, a Black man, grows increasingly anxious. As his demeanour changes from numb to responsive, the people around him grow uncomfortable.

Moments later, in a wordless interaction, the police officer singles out the Black man for detention. He is placed in a police car but on the way to the station he senses something sinister is about to occur and he escapes. Eventually, he finds himself outside the same luxury home, he's confused at first then slowly, almost inexplicably he realizes that through some mysterious force his fate is sealed. The police officer converges on him and the cycle repeats.

SCREENINGS

- 2020 San Diego Black Film Festival [World Premiere]
- 2020 CaribbeanTales International Film Festival [Canadian Premiere] - Impact Award Winner
- 2020 Montreal International Black Film Festival [Quebec Premiere]
- 2020 Social Justice Film Fest - Short Narrative Silver Prize
- 2020 Grimmfest [European Premiere]
- 2020 ReelWorld Film Festival - Stand Out Actor for a Short Film Award (Richard Walters)
- 2020 Aesthetica Short Film Festival
- 2020 HollyShorts Film Festival - Best Thriller Award
- 2020 Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival
- 2020 Whistler Film Festival [Western Canada Premiere]
- 2021 Toronto Black Film Festival
- 2021 Us: A Black Peoples Month Festival
- 2021 Hudson Film Festival
- 2021 Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival
- 2021 Fastnet Film Festival [Irish Premiere]
- 2021 Yorkton Film Festival - Short Subject - Fiction Nominee

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"An Uninvited Guest" was born out of me witnessing a Black man murdered on the six o'clock news. As I watched the video replay on a seemingly endless loop, I could easily become numb to the horror and yet each time it played it was as fresh and real as if it had happened right in front of me. I knew I needed to do something

more than just get angry. I needed to do something that would provoke people and that is when I began thinking of this film.”

RICHARD B. PIERRE - Filmmaker

Richard B. Pierre is a multiracial person of Black, White and Indigenous South American descent. His work tackles a range of genres and subject matter; most recently focussing on race.

A graduate of Ryerson University's film program, Richard's professional experience includes writing, editing, producing and directing. Richard's first feature-length screenplay 'Crooked' was selected as a quarter-finalist for the 2009 Nicholl Fellowship, sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Richard's short films have been selected for the St. Louis International Film Festival, HollyShorts Film Festival, the Yorkton Film Festival and many others worldwide. In 2011 he received the Naish McHugh Award for Emerging Filmmaker at the Toronto Urban Film Festival. His first dramatic 35 mm short film “The Toboggan,” funded by the Ontario Arts Council, premiered at the 2011 Chicago International Children’s Film Festival. In 2012 his first interactive short film “Far From The Heart” was nominated for a Golden Sheaf Award and he was named a ReelWorld Film Festival 2012 Emerging 20 Filmmaker.

His first documentary "What Are You?" was nominated for a 2020 Golden Sheaf Award and won Third Place at Los Angeles Cinefest 2020 and will air on TVO in fall 2020. His newest fiction short, "An Uninvited Guest," funded by the Ontario Arts Council, garnered the Impact Award at the 2020 CaribbeanTales International Film Festival.

GAYLE YE - Cinematographer

Toronto-based cinematographer and director Gayle Ye's works focus on the Canadian identity. With a broad range of work from commercials to music videos, Gayle applies a sense of integrity and thoughtful story telling across the spectrum. Gayle is an award-winning filmmaker with work screened internationally at the Cannes Court Metrage and Toronto International Short Film Festival.

CALEB JOHNSTON - Composer & Sound Designer

Caleb is a composer, sound designer, and mixer. His passion is to help create an engaging, inspiring and creative finished product with music and sound.

CAST

RICHARD WALTERS - Echo

Richard Walters is an actor and producer, known for Hudson & Rex (2019), Diggstown (2019) and Frankie Drake Mysteries (2017).

FRANCKIE FRANCOIS - Carl

Franckie Francois is an actor and writer, known for Anne with an E (2017), Supernatural (2005) and Brown Girl Begins (2017).

JAMIE MAC - Police Officer

Jamie Mac is known for his work on Murdoch Mysteries (2008), Played (2017) and Republic of Doyle (2010).

M.E. LEWIS - George

Born in Liverpool, England, and raised chiefly in the deepest, darkest suburbs of Vancouver, M.E. Lewis currently resides in Toronto. He has made many Film and TV appearances, most notably in episodes of Reign, Murdoch Mysteries, and The Kennedys: After Camelot; and in the feature films Scratch, Footsteps Into Gangland, and Dark Island. He can currently be seen in the short films The Confession (which he also co-produced) and See You Tomorrow (which he also co-wrote). He continues to hone his craft with the excellent community at The Actors Place in Toronto.

HANNEKE TALBOT - Betty

Hanneke Talbot is a British/Canadian actress with a diverse and international upbringing. She got her unusual name by being born in Holland and spent most of her childhood in Malaysia, having also lived in the Netherlands, Australia and England. She studied at the highly acclaimed London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) and made the move from London to Toronto in 2018, she has since worked consistently for both American and Canadian productions. Recent credits include, "Star Trek: Discovery" (CBS), Ready or Not (Fox Searchlight), "Titans" (DC/Netflix), and "Supernatural" (CW/Netflix).

NOLA MARTIN - Melania

Nola Martin is based in Toronto. Recent credits include: Jupiter's Legacy (Netflix), Ginny and Georgia (Netflix), Mrs. America (Hulu), The Handmaid's Tale (Hulu) & Designated Survivor (ABC).

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL - Filmmaking Grant

Ontario Arts Council (OAC) is an agency that operates at arm's length from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. The OAC's grants and services to professional, Ontario-based artists and arts organizations support arts education, Indigenous arts, community arts, crafts, dance, Francophone arts, literature, media arts, multidisciplinary arts, music, theatre, touring, and visual arts. The OAC is directed by 12 volunteer board (council) members who come from communities throughout the province. They are appointed by the Government of Ontario for a three-year term. The OAC's board is responsible for setting OAC's policies and oversees the organization's operation.

For more than 55 years, the OAC has played a vital role in promoting and assisting the development of the arts for the enjoyment and benefit of Ontarians. In 2018-19, OAC invested \$61.1 million in 228 communities across Ontario through 2,252 grants to individual artists and 1,424 grants to organizations.

CREDITS

Produced, Written & Directed by Richard B. Pierre

Casting Director Jesse Griffiths

CAST

Echo Richard Walters
Carl Franckie Francois
Police Officer Jamie Mac
George M.E. Lewis
Betty Hanneke Talbot
Melania Nola Martin

Production Assistant Jason Paine
Production Assistant Michael Laurenza

Editor Richard B. Pierre
Sound designer Caleb Johnston
Sound editor Caleb Johnston
Colourist Tricia Hagariles
Colour Assistant Jonah Venneri

Stunt Coordinator Andrew Butcher

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CREW

Director of Photography Gayle Ye
Production Coordinator/Line Producer Fonna Seidu

1st Assistant Director Bea Macapagal
Mic-mic Juane

1st Assistant Camera Nicole Ng
2nd Assistant Camera Alyssa Bistonath
Gaffer Khanh Tudo
Key Grip Alexandra Tse
Steadicam Operator Jared Lorenz

Production Designer Esha Khan
Art PA Adrian Fiorda
Wardrobe Stylist Bianca Brown

Makeup Artist Shawnna Downing
SFX Makeup Artist Barbara Sarpong
Unit Stills Photographer Paula M. Brathwaite

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