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I Live Here

A Film by

Shane Watson

Stephen Wilson |

Sampson McCormick |

Scott Marlowe



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...in this house

LOG LINE

After relocating to the Bay Area in hopes of embracing his sexuality, Stevie spends his first Saturday getting to know his new roommates. Now he just wants to get into his home, but the police won't let him.

SHORT SYNOPSIS (50 words)

After relocating to the Bay Area in hopes of embracing his sexuality, Stevie spends his first Saturday getting to know his new roommates. Unfortunately, he unknowingly heightens a rift between the two. Now he just wants to get into his home, but the police won't let him.

LONG SYNOPSIS (150 words)

In his first weekend living in the place he's always dreamed of, Stevie is excited to get out and explore the Bay Area. Before he can leave the house, he witnesses the drama of his two gay roommates as they insist he join them on their separate visits to places they each deem essential. During this day, Stevie tags along to a Black barbershop, the storied gay Castro district in San Francisco, and his roommate's comedy show. Through the day Stevie is challenged to dismantle the misconceptions he's constructed about the places his roommates adore which inevitably force him to re-evaluate his place as a gay Black man. As the day progresses Stevie becomes curious about his roommates' relationship and mistakenly heightens the tension between the two which leads to an all-too-common situation involving law enforcement when they return home.

WEBSITE

www.TheGreayArea.com

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Trust. Truth. Honest. When I think about filmmaking these are the first words that come to mind. I aspire for my films to express a feeling of authenticity by creating the sense of a relationship between my main character and the audience. I envision my work to feel as though someone is letting the viewer in on a secret that is not actually a secret, just a story that is hidden behind the white faces that crowd the screen.

I stand to create films that speak on issues of homosexuality in the Black community and other issues pertinent to the Black experience that create a space for understanding our lives without alienating the viewer. Gay, Black men need to see themselves presented in a multitude of ways just like white men are.

I create my stories in the realities of actual people. Through my films I hope to expose young gay black men to people with whom they can identify. I want them to know it is okay to be gay and black, regardless of what family members or religious leaders say. From mine and others' experiences in southern states, families have responded negatively to black men revealing they are gay. Many in the black community in the south see homosexuality as a proverbial death sentence; HIV/AIDS, lack of companionship, loneliness, violence, etc. because that's what they've been taught.

By presenting the Black gay experience as more than one dimensional, the idea is to dismantle this notion that being gay is wrong, end the bias against feminine gay men, and eradicate the divide between gay and straight people within the Black community.

Filmmaking in this manner is a therapeutic method of becoming okay with myself. Though I may seem okay with myself outwardly, being in a different geographical location plays a lot into that. My aim is to reach people in Middle America, the Midwest, Delta, Bayou; cities running down the Mighty Mississippi River; the places that hold more close-minded values.

It is my belief that visibility is key. When you see someone who looks like you, it helps to reaffirm that your existence is accepted. I want to give young gay Black boys the experience of living in a place as accepting as California, without the cost. This is for those black boys in Middle America.



PRODUCTION CREW

SHANE WATSON, Writer/Director/Editor

Shane Watson is a young narrative fiction and documentary writer/director. He developed his love for filmmaking during his sole undergrad film class where he directed three short films on the topic of being Black in the United States. One of those film, a short documentary titled Untold Stories, screened at Indie Memphis International Film Festival in 2014. Shane's most recent project, I Live Here, a short narrative fiction that explores the intersection of black homosexuality and police brutality, was recently recognized as a Finalist for the 2017 Student Academy Awards.

After graduation Shane was hired to start and run a youth-centered nonprofit in a rural county of Tennessee. It was here that his love for working with youth developed. It is this same community that helped Shane realized that community building through film would be his life goal. Though Shane resigned from his position to pursue film school, he continues to communicate with and return to the community.



CYRUS YOSHI TABAR, CINEMATOGRAPHER

Cyrus Yoshi Tabar is an American filmmaker based in Oakland, California. He uses filmmaking to investigate and explore personal histories in perpetual motion. Through found footage and sound design he mimics the fragmentation of memory. As a first-generation Iranian-Japanese-American, Cyrus externalizes the ambiguity of his identity into vibrant landscapes.

Tabar's short film, It Is What It Is, has screened at Slamdance, CAAMFEST, and San Francisco International Film Festival



For more information contact:
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Trailer can be found at thegreayarea.com