

March 27, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shorts Monthly: Ten Exciting New Voices in Black Cinema

While the mainstream press enthusiastically identifies Tyler Perry as the new voice of black cinema, industry insiders looking for the next Spike Lee are placing their bets on a young NYU student named Rashaad Ernesto Green. In the last few months, Green's award-winning student film "Premature" played the 2009 Santa Barbara Film Festival before premiering on HBO, while his latest short, "Choices," debuted at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. But Green is not the only black director making a name for himself as a result of his short film work.

Rashaad Ernesto Green - Bronx-native Green received a BA from Dartmouth College and a MFA from the NYU Graduate Acting Program. "Premature," his fifteen-minute short about a pregnant teenager, world-premiered at the 2008 American Black Film Festival, where it won the Grand Prize for Best Short Film in the HBO Short Film Competition. His latest short, the four-minute long "Choices," shows a young man's thought process as he makes love to his girlfriend. Green is focusing on making his first feature, "Gun Hill Road."

Reviewed by: Kim Adelman
Posted: posted on March 27, 2009

REF:
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67th First Run Fest Announces Winners

The winners of New York University's 67th annual First Run Film Festival, which premieres the work of some of the country's top student films from the Kanbar Institute of Film and Television at the Tisch School of the Arts, were announced last night at a ceremony at the Cantor Film Center presided over by Mary Schmidt Campbell, dean of the Tisch School.

This year's Festival screened over 130 films, videos, multimedia, and animation projects. Six outstanding student films were singled out for the Kanbar Institute's top film prizes and over \$50,000 in cash awards.

Rashaad Ernesto Green (Graduate Division) for "Premature" - was a winner of the Charles and Lucille King Family Foundation Awards for Excellence in Filmmaking.

In addition, the winners of the King Award for Best Screenwriting (\$3,000) are: **Rashaad Ernesto Green** (Graduate) for "Premature" and **Stephen Neary** (Undergraduate) for "Chicken Cowboy." The winners of the Wasserman Award for Best Directing (\$2,000) are: **Kim Spurlock** (Graduate) for "Down in Number 5" and **Stephen Neary** (Undergraduate) for "Chicken Cowboy."

The winners join past recipients Spike Lee, Ang Lee, and Nancy Savoca, among many others. A panel of industry professionals selected the winning films from a group of 14 finalists.

Reviewed By Peter Knecht (March 31, 2009)

REF: http://www.indiewire.com/article/67th_first_run_fest_announces_winners/

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August 15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State of the Art Taking stock of the American Black Film Festival

Short film competition winner *Premature*, by Rashaad Ernesto Green was an unexpectedly searing and genuine look at a Bronx girl who discovers she's pregnant. Fourteen-year-old actress Zora Howard gave a career-making performance as the teen in question. By the end, everyone who wasn't on their feet clapping was knocked back in their seat. "Now that's a filmmaker," I said to the woman sitting next to me who was too overwhelmed to reply.

Premature was only 15 minutes long and barely had two pages of dialogue, but it made the entire weekend worthwhile.

Reviewed by: Gary Dauphin
Posted: August 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

REF: <http://www.theroot.com/views/state-art>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Park Record (Park City, UT)

January 13, 2009

Shorts lovely, dark and deep

It's the tale of two films.

In the first, a graduate student spends \$2.50, the cost of tape for his DV camera, to tell the story of a young man's thoughts as he makes love to his girlfriend.

He uses his brother and his brother's girlfriend as leads and keeps the shoot to about an hour. He lays voiceover onto the tape and completes his project, a class assignment, just before deadline.

For the second film, about a pregnant teenager in the Bronx, he spends \$15,000 and hires a crew of 20. The project spans a year and requires a variety of locations and a fleet of trucks.

Guess which film got into this year's Sundance Film Festival.

"It doesn't always work out the way you think it's going to work out," said writer/director Rashaad Ernesto Green, who studies at New York University. "When it came time to apply for Sundance, I was really pushing 'Premature,' but 'Choices' was the one."

"Choices," a four-minute love scene, is one of the 96 short films selected for Sundance's lineup out of a jaw-dropping 5,632 films submitted. It premieres Jan. 16 at 2:15 p.m. at the Racquet Club as part of Shorts Program IV. "It's not about budgets, sets or stars," Green said. "I learned not to worry so much. People will respond to truth. Invest films with as much truth as you can."

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Cheap Shorts an Inroad at Sundance

PARK CITY – Rashaad Ernesto Green needed a short film to fulfill a class assignment as a graduate student at New York University – only it was due the next day.

So, for the cost of a DV tape and with the help of his brother on the other end of the camera, Green made the short, less than 10 minutes long, he called "Choices." Green dubbed his voice over the video and poured his heart out about how his parents' divorce shaped who he is.

His film cost about \$2.50, compared to a feature-length film he was working on that took a year to make and ran about \$15,000. Green submitted them both for acceptance into the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

The festival selection committee chose "Choices."

"The response has been wonderful," Green said. "People were really touched, on the verge of tears. People really identified with the story."

Now Green gets to put Sundance on his filmmaking resume while he makes the most of the 10-day festival meeting industry types, networking and building bridges to bigger things.

Reviewed by Stephen Speckman
Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009 10:58 p.m. MST

REF: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,705279680,00.html>

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Wednesday, April 22, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Choices (2009)

Director: Rashaad Ernesto Green

Cast: Reinaldo Marcus Green, Kaylin Bensinger

Running Time: 4 minutes

Rated: NR

Release: 2009 Sundance Film Festival

Love-Making State Explored in *Choices*

Have you ever wondered what a person is thinking while making love to their partner? Is it their day? Their work? Or even the one in which they are sharing their passion with? If this sounds like you, then Rashaad Ernesto Green's *Choices* is a must watch in every retrospect.

Carrying a running time of just over four minutes, *Choices* takes you inside the male psyche, revealing a young man's inner thoughts while he makes love to his girlfriend. Though the same mentality cannot be applied to all persons, the unique premise and careful approach help to make the film a solid, attention deserving short.

Seen as the sophomore project from director Rashaad Ernesto Green, the film captures your interest, provoking you to look on as a man spills his heart about commitment, family and the importance of knowing love. The audience's journey is one that is rarely taken, giving them four minutes of awkward, yet intriguing dialogue, played in the background of one emotional encounter.

Reviewed By Stephen Davis

REF: <http://collegemoviereview.com/movie.php?id=322>

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