

a MOTHER FILMS production in association with COED PICTURES and MADISON SQUARE FILMS

F^cK 'EM R!GHT B@cK

WORLD PREMIERE | 2022 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Directed by HARRIS DORAN

written by HARRIS DORAN EMMANUEL 'DDm' WILLIAMS

starring EMMANUEL 'DDm" WILLIAMS KARA YOUNG and CATHERINE CURTIN

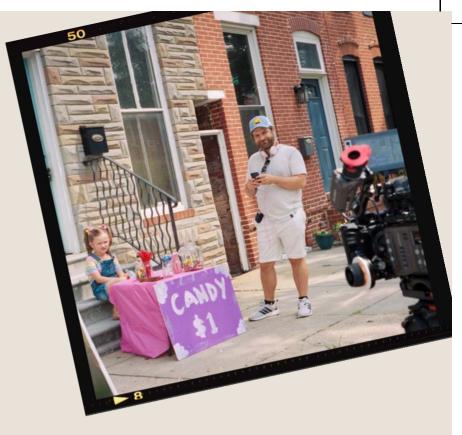
> RUNNING TIME 12 mins 30 secs

SYNOPSIS

A queer, Black, aspiring rapper must outwit his vengeful day-job boss in order to avoid getting fired after accidentally eating an edible.

CONTACT

Doris Casap, Mother Films doris@motherfilms.com (831) 586-5140



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Truth in comedy.

 F^{ck} 'Em R!ght B@ck is about systems set up in our society to keep people down. The film is inspired by real life queer rapper DDm, who plays 'Sammy'. I used his world as a springboard to talk about class systems and systems of oppression. As a queer filmmaker who comes from a lower middle class background, I have experienced living life where at every turn the system is set up to make sure you don't succeed. A world where the privileged have to keep people beneath them in order to maintain their power and position in society. A system where money and power are used as a threat to manipulate, control and lessen people.

This is true not just for trying to move through society but also who we are as queer people. It is important to me to show a queer protagonist who is a fully realized human being, who finds his way through and doesn't allow the people in power to just get away with it. The person of DDm and the character of 'Sammy' - a heavyset, queer, Black man with genderfuck sensibilities, who is smart and charming and funny and emotional - audiences don't get to see characters like him on screen very often - and rarely, if ever, as the protagonist.

The film talks about systemic oppression at the intersection of sexuality, race and class, and the larger conversation and themes happening beneath the surface of the film stem from my personal experiences in life, what I have seen in the streets as a political activist, as well as from conversations happening at the national level through politicians like Cori Bush.

I feel that often the best way of communicating challenging topics, that allows people to hear deeper than just their ears, is through comedy. And that's what this film aims to do - hold a mirror up to the systems set up to keep you down ---and have fun while doing it.

DEVELOPMENT

A TIMI

 F^ck 'Em R!ght B@ck had a road paved with inspiration and love to becoming the short film it is. Emmanuel 'DDm' Williams was an established rapper in Baltimore who had gained a following not just for his music but also for his "Secretary of Shade" political videos where he breaks down what's going on politically to his online viewers, including a video of him reading Omarosa Manigault Newman's book Unhinged, which went viral. Doris Casap fell instantly for him and his unique variety of talents and decided she wanted to make something with him that would give him a bigger platform so the world could know his marvelous talents. Doris had met writer/director Harris Doran through the resistance movement and talked to him about wanting to do something with DDm. Harris came up with a feature film idea that was inspired by DDm, that she and DDm were excited by, so they decided to make a go of it.

Doris and Harris went down to Baltimore on a research trip to spend time with DDm and on the way back they decided to make a short film together first, and so Doris greenlit the project. Doris and Harris hammered out what direction to take the short in, and then Harris took the first act of his feature film idea and re-envisioned it as a completed story arc, using things DDm talked about and things Harris observed on the trip as inspiration for fleshing out the film. DDm then went through the dialogue to make sure it was authentic to him and his world. Harris wrote the character of "Shiela" for Catherine Curtin, who starred in his feature film *Beauty Mark*, and Doris and Harris's friend Tonya Pinkins recommended the brilliant Kara Young to play "Yolanda." We gathered Baltimore area actors for the rest of the cast, and a Baltimore crew who were majority PoC and/or queer so that the set would reflect the world of the story. Tyler Davis, with whom DDm had previously worked and who shot the feature *Strawberry Mansion* (2021 Sundance), came on as the DP and helped bring on an experienced gaffer and sound mixer, and we reached out to Baltimore film schools in order to find talented young

filmmakers to round out the crew, including producer James A. Burkhalter, who brought on a plethora of Baltimore resources. During pre-production, Harris fell in love with DDm's music and decided to use his songs as a soundtrack throughout the film. Harris decided to use pop colors in art direction and costuming to create the film's comedic look, and asked DDm (who created his own costumes) to create Yolanda's looks, to insure authenticity.

We shot the film for a jam packed 3 days in mid-August and then Harris hit the ground running editing for the next month to complete the film by the Sundance deadline. We brought on Emmy winner Ric Schnupp to do the sound on the film. And the rest, they say, is future. **EMMANUEL** 'DDm' WILLIAMS as "Sammy"

With a style that is as abrasive as it is welcoming, Dapper Dan Midas a.k.a. DDm is one of the most idiosyncratic new voices in entertainment. The Baltimore native made his name in the local rap scene establishing himself as a premier live act and songwriter. He has played shows nationally alongside the likes of Dan Deacon, Future Islands, Beach House, and **Big** Freedia. DDm's 'Secretary Of Shade' YouTube channel, where he does live book readings and discusses politics and pop culture, has over 21,000 subscribers to date. He has been featured on Netflix, BET, and The Hill, and is considered a rising star in music and pop culture commentary.

linktr.ee/dapperdanmidastext

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Music

The Washington Post

How Michael K. Williams helped

Baltimore rapper DDM find his voice

Currently making her Broadway debut in Lynn Nottage's CLYDE'S, Kara earned a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for her starring role in the MCC Theater play ALL THE NATALIE PORTMANS. Other theater credits include HALFWAY BITCHES GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN, THE NEW ENGLANDERS, SYNCHING INK, and PRETTY HUNGER. On screen she starred in the winner of Sundance 2018's Short Film Jury Awards US Fiction, HAIR WOLF, and was featured on HBO's "Random Acts of Flyness" as well as the Amazon feature, CHEMICAL HEARTS.

KARA

YOUNG

as "Yolanda"

PLAYBILL

CATHERINE CURTIN as "Shiela"

Film released 2021, WEREWOLVES WITHIN (Tribeca Film Fest); RED PILL (PAFF); WORTH (Sundance); films released 2020: BAD EDUCATION (Tiff); BLUSH (Sundance); More Film: INSIDE THE RAIN; THE HALF OF IT; FIRST ONE IN; WHAT BREAKS THE ICE; BEAUTY MARK; 18&1/5. TV: recurring on the upcoming PARTNER TRACK, and STRANGER THINGS, HOMELAND, ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK, INSECURE. More THE LOUDEST VOICE, BLACKLIST, MINDHUNTER, BULL and TV: TOMMY. SURVEILLANCE. Insta or Twitter: #@catecurtin Winner: SAG Award for Best Ensemble 2015 and 2016, OITNB and nominated SAG Award Best Ensemble 2018 STRANGER THINGS. More film: THE ARTIST'S WIFE; GOLDSTAR; THE LIGHT OF THE MOON; CRAZY FAMOUS; BREAKING BROOKLYN; EXTREMELY LOUD. **INCREDIBLY CLOSE; THE WOLF OF WALL STREET; THE BOURNE LEGACY;** CATFIGHT.

ORANG





CATE BLANCAFLOR (Marnie) is an actor based in Washington, DC. She began studying with the Barrow Group in 2021 and is delighted to make her film debut as Marnie in FERB. Offscreen, Cate works in technology policy and can often be found knitting.



LLOYD EKPE (Damon) is a classically trained actor who has performed a range of characters from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (King Claudius) to new works like 'She Like Girls' (Andre Dupree) by Chisa Hutchinson. A recent graduate from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a BFA in Acting, he is interested in performing on stage and on screen. Lloyd can be seen in Bunk the Scavenger, an Independent film premiering on Amazon Prime in 2022. He will also be playing Joseph Asagai in Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore. He is a recent fan of Frank Hebert's Dune and an aspiring screenwriter. He plays the guitar, bass and drums on occasion and has a passion for movement and dance. Lloyd is looking forward to a career of telling complex human stories that inspire compassion and empathy, and to play a character in Apple TV+ Ted Lasso.



RASHEED GREEEN (Salon Worker) is an actor, writer and comedian based in Baltimore, Maryland. His critically acclaimed improv comedy shows have been performed on stages all over North America.



WASHINGTON HEIGHTS (Sammy's Nail Technician) is a drag performer based out of Baltimore, and has been around since 2014. During her career she's won several awards including Best Show Host, Best Drag Show (TBT at Grand Central 2018 & 2020, Wild N' Out Wednesday at Nobles 2021) and Drag Performer of the Year in 2018! Along with performing she is also a show and event producer for HAUS PARTY at The Manor. She is also the captain for a Stonewall Baltimore Kickball team; Bing, Bang, Barbz. Heights graduated from Towson University with a degree in Sports Management & Marketing, minoring in Business Administration.



EMILY KRANKING (Linda) made her film debut in last year's indie darling *Best Summer Ever* as Nancy with Shannon Devido, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaad, and Benjamin Bratt. She recently graduated from the Honors Acting Conservatory at The Theatre Lab in DC, and starred in their productions of Reunion, The Miracle Worker, Playing for Time, and Radium Girls. As a disability activist with cerebral palsy, Emily recently began her Master's program in Disability Studies at the City University of New York. She's thrilled to be in a short film that honors her native home city of Baltimore. @emilykranking



STEALYA MANZ (Yolanda's Nail Technician) Darius K. McKeiver a.k.a. "Stealya Manz" is a Baltimore native, performance artist, director, and arts advocate. They earned their B.A. in Integrated Arts at the University of Baltimore. This is both Darius and Stealya's film debut.



SABRINA UMSTEAD (Party Goer) is a 19 year old, 18TPY actress, and an overall 'girl next door!' Sabrina has trained since December 2020 with the lovely Carlyncia Peck doing individual training and coaching sessions, but has had a passion for this art from an early age doing many theatre productions in Elementary school and up. Her other passions that give her the real world experience needed for acting lie in nature, working with kids, violin, and more!



CORA YACKSHAW (Candy Girl) is a tenacious youngster with a passion for candy. She enjoys dancing, staying up too late, and mac & cheese. Cora is thrilled to mark FERB as her acting debut!



MISTY YACKSHAW (Yoga Mom) is a dancer and choreographer with the Baltimore-based Full Circle Dance Company. Recent projects include DISSONANCE, a dance film dedicated to our health care workers, as well as an upcoming project on aging supported in part by a Mark Ryder Original Choreography Grant from Howard County Arts Council. FERB is her acting debut.





HARRIS DORAN (Director. Writer. Producer. Editor) wrote/directed the feature film BEAUTY MARK which earned the 'Breakout Performance' Jury Prize for lead actress at its LA Film Festival premiere, Best Ultra Indie Film Award at the Woodstock Film Festival, Best Feature Film Audience Award at Austin Film Festival, and for which he was shortlisted for the Film Independent Spirit Awards' Someone to Watch Award. He recently edited the Audio Feature Film GHOSTWRITER starring Kate Mara and Adam Scott for C13Features and Endeavor Content, and wrote, directed and adapted the film/theatre hybrid I SEE YOU AND YOU SEE ME for Queens Theatre which premiered on PBS/WNET. Harris's short film THE STORY OF MILO & ANNIE featuring Academy Award nominee Cathy Moriarty won the Indie Memphis Film Festival and he produced the short film PHOTO OP which won best LGBTQ short in SENE. He wrote/directed the satirical webseries "The lvanka Diaries" as well as the narrative/doc feature THIS MOVIE WILL **GET INTO SUNDANCE.**

Harris conceived and wrote the political concert BROADWAY BLUE WAVE FOR NY directed by Tony Winner Rachel Chavkin, starring Taylor Schilling, Edie Falco, Laura Benanti, MJ Rodriguez, Cynthia Nixon, et al. and created the "Know Your Rights" series for New York Transgender Advocacy Group. He wrote the stage musicals WASP WOMAN, SALVAGE, and BLEEDING LOVE, which was released as a podcast musical, directed and edited by him, and was one of the top Performing Arts podcasts in the country. Harris wrote lyrics for Marion Raven's "Falling Away" (#1 European Billboards) along with Freddy Wexler and Arthur Lafrentz Bacon, wrote the sitcom "Reenact" for TWST and was a writer on Lifetime's series "I Love You, But I Lied".

Harris has written the screenplays ATTICUS BROWN IS STILL HERE (Tribeca and Hamptons Sloan grant finalist, Sundance second rounder, developed at the Nantucket Screenwriters Colony), COG (Academy Nicholl Fellowship quarterfinalist), IN THE WAKE (Austin semifinalist), TONE-DEAF, SECOND ACTS, and AN UNOFFICIAL OF MICE & MEN REMAKE. Harris is on the Alumni Advisory Committee of the Nantucket Screenwriters Colony.

Harris trained as an actor at The Juilliard School and was seen as one of the leads of Erin Greenwell's MY BEST DAY (Sundance 2012). He has been an acting coach for 15 years, and is an adjunct professor in the MFA Film Department at Columbia University where he teaches both Directing the Actor, and Acting for Screenwriters & Directors. Harris lives with his boyfriend Matthew in NYC. www.harrisdoran.com



DORIS CASAP (Producer, Executive Producer) is the Founder and CEO of MOTHER FILMS. After 25+ years in Film Acquisition at HBO, she launched MOTHER FILMS, an independent production, sales and advisory company, based in NYC. Doris could not be more thrilled to have her first original project be "F^¢K '€M R!GHT B@¢K", with the incredibly exciting DDm and the multi-talented Harris Doran, the realization of a longstanding goal to bring DDm to the screen, where he belongs.

In the first year of MOTHER FILMS, Doris executive produced and sold (to Amazon and Peacock) "A Most Beautiful Thing", a documentary depicting the journey of the country's first all-Black rowing team, a group of high schoolers from Chicago's West Side. Other EPs include Dwayne Wade and Grant Hill. AMBT is narrated by Common, with original tracks produced by award winning rap producer, 9th Wonder and directed by award winning film director, Mary Mazzio. Doris was a consulting producer and sales distributor (sold to Showtime) of "SURGE", a documentary about the surge of female candidates in the 2018 Midterms and the triumphant victory of now- Representative Lauren Underwood, the youngest Black woman ever in Congress, with Executive Producers, Alyssa Milano and Katie Couric. She is the Executive Producer of "Red Pill", written and directed by Tony Award winning actress, Tonya Pinkins, a political horror movie which premiered during the 2021 Pan African Film Festival in Feb/Mar 2021 and is being released on December 3rd on multiple platforms, including iTunes, Prime Video and Direct TV, after receiving glowing coverage in a growing number of publications and platforms, running the gamut from Forbes to Black Girl Nerds and more. Tonya's political horror film tells the story of a posse of Progressives who ride into red country armed with idealism on the eve of the 2020 Election, when they should have brought heavy artillery.

At HBO, Doris led film strategy, content sourcing, curation and licensing for all channels of HBO and CINEMAX. She oversaw all film licensing, sourced from producers, indies and major studios. She led complex, long-term output deals, focused on 'futureproofing' HBO as it evolved from standalone linear networks (HBO/MAX) to multi-channel, multi-platform offerings, On Demand offerings, to HBO GO and HBO Now, for digital and linear distribution.

Through this work, Doris developed and enjoys longstanding relationships with studios, filmmakers, producers and independent distributors of filmed programming, including films, series, shorts, comedy and music. Doris was also responsible for the programming model and execution of the model for HBO Latino. In addition to films, she oversaw the acquisition and commission of HBO Latino branded music programming. Awards included a Latin Grammy for Sony Music for music special "En Letra de Otro" with Pedro Capo, which led to a series of specials including "En Letra de Otro" with Farruko. Concerts included Carlos Santana, Gilberto Santa Rosa ,Gente de Zona, Juanes and more.

Doris is on the board of Screenwriters Circle. She is an advisor to Second Act Women as well as Team TLC New York. She has been an activist for the promotion of social just and liberal causes, including the election of women, immigration and voting rights. Doris was born in Bolivia, where she has a beloved extended family. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, two sons, and their Miniature Pinscher (King) Freddy.



JAMES A. BURKHALTER (Producer) is a Baltimore-based filmmaker, screenwriter, and educator. His films have been honored at the Baltimore International Black Film Festival, the Black Femme Supremacy Film Festival, and the LGBTQ Unbordered International Film Festival, among others. He holds a dual Bachelor of Arts in Documentary Film Studies and English from Gettysburg College and a Master of Fine Arts in Filmmaking from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). He is currently serving as the "Producer-in-Residence" for MICA's Filmmaking graduate program in Baltimore, MD.



HALEY GEFFEN (Producer) Haley Geffen is a six-time Emmy awardwinning director and filmmaker with a focus on comedy,

celebrities and underrepresented voices. She is also the co-founder of Coed Studios based in Brooklyn, NY.

Recently, Haley directed a Dove campaign centered around empowering women and self-love during the pandemic. She was also selected by NBC to direct two long-form shows centered around the life and legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Haley also directed and enjoyed a prosperous film festival run for her short film Hey Girl garnering 12 global awards including 2020's Best Shorts Humanitarian Award.

Her directing work has been featured multiple times in Free the Work including the latest article on Motherhood and Directing. Haley has two daughters and a husband. She keeps all of them in a small zoo in Brooklyn under the care of her dog Gizmo.



TYLER DAVIS (Director of Photography) has been working as a Baltimore-based freelance cinematographer, director, and camera operator for 10 years. He has a long history with DIY filmmaking and music videos, and this regularly influences him today on much larger projects like the Sundance 2021 feature film "Strawberry Mansion". If he's not traveling or shooting, Tyler is probably working on his music project Lathe.



RIC SCHNUPP (Supervising Sound Editor/Re-Recording Mixer) is an Emmy and CAS Award Winning Re-Recording Mixer, Sound Designer, and Supervising Sound Editor based in New York City. He is a graduate of Emerson College, member of Local 700 Motion Picture Editor's Guild, and the Cinema Audio Society. He is most known for his work on "Midsommar," directed by Ari Aster, "Sharp Stick," directed by Lena Dunham, "Brittany Runs A Marathon," directed by Paul Downs Colaizzo, and the Oscar Award winning documentary "Free Solo," directed by Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin. A travel hobbyist, when not in the studio he can be found field recording and photographing different countries around the world.



CAMILA FRANCO RIBIERO GOMIDE (Production Sound Mixer) works as a production sound mixer and boom operator based out of Baltimore, MD, USA. She was born and raised in Ilhéus, Brazil. Camila's work has appeared on Netflix, National Geographic, Bleacher Report, BET, amongst others. She's also worked on commercials for Google, Ford, Gatorade, and independent projects in the US and Brazil. Camila is also a member of the ABC, the Brazilian Association of Cinematography as a sound mixer. In her free time she likes to spend time with Jordan, her wife, and their dog, sunny.



SPENCER GRUNDLER (Gaffer) is a cinematographer and photographer, based in Baltimore and New York. For over a decade he has had experience in everything from the DIY art scene, commercial advertising, documentary, and independent film-making. He is also the owner and operator Bedlam Films, a film production company.



DANNY McCREA (Assistant Director) is a young Baltimore-based filmmaker, writer, and photographer. Danny has written and directed several short films himself, in addition to being the 1st AD on multiple productions across the country, including an upcoming feature film in New York. He has been a working freelance videographer in Maryland for the past three years and has shot a multitude of concerts, festivals, and weddings for clients. Danny is also in the process of starting his own production company with two other filmmakers from Baltimore and aims to direct his first feature film in the next few years.



CHRISTINE FILS AIME (Hair & Makeup Supervisor) is a licensed cosmetologist and entrepreneur working in the tri-state DMV area. She was the hair & makeup stylist on the award-winning short film, Dreams Of My Father (2021). Christine's biggest joy in life is making other people happy. Her favorite movies are Set It Off and anything by Tyler Perry. IG: @krissykazmo_



BRANDON ARMSTRONG (Camera Assistant) is a photographer and videographer based in Baltimore, MD. He aspires to be a cinematographer one day and has a long road ahead of him. If he's not working he's either taking something apart or window shopping for a new camera.



JACK BELL (Art Department Coordinator) is a Baltimore based Art Director and Set Designer. His resume includes working for networks such as Showtime, Disney and brands such as Pepsi and Uber. His most recent credit was Assistant Props Master on the independent feature "The Road To Galena". He holds a Bachelors Degree of Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College and currently freelances fulltime between tv-shows, features, short films and commercials.



MICHAEL BITTNER (Assistant Editor/DIT/Camera PA) is a versatile production freelancer and filmmaker based in Baltimore, MD. He has experience working in a variety of productions, which include commercials, corporate videos, a web series, and numerous short films. Michael's heart lies in independent filmmaking, and he plans to use his specialties in cinematography and storytelling to forward his goal of helping bring independent visions to life.



GILLIAN GOODWIN (Production Assistant) earned her Bachelor's degree from Kennesaw State University and graduated from the Georgia Film Academy in 2020. She is wrapping up her first year in MICA's Filmmaking MFA program. Her thesis film (to be released in 2022) explores the long history of medical negligence toward black women. Her filmmaking idols include Ava DuVernay, Steven Spielberg, and Spike Lee.



JEFF KYLE (Colorist & Compositor) is a New York City based Flame Artist who specializes in high-end commercial finishing, beauty retouch, and color grading. When he's not color grading short films or finishing commercials, you can find him happily riding his bike around Queens, Manhattan, and Brooklyn.



CAMRYN A. MARTIN (Script Supervisor) is a Baltimore-based filmmaker and screenwriter. She is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Electronic Media and Film. She is a senior at Towson University.

CREDITS

F^¢K '€M R!GHT B@¢K

Directed by HARRIS DORAN

Written by HARRIS DORAN EMMANUEL 'DDm' WILLIAMS

> Produced by DORIS CASAP HARRIS DORAN JAMES BURKHALTER HALEY GEFFEN

> Executive Produced by DORIS CASAP

Cinematography by TYLER DAVIS

Edited by HARRIS DORAN

CAST

Sammy	Emmanuel 'DDm' Williams
Yolanda	Kara Young
Shiela	Catherine Curtin
Damon	Lloyd Ekpe
Linda	Emily Kranking
Marnie	Cate Blancaflor
Sammy's Nail Technician	Washington Heights
Yolanda's Nail Technician	Stealya Manz
Yoga Mom	Misty Yackshaw
Party Goer	Sabrina Umstead
Candy Girl	Cora Yackshaw
Female Office Worker	Gillian Goodwin
Male Office Worker	Michael Bittner
Homeless Punk	Jack Bell
Salon Sweeper	Rasheed Green

First Assistant Director	Danny McCrea
Script Supervisor	Camryn Martin
Art Department Coordinator	Jack Bell
Gaffer	Spencer Grundler
Camera Assistant	Brandon Armstrong
Camera PA/DIT/Assistant Editor	
Production Sound Mixer	Camila Franco Ribeiro Gomide
DDm and Ms. Young's Wardrobe by	Emmanuel 'DDm' Williams
Hair & Makeup Supervisor	Christine Fils Aime
Hair Extensions by	Idris Brown
Production Assistant	Gillian Goodwin
COVID Coordinator	Tosha Potter
Budget Creation	Emma Hannaway
Colorist & Compositing by	Jeff Kyle
Supervising Sound Editor/ Re-Recording Mixer	Ric Schnupp

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