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.

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Trailer: https://vimeo.com/676008810
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
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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