

A DOCUMENTARY BY
NATHANIEL LLOYD RICHARDS



ODE TO BLACK WOMEN.

Electronic Press Kit

#Odetoblackwomen



Ode To Black Women.

Genre:

Short Documentary

Running Time:

11:43 minutes

Writer, Producer & Director:

Nathaniel Lloyd Richards

Edited By:

Feng Yuze

Original Music By:

Nathaniel Lloyd Richards

Sound Design & Mixing

Nathaniel Lloyd Richards

Poem by:

Nathaniel Lloyd Richards

Cinematography:

Nathaniel Lloyd Richards

Shooting Format:

Kevin Paul Lawrence

Digital HD @ 23.98FPS

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Logline

'Ode To Black Women.' is a poignant short documentary film that transforms a heartfelt poem by Nathaniel Lloyd Richards into a visual celebration, weaving together the powerful narratives of remarkable black women whose stories resonate with resilience, strength, and inspiring triumphs.

Synopsis

'Ode To Black Women.' unfolds as a compelling short documentary that amplifies the voices of extraordinary black women through their captivating stories. Follow the journey of a resilient saxophonist, a breast cancer survivor whose melodic triumphs soar above adversity. Witness the harrowing tale of a pregnant woman who battled COVID-19, slipping into a six-week coma during the pandemic, only to emerge stronger. Lastly, meet a 92-year-old Jamaican grandmother who shares her poignant memories of relocating to England in the 1960s, offering a timeless narrative of courage and resilience. 'Ode To Black Women.' is a tapestry of strength, survival, and the indomitable spirit of black womanhood.





About The Film

'Ode To Black Women.' is a poignant mini-documentary directed by Nathaniel Lloyd Richards, inspired by the powerful poem "Ode to Black Women." Set against the backdrop of the vibrant city of Manchester, the film intimately captures the stories of 4 remarkable black women as well as an extended cast ranging from 19 to 92 years old.

The documentary unfolds as a mosaic of experiences, each woman sharing personal narratives that echo strength, resilience, and empowerment. It beautifully weaves together tales of triumph over adversity, including a courageous battle against breast cancer, through diagnosis, double mastectomy, and the empowering choice to embrace her body as it is.

A story about a mother of two who contracted COVID-19 while nine months pregnant adds a poignant layer to 'Ode to Black Women.' This particular narrative not only reflects the challenges posed by the global pandemic but also underscores the resilience and strength of black women in the face of adversity.

The details of the mother being in a coma for six weeks, giving birth while in that state, and subsequently fighting her way back to normalcy are undoubtedly powerful.

The film takes a closer look at the intersectionality of these women's lives, delving into the challenges faced by those who chose to leave abusive relationships while navigating the complexities of motherhood. Their stories highlight the indomitable spirit that transcends generational boundaries, reinforcing the theme of unity and support within the black women community.

A particularly moving segment features the insightful perspective of a 92-year-old grandmother who shares her journey from Jamaica to Manchester in the 1960s. Her narrative provides a historical context, shedding light on the resilience and determination that defined the migration experience during that era.

'Ode to Black Women.' not only serves as a celebration of black womanhood but also as a tribute to the diverse narratives within the community. The film captures the essence of strength, sisterhood, and the collective power that emerges when women share their stories. Through a visually compelling lens, the documentary invites audiences to connect with the universal themes of perseverance and empowerment, leaving a lasting impression that transcends age, culture, and circumstance.

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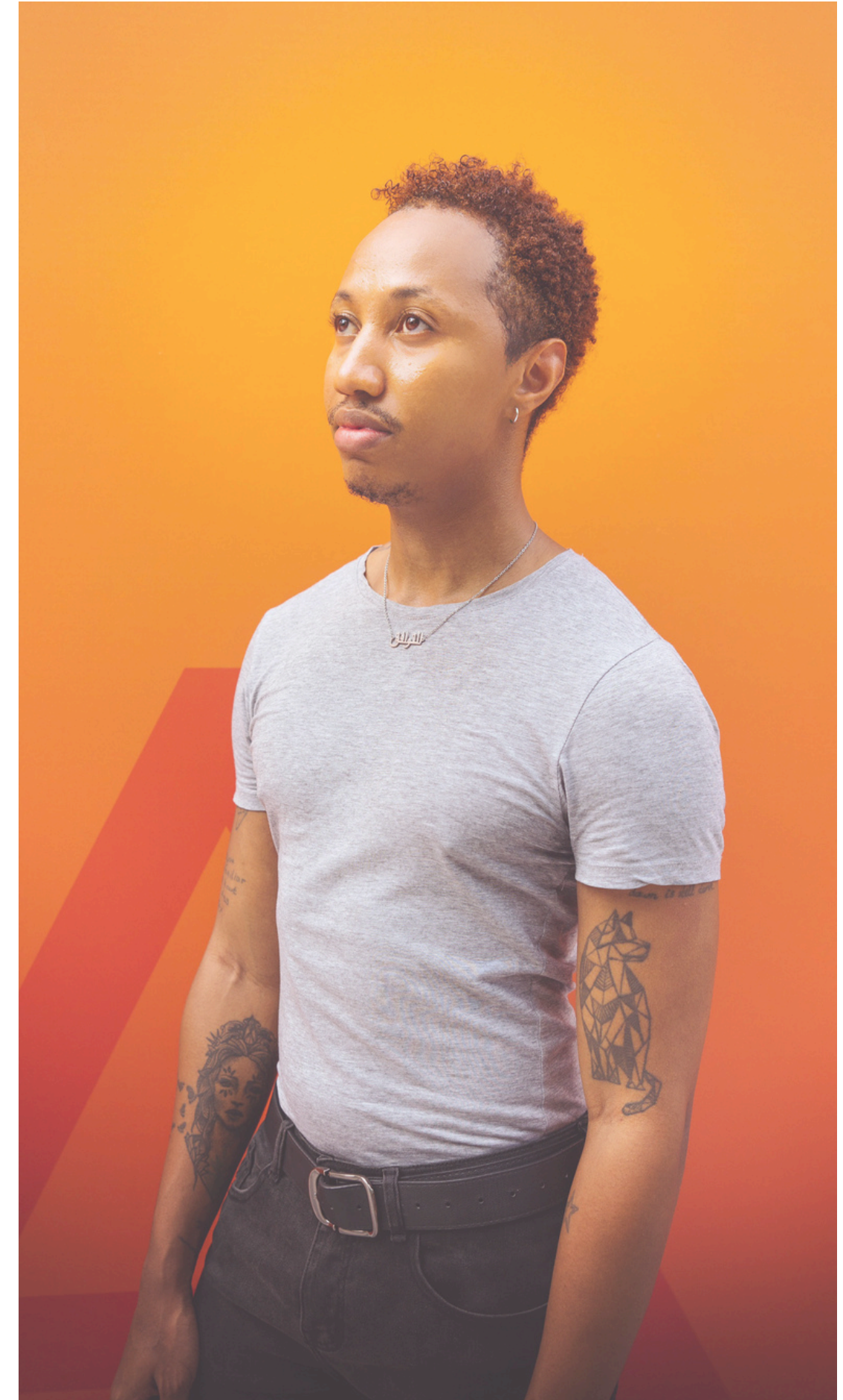


About Nathaniel Lloyd Richards

“You’re doing a really good ting Nay-tan.” Words from my 92 year old Jamaican grandma after I interviewed her for my visual poetry/mini documentary film based on my poem ‘Ode To Black Women’. That enduring accent still thick and intact after 62 years of living in the UK, a true reflection of my Grandmothers strength, pride and resilience. It resonates through my creative endeavors and is a trait I hope to continue to apply to the creation of my art.

My name is Nathaniel Lloyd Richards I am the only boy of five siblings, the son of two Caribbean immigrants. My father from Jamaica and my mother from the tiny country of St Kitts and Nevis. Both my parents struggled adjusting into the UK and initially were only offered manual labour jobs while experiencing extreme poverty and racism I’m sure they only told me the half of. My father is no longer with us but my mother (now retired) enjoyed a successful career as a Mental Health professional. My parent’s struggle and triumph in the face of adversity, navigating a new life in the UK, I feel add depth to my narrative. Their experiences, though challenging, have contributed to the mosaic of influences that inform my art. I have embraced and woven these diverse elements into my work, creating a reflection of my heritage and the broader human experience.

I have always been inspired by my surroundings, growing up in Manchester our community was a melting pot of cultures and ethnicities, an inner-city mish-mash of beautiful diversity. My household however was quintessentially Caribbean. From the food to the constant sounds of reggae, dancehall and Soca to the language used that, charmingly rough patois. Our culture was imbedded into the structure of the many houses we lived in. This is most blindingly evident in my poetry. My childhood experiences not only shape how I choose to live in the world, they seep into my writing, the language, the stories, the humour. The rich tapestry of my cultural background, rooted in the Caribbean but flourishing in the diverse community of Manchester, has undeniably shaped my artistic expression. cont...



About Nathaniel Lloyd Richards - Cont'd

For a long time my family have been the biggest supporters of me pursuing my creative passions and I don't take it lightly. This is because I don't come from a creative family, nobody in the family studied the arts or is an artist so to still have that support means everything to me even if sometimes they may not completely 'get it.'

Recently I was told (I hadn't asked) that I should choose one of my talents to focus on and I was taken aback by the sentiment. I have definitely shunned this idea that we need to as artists stick to one thing we are good at. I certainly identify as a multifaceted artist — a poet, singer/songwriter, music producer, director, and curator — who demonstrates a holistic approach to creativity. The fusion of my talents reflects the dynamic and ever-changing nature of art. By refusing to adhere to the notion of specialising in one area, I am embracing the freedom to explore and express myself across various mediums. I enjoy joining my talents together to create art and just like my dear Grandma this is something I refuse to change, art is never just one thing it is ever changing. I will continue to draw inspiration from my roots, to celebrate the beauty of diversity, and let my art be a reflection of the rich tapestry of my life.



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Links



Official Link To the Film

FAQ

1. What is the film about?

- 'Ode To Black Women.' is a brief yet powerful documentary highlighting the resilience of remarkable women. From a saxophonist overcoming breast cancer to a pregnant survivor of COVID-19, and a Jamaican grandmother recounting her journey to England in the 1960s, this film beautifully weaves together diverse stories of strength and triumph.

2. Where and when was the film filmed?

- The film was filmed in Manchester, UK in January 2024 (with additional scenes shot in Shenzhen, China.)

3. What inspired the creation of the film?

- The film 'Ode To Black Women.' was inspired by the profound desire to amplify the often overlooked stories of resilience, triumph, and unyielding strength within the diverse experiences of black women, drawing inspiration from their unique narratives as a source of empowerment and celebration.

4. How did the project come together?

- Starting as a heartfelt poem, 'Ode To Black Women.' evolved into a visual journey— from a photoshoot capturing essence to a mini documentary. The process involved assembling a talented team, reaching out to inspiring women, conducting heartfelt interviews, and scouting locations, weaving together a tapestry of resilience and strength.

5. What makes this film unique or different?

- What sets 'Ode To Black Women.' apart is its unique fusion of poetic inspiration, visual storytelling, and the intimate narratives of extraordinary women, creating a compelling and distinctive celebration of resilience and empowerment.

6. What challenges did the you face during production?

- Despite facing financial challenges and being entirely self-funded, the creation of 'Ode To Black Women.' persevered, a testament to the unwavering commitment to amplify the powerful stories of black women and showcase their resilience in the face of adversity.

7. What genre does the film belong to?

- Short documentary (11:43 minutes)

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ODE TO
Black Women.



NATHANIEL LLOYD RICHARDS PRESENTS 'ODE TO BLACK WOMEN.' MUSIC & POEM BY **NATHANIEL LLOYD RICHARDS**
VIDEO EDITOR **FENG YUZE** CINEMATOGRAPHY BY **KEVIN PAUL LAWRENCE**
DIRECTED BY **NATHANIEL LLOYD RICHARDS**

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