

EXODUS FILMWORKS

Presents

A Ya'Ke Film

Katrina's Son

Black Reel Award, Best Indie Short
Best Narrative Short, Austin Film Festival
Best Cinematography, DC Shorts Film Festival
Audience Choice Award, DC Shorts Film Festival
Best Short Narrative, Urbanworld Film Festival
Best of the Texas Show, Dallas Video Festival
The Preston E. Smith Award, Flatland Film Festival
Grand Jury Award, SAL Film Festival
Best Texas Film, Texas Black Film Festival
Audience Choice Award, Texas Black Film Festival
Best Short Film (*Honorable Mention*), Kansas City Film Festival

FILM SYNOPSIS: After losing his grandmother during Hurricane Katrina, a young boy travels to San Antonio, TX to find the mother who abandoned him years earlier.

TRT: 15:00

Country of Origin: USA

Language: English

Contact Info:
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Director's Statement

Let me start off by saying that this film is not a Hurricane Katrina movie. I know when you hear Hurricane Katrina, you automatically tune out, because for the last five-years, we've been bombarded with images of the devastation and heard countless theories about who was, or wasn't at fault for the levee break. And although, those are important issues that need to be addressed, this film is about people, not politics. It's about how a natural disaster forces one boy from the only home he knows, pushes him to a place that he doesn't know and then leaves him searching for a woman that he knows even less.

I think the storm was tragic, not only for what it destroyed, but also for what it unearthed. It brought to the forefront a city that was mired in poverty, poor education systems and just plain old social deterioration. And showed once again how underrepresented communities have slipped through the cracks for years and have been left to fend for themselves without the proper tools to do so.

The young boy in my film totally slips through. No one pays attention to him, because he's invisible. It's almost as though he was washed away in the floodwaters. He was talked about for a few weeks, given a few rations and then left to his own devices.

If this film makes you ask one thing, I hope it is the question...where are they now? Five years later, how are they surviving? And more importantly did that storm happen or is it still happening.

Festivals and Awards

AWARDS

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FESTIVALS/SCREENINGS

Texas Filmmaker's Showcase
SAL Film Festival
HBO/New York Latino International Film Festival
DC Shorts Film Festival
Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival
Dallas Video Festival
BET/Urbanworld Film Festival
Austin Film Festival
Flatland Film Festival
CineSol Film Festival
Oaxaca International Independent Film and Video Festival
Lone Star Film Festival
Cinema Arts Festival Houston
Acadiana Film Festival
Cinefestival Film Festival
Hollywood Shorts African-American Shortsfest
Legacy Film Showcase
Texas Black Film Festival
African Diaspora Film Festival
Crossroads Film Festival
ReelWorld Film Festival
Dallas International Film Festival
Kansas City Film Fest
Our Image Film and Arts Festival
Langston Hughes African-American Film Festival
Reelworld Film Festival
Athens International Film/Video Film Festival
Black Harvest Film Festival
San Antonio Film Festival
Texas Independent Film Network (TIFN)
San Francisco Black Film Festival

PRESS SNIPPETS

"An Emblem of forgotten children everywhere." - The Washington City Paper

"The most powerful 15-minutes I've seen all year." - Slackerwood.com

"A tale of adventure and heartache." - The Examiner

"Powerful...measured and intelligent direction." - The Moving Arts Journal

"Haunting." - The San Antonio Current

"Powerful" - eurweb.com

CAST

Ed
Dorothy
Black
Lady at Alamo
Ed's Grandmother
Man in front of Bus Station
Cop at Alamo
Lady #2 in front of Alamo
Baby in front of Alamo

Tre Whitney
Nadine Mozon
SkudR Jones
Monique Straw
Sue Penn
Ya'Ke
Michael Cantu
Kisha Smith
T.J. Smith

CREW

Writer/Director/Editor
Producers

Director of Photography
1st AC
2nd AC
Gaffer/Grip
Still Photography

Production Assistants

Colorist
Sound Design/Mix
Special FX Make-Up
Music Composer
Guitarist
Production Sound

Ya'Ke
Ralph Lopez
Ya'Ke
Yuta Yamaguchi
Rod Cole
Amber Rodriguez
Daniel Veliz
Melendrez Entertainment
Daniel Borris
Daniel Moreno
Matt Morilak
Raymond Perez
Marcus Griffin
Yuta Yamaguchi
Greg Armstrong
Sergio Guerra (The Darkness)
Micah Hayes
Paul Metzger
Karlo Montano

Filmmaker Bio

Director's Bio:

Widely regarded as one of this generation's next film directors to watch, Ya'Ke has made a name for himself as a filmmaker with a veracious style of storytelling that takes an unflinching look at issues facing today's society.

Ya'Ke made his first film at the age of 15, while a student at Sam Houston High School in his native San Antonio, TX and has yet to look back. His films have received world-wide acclaim, screening and winning awards at over 60 film festivals, including The Cannes International Film Festival, The DC Shorts Film Festival, The Austin Film Festival, The Dallas International Film Festival, The BET/Urbanworld Film Festival and The American Black Film Festival. His films have also screened on HBO, Showtime and BET. He is the recipient of a Director's Guild of America Student Film Award, a regional Student Academy Award and an HBO Short Film Award. His latest short, *Katrina's Son*, has won over 10-film festivals and is now eligible for a 2012 Academy Award for short filmmaking.

Ya'Ke graduated with his B.A. from the Communication Arts Department at the University of The Incarnate Word and his M.F.A. from the University of Texas at Austin's film program. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and is fundraising for his debut feature, *Wolf*, which he will be shooting this summer.