



DIVAS WITH DISABILITIES

A SHORT DOCUMENTARY
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY B. MONÉT

FILM SYNOPSIS

DIVAS WITH DISABILITIES



Divas With Disabilities is a vibrant digital movement and inclusive community dedicated to amplifying the voices and experiences of Black and Brown women and girls with disabilities. Their primary mission focuses on increasing participation and ensuring authentic representation across all facets of life, particularly in influential spheres such as mass media, television, film, publications, advertising, and civic engagement.

They are deeply committed to supporting and advocating for Black and Brown girls and women with disabilities as they navigate the complexities of society. They fight for disability and social justice, working tirelessly to dismantle the internal and external barriers that impede their success. Their initiatives aim to combat various forms of discrimination—be it based on race, gender, or ability—while promoting mental well-being and resilience.

Furthermore, the community provides resources and platforms that empower these women and girls to identify their aspirations and take actionable steps toward achieving their dreams. They foster an environment where they can live unapologetically, celebrating their identities and advocating for their rights in a world that often attempts to silence them. Through workshops, mentorship programs, and collaborative projects, we strive to create a supportive network that uplifts every member to thrive and shine in all their endeavors.

DIVE INTO INTRIGUE



I'm interested in documenting the stories of differently abled Black women who work specifically in media, film, and television. I remember vividly having a friend grow up who was in a wheelchair from a young age. Her name is Elizabeth Meade, and she sincerely appreciated our friendship and loved the way we showed up for each other. But I couldn't help but think about how she exists in the world and remains optimistic despite being different from others.

Although we were just kids then, I profoundly wanted to know more about how she rooted herself and remained grounded when other kids could so effortlessly play freely without restriction or limitation and how she made sense of her world.

Meeting her was a defining moment in my trajectory as a human because I genuinely realized that things are not always fair or just. But it's also important how we choose to show up when our personhood is questioned or misunderstood, circumstances are out of our control, and we decide to show up for ourselves, others, and our communities. This project presents a beautiful way to breathe into that reality and discover some fantastic humans who are not letting fear, limitation, or ability stop them from defining themselves.



Divas With Disabilities is not just a short documentary film; it's an immersive experience that challenges the boundaries of perception around disability and ability from a few different Black and Brown women and girls. I aim to take you on an exhilarating journey that captivates and mystifies, leaving you with a sense of wonder and curiosity, enticing the viewer to be completely immersed and engrossed in this world largely unseen and unheard by larger media and society.

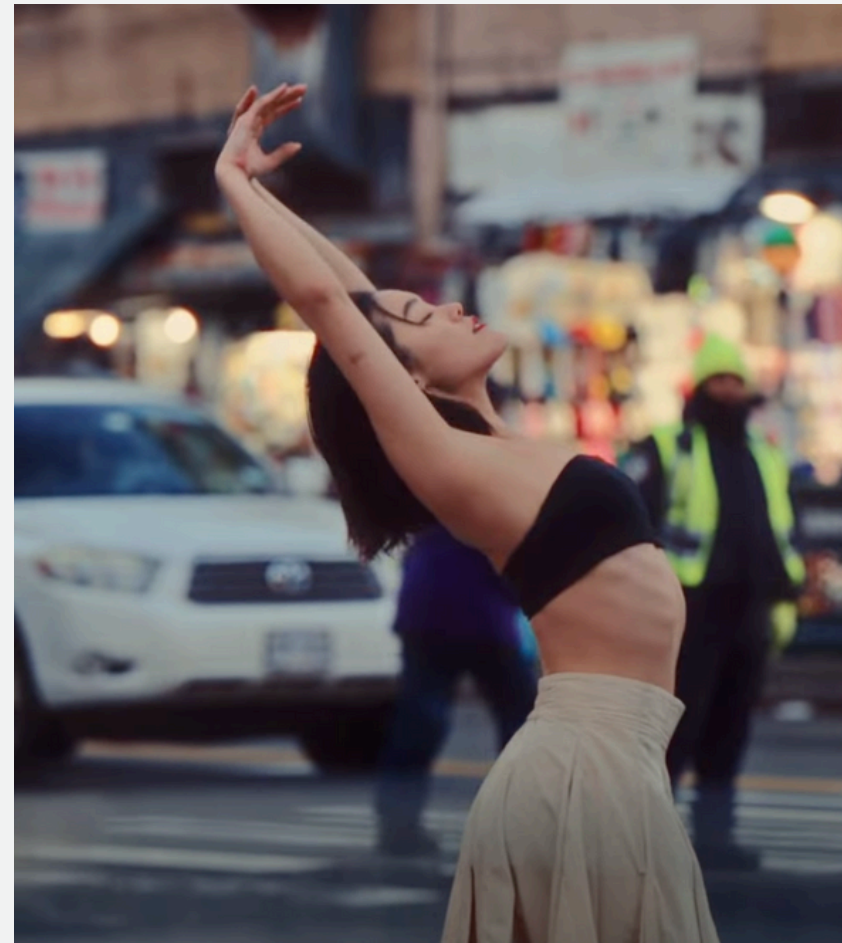


TONE + APPROACH

Because the organization is based in Los Angeles, I would love to feature as many voices in this film, particularly in outdoor locations and spaces and places where people with disabilities may have been denied. I aim for these women to feel as expansive as possible, especially in environments that often overlook them. I want this film to feel like they are reclaiming those spaces and taking up physical space in new spaces for their community.



“YOU AND I” (NOBODY IN THE WORLD)
BY JOHN LEGEND
2014



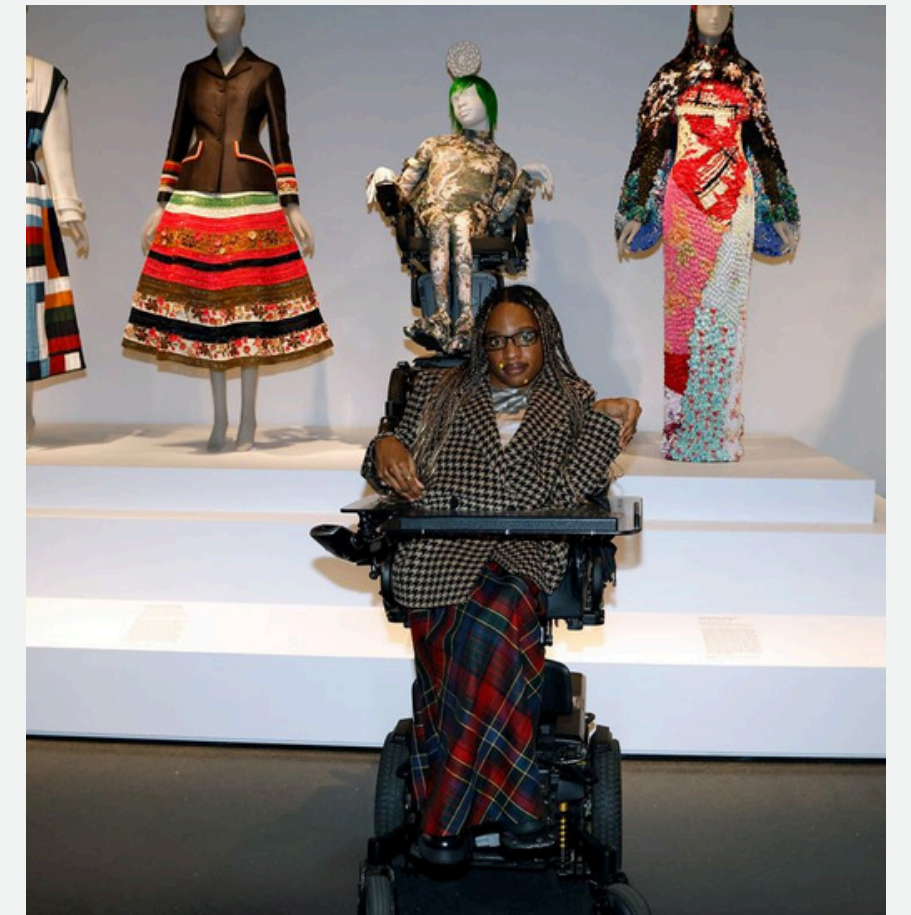
BALLET DANCER MINAMI ANDO FINDS HER
FEET IN NEW YORK CITY, GROUNDED BY HER
JAPANESE CULTURE (NOWNESS)
2024



LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH
2024



EXHIBITING FORGIVENESS
2024





WRITER + DIRECTOR

B. Monét is a distinguished writer and director who obtained her B.A. in English from Spelman College and an MFA in Film and Television with a concentration in writing and directing from New York University. She is a native of Maryland, and her films are known for their thought-provoking questions about identity, society, race, and culture. Her commitment to showcasing underrepresented people in film, media, and television is evident in her works. She's received several awards, including the runner-up position in the First Time Female Filmmakers Contest with Women and Hollywood, the 2017 Horizon Award through Cassian Elwes, Christine Vachon, and Lynette Howell-Taylor at the Sundance Film Festival, and the Adrienne Shelly Foundation grant. She also participated in Film Independent's residency program Project Involve as a directing fellow. B. Monét is one of the winners of the #NewView Film Competition with Glamour and Girlgaze, which celebrates the voices of female filmmakers, and one of the filmmakers in the Tisch Other Showcase, which focuses on diverse artists whose voices are underrepresented in the television industry. Notably, B. Monét directed the award-winning short film Q.U.E.E.N., which premiered on Magic Johnson's channel ASPIRE and has been screened at over a dozen festivals, including Cannes Short Film Corner. She also directed a branded short film, "She's Revolutionary," on the #MeToo founder Tarana Burke for Levi's and Girlgaze. She has worked with several high-profile personalities, such as Reese Witherspoon, Janet Jackson, Rosario Dawson, Chika, Rapsody, and Shangela for brands such as Crate and Barrel, Estee Lauder, Uber, OkayAfrica, OkayPlayer, and Hyundai. B. Monét's feature film script Q.U.E.E.N. won the 2018 Best Graduate Feature Screenplay, and she is the recipient of the Will & Jada Smith Family Foundation grant at Fusion Film Festival, a finalist in the Women in Film Mini Upfronts Program and a Sundance Women's Financing Intensive Project Fellow. In July 2019, she was selected as one of the filmmakers in the New York Stage and Film Filmmakers' Workshop at Vassar College for Q.U.E.E.N. She was also chosen as one of the participants in the Artist Academy with the New York Film Festival and Lincoln Center. B. Monét's most recent accomplishment is being chosen as one of the winners for the Queen Collective in partnership with Queen Latifah, Tribeca, and P&G. Her short film Ballet After Dark is exclusively streaming on BET. Recently, her first feature documentary, Black Girls, celebrates Black women and girlhood, featuring voices like Allyson Felix, Marley Dias, and Alex Elle exclusively streaming on Comcast's Black Experience on Xfinity channel, on X1, Xumo, and Flex. Most recently, she had the opportunity to be one of the filmmakers involved in The Next Generation Narratives at Warner Brothers, where she reimagined A Star Is Born for modern audiences, exclusively streaming on MAX, allowing a new generation to connect with its timeless themes.

THANK YOU

DIVAS WITH DISABILITIES



BMONETCREATIONS@GMAIL.COM