

### Statement of Purpose

I developed an affinity for film creation at a relatively young age. I have a strong passion for visual arts and believe my vivid imagination is one of my greatest assets. I was born in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York to a first-generation American mother of Trinidadian descent, and a Guyanese father. I grew up in a small, racially-diverse North Jersey town named Roselle in the suburban outskirts of New York City. In my neighborhood, the schools don't offer creative writing and media programs. There was no emphasis on the arts. I played clarinet in the band, which was relegated to an optional 0-period class. After expressing interest in film, I was enrolled in a weekend class at the New Jersey School of Dramatic Arts in Bloomfield. However, it was when I was gifted the Flip Video Ultra HD, a pocket-sized, AA-battery powered camcorder that my true passion was realized. My interest quickly changed to the development of film. I wrote and filmed a silent horror short starring my sister and her friend, completing the video editing with freeware options.

Years later, I purchased a Canon 80D, ironically, this is the same camera I currently use at my Photography job with Picture People. Much like film, photography is visual; it affords immortality and inspires the imagination. Clients schedule shoots and eventually purchase the photos that show them how they wish to be seen. This is an important factor demonstrating why there is a need for more people of color behind the scenes in television and film production. The creator of the story, and the person behind the camera have the power to display how we see ourselves, and how we wish to be seen.

Over the years, I took steps to further build my competencies and service offerings as an entrepreneur. I invested in cameras, lenses, lighting equipment, gimbals and a series of other items to aid in offering affordable photography and videography services. My undergraduate RTF

studies were complimented with public relations for an emphasis on visual storytelling and branding based on the MAC triad (message, audience, and channel). In my role as a Digital Content Contributor at Rowan University, I documented events and student-life to show the school in a positive light. As Epistoleus of the Theta Mu Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. I manage the social media accounts and digital assets with photos and social video. In each role, I was responsible for all aspects from concept to completion. In independent filmmaking, various hats must be worn at the same time, and through graduate study, I plan to enhance my knowledge and application of various elements involved in the filmmaking process.

We live in an age of new media and technology. Overall, this is an exciting time for creators. The equipment used to create films became increasingly affordable and accessible, the internet provides a large platform for word of mouth promotion and media services providers such as Netflix, Amazon offer additional options for films produced outside the major film studio system. Additionally, more women are rising to prominence and sharing their stories and gifts. Throughout my educational journey, I've worked with talented female creatives on projects, in addition to having female professors for my Screenwriting and Media Aesthetics courses. It is my interest and mission to work toward fostering a culture of inclusion in television and film. I have bright hopes for my future, and understand what I stand for is much larger than myself. There is value in each of our experiences; women need to find our own voices, control the narrative and take ownership of our portrayal in film.

My future plans include attending graduate school, and developing independent female-centric, socially conscious films. In an ideal world, I would obtain an MFA in Film and pursue a career as a director and creative producer. This will consist of book-to-film adaptations and original stories with intimate, emotional accounts of real-life events. I would also like to teach Media Arts and

Film, however, I am still determining age range and capacity. For several years, I volunteered and served as a mentor at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, NJ. Through this experience, I developed an affinity for working with young black and Latino students. With a school or non-profit organization, I would like to provide hands-on, interactive, experiential learning that blends creative arts with technology. My community service endeavors and work as a Media / Film Production Intern at Inspimind provided additional opportunities to engage with students.

As an radio, television, film: production student, I worked in a collaborative environment and took courses such as Screenwriting, New Media Production, Sound for Film and Video, Post-Production and Applied Media Aesthetics. I received a balanced curriculum consisting of theory, hands-on practical applications and social sciences. I believe this will allow me to hit the ground running. I am a talented shooter and creative editor with a deep passion for film and storytelling. I am proficient in the use of Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, After Effects, Capture One and Premiere Pro. My undergraduate studies and freelance experiences provided a strong foundation for camera operation, sound design, editing and multimedia.