



The Moments Project Presents

Borderline Expectations

Phase III: PASSPORT

Fiscally sponsored through Fresh Arts and sponsored by the Institute of Contemporary Dance Houston, Dance Source Houston through the 2021 Spark Dance Grant, and Diverse Works through the 2022 Idea Fund Grant.



How do you feel when you get an amazing opportunity due to someone else's great sacrifice? Pressure? Gratitude? Debt? Motivation?

Welcome to the inside of Romy Moussa's head. She just landed in the United States for her first semester in college. Her family back in Cameroon isn't financially stable, but they were able to scarp enough financial resources here and there to get her across the Atlantic.

Romy wants to set herself up to best support her family back home. But can she stand up to the pressure she puts on herself?

ABOUT BORDERLINE EXPECTATIONS

Borderline Expectations is a short film about a student who tries to balance school, bills, and the weight of her family's expectations back home. The film explores how isolating school can be for international students.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have a lot of close friends who live in the United States alone while their family is in another country. A lot of conversations, and you hear about sending money home and supporting younger siblings and family members a lot. I always admired how independent, mature, and focused my friends were, but I also recognized how challenging it was for some of them not to be able to rely on family especially if they wanted to. I've never seen any of them break down, complain, or cry about their situations, but I figured it might be helpful to see someone else do it. Live vicariously for once, you know? I hope this film helps many immigrants who feel isolated or without an emotional support system feel like it's okay not to carry the weight of the world on their shoulders even if it's just for a moment. Hopefully, this will provide some relief when everything feels so overwhelming.

PASSPORT collaborates with artists of color, mostly African immigrants, who are challenged to use their art to share the stories of their identity as Black people, Africans, and immigrants and the experiences they faced in chasing the American dream.



ALINE SNUFF

Principal Choreographer: CAMEROON & BIKUTSI
Cameroon

Banye Aline Verla popularly known as Aline Snuff is a professional dance artist based in Cameroon. She is the CEO of Rootx Movement with an ambition to bring Cameroon moves to the limelight. She has worked with artists such as A-Star, Salatiel, DJ Arafat, Mr Leo, Stanley Enow and Daphne.

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SARAH ESSAMA

Principal Dancer
Cameroon, France

Sarah Essama is a professional Afro dancer of French and Cameroonian descent. After growing up in the States, Sarah decided to travel internationally to train under some of the best Afro dancers in the world. She has spent the past six years studying different Afro Dance styles, notably Afrohouse, Ndombolo, Couper Decaler, Naija Street Style and Ghanaian Afrobeats. Her credits include Yemi Alade, Tiwa Savage, Diamond Platnumz, Zlatan, the Burna Boy tour, the Mr. Eazi tour, World of Dance, Redbull and more.

KEY COLLABORATORS

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DAMOLA AJANAKU

Cinematographer
Nigeria

Damola is a cinematographer who uses technical knowledge in lighting and camera movement to make creative decisions when telling a story. He thrives in music videos, commercials, and the short film space.

TARGET AUDIENCES

1st and second-generation African immigrants ages 18 to 45 living in the United States (focus on cities mentioned below with priority in Houston, New York, and London).

- (1) young professionals sponsored by their companies and affiliate professional membership organization members,
- (2) students on immigration visas,
- (3) relatives and friends of international students

Secondary target audiences include: first generation college students, immigrants living in the United States, friends and family of international or first-generation college students.

Afrodance Communities: Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, New York, DMV, USA, Toronto, Canada, London, UK, France, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Congo, and Cote D'ivoire.

Priority focus on Houston and DMV (the highest population of Cameroonians in the United States), and Cameroon.

NEEDS

- Funding to finish the post-production of the film.
- Experts, Partners, and Sponsors for distribution strategy and implementation.



ABOUT THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Kemi OG

Dance artist passionate about sharing the history and culture of Afro dance and the diversity of Afrodiasporic experiences

Dance Source Houston's 2021 Spark Choreographer Grant Recipient and 2022 Artist in Residence

Houston in Action and Art 2 Action's 2020 #HTownVotes initiative grant recipient

Houston Arts Alliance 2019 Artist and Creative Individuals Grant Recipient.

Institute of Contemporary Dance Houston's Afrodance Instructor

Moments Project Phase 2 curator for Digital Exhibition: *INTERFERENCE BY SHARDÉ CHAPMAN*

Creative director, Choreographer, and Writer for Moments Project's Phase 1 Dance Film: *INTERFERENCE*

Credits include Yemi Alade, Kizz Daniel, Tiwa Savage, and Yvonne Orji among others.





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