



By Naomi Richard VILLAGER
Entertainment Reporter

(VILLAGER) - Austin's own film writer and director **Harrell D. Williams, Sr.** releases his latest short film, *A Natural Choice*. Inspired by the **CROWN Act of 2019**, legislation which prohibits discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair, Williams brings the conversation front and center along with conflicting opinions that still arise.

A Natural Choice portrays the story of an African-American employee, Carlene (played by **LaToya DaCosta**), who chooses to go natural with her hair, and the struggles she encounters in the workplace as a result, including the threat of termination. Carlene is confronted by her boss, Lessa (Sara McNinch), about the sudden change in her hair style. Her Caucasian management team and coworkers are unable or unwilling to accept the natural look. Torn apart by this reaction and public humiliation, Carlene consults with her spouse and as a family they decide to support her decision to become an entrepreneur. The decision is validated by the success and financial wealth realized by the family as a result. The short film is designed to stimulate current topical conversations.

In addition to **DaCosta** and **McNinch**, the cast includes: **Isaiah Walker, Khiley Morrow, Niesha D. Bentley** and **Shayla Reed**. Williams is the writer, producer and editor of the film. The musical score was composed by Harrell D. Williams, Jr.

“A Natural Choice” by Harrell D. Williams, Sr. Now Playing at Film Festivals across the Country



Film Crew (l-r): Ricarado Martinez, Bailey Savage, Harrell D. Williams, Sr., Lance Seymour and LaToya DaCosta.



Harrell D. Williams, Sr. (Writer/Director/Producer)

A Natural Choice is produced by **Sound Ground Productions** and co-produced by **Heads-N-Crown Enterprises, LLC**. Upcoming opportunities to see the film include the following virtual film festivals: Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival (September 10 -18); Hollywood South Urban Film Festival (October 2-10); and the Austin Revolution Film Festival (March 25-27, 2021). Instructions on how to watch the film can be found on each festival's website.

A Natural Choice is the fourth short film produced and written by Williams within the last six years. The journey to become a filmmaker has been long and challenging, according to Williams. Yet now with experience under his belt — and with a full-length feature film likely only a

few years away, Williams is poised to help those who follow him with yet another pearl: a soon-to-be-released self-published book. “I think the journey has been rich, joyous, depressing, inspiring, empowering and many other things. I want to

share the experience and knowledge with others, which is the way we grow and learn,” explains Williams. The book is scheduled for release in December 2020.

For more information about Harrell Williams, visit www.harrellwilliams.com.

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Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

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