



EXPECTATIONS — SHORT FILM

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Written & Directed by Ezed Williams • RDMovies Ltd

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Domestic abuse is one of the most discussed social issues in this country. But the conversation almost always starts after the damage is done — after the bruises, after the police call, after the child has seen something no child should ever see.

Expectations starts before all of that.

It starts with two men sitting at a kitchen table, drinking rum and talking about their relationships. It starts with a joke that goes too far. It starts with the quiet, daily failure of communication that sits at the root of almost every broken relationship — and every relationship that tips into something darker.

I made Expectations because I wanted to explore what men actually talk about when they talk about love. Not the version we perform publicly, but the honest, sometimes uncomfortable version — the admissions of fear, of confusion, of not knowing how to reach the person you love most. That conversation, between men, is rare on screen. I wanted to put it there.

The arrival of Mitchelle at the door — battered, bruised, clutching her baby — is the film's turning point. But I was careful not to make her simply a plot device. She is the consequence of everything the men in this film have been talking around. Peter is not a monster who appeared from nowhere. He is the version of a man who never had the conversation that Kodja and Josh are having right now. That distinction matters to me deeply.

What I hope audiences take from Expectations is not a lecture about domestic abuse. I hope they feel the warmth of two men genuinely trying to be better. I hope they laugh at Josh's ridiculous attempts to fix his relationship. And I hope that by the time Denise whispers to Kodja — "I just want to feel loved in the way that I need to feel loved" — they feel the full weight of how simple and how difficult that truth really is.

Expectations is a fifteen-minute film. But the conversation it is part of is one this country needs to keep having — in homes, in schools, in community centres and on screens. I believe short film is one of the most powerful vehicles for starting that conversation, reaching audiences that longer forms cannot reach, and sitting with them long after the credits roll.

This is RDMovies Ltd's debut short film. It is also a statement of intent — about the kind of stories we make, the way we make them, and the audiences we believe deserve to see themselves on screen.

'I just want to feel loved in the way that I need to feel loved.'

— Denise, Expectations

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