

A woman with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, looking out of a window. The lighting is soft and natural, coming from the window behind her. She is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, shirt. The window has a wooden frame, and the background outside is bright and slightly blurred.

PICK

press kit



LOGLINE

A young girl wears her afro to school on picture day and must deal with the unexpected consequences.

SYNOPSIS

PICK is a short, fictional drama about Alliyah, an 11-year-old girl who wears her afro to school for the first time, on picture day. The film follows her as she deals with racism and microaggressions. Eventually, it comes time to take her personal photo. Alliyah is faced with the decision of wearing her hair in its natural state or tying it up.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Growing up, I noticed all of the “pretty girls” in the media were white and had long hair. So, when I was 11, I had my afro chemically and permanently straightened. 13 years later, I decided to cut all my hair off, so I could begin again with my natural afro. This film is for the 11-year-old girl who inspired the character of Alliyah. The one who’d sit in that salon chair till her scalp burned from the chemicals, just so she could look like everyone else. Because she didn’t feel pretty. I am making this film for her.



TEAM

Left to Right:

Rebeca Ortiz
(Producer)

Nehnika Williams
(Hair & Make Up Artist)

Tess Sorochan-Ruland
(Production Designer)

Amanda Ann-Min Wong
(Sound Designer)

Venessa Harris
(Producer)

Kathryn Lyons
(Editor)

Ann Tipper
(Cinematographer)

Lori Atik
(Costume Designer)

Alicia K. Harris
(Writer/Director/
Producer)

Team photo by
Dominique van Olm



CAST LIST

Center:

Hazel Downey
("Alliyah")

Not pictured:

Deragh Campbell
("Teacher")

Maria Moga
("Christina")

Danielle Smith
("Indie")

Jessica Danov
("Mom")

Phyola James
("Ms. Davis")

and

Robert Blake
("Photographer")

Behind the scenes
photo by Kurtis Chen



OFFICIAL SELECTION (selected)

Urbanworld, New York, 2019

Festival du nouveau cinéma, Montreal QC, 2019

Vancouver International Film Festival, Vancouver BC, 2019

Urbanworld, New York, 2019

Reel Sisters of the Diaspora, New York, 2019

Regent Park Film Festival, Toronto, 2019

Miami Film Festival, Miami FL, 2020 *WINNER: Best Short Film

TIFF Next Wave: Young Creator's Showcase, 2020

Yorkton Film Festival, Yorkton SK, 2020 *WINNER: Best Short Subject Fiction

Dresden Short Film Festival, Dresden, Germany, 2020



PRESS LIST (selected)

CP24 (TV Interview): <https://www.cp24.com/video?clipId=1780318&cache=%3FclipId%3D89750>

CTV NEWS (TV Interview): <https://www.facebook.com/CTVNewsChannel/videos/1814853291909327/%20>

The Toronto Star: <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/star-columnists/2018/06/11/new-short-film-pick-aims-to-straighten-out-misconceptions-about-black-womens-hair.html%20>

She Does The City: <http://www.shedoesthecity.com/alicia-k-harris-pick-illuminates-the-struggle-around-black-hair?fbclid=IwAR3v88-qIHjPxuDQGHuVyliJVV1MTIABtE4P6J4onbEZY3kcqK53HuiloVA>

BlackGirlNerds: <https://blackgirlnerds.com/urbanworld-19-pick-filmmaker-alicia-k-harris-on-her-natural-hair-journey/>

ByBlacks: <https://byblacks.com/entertainment/film-tv/item/1925-pick-more-than-just-a-hair-story%20>

Quirktastic: <https://news.quirktastic.co/post/sugar-glass-films-presents-pick-a-short-film-about-black-hair-identity-and-freedom/>

Cinema Axis: <https://cinemaaxis.com/2020/02/11/tiff-next-wave-pick/>

AWARDS LIST

BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT DRAMA

Canadian Screen Awards
2020

BEST SHORT SUBJECT FICTION

Yorkton Film Festival, 2020

BEST SHORT FILM

Miami Film Festival, 2020

BEST FILM

People's Choice Award
ByBlacks.com, 2020



For PICK, Alicia K. Harris is the first Black female director to win BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT DRAMA at the Canadian Screen Awards.

REVIEWS

PICK is a necessary and powerful story about embracing the beauty and uniqueness of black hair.

–Courtney Small, Cinema Axis

A very powerful film. Alicia K. Harris packs an emotional punch with this one. Not only because of the subject matter, but by the way she pairs it with this very striking, elliptical, punchy style. It leaves me speechless.

– Barbara Kopple, Frameline



QUOTES

“When I tell black women about the film, all I have to say is that it’s about a young girl who wears her afro to school. Right away, they get it, they understand how deep that is. But to explain that to non-black people, it’s more difficult. I needed to elaborate to really make them understand why this is an important story. With this film, I’m hoping to change that, so that more people will understand the daily struggles and racism that black women are faced with, surrounding our natural hair,” says filmmaker **Alicia K. Harris**. “I want PICK to be a teaching tool, a guide against racism and microaggressions.”

“Working with Alicia and the crew of PICK has been fun and empowering. Seeing a young Black, female director put together a short film with other creative minds was very empowering, seeing how passionate they have been towards the making of the PICK,” says young newcomer and star of the film, **Hazel Downey**. “PICK has definitely made me respect my hair much more and inspired me to love my natural hair!”





Behind the scenes photo by Kurtis Chen

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Alicia K. Harris is CSA-winning filmmaker from Scarborough. She graduated from Ryerson University's School of Image Arts in 2016, where her thesis film, *Love Stinks*, won Best Director and Best Production. After a successful festival run, the film was licensed to CBC's Canadian Reflections and is currently playing on CBC gem.

Collectively, her films have been screened on TVO, Bell Fibe TV1, and at numerous festivals, including TIFF Next Wave, Vancouver International Film Festival, and the Festival du nouveau cinéma.

Her latest film, *PICK*, gained national and international recognition through a \$20K Kickstarter campaign, and was featured in the Toronto Star, CTV News, and on CP24.

PICK won the Canadian Screen Award for Best Live Action Short in 2020, Best Short Film at the Miami Film Festival, and Best Fiction Short at Yorkton Film Festival.

Alicia is an alumna of The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television's directing program for Women, sponsored by Netflix.

Alicia is dedicated to sharing the unique stories of Black girls & women and the underrepresented.



LINKS

TRAILER:

<https://vimeo.com/350607271>

WEBSITE:

<https://www.aliciakharris.com/PICK>



SOCIAL MEDIA



www.facebook.com/pick2017



www.instagram.com/pickshortfilm



www.twitter.com/pickshortfilm

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ANGELS

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Alicia K. Harris (Director) - akh@aliciakharris.com