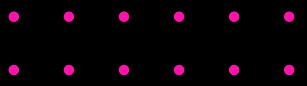


FILMS

2025 SOCIAL IMPACT STORIES

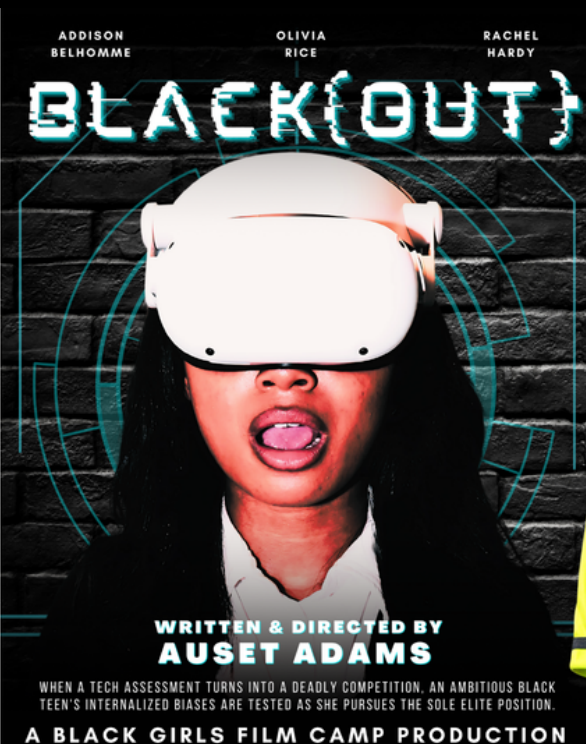


IMPACT AREA: MENTAL HEALTH/ECONOMIC MOBILITY

BLACK(OUT) BY AUSET ADAMS

OLIVIA RICE, PRODUCTION COACH | RACHEL HARDY, EDITOR

ADDISON BELHOMME, ALUMNI COACH | RACHEL HARDY, CINEMATOGRAPHER | AZURI VALLATINE, ALUMNI CREW MEMBER



"BLACK(OUT)" is a psychological thriller that follows a high school senior who enters a social experiment where other's lives, her identity as a Black girl, and self acceptance are at stake.



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SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS



SCHOLAR ADVISOR: DR. MICHELLE MEGGS

Dr. Michelle Meggs earned her doctoral degree in Humanities with a concentration in Africana Women's Studies from Clark Atlanta University. Dr. Meggs' research focuses on amplifying the voices of women and girls in academic discourse, particularly through the lens of Womanist thought and community engagement. Most recently, Dr. Meggs served as Executive Director of the Women + Girls Research Alliance (W+GRA) at the UNC Charlotte. In this role, she led initiatives to improve the lives of women and girls in the greater Charlotte metropolitan area.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: KARA TURRENTINE

Kara Turrentine made the leap from the corporate marketing world to politics in 2014 with a focus on direct mail after launching an award winning boutique firm based in her hometown of Nashville, TN. Kara made her name by developing winning political strategies for a wide range of local candidates, notably, State Senator Brenda Gilmore and Congressman Jim Cooper. Kara went on to work with high profile candidates throughout the midwest and across the Democratic spectrum including Bernie 2020, former State Senator Nina Turner and advocacy organizations including Pennsylvania Voice and the National Coalition of Black Civic Participation.

IMPACT AREA: MENTAL HEALTH

CRESCENDO BY GABRIELLE VANCE

SHAKARA AMES, PRODUCTION COACH | JORDAN KNIGHT, EDITOR |
JAIDA COX, ALUMNI COACH | BRIANNA DEVONS, CINEMATOGRAPHER



"Crescendo" is a story about a teen pianist mourning her uncle's death discovers an alternate universe where he's still alive, blurring the line between healing and holding on.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS

SCHOLAR ADVISOR: DR. JULIA JORDAN ZACHERY



Julia S. Jordan-Zachery is a professor and chair of the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Department at Wake Forest University. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on African American women and public policy. She is also the author of the award-winning books *Black Women, Cultural Images and Social Policy* (2009 Routledge) and *Shadow Bodies: Black Women, Ideology, Representation, and Politics* (Rutgers University Press, 2017) as well as several articles and edited volumes including *Black Girl Magic Beyond the Hashtag: Twenty-First-Century Acts of Self-Definition* (University of Arizona Press, 2019). Jordan-Zachery was awarded the Accinno Teaching Award, Providence College (2015-2016). Jordan-Zachery serves as the President of the Association for Ethnic Studies.

POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: REBECCA FEINGLOS



Rebecca Feinglos is a certified grief support specialist, startup founder, podcast host, and former state and local policy advisor. Rebecca founded Grieve Leave in 2021 as a way to document her experience on a year-long grief sabbatical, and process her own grief and loss. Through her podcast "Grief'd Up," Rebecca brings raw, honest conversations about loss into the open, featuring experts and storytellers who help make grief feel a little less lonely. She has been featured in LA Times, Fortune, TIME, HuffPost, Slate, ELLE, and more for her raw and revolutionary voice, inspiring a more grief-informed world.

IMPACT AREA: BODY OWNERSHIP

FIND ME IN THE VOID BY DENVER HUMPHREY

INDIA WALTON, PRODUCTION COACH | MUHYI ALI, PRODUCTION COACH | LAUREN MCGARRETT, EDITOR | KYLA HOLMES, ALUMNI COACH | B.P. EDWARDS, CINEMATOGRAPHER



"Find Me In The Void" is a supernatural mystery about a teen Black girl who uses astral projection and the support of her childhood best friend to solve her own case.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS



SCHOLAR ADVISOR: DR. APRYL A. ALEXANDER

Dr. Apryl A. Alexander is the Metrolina Distinguished Scholar and an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at UNC Charlotte. She also serves as Director of the UNC Charlotte Violence Prevention Center (VPC), which serves as a resource for transformative research, training, and technical assistance for communities, policymakers, and the public. She received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology with concentrations in forensic psychology and child and family therapy from the Florida Institute of Technology.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: CAROLYN OUYA

Carolyn Ouya is a dedicated, passionate, and forward-thinking leader committed to advancing mental health, public health, and sustainable development initiatives. Her work centers on creating safe, inclusive spaces that foster healing and empowerment. She currently serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships & Sustainability and Legal Advocate for Access Youth & Immigration Services—one of the largest workforce and victim services agencies in San Diego, California. Through collaborative, trauma-informed, and evidence-based approaches, she works to drive systemic change, holistic healing, and economic empowerment for marginalized communities. Currently, she is further honing her expertise as a graduate student in Marriage, Couples, and Family Therapy (MFT) at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

IMPACT AREA: ECONOMIC MOBILITY

REWINDED BY AALIYAH IDRISSE

ZURI JOHNSON, PRODUCTION COACH | JAZMINE BUNCH, EDITOR
CAMILLE S. RAMBERT, ALUMNI COACH | LISA JANAE, CINEMATOGRAPHER



"Rewinded" is a story about a 45-year-old Black woman who gave up on her dreams as a teen and embarks on a 2nd chance when she is rewinded back in time to live one day with her younger self in the 90s.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS



SCHOLAR ADVISOR: ERIN LEWIS HARDEN

Dr. Erin Lewis Harden is an educator, researcher, and leader committed to educational equity and improving student outcomes. She specializes in instructional design, program management, and professional learning, developing asset-based strategies that strengthen educator practice and student engagement. A published scholar and experienced facilitator, her work spans K–12 and higher education, focusing on culturally responsive teaching, instructional design, and college and career readiness. Currently, she serves as a Senior Manager, guiding programs that support and develop teachers to enhance instructional effectiveness and student success.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: VICKI SHABO

Vicki Shabo is a gender equity expert, policy advocate and coalition builder, who has helped to win paid leave, paid sick time, equal pay and pregnancy fairness policies affecting tens of millions of people. At New America, Shabo works closely with policymakers, advocates, researchers, and the private sector; is a resource to journalists; and advises entertainment-industry creatives on telling stories more reflective of people's lived experiences and shifting narratives about the role of government in advancing work-family justice and an inclusive economy.

IMPACT AREA: MENTAL HEALTH/ECONOMIC MOBILITY

BLANK BY MIRA JOHNSON

TIANA HOWARD, PRODUCTION COACH | CARNYA SUTTON, EDITOR
TERRYN PINDER, ALUMNI COACH | ANGELA UHEGWU, CINEMATOGRAPHER



"BLANK," is a coming-of-age story that explores the mental journey of a Black teen girl grappling with identity erasure from her predominantly white schooling as she faces the choice of whether to attend an HBCU after graduation.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS



SCHOLAR ADVISOR: DR. JANAKA LEWIS

Janaka Bowman Lewis, Ph.D. is Associate Dean, Curriculum and Student Success and Professor of English in the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences (CHESS) at UNC Charlotte. A Tedx 2021 speaker and author of *Freedom Narratives of African American Women, Light and Legacies: Black Girlhood and Stories of Liberation* as well as three children's books (*Brown All Over*, *Bold Nia Marie Passes the Test*, and *Dr. King is Tired, Too!!*), Lewis is founder of the Vanilla Bowman Foundation for Educational Impact (Ga.) and chairs the Board of Directors for Freedom School Partners, which provides literacy support for local students. She was in Charlotte Business Journal's "40 Under 40" 2020 class.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: DR. DENISE SMITH

Dr. Denise A. Smith is the deputy director of higher education policy and a senior fellow at The Century Foundation. Her groundbreaking research delves into educational equity, promoting diversity in a post-affirmative action society, the financing of HBCUs, and the pivotal role of government funding in empowering these institutions and their students' success. She has shed light on the glaring funding disparities facing HBCUs and the formidable challenges Black women encounter in accessing higher education. Dr. Smith's influential work has garnered attention from numerous members of Congress and state legislatures, spurring concrete steps to address these critical issues.

IMPACT AREA: MENTAL HEALTH

JUST-AS-POETIC BY KALAHARI LEWIS

RICKI NELSON, PRODUCTION COACH | SIANI JOHNSON, EDITOR
PRECIOUS FOREMAN, ALUMNI COACH | ANUP KULKARNI, CINEMATOGRAPHER



"Just-As-Poetic" is a psychological drama that follows a Black teen poet and her battle between silencing her voice or embracing her truth when she's selected for a poetry competition that has the power to change her life.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS



SCHOLAR ADVISOR: DR. ANNETTE TEASDELL

Grounding her research in over 15 years of experience in teaching at the post-secondary and secondary levels, Annette Teasdel believes in the transformative power of education. She is an Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at Clark Atlanta University. She holds a Master's Degree in African American Studies from Temple University, a Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education from UNC Charlotte, and a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Urban Education. Broadly speaking, her research is centered on the fundamental belief that culturally responsive pedagogy combined with a curriculum that is accurate, relevant, and appropriate, and whose educational processes are humane can yield improved student outcomes.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: MCKENNA SAMSON

McKenna Samson is the Education Policy Manager at PEN America on the Washington, D.C. Federal Team. She has a passion for literature and education, working to address issues such as book bans, academic censorship, campus protest rights, and free expression. Before working at PEN America, she got her start in the policy sphere while working at the New Jersey Senate Majority Office, fulfilling communication needs for seven members across the state. She gained exposure to local government while serving an appointed term on the Board of Trustees for the Mount Laurel (NJ) Library.

IMPACT AREA: BODY OWNERSHIP

STICKS AND STONES BY KENNEDY PRICE

IVI WICKS, PRODUCTION COACH | ANNALESE HERRIMAN, EDITOR
ALEXANDRA BONNER, ALUMNI COACH | ROCHELLE BROWN, CINEMATOGRAPHER



"Sticks and Stones," is a dramedy about a plus-size teen girl and aspiring field hockey player who struggles to overcome ridicule and body shaming while fighting to claim a spot on her high school varsity team.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS



SCHOLAR ADVISOR: DR. CHANEL CRAFT TANNER

Dr. Chanel Craft Tanner is the Director of the Women's Center at UVA, where her leadership centers on developing programs, events, and learning opportunities that confront and address gender inequity both at the university and beyond. A passionate advocate for social justice, Chanel's work focuses on fostering leadership, building partnerships for social change, and amplifying the voices and achievements of women in the academy. A member of the renowned Crunk Feminist Collective, she is also the co-author of *Feminist AF: A Guide to Crushing Girlhood* and serves on the board of Black Girls Film Camp.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: RAIONI MADISON, MS

Raioni Madison-Jones is the founder and Executive Director of 3D Girls, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to educate and empower young women to be advocates for themselves and their families. As a human service professional, she has been a pillar in the community for over 12 years, serving at-risk populations. Through grant writing, strategic planning and fundraising, Ms. Madison-Jones strives to challenge and expose our communities to a healthier, more productive, and fulfilling lives. As a consultant, her clients range from public and private community organizations to educational institutions. It is through this work that she is able to shape and mold the visions of her clients into reality.

IMPACT AREA: MENTAL HEALTH

DAY ONE BY KHLOE HICKS

JAMIE ARIELLE, PRODUCTION COACH | GEORGIA JENKINS, EDITOR

MARLEY JONES, ALUMNI COACH | EDGAR ROMERO, CINEMATOGRAPHER | DARIA STRACHAN, ALUMNI CREW MEMBER



"Day One," is a psychological comedy about a teenage girl battling depression who becomes trapped in a time loop, reliving the same day repeatedly until she is forced to make a change when the lives of the people she loves are at stake.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS

SCHOLAR ADVISOR: DR. BRITTANY PRIOLEAU

Dr. Prioleau is an Assistant Professor at Mercer University and owner of Cultivate & Bloom Wellness LLC. She earned her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from UNC Charlotte and has over a decade of experience. A Licensed Mental Health Counselor in GA with ACS, NCC, and CIMHP credentials, she specializes in serving historically underserved populations through holistic wellness approaches. She directs the Multicultural Wellness Enhancement Research Lab, focusing on social justice advocacy, mental health awareness, trauma-informed care, and multicultural wellness counseling. Her research explores race-related stress, complementary therapies, and psychedelic-assisted therapy.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: AKERI BATTLE, LMHC, CRC

Akeri Batle is a dedicated and compassionate mental health professional with a Master's degree in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling, specializing in Mental Health. Since earning her degree in 2018, Akeri has obtained a Licensure in Mental Health Counseling and spent over six years empowering individuals on their journey toward healing and personal growth. With extensive experience in counseling individuals, groups, families, children, adolescents, adults, and veterans, she provides a supportive and tailored approach to mental wellness. With a deep passion for mental wellness and a commitment to helping others thrive, she empowers clients to navigate life's challenges with confidence and clarity.



IMPACT AREA: MENTAL HEALTH

UNDER PRESSURE BY KAI KNIGHTS

JEWEL BAKER, PRODUCTION COACH | KANDACE TUGGLE, EDITOR

CARIS PRYOR, ALUMNI COACH | KIM COHEN, CINEMATOGRAPHER | LANAA DANTZLER, ALUMNI CREW MEMBER



"Under Pressure," is a mockumentary that follows the story of a competitive teenage girl flag football player who struggles with feeling overshadowed by her teenage brother and teammate.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS



SCHOLAR ADVISOR: ALLYSON ROBINSON, MSW, LCSW

Allyson has thirteen years of experience as a Mental Health Therapist providing treatment that has included Intensive In-Home Services, Parenting Classes, Mobile Crisis Management, and Outpatient Therapy. After earning her Bachelor of Social Work Degree at UNC-Greensboro she pursued her Master of Social Work Degree at UNC-Charlotte. She is now a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (Lic.# C008871) in North Carolina and a Licensed Independent Social Worker- Clinical Practice (Lic.#11037) in South Carolina. Allyson specializes in treating depression, anxiety, Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder and provides couples and family counseling. In addition to mental health services, Allyson is also a trained Licensure Supervisor.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: WILL HILBERT

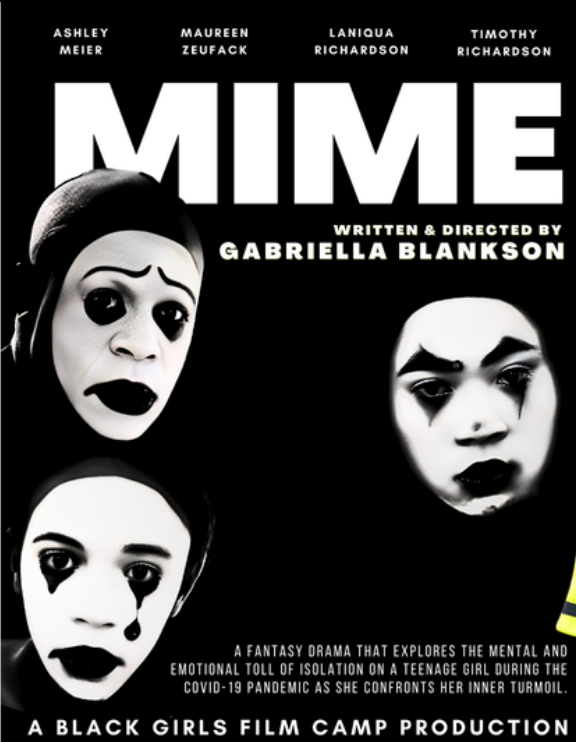
Will Hilbert believes that entertainment, media and storytelling have a major impact on how we perceive and talk about critical issues. These stories can captivate audiences while making them feel seen and supported. Will's role at The Jed Foundation (JED) is grounded in the knowledge that sharing stories can reduce shame, prejudice, and secrecy, and inspire teens and young adults to be proactive about their mental health while supporting others. Stories can improve and save lives.

IMPACT AREA: MENTAL HEALTH

MIME BY GABRIELLA BLANKSON

MAUREEN ZEUFACK, PRODUCTION COACH | LANIQUA RICHARDSON, EDITOR

ASHLEY MEIER, ALUMNI COACH | TIMOTHY RICHARDSON, CINEMATOGRAPHER | AVERY KELLEY, ALUMNI CREW MEMBER



"Mime," is a fantasy drama that explores the mental and emotional toll of isolation on a teenage girl during the COVID-19 pandemic as she confronts her inner turmoil.



WATCH NOW

SOCIAL IMPACT ADVISORS



SCHOLAR ADVISOR: DR. DIANA LOUIS

Dr. Diana Martha Louis' research explores the intersections of Disability Studies and Critical Race Studies, focusing on mental illness in African American life. Her current project, *Colored Insane: Slavery, Asylums, and Mental Illness in 19th-Century America*, examines how psychiatric discourses racialized insanity and inflicted psychological harm on African Americans within asylums, plantations, and jails. The book highlights how Black intellectuals challenged dominant psychiatric beliefs while exposing the lasting impact of these historical experiences.



POLICY/ORG ADVISOR: CHARLIE GROSS

Charlie Gross is a Brooklyn-based psychotherapist, photographer, and Co-Founder of Sounds of Saving, a nonprofit promoting mental health advocacy among youth and young adults. His recent work includes a residency at Kings County Psychiatric Hospital, where he used collaborative photography and oral history to share young-adult patients' mental health stories, published in *The New York Review of Books*. As a clinician, he has treated young adults with substance use and psychiatric disorders at Weill Cornell Medical Center and conducted research on psychotherapy for anxiety disorders. His work is published in *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* and *The Journal of Urban Health*.

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