

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a yellow and white off-the-shoulder top and white pants, is laughing joyfully in a doorway. The background shows a doorway with a light fixture and a potted plant to the left.

**HUDSON PHILMORE  
PRESENTS**

# SOUL TIE

**PRESS KIT**



## LOG LINE

An Afro-Latina rekindles a fling and finds revitalizing energy overcoming Covid-19's isolation and its lockdown's racial opportunistic zeitgeist.

## FORMAT & GENRE

15-minute scripted romantic drama

## SYNOPSIS

Melrisa, a middle-aged Afro Latina American with a successful political podcast finds herself looking for companionship during Los Angeles's Covid lockdown. She rekindles a tryst with an old beau, Saeed, a middle aged Black American, who previously ghosted her. Melrisa and Saeed create a pod that is mature, intimate, and transient despite being in a world that is becoming more and more isolating dystopian as the days pass. The lockdown and political unrest make her just vulnerable enough to connect with Saeed in a way that opens her up to revitalize her spirit to look for love again no matter what comes her way.







# PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, AND WRITER

## BIO

Maegan La Trese Philmore is a director, producer and activist based in Inglewood, California. Her shorts have been selected by the following film festivals: OutFest Fusion, Bentonville, DisOrient Asian, Imagine This, and Frameline. Her production company Hudson Philmore specializes in womanist, queer, BIPOC, all abilities & sizes unscripted and scripted content. Hudson Philmore is committed to making stories that challenge the exclusion in Hollywood, the same way Angela Davis challenges the prison industrial complex. Her films, DOMestication, Agents of Change: Project Polymer, and Soul Tie are examples of Hudson Philmore's mission.

She formally was the Director of Production overseeing movies for Comedy Central, VH1, and MTV produced by World of Wonder, Patrik- Ian Polk, Idris Elba, Will Packer, and Jamie Foxx. Before Paramount, she was a Production Executive at the National Football League and YouTube Originals. An alumna of Mount Holyoke College, she also has worked on the hit shows "Naked and Afraid", the NAACP Image Award winning "Welcome to Sweetie Pies" and the 3 Time Emmy Winner "Freedom Riders". She also is the most devoted "Titi" to Tre and Kota.



# FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

As a person othered many times over, I am driven to make and champion layered intersectional stories to show the humanness of those who have been viewed, treated less than human.



Soul Tie was created to showcase Melrisa a single middle age, dark skin, plus size, childfree, Afro Latina American with an Afro because she needs to be SEEN.

Besides of the representation of Melrisa, I wanted to make a story that reminded society of the Covid lockdown and the racist opportunism of the pandemic. I also wanted to create a non-Hollywood romantic ending. I wanted to show a relationship that isn't often seen but is common. A situationship that is not full of struggle or unrequited love. Humans need affection and love even if temporary. Also, large dark female bodies need to be seen getting adored, so I had to show it.

I relied heavily on the camera lenses, production & costume design, and the original music to create this world. We used Elite Anamorphic Primes and Scheider Cine Xenar glass to give us the scope of 70's movies. The seventies because this a latter GenX story. The design of the set and costumes are their own character reflecting Melrisa's identity as well as the hyperreal world of Shelter in Place Los Angeles. Lastly, the musicality is our heroine's inner soul coming through. Have fun discovering all of the layers in Soul Tie.

Enjoy and Viva La Afro Latina!



A man and a woman are shown in profile, facing each other and smiling. The man is on the left, wearing a dark zip-up hoodie. The woman is on the right, wearing a large black hat and a red patterned top. The background consists of light-colored vertical blinds. The overall lighting is soft and dim.

# CAST

SOUL TIE





# ADARGIZA DE LOS SANTOS

## MELRISA

Adargiza De Los Santos is an Afro-Latina of Dominican descent, from Brooklyn, NY. Artist, Activist, Entrepreneur, Actor, Filmmaker, Director, Advocate. You can catch her recurring on this season of The Horror of Dolores Roach and Abbott Elementary. Also catch her on, Grey's Anatomy, I Love That For You, This Is Us, Better Things, Shameless, Bosch, Castle, Criminal Minds, Animal Kingdom, Phil Spector, and many more. She serves as a board member for 'Open Door Shakespeare' Theater Company. ODS makes classical theater accessible to the LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized communities, performing productions FREE to the public.

Adargiza is also part Owner/CEO of 'Love Mi Language (LML)', a small Afro-Latina owned business and production company launching soon. Founded by Angela Garcia & Adargiza De Los Santos, Dominican American best friends from high school, LML aims to give voice to the experiences of so many first and second generation Afro-Latinos (a)(e) (x), through philanthropy, community outreach and projects that reflect the experiences of being of two cultures. Pre-orders will be launching soon.





## JERRELL PIPPENS

### SAEED

Jerrell Pippens is an actor, producer and writer who was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. He is a former NFL football player who made the transition into sports broadcasting after his playing days were over. That platform along with his look and uniqueness led to bookings in several national commercials and print campaigns which also led to acting roles. Known for his recurring guest star role as 'Normandy Parker' on TNT's Murder In The First , and his leading role as 'Nolan' in the award nominated project, 'Daddy's Day' and the Pan-African film fest and Disney Plus-Hotstar project, 'Three's Definitely A Crowd' as the leading role of Chinua.

## TIA JAI

### JAI

Born in Pasadena, CA and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Tia Jai has been on the Cali comedy scene since the late 1900s. When she's not performing, she can be found on a set somewhere making sure actors and CEOs alike, watch their words.







# KEY COLLABORATORS

SOUL TIE



# PRODUCTION TEAM



**Cristina Sasso**  
PRODUCER

Cristina Sasso, an Afro-Latino filmmaker, honed her craft at Playhouse West Repertory Theatre before venturing into film production. Sasso has collaborated with acclaimed artists such as Chrissy Metz (This Is Us), Adalgiza Chermont (Criminal Minds), and Shoniqua Shandai (Harlem). Is the co-founder of Side Pocket Station, a Los Angeles-based rehearsal and audition-tape studio. Excels in concept development, assembling skilled crews, and ensuring project cohesiveness from pre to post-production. Follow her journey on Instagram: @sassymakesfilms.



**Nasreen Alkhateeb**  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Nasreen is an award winning cinematographer whose work illuminates historically excluded voices, and normalizes intersectional storytelling. Her ability to motivate audience is a direct result of approaching story through intersectional identities: multi-heritage, Black, MENA, Disabled, Muslim, LGBTQIA+, and 1st Generation. Successful productions include lensing Kamala Harris' Vice Presidential campaign, Oprah's Emmy award series Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man, Netflix's Unknown Cosmic Time Machine, Vogue's Episodic Supreme Models, and Apple+ Dear... episode with Billy Porter. Forbes described her as "breaking barriers."



**Andrey Negrón**  
EDITOR AND COLORIST

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Andrey developed a fascination with video production sparked by visits to TV studios with his father. After studying Visual Arts and languages, he pursued further education in Video Design and Filmmaking in Rome, Italy. In 2013, he directed and produced a documentary named "VFX State," delving into the challenges within the visual effects industry in Los Angeles while attending a Documentary Filmmaking course at USC. Subsequently, he worked for the presidency of Colombia, documenting government efforts for peace and reconciliation with local guerrillas and victims of violence. Having co-founded Beyond Clever in Los Angeles in 2023, he currently serves as Chief Creative and Video Production Director.



**Yuki Kanesaka**  
COMPOSER

Yukihiro Carmichael holds three aliases: producer (Yuki Kanesaka), multi-instrumentalist (monolog), and remixer/DJ (U-KEY). He works on a wide range of musical activities including film and TV scoring, advertising, dance remixes, and choreography. He has been running his own music production studio in Boston for 14 years. Career Highlights: Performing and touring experience with De La Soul, Chad Smith (Red Hot Chili Peppers), CeeLo Green, George Duke, and Mark O'Connor and Soundtrack production/composing for Dr. Stone (Adult Swim, Netflix, 2019) and On the Block (Netflix original series, 2018).



**CONTACT ME**

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**THANK YOU**

