

blackstocking jenkins

a film by eric michael kochmer

with
rhomeyn johnson
shana gregory williams
catherine black
christopher demaci
bill ferris

featuring
music by
VATAVARAN



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2003, I was on the subway and dreamt up a poem called BLACKSTOCKING JENKINS, telling the story of an African-American blues musician stuck in limbo after being falsely accused of numerous crimes. As I re-envisioned it as a short film, the seven page poem turned into a thirty page screenplay.

My work focuses on themes of rootlessness, and my protagonists deal with unfamiliar circumstances in disagreeable atmospheres. With this film I wanted to explore systemic racism, but through a spare and personal perspective. My artistic bible is Peter Brook's "The Empty Space," so I value and encourage stylish minimalism.

In the editing room we discovered that the core of the movie was driven by Rhomeyn's (Blackstocking) performance rather than the spine of the written screenplay, so we chipped away at the story, allowing his interpretation to shape the final cut. In a cinematic sense, my thirty page screenplay became a seven page poem once again.

BLACKSTOCKING JENKINS is a love letter to absurdist theater and avant-garde filmmaking, as well as a study in disenfranchised alienation. The film is an elegy on the suffering of an individual soul, as well as an allegory for the oppression of an entire underrepresented class.

- Eric Michael Kochmer

LOGLINE

A down-and-out blues musician attempts to talk his way out of purgatory.

SYNOPSIS

Blackstocking Jenkins was a bluesman. He was strong. He had class. He had ideas.

The world had different ideas. Different plans. Witness the breakdown.

BLACKSTOCKING JENKINS is a meditation on racial identity and the tragedy of stolen dreams.



ERIC MICHAEL KOCHMER | WRITER / DIRECTOR

Kochmer is a filmmaker with a background in experimental theater, mentored under musical theater composer/playwright/director, Elizabeth Swados at LaMama Theatre. After creating and acting in avant-garde plays and starring in the early mumble-core film EVERYTHING UNSPOKEN (2004), he moved to Los Angeles and produced and starred in avant-garde filmmaker George Landow's film DIALOGUES (2009). Kochmer's directorial feature film debut WAY DOWN IN CHINATOWN can be found on several platforms including Amazon, and his second feature ABOUT STRANGERS will premiere summer 2018. Kochmer is in various stages of development on six films, has produced several films, including Apple Film Challenge's THE DANCER (2017) and is the Head of Production of the indie film collective We Make Movies.



SAPNA GANDHI | PRODUCER

Gandhi is an actor, producer, and singer-songwriter who's played a slew of ethnically ambiguous characters on stage, television, and film. Small screen credits include roles on SCANDAL (ABC), AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE (ABC) and HERE AND NOW (HBO). Films she can be seen in include indie cult feature, DUST UP and festival circuit darlings THUMPER and IN ABSENTIA. In an effort to negate being typecast, Gandhi co-wrote/co-produced/co-starred in **BROAD STROKES** (5 Days. 5 Themes. 5 Directors. 40 Comedic Micro-shorts) and has since then produced several films and series, including SCRAP (directed by Leena Pendharkar and starring Anthony Rapp). She also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the L.A. based film collective We Make Movies and is one half of the musical duo Vatavaran. Gandhi was born in England, raised all over The States, holds degrees in English and Women's Studies, and trained at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.



KIKO SUURA | CINEMATOGRAPHER

Suura moved to Southern California to study cinematography at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts and since graduating, has worked on numerous types of projects, both across the country and internationally, ranging from shorts, web-series, features, music videos, and reality TV shows. Some works include the award-winning, internationally popular web series OLD DOGS & NEW TRICKS, the award-winning short THE APPLE TREE, and the critically-acclaimed feature WAY DOWN IN CHINATOWN. Suura has also worked with major internet platforms such as BuzzFeed Video and Mythical Entertainment, creating and producing video content posted on multiple social media platforms such as Youtube, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat.



RHOMEYN JOHNSON | BLACKSTOCKING JENKINS

Johnson is a seasoned actor who has worked in television, film and theatre. He is also a prolific performer in TV commercials and voice overs. He has several films in post production and recent television credits include, HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER and SHOOTER. He is most proud of his work in BLACKSTOCKING JENKINS.



SHANA GREGORY WILLIAMS | SAMANTHA

Williams is an NYC theater trained actress, who has worked on plays such as *IN THE FIRST PLACE* (with Andre Rollo), and has worked with Absolute Theater Company founder Charles Drew, performing in the American Living Room Festival. She brought her many talents to the LA independent film scene over a decade ago and has been found slinging sex toys with Margaret Cho, playing alongside Danny Trejo in *AMELIA'S 25TH*, and streaming monthly as a sketch impresario in *TMI Hollywood* (an SNL style stage show and web series). Williams has shared the TMI stage and screen with talents Adam Ray, Jack Mc Gee, Patrick Gallagher, Melissa Peterman, Dot Jones, John Ellis, and Jonathan Lipnicki.



CATHERINE BLACK | THE GIRL

Black is a Canadian actress, artist, and filmmaker, best known for her roles as Vanden in *AMERICAN PSYCHO* and Ann Fosdick in *THE DONNER PARTY*. She's enjoyed multiple guest starring roles (most recently on *PLAYING HOUSE (USA)*), and has performed alongside Christian Bale, Malcolm McDowell, Crispin Glover, Peter Weller, Mark and Michael Polish, Winona Ryder, Hillary Duff, Sean Astin, Shawn Ashmore, Jon Cryer, Chevy Chase, Mark Boone Jr., Jared Leto, Reese Witherspoon, Keegan Michael-Key, Eric Idle, Elyes Gabel, Harland Williams, Katey Sagal and many more. Her filmmaking debut, *DE PUTA MADRE A LOVE STORY (2014)* won her Best Director (London IFF 2015), Best Lead Actress (Madrid IFF 2014), and Best Cinematography (Columbia Gorge IFF 2014). Black most recently completed the edgy 20 minute short *GIRL TRIP*, which won the Audience Choice Award (Hollyshorts Monthly) and was nominated Best Lead Actress and Best Short Film at the upcoming 2018 Nice IFF.



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SAG-AFTRA



website: elegantgrotesque.com
contact: Sapna Gandhi - elegantgrotesque@gmail.com

