



Running Time: 23 minutes

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Little Ladybug Films

PRESS KIT

Will you be mine forever?

Credits

Written, Directed, and Produced by:
Reigna Wren

Produced by: Kemi Jackson ,Chineme
Aniagba, and Colyn Todd

Director of Photography: Nathaniel
Schreyer

Editor: Richard Windisch

Mickalia
Forrester- Ewen

Matrell
Smith

In Sickness And...

A Film By Reigna Wren

LITTLE LADYBUG FILMS PRESENTS "IN SICKNESS AND..." A FILM BY REIGNA WREN IN ASSOCIATION WITH TEMPLE UNIVERSITY CAST: MICKALIA FORRESTER-EWEN MATRELL SMITH ANTHONY WILCOX PORTLAND THOMAS
AUTUMN TINCH DEIDRA ABBOTT JAZMYNE HARRIS VICTORIA GILL-GOMEZ DILARA ERAN & WILLEM MCCULLOUGH DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: NATHANIEL SCHREYER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ABIGAIL BARRETT & WILL BRICCA
EDITED BY RICHARD WINDISCH COLLABORATED BY LANA DUDA MUSIC BY OLIVER SNOOK COSTUME DESIGNER: JOSHUA LAY & MICAH GRAVES EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: THERESA HAMILTON PRODUCED BY VICTORIA GILL-GOMEZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MATT CONNELLY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: LESLIE ALCANTAR
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ANDY PETERSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: RODNEY WREN SR. & REGINA WALKER-WREN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: TODD WALKER & LAUREN WALKER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MOSES WALKER & BLANCHE WALKER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ROBERT WREN, SR. & MARY WREN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MARC HARTSTEIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ERICA KENNEDY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: TONI TRODY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: COLYN TODD PRODUCED BY KEMI JACKSON REIGNA WREN CHINEME ANIAGBA & COLYN TODD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ALEJANDRA MANZO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: REIGNA WREN



Logline:

A young couple, Nina and Grayson, move in together to launch the next step in their relationship. However, they are forced to adjust their goals when Grayson becomes ill.

Brief Description

A young couple named Grayson Bailey and Nina Taylor move from Maryland to Philadelphia to take the next step in their relationship. On a date by the Delaware River, they eat lunch, start people watching and fantasizing about their future family together, and joke about getting married. Grayson starts to have stomach pains and it worsens the night after their date. Something is off. Frantic, Nina rushes Grayson to the hospital in hopes to confirm that he only has food poisoning. Little did they know that Grayson would be diagnosed with something much worse.



Synopsis

A young couple Nina Taylor, 23, and Grayson Bailey, 27, start their new careers and launch the next step in their relationship by moving in together from Baltimore, MD to Philadelphia, PA. The story takes place a few months after their move, when Grayson and Nina are on a date at Penn's Landing. On their outing, they people-watch and observe the Delaware River. Nina and Grayson daydream about their future together and briefly discuss what they'd like their future family to look like. While Nina isn't looking, Grayson decides to playfully propose to Nina with a ring pop. Nina laughs at Grayson's childish gesture and asks for her ring pop back, triggering Grayson to challenge Nina into a fun game of tag. The chase ends abruptly, when Nina finds Grayson curled over in pain.

Grayson's stomach pain worsens overnight and into the next day. This sends Nina and Grayson rushing to the hospital. At the hospital, Grayson over hears the nurses talking about possibly testing for cancer. For a moment, Nina's world freezes before her. Two months after their hospital visit, Grayson is diagnosed with colon cancer and the dynamic between Grayson and Nina has changed drastically. Tension forms between the two, sending Nina home to Maryland to take a break from being Grayson's caregiver.

During a visit with her grandfather, Nina gets inspired to hold on to her relationship with Grayson. On her way back, Nina grabs a ring pop from the gas station to, "propose," to Grayson with. When Nina gets home, she is met with a sad surprise. As Nina searches for Grayson around the apartment, she finds him lying unconscious on their bathroom floor. Instead of getting to propose to Grayson, she solemnly cuddles him in her arms.



Director's Statement:

I wanted to execute this film project for a couple of reasons. One reason is that I have always enjoyed viewing and now making romance and young adult drama films. I also want to tell this story because I want to expose how anyone can come face to face with life's finite disposition, regardless of age. Additionally, living in a time like the COVID-19 pandemic has made me more aware of how relationship dynamics are tested by difficult and uncertain circumstances. Though I wasn't the one going through cancer or having to immediately take care of someone who had cancer, my granddad's cancer scare made me realize just how quickly our lives can change. As I watched the dynamics between my grandparents shift completely when my granddad was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, I started to wonder how it would feel for someone younger to endure all the new responsibilities that my grandmother had to take on.

Though there are many tragic love stories out there, especially ones that revolve around illness, I haven't seen many films in this category that revolve around a young couple who is beyond the teenage and/or "college" age group. The age group of 22-35 is an interesting group to play with because there are so many mature topics to explore. For instance in my film, the two main characters are in their early-mid 20s and in a post-grad mindset of getting established in their careers and taking the next step in their relationship. They are not engaged, but they are moving in that direction. And having a film that plays with the idea of crushing that momentum in their young lives, by implementing colon cancer as an obstacle for their relationship, is something that will differentiate it from the teen drama films that explore romances with an ill character or characters.

- Reigna Wren, August 2020

Filmmaker's Bios

Director:

Reigna Wren is an emerging director and filmmaker and a senior at Temple University. Since high school, Reigna has had films and paintings feature in events around the U.S. She has shown work in events such as the White House x SXSL high school film fest; the Scholastics Arts and Writing Awards; the NAACP National Act-So competition; the San Diego Black Film Festival; the Maryland Film Festival, high school category; and most recently, the Very Black Film Fest. Currently, she is working on her senior thesis film entitled, **In Sickness And...** which she will start shooting this spring.



Producer:

Kemi Jackson is an emerging producer and content creator who uses fiction and non-fiction media forms to share underrepresented voices. When she was younger, She participated in the Scribe Video Center youth program that allowed her to hone her skills in non-fiction media. She recently graduated from Temple University with a BA in Film & Media Arts. During her last semester, she interned at Sony Pictures and Film Independent in Temple University's LA Study Away Program. Kemi is currently working at Glass Entertainment Group as a remote office PA for a true crime docu-series.



Producer:

Chineme Aniagba is a Temple University alumna with a BFA in Film & Media Arts and a concentration in screenwriting. Her primary interest is writing for television, specifically animation. She has also written published essays, digital comics, plays and sketches. Her short film Bake N Baked has premiered at Diamond Screen Film Festival, BLKOUT and the August Philly Film Showcase.

**Producer and Assistant Director:**

Colyn Todd is a multifaceted creative and entrepreneur currently in the Masters Media Studies and Production program at Temple University. Developing a passion for directing in undergrad at North Carolina A&T University, Colyn became a hyphenate working as a radio host, TV producer, & director. Colyn played an essential role in reviving a student run news production that ceased airing for 3 years. Colyn also has interests in behind the camera, starting his own media company Artrail Entertainment during his undergrad. He plans on making his directorial debut in 2021.

**Director of Photography:**

Nate Schreyer is a Philly based Cinematographer who also takes an interest in sound design and scoring for film. "Film is primarily a means of communication for me. For thoughts and feelings that cannot be expressed properly in words, I am able to communicate through my work as a cinematographer and filmmaker. Not only this, but I find immense value in the communication that goes into creating a film, and the kind of relationships that process can build."



1st Assistant Camera:

Abigail Barrett is an emerging filmmaker and is currently finishing her last semester of her senior year at Temple University working toward her B.A. in Film & Media Arts with a concentration in cinematography. She is the treasurer of the student film organization Wandering Studios where students work together to create short films. She just finished an internship on the feature film Blue Plate Special that shot in Philly in the fall of 2020. Abigail is currently in preproduction on her senior thesis project Seize, as well as a short film called X about coping with the suicide of a best friend, a web series called Every Womxn which focuses on female empowerment, and a documentary on how one woman made a mask business during the outbreak of Covid-19.



2nd Assistant Camera/ Production Assistant:

Will Bricca is a filmmaker from Westminster, MD currently pursuing a BFA in Directing at Temple. He is happy to be a part of “In Sickness And...” and made a lot of great new friends on set. He was also incredibly happy to help his close friend Nate Schreyer who did an exceptional job shooting the film (who also was behind the camera on Will’s Junior Thesis film, releasing later this summer.) Will and Nate are a part of Echidna Cone Productions, a YouTube Channel and four person production collective which has been releasing music and short film work since 2013.



Editor:

Richard Windisch is a Senior Post-Production Film Major at Temple University. He currently holds the Webmaster position at Temple's Professional Cinematic Society, DKA. Specializing in editing and color correction, he has a passion for getting the job done right. He first gained his interest with tech in high school when his friends convinced him to build his own computer. His most recent work was with an upcoming senior project, “Biggest Loser”, on which he served as the colorist. He will also be working as the editor for the senior thesis film, *In Sickness And...* this coming spring.



Colorist:

Lana Duda is a senior at Temple University studying Film with a concentration in Post-Production and a Business Minor. She has worked on several films as DIT, head editor, and colorist. Film has always been a big factor in Lana's life as she sees this art form as windows into learning and understanding cultures and humanity.

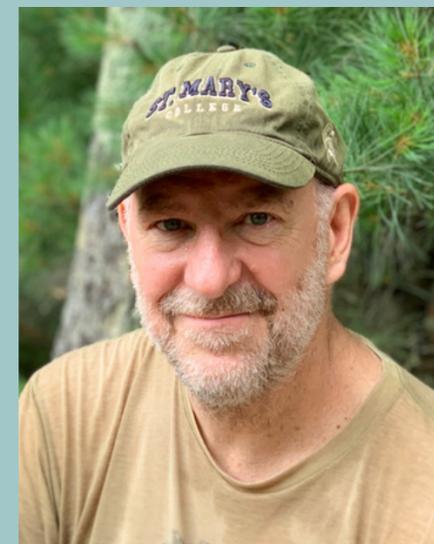
**Sound Recordist:**

Leslie Alcantar is a first-gen rising senior at Temple University. She has always been interested in media and currently likes to work with sound. Currently, she is working on two senior thesis sets for her fellow classmates. She hopes to become a sound assistant after she graduates and continue to expand her skills in the audio industry!

**Sound Mixer/Designer:**

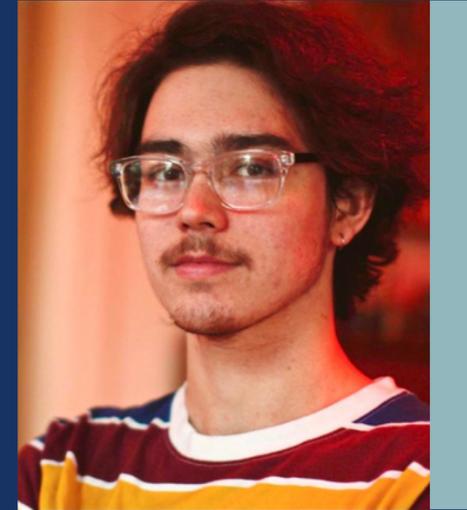
As owner/president of No Trend Media, LLC., Andy Peterson brings 28+ years of experience in the field of audio post-production. He specializes in recording, audio and music editing, sound design, mixing and mastering for film, broadcast television and digital media. He brings deep experience directing creative processes, technical workflows and managing people effectively.

Andy understands the impact that well-mixed, well-designed soundtracks have on a program's message and reach. He is very familiar with industry best practices and technical specifications. As a collaborator, he takes his client's propriety and decision-making seriously.



Composer:

Oliver Snook is a senior Post-production film major, with a music tech certificate from Temple University. He has been composing for 8 years now, with his musical roots in choir, acappella, jazz band, and video game music composition. He works at Philamedia, and focuses on editing and audio design. He just recorded a full length album for his acappella group, OwlCappella, and is recording and mixing music for an audio book of “Music Play 2.” He is incredibly excited to create music for this project!

**Composer:**

Joshua Lay, is a Baltimore native and proud graduate of Baltimore City College High school. He went on to earn a BS degree in Psychology from Morgan State University where he traveled the world performing with artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Bobby McFerrin, Stevie Wonder and many more. While at Morgan, Josh started a company called Left Brain Productions along with his brother, Justin “King Midas” Lay. Since then, he has written and produced on grammy nominated and stellar award winning projects. You may have also heard his work on numerous tv shows and movies. Josh, with Gods help, will continue to touch the world through music, forever.

**Hair and Makeup:**

Theresa Hamilton is a Junior Film Student at Temple University. She has had a passion for SFX makeup from a young age, and continues to pursue it in her career. Along with makeup, Theresa is also focused on producing and screenwriting. Her primary interests include the comedy and horror genres, but she loves to experiment outside of her comfort zone. She is looking forward to being a part of such an awesome team!



Set Dresser/ Designer:

Victoria Gill-Gomez is an emerging theatrical designer and technician finishing their final semester at Washington College in Chestertown, MD. Receiving their B.A. in Theatre, they also minor in Journalism and English. They're passionate about the various forms of storytelling, and "In Sickness And..." is no exception. Victoria is new to the Philadelphia area and is thankful for the opportunity to not only participate in their first film project, but to work alongside the future faces of the industry and Philadelphia art scene.



Gaffer:

Matt Connelly is a Philly based DP and Photographer. His favorite movie genres are Sci-Fi and documentary. He is currently working as a DP on his senior thesis project, **Daylong**. Matt and Reigna have worked as classmates on colorful group projects during their time at Temple. And Matt looks forward to being able to help Reigna bring her lighting visions to life on this thesis project!



Script Supervisor:

Alejandra Manzo is a senior at Temple University with a concentration in Directing. She is currently working on her BFA Senior thesis film while mentoring with Future Now. Her recent work From Now On was showcased at First Time Filmmaker festival and her other short At All Cost was showcased in the 5th annual women's film festival. She is an Afro-Latina filmmaker who hopes to advocate for the voices that are rarely seen in the media.



Main Cast

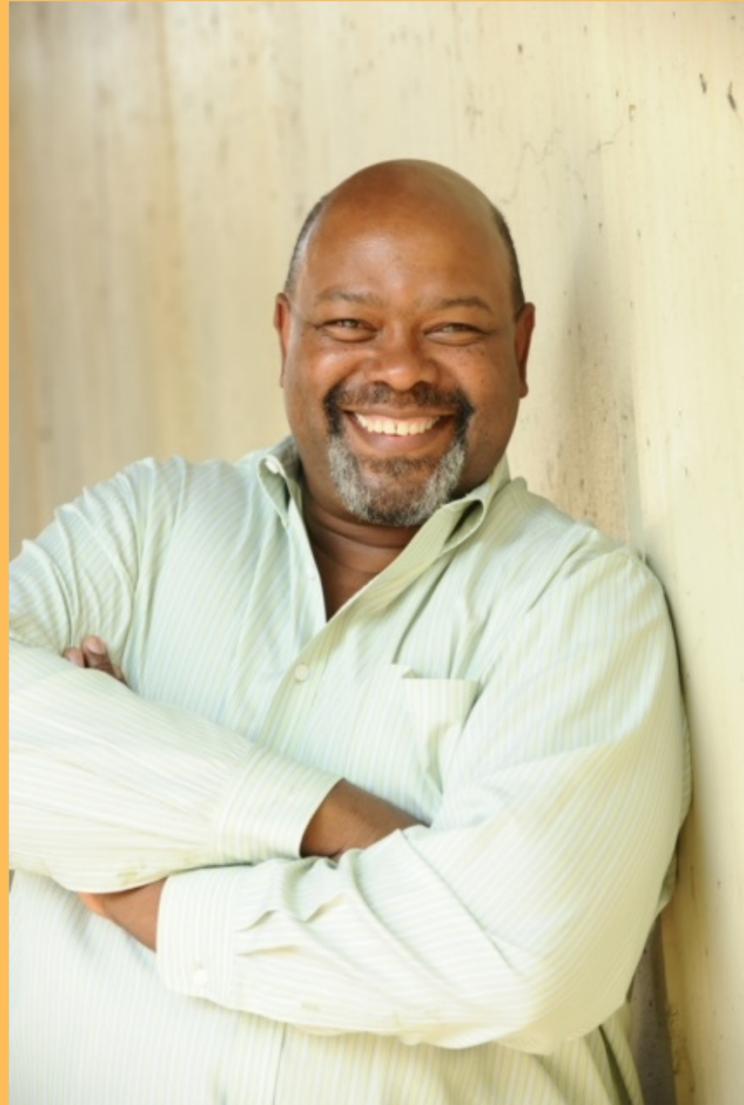


Nina (Mickalia Forrester-Ewen): Mickalia Forrester-Ewen is a Brooklyn native who oozes Caribbean heritage through performance and artwork. She graduated from New York University Tisch School of the Arts, where she received her BFA in Drama. As an actress, Mickalia is heavily attracted to work that pushes boundaries, discusses politics, and focuses on diversity. Since graduating from NYU, she has performed in numerous independent films, commercials, and television series. While navigating her life as an actress in NYC, she has also taken on other pursuits. She currently serves as the Producing Artistic Associate of the Affirmation Theatre Company! She is more than grateful to have been cast as Nina Taylor in ***In Sickness And...*** and is super excited to see how the film will take off in the industry!



Grayson (Matrell Smith): Matrell Smith is a model and actor who is originally from Birmingham, AL. He graduated from Stillman College with an BA in Journalism. In 2019, Matrell decided to take a leap of faith and moved to NYC to pursue his acting career. Since then, he's had roles in a variety of films from commercials for major brands to independent films to tv shows. Aside from playing Grayson Bailey in ***In Sickness And...***, his most recent work includes ***A Good Cop***, ***What Happened at 625 River Road***, ***Mind Reader***, and a few roles in the latest ***Jose Cuervo*** ads!

Main Cast



Granddad (Anthony Wilcox): Anthony, a former US Marine, hadn't started out wanting to be an actor. But, after performing in several college productions, he was bitten by the acting bug. Performing on stage required him to sharpen his acting chops and to stay disciplined. He believes performing on stage is the best foundation for acting. Once he transitioned to movies and TV, he faced the challenge of learning to add more subtleties in a performance and create a stronger screen presence! Performing and acting continues to be exciting for Anthony, especially doing student films. Most recently, he completed three feature films (**The Bell Affair**, **ElemenTory**, and **Welcome to Hope-The Homecoming**).



Little Nina (Autumn Tinch): Autumn was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. From a young age, she's expressed a love for acting and entertaining. Autumn's growing body of work includes TV One's **For My Man** ad commercials for USAA, **Red Nose Day**, **Volkswagen** and several public service announcements. She has done voiceover work for Fox 45 Baltimore and Enoch Pratt Library. Autumn has worked on local films and student projects. She continues to hone her craft through various classes and workshops. Autumn loves to volunteer to help the homeless and send greeting cards to senior citizens.

Main Cast

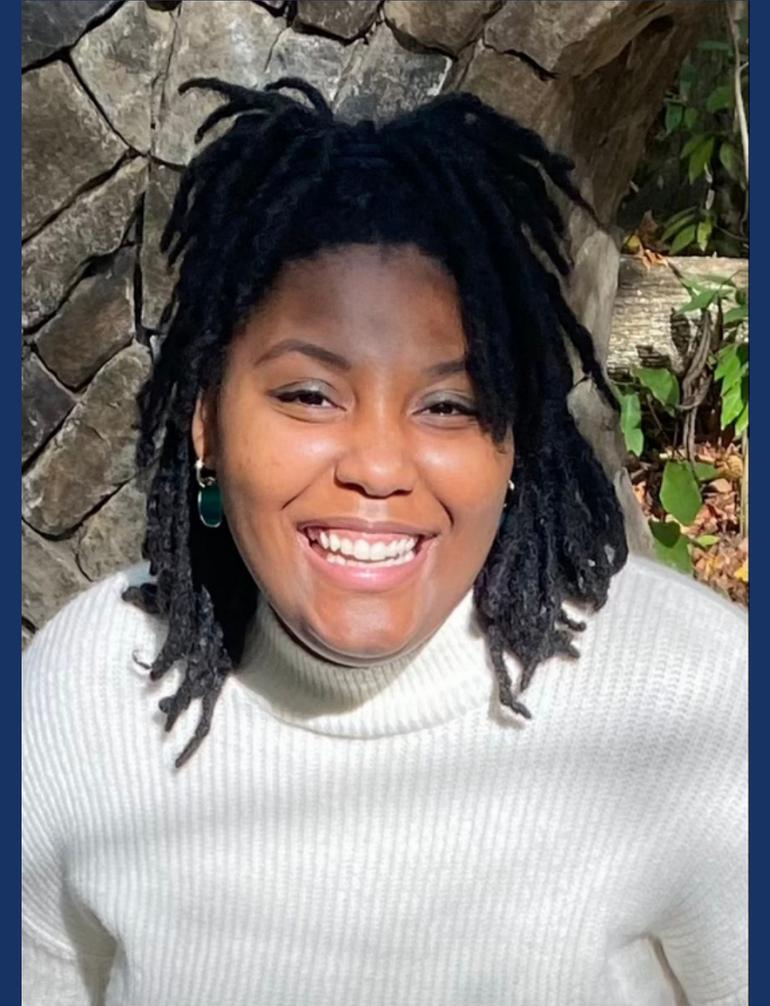


The On-call Doctor (Portland Thomas): Portland Thomas is a New York based actor who proudly holds a BFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She has worked at The Roundabout, The Classical Theatre of Harlem, HERE Arts Center and The Flea. Some of her regional credits include **Hamlet** & St. Joan (BEDLAM/ McCarter Theatre), **The Wolves** (Marin Theatre Company), **The Syringa Tree** (Creede Repertory Theatre). Portland can also be seen in the short film **Fernanda** (Sundance Institute) and **Due Date**.

Portland's Website: portlandthomas.com



Mom in the Present (Deidra Abbott): Deidra Abbott is a health care consultant with Mercer, an international professional services firm that offers advice and digital solutions to help organizations develop their risk management strategy and meet the health, wealth, and career needs of their employees. She has devoted her professional career to developing public policy and providing strategic guidance to clients in the development and implementation of health care programs for underserved populations. In her personal life, Deidra is also committed to serving and developing opportunities for those disadvantaged. She has previously served on the board of My Sister's Place, a Washington, DC-based organization that shelters, supports and empowers survivors of domestic violence and their children, while providing leadership and education to build a supportive community. Between 2017 and 2021, Deidra was the President of the Cassandra Butts Scholarship for the Arts, a non-profit art scholarship foundation created to honor the memory of Deidra's sister, Cassandra Quin Butts (1965 - 2016), to serve and support the youth of the Washington, D.C. interested in furthering their education in various art fields. Deidra is the proud godmother of Reigna Wren, the visionary and artistic director behind **In Sickness And...**



Mom in the Past (Jazmyne Harris): Jazmyne Harris is originally from Maryland and has been friends with Reigna since their days in high school. Jazmyne likes to describe herself as a very creative person who loves all types of art. But her main focus is nursing. In her free time, she likes to travel and watch movies. She was very excited to participate in this project. Jazmyne looks forward to seeing how this project turns out and can't wait to see what Reigna creates next!

Stills:



Colon Cancer and the Black Community

Colon cancer, is a very serious illness that effects the black community. It especially effects black males. Typically most people aren't tested for colon cancer until the age of 45. But recently, many young black males, including the late, great actor Chadwick Boseman have been diagnosed with and died from colon cancer at much earlier ages. Not only does this film bring awareness to how finite our time is on this planet, but it also aims to bring to the light that young black males can be diagnosed with colon cancer at a suprisingly young age and how their loved ones must navigate their illness as well.

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