



BLACK & WHITE

Best Experimental Micro Film at Oregon Documentary Film Festival, 2020

Best Cinematography North America at the Alternative Film Festival, 2021

Best Short Film at Black Truth Film Festival, 2021

Best Experimental film at Austin Micro Film Festival, 2021

Best Drama at Snohomish Film Festival, 2021

Directed by Edgar Garcia Chavez

Produced by Edgar Garcia Chavez

Production Year and Release Year: 2020

Running Time: 04:57 Minutes

Country of Production: USA

Original language: English

Shooting Format, aspect ratio, film sound: 1080HD 23.98fps, 16:9, Stereo.

Third World Newsreel

545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018

(212) 947-9277 x 10, tw@tw.org

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/676008810>

Page: <https://tw.org/catalog/pages/responsive/cpage.aspx?rec=1543&card=price>

BLACK & WHITE



SYNOPSIS

This award-winning experimental short film dissects the Webster's Dictionary definitions of the words "Black" and "White" – to prove how, historically, the meanings of the words have been ingrained with precise connotations concerning race and ethnicity.

AWARDS

Best Experimental Micro Film at Oregon Documentary Film Festival, 2020 (USA)

Best Cinematography North America at the Alternative Film Festival, 2021 (Toronto, Canada)

Best Short Film at Black Truth Film Festival, 2021 (USA)

Best Experimental film at Austin Micro Film Festival, 2021 (USA)

Best Drama at Snohomish Film Festival, 2021 (USA)

FINALIST

Cannes International Independent Film Festival, 2020 (France)

International Black & Diversity Film Festival, 2021 (Toronto, Canada)

Africa Film for Impact Festival, 2021 (Abuja, Nigeria)

Golden Film Festival, 2020 (Rome, Italy)

MicroMania Film Festival, 2021 (New York, USA)

Oregon Short Film Festival, 2020 (USA)

Santa Fe Film Festival, 2021 (USA)

Toronto Black Film Festival, 2021 (Canada)

International Diversity Film Festival, 2021 (Los Angeles)

SEMI-FINALIST

Best Director Award, 2021(London, UK)

OFFICIAL SELECTION

New York Latino Film Festival, 2021 (USA)

Los Angeles Black Film Festival, 2021 (USA)

Lift-Off Global Network Film Festival, 2020 (UK)

Festival de Cinema de Alter do Chão, 2020 (Brazil)

Burien Film Festival, 2020 (USA)

Defiant Arc International Short Film Festival, 2020 (USA)

Latino Film Market, 2021 (New York, USA)

Pacific Northwest Multi Cultural Readers Series & Film Festival, 2021 (USA)

Short Circuit Pacific Rim Film Festival, 2021 (Victoria, Canada)

San Diego Black Film Festival, 2022 (California, USA)

HONORABLE MENTION

Hollywood New Directors, 2020 (California, USA)

London Seasonal Short Film Festival, 2021 (UK)

Experimental Forum, 2021 (Los Angeles, USA)

BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER

I'm a Filmmaker that explores diversity and acceptance in our contemporary society as a means to encourage discussion and debate. I have a master's in architecture from the University of New Mexico. I've been producing visual art (paintings, drawings, collages, and more) for over 20 years. I love how images can convey strong messages and ideas without written explanations. I started creating films (16mm & Super8) 6 years ago, and I have experimented with film and digital media since then.

My work dwells in the intersection of visual media and performance art. I try to highlight and tell stories that mainstream media fails to show. Diversity and acceptance are key goals in my practice. Hopefully, my work opens the door for dialogue and debate.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

There will always be bias in the world, we all have preconceived ideas of what is right or wrong, but we can move past our differences and listen to different points of view instead of "canceling" the ones different from ours. The way to defeat bad ideas is by exposure, argument, and persuasion, not by trying to silence or wish them away. Hopefully, this piece opens the door for dialogue and debate. And with a little bit of willingness to work together, we can as a society achieve a greater good.

STILLS & CAPTIONS



BLACK & WHITE experimental film promotional cover



BLACK & WHITE experimental film promotional stills

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Complete Production Credits:

Producer / Writer / Director / Editor: Edgar Garcia Chavez

Director of Photography: Matt Wolcott & Sambaran Chatterjee

Actor: Bryson Black

Production Sound Mixer: Michael Gibson

Executive Producer: Gina Thardomrong

Make-up Artist: Mattie Ngo

Original Music Score: Dan Petrescu

Production Assistant: Jessica Adams

Black & White Definitions by: Merriam-Webster's College Dictionary



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Black and White 2020

 Recommended

Distributed by [Third World Newsreel](#), 545 Eighth Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018; 212-947-9277
Produced by Edgar Garcia Chavez
Directed by Edgar Garcia Chavez
Streaming, 5 mins

College - General Adult
Activism; Experimental Film; Social Movements
Date Entered: **06/15/2022**

Reviewed by Brandon West, Social Sciences Librarian, State University of New York at Geneseo

The word “black” is associated with negative words and imagery, such as sinister, devil, and expressions such as “black with rage.” The word “white” serves as a contrast to “black,” being associated with words including purity, honesty, and “reflecting rays of sunshine.” These words are laden with powerful implications for race which Director Garcia Chavez explores in this experimental film. The premise of this film is simple on the surface: the definitions of “black” and “white” are read from the Merriam-Webster dictionary. However, as powerful imagery is added to the reading of these words in a solemn tone, layers of symbolism bring forth many emotions and realities.

As the definitions are read aloud, a Black man is featured front and center of the camera. As the camera zooms outward, there are red and blue flashing lights illuminating his face against a backdrop of Black Lives Matters signs. As the definition of “black” concludes, the man is shown with yellow tape in front of his mouth that says “Danger.” As the definitions switches over to the definition of “white” the man on camera dips his hands into white paint. He makes gun gestures with his hands, including pointing one at his head. He then wraps his hands around his neck. As he begins choking, he repeats “I can’t breathe” multiple times before he falls silent.

This film has a run time of five minutes, and yet it leaves many messages for viewers to absorb and may challenge their worldviews. It not only serves as a commentary on the police brutality toward the Black community, but it also reveals the oppression created by these words that function in society. This film is ideal for engaging students in reflection and conversation in class and serves as a valuable resource for libraries supporting programs that deal with race & ethnicity, social justice, Black & African American studies, and the social sciences.

Awards:

Best Experimental Micro Film, Oregon Documentary Film Festival, 2020; Best Cinematography North America, Alternative Film Festival, Toronto, 2021; Best Short Film, Black Truth Film Festival, 2021; Best Experimental Film, Austin Micro Film Festival, 2021; Best Drama at Snohomish Film Festival, 2021; Honorable Mention, Hollywood New Directors, 2020; Honorable Mention, London Seasonal Short Film Festival, 2021; Honorable Mention, Experimental Forum, Los Angeles, 2021

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