

THE KINK IN MY DREAM 44 min. x 1 - Documentary

THE KINK IN MY DREAM began filming “Da Kink in My Hair” three years ago when its cast and creators mounted a small local production in Toronto.

The action is set in a West Indian hair salon in Toronto, but the salon is a cover for a group of women to tell their unforgettable, moving, and hilarious life stories with the aid of music, dance and gritty monologues. The script nails the hardships, struggles and joys of black women’s lives.

The plan was to make “Da Kink in My Hair” good enough and lively and funny enough to take to New York’s Fringe Festival. Our cameras went along. From the Fringe the plan was to do a presentation at the PSNBC studios in New York, and then to persuade David Mirvish to present the play – getting better and better along the way – at the Princess of Wales Theatre, one the biggest playhouses in North America and the home of musical comedy in Canada.

That was the dream.



And that was exactly what happened.

“Da Kink in My Hair” is the first Canadian play to be mounted at The Princess of Wales Theatre. As the play winds down from its successful run in Canada, Anthony will be taking the show on a U.S. tour. She can’t wait to return to New York for the third time with “Da Kink in My Hair”, but this time around she hopes to open on Broadway.

The Betacam and DV footage gathered for *THE KINK IN MY DREAM* includes intimate talk and interaction involving all the principals in the cast and many of their family members plus the likes of David Mirvish, actor Tanya Lee-Williams and PSNBC’s New York curator Lou Viola.

How does a play evolve from a \$500 budget for a community theatre into a major big city musical? Our cameras have caught not only the development of the play but the personal growth of the artists as well.

The filmed portions of the three talented participants parallel the play's startling growth and acceptance.

But if the play is the stuff of fairytales, their lives exhibit a gritty reality. Trey Anthony, the play's visionary creator, struggles to become confident as a lesbian; Director Weyni Mengesha keeps up her hectic pace as she is forced to come to terms with the unexpected death of someone very close. D'bi Young who creates the character of Stacey Ann in the play is now the glowing mother of a year-old baby boy.

But success, even the miraculous kind is grounded in similar reality, and that after all is how "Da Kink in My Hair" began. Reality was its inspiration. *THE KINK IN MY DREAM* will tell all in a 44-minute documentary that gets inside a miraculous achievement and reveals its people and its secrets.

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THE KINK IN MY DREAM is produced by V-Formation Productions Inc. in association with Norflicks Productions Ltd. The estimated budget is \$ 240, 000.

Creative Team

Richard Nielsen – Executive Producer

Richard Nielsen is President of Norflicks Productions Ltd. a company he founded in 1985. He was previously President and CEO of Nielsen-Ferns International from 1972 to 1980, and Chairman of Primedia Productions from 1980 to 1985.

Richard Nielsen joined the CBC as Program Organizer of Economic Programs in 1961 and subsequently became a Producer and Writer with the documentary series *Close Up*, *Horizon* and *Other Voices*. In 1969 he became Executive Producer of the public affairs program, *CBC Weekend*; and in 1971 he added a second weekly hour-long magazine program, *Midweek*, to his charge.

With Nielsen-Ferns he produced *The Wars*, a feature film which won three Genie Awards in 1984. Subsequently, Primedia Productions produced *Waiting for the Parade* for CBC, *Labour of Love* and *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, which won the Anik Award for best Canadian TV program in 1982.

Norflicks Productions Ltd. produced *The Little Vampire*, a highly-acclaimed children's TV drama series which rated number one in its age group (under 18) in the United Kingdom and West Germany; and *Images of Love, Words of Hope*, a 13-part series with Jean Vanier. Norflicks also co-produced *The Originals*, a popular half-hour documentary TV series presently syndicated across Canada, as well as the feature *Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace*, a German co-production that was the recipient of the Golden Nympe award at the 2000 Monte Carlo television festival for best television movie.

Joel Gordon – Producer/Director

In 1995, Joel Gordon founded V-Formation Productions Inc., through which he has produced and directed numerous projects.

After four years of filming across three continents, in February of 2004 he completed a compelling one-hour documentary for CBC's Life and Times entitled, "Wrestling with Destiny: The Life and Times of Daniel Igali". The subject of the biography is World and Olympic Wrestling Champion, Daniel Igali. It received a Gemini nomination in the fall of 2004 in the Best Sports Program or Series category. Gordon is currently directing a documentary on William Hutt for the CBC.

His feature film directing debut, "Superbob" won the Star!TV Reelchoice Audience Award at the 2002 Reel World Film Festival in Toronto, Canada. He also produced two short films and several commercials.

Coming from over 15 years of professional experience in film and television as an actor, he has been featured in 50 episodes of television and 18 films. He recently appeared in a guest lead role on "This is Wonderland" and he has also appeared in films such as: Maya Angelou's "Down in the Delta", "Danger Beneath the Sea", and Robert Townsend's "The Natalie Cole Story".