



VALK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# IT'S NICE IN HERE

A SHORT FILM BY

ROBERT-JONATHAN KOEYERS



FILM STILL





LANGUAGE : **English**

RUN TIME : **15:41 min**

ASPECT RATIO : **1.85 : 1**

FRAME RATE : **24 fps**

AUDIO : **5.1**

AVAILABLE ON : **DCP - ProRes - H264**

COUNTRY : **The Netherlands** © **May 2022**



## S Y N O P S I S

A fragmented portrait of a young boy called Crimson, nicknamed after the color of the hoodie he always wears. We follow him and his best friend, Imani, as they make their way to a corner store. When a rookie police officer gets a call regarding a possibly dangerous altercation that the two youngsters might be involved in, he rushes to the store and enters the site with his gun already drawn.

The film becomes an exploration of how stories surrounding police violence get told. With two opposing narratives being presented, we are reminded that we are constantly swimming in a carefully curated reality where we have to question our biases in order to reach a version of the story that rings most true to us.



# C H A R A C T E R S



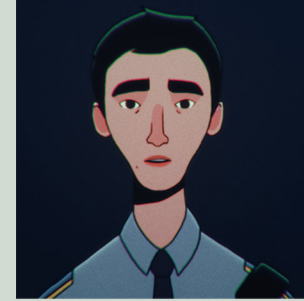
IMANI

A very sharp and highly observant 12-year old girl who walks through the world with a confidence in her step. She is a seeker of beauty and finds it in the fragile, in the mundane, and in the small, easily forgotten places. Like an older sister, she feels overly protective over Crimson and has vowed to protect the softness within him.



CRIMSON

A quiet and sensitive 11-year old boy nicknamed after the color of his dad's hoodie on a daily basis. His mom stitched a yellow "C" in his red hoodie after the nickname stuck. Crimson finds himself being endlessly curious about the world around him, and equally fascinated by his inner world that he keeps to himself and frequently escapes into.



DAVID

A 27-year old police officer who is trying to survive his first year on the job and his first year as a new father. David has always been a night owl, but he's having a hard time adjusting to his graveyard shift. His reality and mental state are slowly slipping out of control as he is trying to come to terms with his actions.





FILM STILL

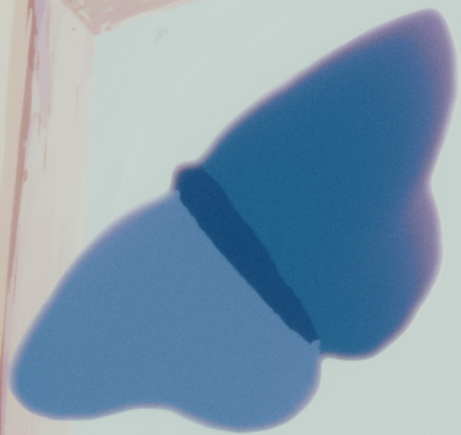


## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When Trayvon Martin was brutally murdered by a neighbourhood watch, I could feel the world collectively mourn. The feeling of powerlessness and injustice hung in the air and was painfully palpable, and I, just like many others, had difficulties grasping what was happening as we were carefully watching it all unfold on our television screens. In the back of my mind I was thinking that his story could have easily been mine. Since that shooting, there have been many more; all of their names posthumously turned into hashtags.

With *It's Nice in Here* we're exploring the after effects of these shootings; not only how they affect the people that were present during the incident, but also how these stories travel and take on a life of their own. We see police shootings become politicized in a matter of minutes and Black bodies further vilified even after death. By having the viewer take part and actively piece together the fragments of the story, we hope to create a sense of empathy and introspection in an increasingly polarizing world.





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Robert-Jonathan Koeys (Curaçao, 1992) is a multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker. Throughout the years he has been using film, photography, animation, music, and other mediums to help turn his stories into deeply personal projects that aim to unpack how his Blackness has shaped and molded him into the person he is, and aim to explore how the lived experiences of Black people can be told in an authentic and vulnerable way.

## HERE: A VISUAL POEM (2019)

An experimental visual poem, inviting the viewer to occupy the Black Body for a brief moment. By weaving personal and often nostalgic memories with images we've seen a million times, Koeys creates a stirring montage that works on both an political level as well as a personal one.

**Best of Show** - West Virginia Mountaineer Short Film Festival (2019)

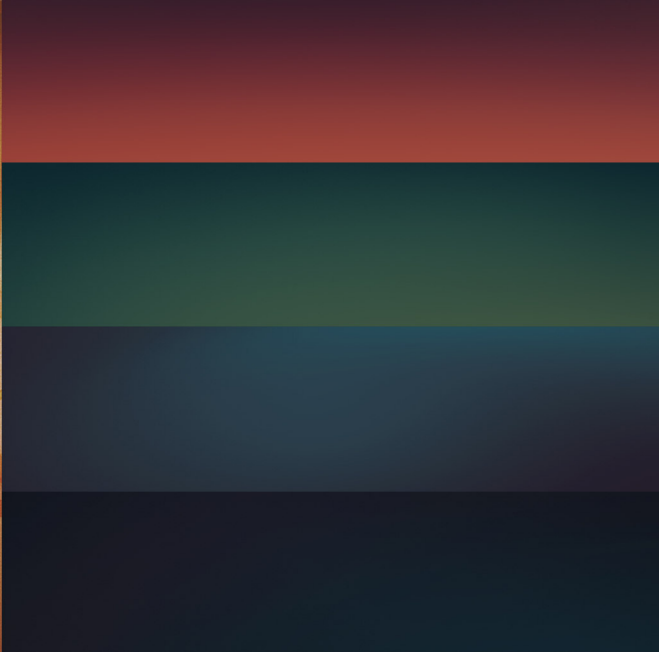
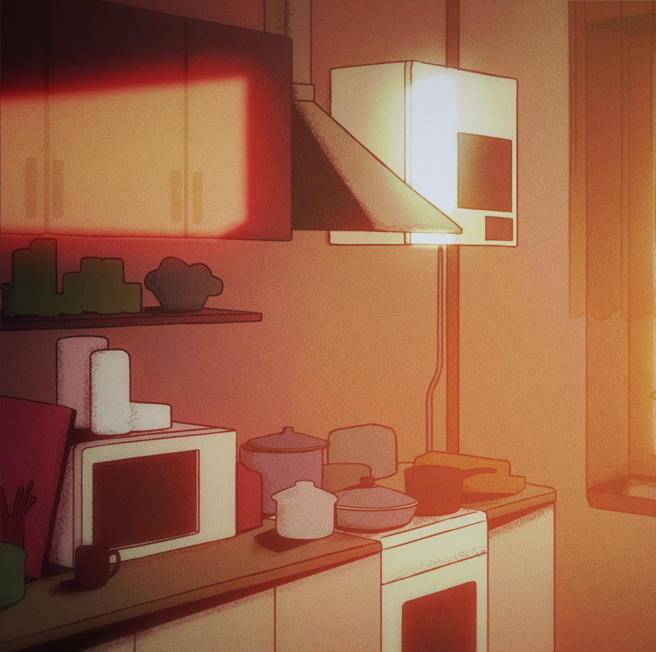
**Best Experimental Film** - DC Black Film Festival (2019)

**Official Selection** - BlackStar Film Festival (2019)





STYLE RESEARCH







FILM STILL



## CREDITS

IMANI

**Anka Ferris**

DAVID

**Henry Brinkerhoff**

INTERROGATOR

**Kevin Strickland**

WRITER & DIRECTOR

**Robert-Jonathan Koeyers**

ART DIRECTOR

**Claire Sebring**

PRODUCER

**Richard Valk**

COMPOSER

**Federico Salazzo**

SOUND DESIGN

**Rik Nieuwdorp**

LEAD ANIMATORS

**Basak Kiriçi**

**Brontë Kolster**

**Lok Thong Siu**

**Julia Peelen**

**Claire Sebring**

**Robert-Jonathan Koeyers**



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