Go Black Boy; Fly!

A TaNisha Fordham Production (Adapted from the <u>poetic narrative</u> by TaNisha Fordham)

Purchase

Premiere Tickets:

CLICK HERE FOR SCREENING INFO



"Black boys: Black. So beautiful. Every-one, So pure. So full. Every-one, Alive and free. Every-one, With destiny. Countless black boys Want to dream. Countless black boys Some aren't winged. Countless black boys Want to fly. But in their world there is no sky."

Trailer:

CLICK HERE

Run Time:

1hr 43min

Audience

Considerations:

This film is suitable for most audiences; there is a brief moment of suggested nudity of a homeless person sleeping on the street and brief displays of the struggles of some inner cities including drugs and a gun which are only seen briefly.

Synopsis:

"Crack, crack! An opened up back. Blood spilling: crimson and black. Blood spilling: why you ask, hate! But that ain't all, it ain't too late."

Go Black Boy; Fly! is the story of four brothers: Rashad, Nate, Amir and a fourth... Adopted brother... Who is really struggling with his identity, the idea of belonging, the burdens of his past and the uncertainty of his future. His name is Kyree. The oldest, Rashad, feels like he's somewhat responsible for saving all of the others... But, how? How can Rashad save his brothers, especially since he can't save himself.

There's also a palpable struggle happening between Rashad and Kyree — they are the oldest two siblings, a lot is expected of them, but they are still **just** young men.

"I cried: eyes opened, oh I cried! I cried for boys black <u>and</u> <u>alive.</u> I cried so hard <u>I emptied out!</u> I cried. I danced. And then, <u>a shout!</u>"

Go Black Boy; Fly! takes viewers on an epic adventure as these four boys journey from Newark, NJ to Greensboro, NC by bicycle in mama's desperate attempt to redirect her boys to pursue a boundless and bright future much different than the reality that the boys see around themselves daily. And what an adventure it is: bicycling across state lines, hiking through dense forests, sleeping in tents, spending long nights under the stars, laughing together, pillow fights, crying together, adopting stray animals, only barely escaping the grasp of certain doom, and all without their cellphones in tow — mama's orders.

Of all the things to be discovered, on this journey, for these four brothers, the greatest odyssey proves to be the odyssey and discovery of self.

Director TaNisha Fordham was determined to show black boys in ways that "we don't get to see-" Unbridled joy, full of hope, dancing freely, laughing wholly... Still sometimes... unexpected

sadness meets the boys at every turn. And, how will this breathtaking journey end?

"Pop! Pop! A body drops." What happens next? Well, that's the plot.

Told using excerpts from the poetic narrative from Fordham by the same name [Go Black Boy; Fly] and with original, inspirational, hip-hop, neo-soul, house and gospel music undergirding the odyssey, Go Black Boy; Fly! is a story for every black boy, black man and everyone who loves them.

Release

Information:

TaNisha Fordham Productions is hoping to partner with organizations, churches, schools, small groups, clubs, and gatherings-of-every-size, around the country to do private screenings of this film for communities of black boys/men (and those who love them) throughout 2025. The goal is an eventual world premiere and international distribution but not before creating unique, special, intimate spaces for this film, music and poetry to be experienced and impactful to its intended audience. We'd love to share space with folks using the film (and the book as a potential additional supplement) to foster conversations around blackness, boyhood, and becoming black men.

Book Purchasing Information:

Go Black Boy Fly is available here: https://a.co/d/aNfXf9z

It can also be purchased in bulk by contacting us: tanisha.fordham@qmail.com

Sponsor a

Screening:

This entire project is about community. We are excited that from its foundation this project has always been about love, community and how we have such strength together. If you are interested in sponsoring a screening for a group that may not be able to afford the books [which are not necessary for enjoying the film but certainly makes the viewing experience more dynamic], please reach out! Sponsoring a screening would simply mean purchasing the books for attendees at one of our upcoming events. Since we are excited to screen with small and large groups alike there is no sponsorship too small!

Educational Resources/ Curriculum Available:

Knowledge, education, access to relevant/timely literature and the arts are powerful, incomparable tools as relates to personal growth, success, and the healing of individuals and communities.

We have created a 1 and/or 3 day enrichment curriculum which focuses on self awareness, identity and purpose as well as a 1 and/or 3 day curriculum that focuses on personal storytelling. We would love to make resources available to your organization; more information available upon request.

[There is also a one page "workbook" available to aid in a deeper experience with the film.]

Go Black Boy Fly

Title Song:

Here is a $\underline{\text{link}}$ to the music video for "Go Black Boy Fly," the title song for the film.

About the

Films Dedication:

This film has been dedicated, in loving memory, to Nathaniel Boone [click here for Nate's story]. In 2017 Fordham authored, illustrated and published the poetic novella *Go Black Boy; Fly*, as her then student/mentee, Nathaniel Boone, was struggling with the side effects of transverse myelitis, a rare neurological

condition that left her student paralyzed. Her mentee, affectionately called Nate the Great, died after struggling with the disease for several years. <u>A message from Nate's Mom.</u>

Though Fordham published the book and did a short run of a theatrical adaptation in Newark, NJ in love and honor of Boone, his death left her feeling like more needed to be done. In 2018 Fordham did a campaign to raise funds and awareness about this project and has passionately pursued this film's completion since. The film was shot in 21 days, in Newark NJ and its surrounding cities, with less than one third of the intended budget but, the commitment of the cast, crew and extended team made the completion of this impeccable project possible.

Fordham prays that Go Black Boy; Fly! the narrative feature [and poetic novella] will live on as an ode to Nate the Great and all the black boys and men who are no longer with us on earth but also, as a reminder to all of those living of what a great blessing and power we have in life... Everyday.

Director's Bio [Abridged]

Child of God. Rob's wife. Sunday's mom. Broadway: (Associate Director) Bad Cinderella, Death of a Salesman, Company. Off-Broadway (Writer/Producer/Director) 12 Mo' Angry Men. (Co-Producer) 2018 Oscar Nominated My Nephew Emmett. Off-Broadway (Associate Director) Joy. Author: Go Black Boy; Fly!, TaNisha Fordham The EGOT. 2019 - 2025 Rutgers CMC Filmmaking Resident. 2022 American Express Directing Fellow. 2019 Mrs. New Jersey United States. Educator. Mentor. Advocate. Friend.