

Directors Visual statement

"THE first time I met my dad - he gave me a pair of Red Adidas high-tops. I loved those shoes."



"The second time was in jail... I idolised him, even though he was never there."



"I was fourteen when I found out I was going to be a dad."



"The truth is, I ran" .



"The older I got though, the harder it became to deny that I was doing to my daughter, exactly what my father had done to me."

15 is a story spanning 30 years about finding redemption from shame.

15 started life as the short story Young Father, based on the writer/directors experience of becoming a father on the cusp of his fifteenth birthday. The author was invited to be a human library exhibit in 2020. The screenplay was written around the same time and developed over 6 months in 2022 in collaboration with Charles Liburd of NMNC films.



Writers' motivation

I wanted to explore the themes of shame, guilt, humility, vulnerability, responsibility, and redemption, because these are the themes that I feel define my life and experience.

Directors' motivation

I didn't want an overly dramatic or overly emotional story. I wanted a lot of silence.

As a director, I thought I could tell the story in a way that was true to me as a writer, in the way I experienced it.

Visually, the story is told by holding the distance and the silence. Emphasising the aloneness.



Taking inspiration from the rich, reflective colour palette and graceful pace of Moonlight.



And the gritty, emotional, realism of i.Daniel Blake.

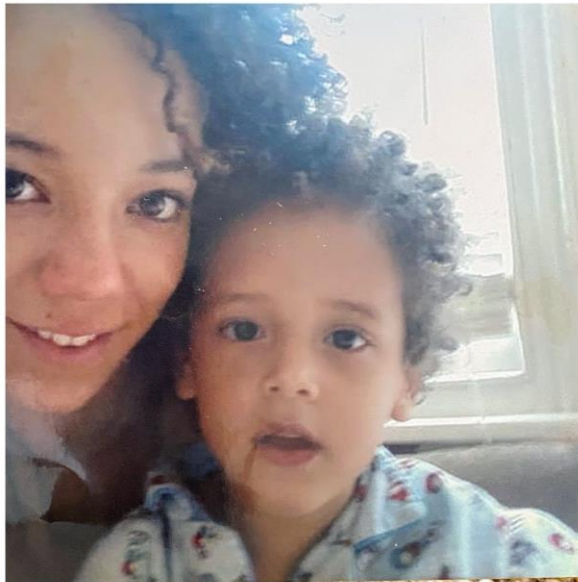


Themes

The clenched fist is a recurring motif connecting the audience to the main characters inner struggle and growth as the fists grip loosens throughout.

The sound of the Jail door closing reflects the trauma that drives the story and it's softening throughout, signposts the main characters journey towards healing.

The closing scene will be a montage of real-life photos of Krish and his daughter and their journey towards their now close relationship.



Main Characters

KRISH (15), riddled with the shame of having a father in prison, and ashamed of himself for abandoning his child. Krish hopes to find a way to heal himself and his child.

JORDAN (11), Krish's daughter, raised by white parents, the only brown person in her family, carries a sense of humiliation, from being abandoned by her father. She hopes that getting to know her father will solve this for her.

NIKKO (19), Jordan's mother, carries a sense of guilt at having a child at such a young age and not being honest with her daughter about who her father is. She hopes to redeem herself through letting Jordan's real father into her life.

About me - Krishna Williams

Born to the half Ugandan, half British, daughter of a Ugandan princess in Kenya, Mombasa where my mother had fled to escape my father as soon as she learned she was pregnant with me.

Due to the globetrotting lifestyle of my mother and stepfather who were practicing Hindu's, my brothers and I lived and schooled across four continents before I was 10, always returning to home base - London. This global exposure from a young age coloured my world view.

My mother is a writer and taught me, as a child, to use writing to express and understand myself.

I have written films and scripts about my life and experiences for as long as I can remember. I was the kid with the camcorder and have made countless shorts with what and whom I have had around me.

This story - 15, is deeply personal to me and to those it is about. It unflinchingly stands with its own truths.

30 years in development, this rare and yet all too common story is ready to be told.