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A FILM BY DAVID J. BUCHANAN

BLACK IN MINNEAPOLIS



LOGLINE

A Black man witnesses a police officer murder his brother during a routine traffic stop and responds by igniting a movement to fight police violence.

SYNOPSIS

Back In Minneapolis is a modern-day Malcolm X story, told through the eyes of a Black man who witnesses his brother's murder by police during a routine traffic stop. He responds to the murder by generating a movement of Black people to fight against systemic oppression and police violence through community organizing, political policy, and force.

LINKS

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[#blackinminneapolis](#)



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Am I going to live?" is a thought that every Black person in America, including myself, has had when they are pulled over by the police. I had been thinking about the ideas in *Black In Minneapolis* for years, and when I saw the Facebook Live video of Philando Castile as he was murdered by Minneapolis police, I put pen to paper and wrote the script.

Black In Minneapolis was filmed mainly in Minneapolis, where I grew up, and parts of St. Paul with a local cast and crew. This is the first time I've made a politically charged film, and I wanted to ground the fiction of the story in reality. I have a strong background in documentary filmmaking, so I took that knowledge and used it to interview real people about their experiences with law enforcement. The film is made up of these interviews spliced between the narrative portions of the film.

It is my responsibility as a filmmaker to use my tools and resources to create a catalyst for change and a call to unite my community. We have power when we stand together as a Black community, which we don't always realize. We often forget where we came from and why we're here. And in order for us to re-recognize why it's important to stand together, and why it's important to take care of your Black neighbors, we need to see ourselves through our own lens, not the white media's. Ultimately, the hope is for this story to resonate within the Black community for years to come.



CAST



TOUSSAINT MORRISON | JOSEPH

Toussaint Morrison is an Emmy Award-winning musician, actor, and director whose films and episodic series have addressed themes such as the African-American identity, being racially ambiguous in predominantly white communities, and living in an underserved and neglected neighborhood. More than a modicum of his influence stems from his childhood growing up in a single-parent household, where Morrison was privy to visiting his mother's work at many a hospital where she worked as a cancer nurse. Themes of mortality, serving end-of-life experience, and quality of life undoubtedly weave themselves into Morrison's work, whether he likes to be conscious of it or not.



GEOFF BRILEY | DEREK

Geoff Briley was born into a troubled family crippled with generational patterns of domestic and substance abuse. Amidst being shuttled back and forth between blended families, navigating the urban jungle of east St. Paul, and doing his best to function in dysfunctional circumstances, Geoff turned to creativity for an outlet. He realized at an early age that he wanted to make an impact on his own community, as well as bridge the gaps between varying socioeconomic and ethnic groups through his creative skill set. After years of being singled out for his unique and dynamic personality and stage presence, he ventured into the world of acting and has been in commercials and indie roles in Minnesota.

Pursuing acting while being a full time dad has come with unique challenges, but it is also the driving force behind Geoff's determination. He has never forgotten his mission to not only unite people from all walks of life but also to help them understand that our similarities as human beings far outweigh the differences society has placed upon us.

CREW



DAVID J. BUCHANAN | WRITER, DIRECTOR

David J. Buchanan is a Minneapolis-based writer/director whose work includes *Rideshare*, *See You Soon*, and the newly acclaimed feature film, *Black In Minneapolis*. David started his career in documentary filmmaking at fourteen years old, and his work includes many localized stories around social justice. At fifteen, he won the Screenlabs Challenge Audience Award at Screenwriters' Workshop, where he developed his screenplays. At twenty, he worked on his first commercial project, where he learned about the craft of lighting. He has written over 15+ feature films, 35+ shorts, worked on 300+ docs, 100+ commercials, and 20+ feature films.



SENAY MATEWOS | PRODUCER

Senay Matewos is a local Producer to Minneapolis, MN, who graduated with a Degree in Sociology and Media Studies with a focus on Film. He believes storytelling is the way we pass on our knowledge from generation to generation. As a producer, he wants to facilitate an environment that encourages that.



ALISON GUESSOU | PRODUCER

As a filmmaker, Guessou's aim is to tell those stories that are not often told, and to bring to light the characters that we rarely see. Her belief in having diverse perspectives represented behind the camera will add to today's narrative landscape. Prior to filmmaking, Guessou worked as a Project Manager for multiple agencies. With a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Master's in Project Management, she used her extensive education and vast array of real world experience to launch Djini Productions, a company dedicated to enhancing the dynamics of film production. Guessou's directorial work has been selected to festivals all around the world. Guessou's credits include the 10-time festival

nominated short film *911*; and 4-time nominated short film *What Marilyn Didn't Know*. She is currently in post-production on the short film *Happily Married After*, and working towards her first feature film *E.I.* (working title).

MUSIC



DEVON ANTHONY JOHNSON | SCORE COMPOSER

Storytelling through music is my passion. Extracting the essence of the story is my goal while composing. I welcome the challenge of a new project and the opportunity to experiment with new genres. When music becomes one with film it takes us out of our reality and we remember what we felt during scenes. The score helps achieve this and only then is the project a true success. I also produce genres such as Hip Hop, R&B and Electronic which are an extension of who I am musically but the difference in the creative process is like night day. I love them both equally and often switch between styles. It's all music at the end of the day and that's what I love. Thank you for listening.



TRYBISHOP | SONGWRITER

Tracks: Close My Eyes, All My Life

Jeremy Hicks was born on September 19th, 1988 and is known professionally as "TRYBISHOP". The Minnesota artist writes, raps, sings, engineers/records, mixes/master and produces his own records that have a sound and rhythm truly unique from all others. He is best known for producing / co-writing / engineering / mixing / mastering Akon on "BENJAMIN," the lead single off of Akon's "KONNECT" album, and producing & co-writing Koryn Hawthorne's latest singles "PRAY" and "SPEAK TO ME," which both went #1 on Billboard's gospel digital sales.

TryBishop has also produced with Childish Major on Jeezy's "SEEN IT ALL: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY" with co-production on the second half of SZA's "GREEN MILE" record. TryBishop has worked with and also released a full length project with Chrisan of (RIGHT NOW SOUND). You know TryBishop has something to do with it when you hear the infectious siren followed by his "TRYBISHOP" tag. TryBishop is featured as a producer/artist with the legendary Erick Sermon on his "VERNIA" album with No Malice on "GO".

TryBishop is not only a breath of fresh air he also has a very wide range of topics he discusses in his music from political and social awareness to relationships and personal beliefs. TryBishop has released a song with multi-platinum selling artist T-Pain called "THING NOW".

Although new to the scene, TryBishop has worked with and also been featured on albums with industry legends such as Akon, Erick Sermon, and John L. Nelson (Prince's Father).



ANTONIO A&R RICHARDSON | SONGWRITER

Tracks: No Problems (Run), BLACK, Unite, 1 Nation

Antonio "A&R" Richardson is a recording artist, producer, writer, actor, screenwriter, and filmmaker, just to name a few. The Ultimate Creative is what he likes to call himself. Born and raised in St. Paul, MN, A&R has built an impressive career stemming from out of the box thinking and a second to none work ethic. *"My goal is to always create whatever is not currently present in the world. I was built be myself, so that spills into everything that I do,"* says A&R.

Most recently, A&R served as a Music Contributor to the film *Black In Minneapolis*, directed by David Buchanan, which features 4 original songs written, produced, and performed by A&R. Antonio created the selection of songs after being given the script by Devon Johnson, who scored the entire film. *"I study everything, and musically Outkast is a very big influence for me. When they were making the music for their film Idlewild, they would read the script and create songs from different scenes in the script. That's the same approach I took for Black In Minneapolis. Devon would send me scenes of the script, and then I would create beats from how the scenes made me feel, then I would write the songs feeding off of the dialog. It was an incredible experience,"* he says.

A&R is currently finalizing the script for his directorial debut while also putting the finishing touches on his next musical project titled "FIRST DAY IN A NEW LIFE." You can follow A&R on Instagram [@anrmusic](https://www.instagram.com/anrmusic).



CREDITS

Written and Directed by

David J. Buchanan

Cast (in credits order)

Toussaint Morrison	...	Joe
Geoff Briley	...	Derek
Malick Ceesay	...	Cole
Addison Pennington	...	Head Officer
Matt Cedarberg	...	Trainee Officer
Valerie Rose	...	Selma
Charla Marie Bailey	...	Georgina
Amanda Day	...	News Anchor
N'Namdi Andersen	...	Field Reporter
Connor Nelson	...	News Camera
Kiara Jackson	...	Roshida
Gino Terrell	..	Protester
Miles Patton-Cross	...	Protester
Leonard Searcy	...	Marcus
Rod Kasai	...	Lamar
Krista Barnes	...	Secretary
Paul Economon	...	Raid Police
James Wilsford	...	Raid Police

Rest of cast listed alphabetically:

Chris Clay	...	Self - Interviewee
Zach Damond-Midnight	...	Self - Interviewee
D'Azhane Felder-Johnson	...	Self - Interviewee
Michael Jemison	...	Self - Interviewee

Robert Nabors	...	Self - Interviewee
Derek Pearson	...	Self - Interviewee

Produced by

David J. Buchanan	...	executive producer
Alison Guessou	...	producer
Senay Matewos	...	producer

Music by

Devon Anthony Johnson

Film Editing by

Sarah Maude-Griffin
Koowa Rain

Costume Design by

Joni Hathaway Jones

Makeup Department

Paige Fetter	...	makeup artist
Ryan Schaddelee	...	special makeup effects artist

Second Unit Director or Assistant Director

Carrie Bush	...	assistant director
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Sound Department

Layne Bellamy II	...	sound editor
Owen Brafford	...	sound mixer
Nick Christopulos	...	sound mixer
Hyun Lee	...	sound mixer
Jennilee Park	...	sound mixer

Camera and Electrical Department

J.C. Calubayan	...	grip
Andrew Dammer	...	gaffer
Zach Green	...	grip
Travis Higgins	...	camera operator
Kevin Horn	...	camera operator
Keith Moechnig	...	assistant camera
Dave Palm	...	gaffer
Matt Porter	...	grip
Jonn Robinet	...	additional photography
Chad Scheuneman	...	assistant camera
Max Sjöberg	...	grip
D.J. Stephenson	...	grip

Costume and Wardrobe Department

Joni Hathaway Jones ... costumer

Script and Continuity Department

Amanda Yates ... script supervisor

Other crew

Oleksandra Ranchuk ... production assistant

Ahxuen Ybarra ... production assistant

Thanks

Mickayla Bakke ... special thanks

TECHNICAL SPECS

Runtime 1 hr 20 min (80 min)

Color Color (narrative) | Black and White (interviews)

Aspect Ratio 1.90 : 1

Camera RED Weapon Helium 8K

Zeiss Otus Lenses

Process Redcode RAW