

CV | Abena Taylor-Smith



Abena is a multi-award winning writer-director with experience working on funded short films for Sky Arts, Creative England, Disney UK and the NFTS. Her 2018 short film, *Ladies Day*, has screened at some of the most prestigious festivals in the UK and internationally including Outfest LA, Encounters and Raindance. She is a BFI Flare mentee, mentored by Lizzie Francke, and an alumnus of the NFTS Directors Workshop. Alongside BFI Network and The Showroom Cinema she has curated a programme of short films by rising black British filmmakers called *New Black Voices*. The programme celebrates Black History Month 2019 and a selection of work from some of the most exciting young black British filmmakers working today, of which she is one.

RECENT WORK

2019

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

NFTS/ Disney UK Directors Workshop

Short Film

Writer and Director

World Premiere- NFFTY Seattle- October 2019

2019

LADIES DAY

SHORTFLIX- Creative England Sky Arts

Short Film

Writer and Director

Screened at: Black Star, LSFF, the Iris Prize (shortlisted for Best British Short 2018), BFI Flare #FiveFilms4Freedom and many more.

Awards: Audience Award (NFFTY Seattle), Best Young Director (Hebden Bridge Film Festival), Special Mention (Chicago CineYouth).

2019

UNTITLED DRAMA

BFI FILM HUB NORTH SCRIPT LAB

Writer-Director:

Developed a short film script from concept to finished project with BFI script executives. Key scenes were performed to a sold out live audience at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester.

2019

BFI NETWORK/ THE SHOWROOM CINEMA

Curator

New Black Voices, Black History Month 2019.

Curated a programme of six films and Q&As plus a

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masterclass from rising black British filmmakers from around the UK.

TRAINING COURSES

2018

SCREEN YORKSHIRE BOOT CAMP

Production training scheme for below the line talent.

2018

LIGHTS, CAMERA, POWER- FEMALE DIRECTORS WORKSHOP

Technical skills workshop at Panavision with hands- on experience of lighting and camera kit.

EDUCATION

2019

NFTS Directors Workshop

The National Film and Television School

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