

A person is seen from the chest down, holding a bright red rectangular card. They are wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark, patterned pants. The scene is viewed through a window, with a wooden frame visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

# THE BOND

A FILM BY  
**JAHMIL EADY**



# THE BOND

**FILM CATEGORY**  
NARRATIVE SHORT

**GENRE**  
DRAMA

**PRODUCTION LOCATION**  
USA, LOS ANGELES, CA

**LANGUAGE**  
ENGLISH

**PICTURE FORMAT**  
DIGITAL

**ASPECT RATIO**  
16:9

**SHOOTING FORMAT**  
SONY VENICE

**TOTAL RUNNING TIME**  
15:52 MINS



# LOGLINE

Pregnant and incarcerated, Aria fights for her most precious connection against a system designed to isolate her.



# SYNOPSIS

Fighting for her last connection in a system designed to isolate her, pregnant Aria applies to an in-prison nursery program. She is determined to keep her baby close, stay sober, and turn her life around but when faced with a drug-dealing cellmate and a dehumanizing environment, Aria finds her dreams for the future are in constant peril.





# DIRECTOR'S BIO

Jahmil Eady was raised in New York City and Charleston, SC. She earned her B.A. in Media Studies from Pomona College and studied film at the Prague Film School in the Czech Republic.

She worked as an associate producer on documentary projects for Oprah Winfrey Network, Viceland, and Discovery Network. Since transitioning into narrative screenwriting and directing, Jahmil has continued to create socially-minded character-driven stories. Her goal is not only to entertain but also to inspire, inform, and heal.

Jahmil's first short film, Heartland has screened at several Academy Qualifying Film Festivals including Santa Barbara International Film Festival (2021), Austin Film Festival (2021), St. Louis International Film Festival, and Black-Star Film Festival where it was nominated for the Starz Award for Best Speculative Fiction Short. Heartland won the Audience Choice Award at Indy Shorts International Film Festival (2021), and Best Live Action short at the Atlanta Sci-fi Film Festival.

Her most recent film, The Bond was fiscally sponsored by Film Independent and raised over \$26,000 on Kickstarter in just two weeks. Jahmil's awards include the New York Times Scholarship, Teri Schwartz Family and Friends Scholarship, and the Four Sisters Scholarship from writer-directors Gina Prince-Bythewood, Sara Finney-Johnson, Felicia D. Henderson, and Mara Brock Akil.

Jahmil is currently completing her MFA in Directing at UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*The Bond* is inspired by my mother's experience giving birth to me while she was incarcerated. She tried to tell me her story when I was a teenager but I wasn't ready. At 29 years old, I sought her out and listen as she talked about giving birth under dehumanizing conditions. When she saw how angry I became, my mother took my hand and said, "It was Christmas. The officer probably wanted to get home to her own family instead of watching me cry." My mother's empathy inspired me and served as a north star as I researched, wrote, and directed this short.

Although the ugliness of mass incarceration is laid bare, this is not a film about prison nor is it a reenactment of my mother's ordeal. This is a story about the transformative power of empathy. *The Bond* also speaks to the broader human experiences of people impacted by mass incarceration; from mothers and children to medical professionals, and police officers.

In the film, various characters choose compassion and by doing so resist a powerful system designed to demean everybody involved. Through this film, I hope to spread the message that even in the bleakest and most divisive atmosphere, bonds of empathy can give us the power to persevere.





# KEY CAST



**Ashley Wilkerson** is an award-winning, theatrically trained, actress, poet, and wellness practitioner from Dallas, Texas. Her principal roles include the indie hit, *Hunter Gatherer*, *The Mountaintop* (Jubilee Theater), *Mississippi Goddamn* (world premiere, SDCC), and her one-woman show “*Freckle in My Eye*,” which toured nationally. As the founder of *Brother Breathe*, Ashley created trauma-informed, mindfulness-based workshops. She’s worked extensively with crime survivors, veterans, juveniles on probation, and incarcerated girls and women. She is passionate about using art for personal and societal healing.



**Yolonda Ross** is an American actress, writer and director. She is recognized for her wide range of work in film, television and stage, including: Cheryl Dunye’s *Stranger Inside*, Angela Bassett’s *Whitney*, Denzel Washington’s *Antwone Fisher Story*, and David Mamet’s *The Unit*, and Phil Spector. Yolonda has recurred in *How To Get Away With Murder*, *The Get Down*, and *Treme*, which inspired her directorial debut, *Breaking Night*. Ross also plays series regular, Jada, on the Lena Waithe critically-acclaimed Showtime series, *The Chi*.



**Kathryn Elsbeth Erbe** is an American film, television, and stage actress. She is best known for her role as Alexandra Eames on *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, a spin-off of *Law & Order*, and Shirley Bellinger in the HBO series *Oz*. Her other credits include: *The Runaway*, *George Wallace*, *Breathing Lessons*, *Sherman Oaks*, *POSE*, *The Sinner*, *City On A Hill*, *Billions* and *How to Get Away With Murder*.



**Jonathan Medina** is a Navy Veteran turned actor from Manhattan. His first major recurring role was on season 2 of *The Purge*, where he portrayed Tommy Ortiz, a team member of Ryan Grant (played by Max Martini). His film and TV credits also include *The Terminal List*, *Our Flag Means Death*, *Bingo Hell*, *The Longest Sleep*, *Shameless*, *The Brave*, *Westworld*, *NCIS*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, and *Seal Team* among others.



# KEY CREW

## Selena Leoni

### PRODUCER

Growing up between Italy's quiet countryside and the outsized cities of China gave transnational producer Selena Leoni unique viewpoints of the world. Selena attended City University of Hong Kong, where she earned her BAS in New Media in 2015. In 2020, she earned her MFA in Producing from UCLA and was a 2021 producer fellow in Film Independent's Project Involve. Selena's interests lie in developing globalized character-driven stories that center on underrepresented groups. Her recent credits include Wayfarer Studios' film *Smile or Hug* and Bryant Griffi's feature debut, *YOUNG KINGS*. Leoni resides in Los Angeles with her two cats, Whiskey and Sour.



## Gionatan (Jonni) Tecle

### CINEMATOGRAPHER

**Gionatan** is an Italian Eritrean Cinematographer with a BFA in Cinematic Arts from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. While working as a camera operator for five years, Gionatan explored experimental, narrative, and documentary film. Gionatan earned his MFA in Cinematography from UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television in 2020. His latest works, "World" and "Fixed Water" were Official Selections at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. His awards include the Motion Picture Association of American Award, the Myrl Schreiber Fellowship, and the Steve Lawrence and Eddie Gorme Scholarship.







# THE BOND

## CAST

Aria	Ashley Wilkerson	Incarcerated Women	Anai Bayona
Cece	Yolonda Ross		Denyse Walls
Dr. Sattler	Kathryn Erbe		Natasha Ettinger
Officer Ambrogio	Jonathan Medina		Iris P. Ko
Noelle	Marcio Rock Marchena III		Nina Ce'Mone Wright
Nurse Zhang	Amber Li		Marty Amaya
Mrs. Lacey	Jennifer Lee Laks		Jacqueline Wong Yu
Officer Miller	Keith Sutliff		Mariah Heath
Officer Rollins	Hunter Sloan Bodine		Kharlita Kiana
Officer Murphy	Mursi Haynes		Monique Neuble
Anesthesiologist	David Marquez		Maria Gonzalez
Woman Inside Cell	Kelly McNamara		Kirsten Ida Johnson
			Erica Wells
Mothers in Nursery	Ebere Magalit	Babies in Nursery	Caesar Magalit
	Danielle Wigfall		Grant Wigfall
	Rohini Khanna		Adina Khanna Ahmed
	Melissa Balint		Rory Balint
	Selena Leoni		Lyra Balint
		Nursery Guard	Reina Higashitani





# CREW

Writer / Director / Producer	Jahmil Eady	Director of Photography	Jonni Tecle
Producers	Selena Leoni	1st Assistant Camera	Andrew Rieger
	Reina Higashitani		Tiziano Cesaretti
Executive Producers	Diana DiMenna		John Hong
	Arlan Hamilton	2nd Assistant Camera	Maud Laurent
	Arielle Julia Brown		John Hong
Co-Executive Producers	Tigist Kassahun		Dylan Catuna
	Cola Janneti		
Assistant Director	Kennedy Love-Green	Gaffer	Vittoria Campaner
2nd Assistant Directors	Lindsay Opoku-Acheampong	Key Grip	Ingrid Sanchez
	Robert Onyeri		Jackie Fang
	Carly Pape	Best Boy Electric	Vatche Giragossian
Script Supervisor	Tom See	G&E	Dylan Catuna
Production Coordinator	Carly Pape		Randa Ali
Production Assistant	Destiny Reyes		Brian Sharp
			Chester Toye
Production Designer	Devin Loring		Roman Mussaw
ART PA / SFX PA	Tatiana Wisniewski		Jessica Rahmani
			Po Han Su
Editor and Post Production Supervisor	Kristin Valentine		Yotoro Okada
Editor	Zheyu Liang		Wendy Luna
Sound Editor	Dave Flynn		Christopher McLean
Composer	Robert Ouyang Rusli		Chris Bridges
Visual Effects	Ivy Images		Michael Alejandro Romero
Colorist	Alexander Schwab		Rene Salguero
Title & Credits	Marie Richardson	G&E / Production Assistant	Wudy Wu
ADR Recorder	Brian Peyton		
Loop Group	Loop Group West	DIT	Bryant Griffin
Post-production Assistant	Alexis Salkey	DIT/BTS	David Marquez
Post-production Assistant	Fatimah Fair	BTS	Lambert Grand
Sound	Cassiano Pereira	Studio Teacher	Joyce Sprott
	Will Miller	Baby Doctor	Dr. Carol DeWalt
	Jose O. Perez	Baby Nurse	Rhonda Bankston
Hair And Make-Up	Tameka Elliot	Costume Designer	Taylor Sandling
SFX Belly	Shaina Paulson	Costume Assistant	Gaia Cesaretti









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SCREENER AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

