

# Exit Strategies

## Successful Paths to Exiting Gangs



An Urban Media Collective Film

### "Exit Strategies" - Successful Paths To Exiting Gangs

Exit Strategies is an inspirational, 30 minute documentary profiling ex-gang members who have exited gang life and are now successful entrepreneurs. Segments include, *Exit through Entertainment*, *Exit through Entrepreneurship*, and *Exit through Community Service*.

TRT: 30:46 mins.

Produced by Nina Womack

Directed by Nina Womack & Maxie Collier

Featuring; Manny Jiminez, Frank Alvarez & Christian Redd from ***Suspect Entertainment***, Josiah "Villain" Bruny, Tommy the Clown Johnson, Lynnette Ammons, Derek "Shay" Mitchell, Jeff Harmon & Shonteze Williams of ***Unity Three***, Daude Sherrills, Sr., Father Gregory Boyle & Frances Macias Aguilar from ***Homeboy Industries*** and more.

Contact:

Nina Womack

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Black Hollywood Education & Resource Center  
FIGHTS BACK WITH FILM MEDIA PROJECT ~ 2006



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2006

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818.749.9695**

**THE BLACK HOLLYWOOD EDUCATION & RESOURCE CENTER  
FIGHTS BACK WITH FILM MEDIA PROJECT**

Presents Its Second Winning Film

***EXIT STRATEGIES***

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(Los Angeles, CA) The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (“BHERC”) proudly presents: **FIGHTS BACK WITH FILM MEDIA PROJECT**, introducing the second winning film in a series of five and the World Premiere of **EXIT STRATEGIES** written and directed by both **Nina Womack and Maxie D. Collier** an emotional documentary concerning finding ways out of the gang culture screening **Friday, May 19, 2006** at Raleigh Studios, Chaplin Theatre at 7:00 p.m. For more information about the screening please contact the BHERC office at 323.284.3170. The screening is free, but reservation are mandatory, call 323.957.4747 to RSVP. There will be a panel discussion with the cast and producers and a food reception following the screening.

**EXIT STRATEGIES** is an inspirational 30 minute documentary that presents a number of time proven strategies for those seeking to remove or protect themselves from the lure of gang culture and criminal lifestyles. Through honest, personal accounts, we hear the testimonials of former gang members who have successfully exited out of the gangs; and community organizations helping to create alternative exit strategies for current gang members headed down a dead-end road of street life. Segments include; Exit through Entertainment, Exit through Business, and Exit through Community Service. The video features; Tommy the Clown (Ryze), Manny Jiminez, CEO of Suspect Entertainment, Christian Redd (Kanye West’s, “Jesus Walks” video), Homeboy Industries, and more.

The panel discussion will include guest artists who are in the documentary including: CHRISTIAN REDD (The Shield, Kanye West's Jesus Walks video), MANNY JIMINEZ (founder, Suspect Entertainment, a casting service, casting such films as Ali G, In Da House, Too Fast, Too Furious) VILLAIN (Rap artist), and SHONTEZE WILLIAMS (co-founder of Unity Three).

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**NINA WOMACK** graduated with a Theater Arts degree, but her production career launched 8 years ago when she started as a production intern for *BET's Arabasque Films*, spearheaded by Producer, Roy Campanella. Nina was Associate Producer on the short film, "*Pipe Dream Capital of the World*", co-directed by Ted Lange and also a feature hip hop documentary called, "Paper Chasers," featuring Ludacris, Fat Joe, and other successful entrepreneurs.

**MAXIE D. COLLIER** has 20 years of publishing experience and 15 years of film and video production experience.

In November 2003, the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center Fights Back with Film Media Project was launched because of Sandra Evers-Manly's intense desire to use film to address issues of gang violence and intervention in our community. In 2004, the BHERC staged a competition wherein five filmmakers were commissioned and granted \$20,000 each to create new film projects dealing with the impact of gang violence in the form of a short or documentary. Sandra Ever-Manley's passion and sense of urgency spearheaded after meeting with a group of mothers who had lost their children to gang violence. **S. Pearl Sharp (THE HEALING PASSAGE / Voices From The Water)**, Supervising Producer for the BHERC Fights Back with Film Project designed and implemented the competition for the grant.

The BHERC was founded in 1993 to spotlight diversity and the stellar contributions of black film and television artists who brought dignity and professionalism to even the most menial of roles. The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center, a nonprofit, public benefit organization, is designed to advocate, educate, research, develop, and preserve the history, and the future, of blacks in the film and television industries.

For Reservations , **call BHERC at 323.957.4747 or visit the website at [www.bherc.org](http://www.bherc.org)**. The screenings are free but reservations are mandatory. There will be a Question & Answer discussion after each film with the filmmakers and cast and producers of the BHERC.

# # #

# Exit Strategies

## *Successful Paths to Exiting Gangs*

Directed by Nina Womack & Maxie D. Collier

**EXIT STRATEGIES** is an inspirational 30 minute documentary that presents a number of time proven strategies for those seeking to remove or protect themselves from the lure of gang culture and criminal lifestyles. Through honest, personal accounts, we hear the testimonials of former gang members who have successfully exited out of the gangs; and community organizations helping to create alternative exit strategies for current gang members headed down a dead-end road of street life. Segments include; Exit through Entertainment, Exit through Business, and Exit through Community Service. The video features; Tommy the Clown (Ryze), Manny Jiminez, CEO of Suspect Entertainment, Christian Redd (Kanye West's, "Jesus Walks" video), Homeboy Industries, and more.

**NINA WOMACK (Producer/Director)** started in entertainment as a child actress and model. Born in South Los Angeles, Nina graduated from college with a Theater Arts degree. She has been on TV shows such as, "*Melrose Place*," "*Pacific Palisades*," & "*Keenan Ivory Wayans Show*," and Indie films like "*The Deposition*," "*Rocky Road*" & Sony's "*Damned If I Do*" with comedian/actor, David Alan Grier. She's performed in many plays and continues to act when the opportunity comes. Her production career launched 8 years ago when she started as a production intern for *BET's Arabasque Films*, spearheaded by Producer, Roy Campanella. Nina was Associate Producer on the short film, "*Pipe Dream Capital of the World*", co-directed by Ted Lange and also a feature hip hop documentary called, "*Paper Chasers*," featuring Ludacris, Fat Joe, and other successful entrepreneurs. She also has worked as production coordinator of the Sam Goldwyn film, "*Tortilla Soup*" and for various music. Nina is currently Executive Producing a low-budget, horror film and is producing several, Los Angeles based, community festivals.

**MAXIE D. COLLIER (Producer/Director)** has 20 years of publishing experience and 15 years of film and video production experience. He founded a successful desktop publishing company and published a quarterly magazine serving the mid-Atlantic region. He began his television career with *Black Entertainment Television (BET)* where Collier began writing, producing, and directing short films and music videos. In 1993, he produced the award-winning short supernatural thriller, *Mind Games*. In 1996, Collier co-produced his first feature, *Detention* and the same year, wrote, produced and directed his own feature, *Hacks*. In 1998, he launched the highly popular *DV Filmmaker's Website* ([www.dvfilmmaker.com](http://www.dvfilmmaker.com)) and self-published *The DV Filmmaker's Handbook*, a book considered "the definitive guide to digital filmmaking." In 1999 he licensed the book to IFILM, one of the Internet's leading online distributor of short and feature films. A revised edition of *The IFILM DV Filmmaker's Handbook* was published by Son #1 Media and Lone Eagle Publishing in December 2000. The book has become a best-seller with over 30,000 copies in print. Used as a primary text at dozens of high school, colleges, and universities, the highly anticipated, revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition will be published by Lone Eagle in December 2004. Collier recently completed his third feature, "*Paper Chasers*," a documentary film about hip-hop entrepreneurship that follows Collier and a group of friends as they travel across country interviewing hip-hop business owners finding success in music, film, fashion and the Internet. The film is co-produced by the Independent Film Channel (IFC) and distributed nationally on DVD by Koch Entertainment.



# Nina Womack

## CLIMBING UP THE LADDER OF SUCCESS ONE STEP AT A TIME

Nina Womack's creative expression encompasses producing, directing, acting, and writing. For over two decades, this passionate filmmaker/actress has worked professionally in television, film, print, and theatre. She recently produced and co-directed, **"Exit Strategies"**, an inspirational, 30 minute documentary profiling ex-gang members who have exited gang life and are now successful entrepreneurs. The project was commissioned by the Black Hollywood & Education Resource Center (BHERC) through their *BHERC Fights Back With Film* grant program..

Nina's other producing credits include; Associate Producer on **"Paper Chasers"**, a feature documentary on hip hop entrepreneurs featuring *Ludacris, Russell Simmons, Fat Joe* and *Master P*. The film was co-produced by the Independent Film Channel (IFC) and is currently in video stores nationwide. She also Associate Produced a short film, **"Pipe Dream Capital of the World"**, co-directed and produced by veteran actor/director, Ted Lange. Nina recently worked as 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Producer on **"Who Made The Potatoe Salad?"**, a romantic comedy feature film, starring Jaleel White, and Eddie Griffin, Clifton Powell, Tiny Lister, Bebe Drake, and Reynaldo Rey, which is soon to be released by Fox. She's currently in post production on a 35mm erotic thriller and is Executive Producing a low-budget vampire movie now in production.

Born in South Central Los Angeles as Nina Hairston, her talents shined at an early age despite the challenges of growing up in the ghetto. She was a print model for department store catalogues and an actress by the age of six. As a youth, she studied and performed at the Inner City Cultural Center and also guest starred on the CBS series', **"Enos"**, a spin-off from **"The Dukes of Hazzard"** and **"Detective In The House"**, starring Judd Hirsch. During her teens, she took a break from acting to focus on her education and then to marry her high school sweetheart, the son of Motown diva Mary Wells and nephew to R&B legend, Bobby Womack.

Nina eventually returned to her childhood passion, graduating Cum Laude in theater at L.A. City College's Theater Academy and Cal State Northridge. This formal education combined with her industry experience as a child, laid the foundation to create a multi-talented producer, director, writer, and actress. Balancing a busy, behind-the-scenes career with acting, she has appeared on **"Melrose Place"**, **"Pacific Palisades"**, the **"Keenan Ivory Wayans Show"**, in several independent films, and in numerous plays nationwide. Behind the scenes, Nina started as a production office intern at Director's Circle Filmworks, a company that produced 10 films for BET. She soon moved to a set production assistant, then production coordinator on the Sam Goldwyn film, **"Tortilla Soup,"** and on music videos for young, R& B singers **B2K, IMX**, and several rap artists on the **"Friday, Part 2"** soundtrack.

Nina is also a poet, author, and screenwriter. She runs a newly-launched theater company along with two other partners and is currently in pre-production on several film projects.

**FULL CREDITS FOR EXIT STRATEGIES**

**FEATURES INTERVIEWS**

Manuel Jiminez .....	Frank Alvarez
Christian Redd .....	Josiah "Villain" Bruny
Thomas Johnson .....	Lynnette Ammons
Derek "Shay" Mitchell.....	Jeff Harmon
Shonteze Williams .....	Daude Sherrills, Sr.
Father Gregory Boyle.....	Frances Macias Aguilar

**SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY**

Martin Vranicar Jr.  
Detective D.W. Fields  
Michael Baca

**"EXIT STRATEGIES" CREDITS**  
**AN URBAN MEDIA COLLECTIVE FILM**

Executive Producer .....	Black Hollywood Education & Resource Center
Producer .....	Nina Womack
Written and Directed by .....	Nina Womack & Maxie Collier
Director of photography .....	Richard Briglia
Editor .....	Brad Mays
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Director .....	Stanley Longstreet
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director .....	Kenneth Brown
Still Photography .....	Connie Lynch
Still Photography .....	Dwayne Washington
1 <sup>ST</sup> Assistant Cameraman.....	Greg Stefanik
2 <sup>ND</sup> Assistant Cameraman .....	Kenneth Brown
Sound Mixer .....	Sam Hamer
Sound Mixer .....	Ted Hamer
Boom Operator/P.A.....	Randal Parker
Animation by .....	Michael J. Everett
Animation by .....	Solomon Perry
Make-up.....	Yvonne Ortiz
Graphics/Titles .....	Solomon Perry
Composer .....	Curtis "Binky" Womack

**Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center's**  
**BHERC Fights Back With Film Media Project**

Executive Producer .....	Sandra Evers-Manly
Supervising Producer.....	S. Pearl Sharp
Associate Producer.....	John M. Forbes
BHERC Fights Back with Film Project Director	S. Pearl Sharp
Gang Intervention Consultants.....	Angelo Adams

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..... Atty. Danielle Forbes  
Legal Consultant ..... Reina Carrillo  
Administrative Assistant ..... Sheralyn Richardson  
BHERC Title Animation ..... Wiggins Design  
Publicity ..... Publicity4you.com

**FUNDERS**

Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center  
Minority Unity Foundation  
Our Author's Study Club  
Justice Unity Generosity Service, Inc.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Yana Billè ..... Reginald D. Brown  
Frank Dawson ..... Harriet A. Dickey  
Carl Franklin ..... J. Darlene Hayes  
Erma Elzy-Jones ..... Joy Rencher

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**“Wild & So Cold”**

performed by  
V featuring Deff Kapp  
written by  
Josiah Bruny  
Produced by  
Einstein  
Je Pa Da Jo Music Publishing (ASCAP)

**“Gambling With My Life”**

performed by  
Derrick Anderson  
Angela Cross  
lyrics by  
Derrick Anderson  
Angela Cross  
Produced by  
Curtis “Binky” Womack

**SPECIAL THANKS**

God  
BHERC and S. Pearl Sharp  
Lacy Street Production Center  
Don Randles  
Austin Lander  
Tony Churchill  
Rocky Cortinas  
Najee Ali  
Chris Cobb  
Bow Wow

Eunice Mitchell & Family  
Simon Munoz  
Torre Allen and the Beat Council  
Sid and Betty Burston  
D2  
Florence Smith  
Mark Kleiman  
Dan Shlomo  
Anie Dezon

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

As producer and director of "Exit Strategies", it is truly a honor to create a film to inspire and educate our troubled youth. So many filmmakers, including myself, set their sights on making commercial, narrative films but fail to recognize the inner fulfillment from using our talents to help society.

Growing up in South Los Angeles, I have witnessed poverty, gangs, drugs, and oppression in many forms. I've even experienced some of these challenges myself, so I understand and empathize with why people turn to street life. Fortunately, I had performing arts as an outlet and a caring family to make sure I didn't get totally lost in that world. Since overcoming those difficulties years ago, I have often thought about what I can do as an individual to make a change. Now, thanks to a grant from the Black Hollywood Education & Resource Center (BHERC), I've been given the opportunity to give back and that success is immeasurable to me.

My hope is that anyone caught up in gang and street life will choose to change for the positive after watching "Exit Strategies". I hope they realize that the only exits out are prison, death, or doing something positive with their life as demonstrated by our interviewees. May they choose the latter. Peace and blessings!

Nina Womack