



RIDING THE TIDES OF TRANSFORMATION

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA | JULY 27-29, 2025

Featured COMPASS Partner Films



“And We Rest on Giants”

November 2023

Kevin Anderson

Andersonk@truthprojecthtx.org

The T.R.U.T.H. Project, Inc.

Houston, TX

And We Rest on Giants is a 15-minute short documentary and love letter that offers an intimate, powerful exploration into the lives of people of color aging and thriving as long-term survivors of HIV. In communities too often silenced by stigma, this film becomes both a balm and a call to action—centering stories of resilience, truth, and radical joy. Through first-person narratives and layered spoken word, the film beautifully uplifts the lived experiences of those who continue to thrive unapologetically in the face of systemic neglect.

Awards/Nominations: Best Short Documentary – 2024 National Black Film Festival, 2024 Black Alphabet Film Festival, 2024 August Wilson Black Bottom Film Festival. 2nd Runner-up at the 2025 Black Auter Film Festival



“They Ain’t Coming to Save Us”

December 2024

Ian Haddock

ian@normalanomaly.org

The Normal Anomaly Initiative, Inc.

Houston, TX

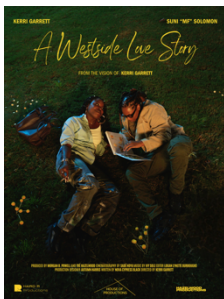
They Ain't Coming to Save Us is a film that documents the work done across Texas by Black LGBTQ+ people to develop a plan to ensure their lives and legacy amidst the sociopolitical climate they face within the state and the nation. Using powerful imagery, insightful conversation, and a mixture of emerging and established leaders, we document the creation of a plan for a community sustainability centering joy.

Awards/Nominations: London director’s Film Festival Recipient, Hollywood Indie Film Award, Funder for LGBT Film Festival Award



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“A Westside Love Story”

February 2025

Kerri Garrett

House of Productions – National Black Art Festival

info@kerrigarrett.com

Atlanta, GA

A mixed-up wing order sends two queer HBCU sophomores—Tatum, a fashion-loving criminal justice major born with HIV, and Zion, a non-binary documentary filmmaker—on an unforgettable impromptu first date through Atlanta’s West End. What begins as a hunger-driven mishap evolves into a surreal, emotional journey exploring love, identity, stigma, and connection within Black queer community. Before Sunrise meets Atlanta in this vibrant, genre-blending short that balances weighty themes with the warmth and joy of Black love.



“Art is Wellness: A Creative Force for Change”

2025

Crystal Nelson

saintpaulameehe@gmail.com

She Looks Like Me

Montgomery, AL

This documentary captures the transformative power of the *Art Is Wellness Festival*, a vibrant, multi-generational event honoring National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Blending creativity with public health, the film explores how art, collaboration, and community engagement can spark awareness and shift the conversation around HIV prevention. Through artist installations, live performances, expert panels, and on-site testing, *Art is Wellness* shows that when we meet people with imagination and intention, we can touch hearts, change minds, and move communities toward healing.