

A photograph of a man wearing a light-colored hoodie and dark pants, sleeping on a wooden bench at night. The background is a blurred city street with warm lights from buildings and street lamps. The word "home" is written in a cursive, orange font in the upper right quadrant of the image.

home

PRESS KIT

CONTACT

Brandon R. Nicholas brandon@theeachotherproject.com 443-694-8324

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brandon R. Nicholas | brandon@theeachotherproject.com | 443-694-8324

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Title	home
Genre	Narrative
Country of Origin	USA
Year Completed	2024
Running Time	14:08
Shooting Format	RED Gemini
Format	3840x2880 23.98
Aspect Ratio	1.33
Sound	Stereo
Language	English (w/ English subtitles)
Rating	Unrated
Website	www.theeachotherproject.com/home-shortfilm





CAST *(in order of appearance)*

Justen Ross	T
Fernando Gonzalez	RECEPTIONIST
Ben Cherry	MAN
Dane Figueroa Edidi	WOMAN
Donja R. Love	D

KEY CREW

Director	Donja R. Love
Producers	Donja R. Love Brandon R. Nicholas
Executive Producers	DaShawn Usher Daniel D. Driffin
Director of Photography	Ayoub El Jamal
First AD	Tatiana Montes
Costume Designer	Qween Jean
Editor	Brandon R. Nicholas
Production Designer	Stephanie Echevarria
Intimacy Coordinator	David Anzuelo
On-Site Sound	Keisha Jackson
Sound Designer	Stephon Dorsey
Gaffer	Waleed Sokkar
Assistant Camera	Andrew Vecchio
Covid Compliance Officer	Abi Rowe
Production Assistant	Adomako Aman

LOGLINE

home follows T, a homeless queer teen, on the night he makes a life-changing decision in hopes of finding shelter.

(20 words)

SYNOPSIS

On a cold night in NYC, after missing curfew at a shelter, T—a homeless queer teen—searches for a way to get off the streets. Knowing the city offers programs that help people living with HIV secure housing, he devises a plan to contract the virus so he can receive the same support. Afraid of following through with such a life-changing decision, he does everything possible to avoid his plan. But as the night gets colder and he's exhausted all options, he makes a tough choice for his survival. *home* is a tender and gritty exploration of the fundamental problems LGBTQ+ youth face every day.

(104 words)



CAST



Justen Ross
T



Dane Figueroa Edidi
WOMAN



Donja R. Love
D



Ben Cherry
MAN



Fernando Gonzalez
RECEPTIONIST



DIRECTOR BIO

Donja R. Love (any pronoun) is Black, Queer, living with HIV, and thriving. They've graced the cover of POZ Magazine's POZ 100 issue, A&U Magazine, and Positively Aware. They're among Plus Magazine's "Most Amazing People living with HIV".

They're the co-founder of The Each-Other Project, a digital media platform that celebrates and fosters community through art and activism for Black queer and trans communities, through which they've produced numerous short films and digital series, such as home, Once A Star, i need space, and Modern Day Black Gay. They've developed work with Lee Daniels, Billy Porter, Uzo Aduba, Michael B. Jordan, and Amazon Studios. They're also the founding executive director of Write It Out! – a playwriting program, prize, and retreat for people living with HIV. Visit: www.letswriteitout.com & www.theeachotherproject.com.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BIO

Ayoub El Jamal is a Moroccan director, writer, and producer. He received a BFA in Film and Television as well as an MFA in Documentary Filmmaking at the Abdelmalek Essaadi University in Martil, Morocco, before heading to the United States where he earned an MFA in Fiction Film Production from the City University of New York.

Ayoub is a 2020-2022 Fulbright grantee, a BAFTA-NY BBC Diversity Scholarship 2021 nominee, as well as a Panavision New Filmmaker Program grantee.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

While at a conference in 2019, an HIV counselor shared that they work with unhoused queer and trans youth in New York City who try to acquire HIV to qualify for programs that help Poz people secure housing. I was speechless. The absurdity of this devastating survival strategy and dramatizing it on film spoke to me.

My short film, *home*, follows T, a homeless queer teen, on the night he makes this life-changing decision. In centering a youth experiencing homelessness because of their sexuality, who engages in sex work to combat being unhoused, we examine the lengths that those furthest on the margins will go to survive.

Part grit, part absurdity, *home* explores the reality of being queer and homeless. With an almost documentary-like feel, through a handheld approach, the camera has a fluidity that mirrors its protagonist - a homeless teen with no foundation, little support, and always on the move.

This short also highlights people living with HIV not having an identity outside of their status. D, the Poz person T contemplates contracting HIV from, is not even viewed as a person but as someone with HIV to exploit. As the short progresses, we learn D is not even "someone" to use or exploit. He's just a virus to T.

As a queer person living with HIV, I understand how violent stigma has become, and the toll shame takes on one's mental health. Existing within this intersection, I couldn't fathom anyone desiring to live with HIV. That was until I started to expand my capacity for empathy and understanding around the lengths people (read: children) will go to when they have no options or when HIV becomes the best option.

In 2023, the Department of Housing and Urban Development revealed there's a 28% increase in homelessness for TGNC youth. This statistic is a sobering reminder of why stories like this matter. I hope that this short humanizes this statistic by putting a face to those unhoused youth who are desperately trying to survive and spark some change so no other queer youth will have to be in T's circumstance.