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OFF-BROADWAY PLAY IS NOW A DOCUMENTARY FILM
DC filmmaker releases documentary shedding light on black women in the media

WASHINGTON -- After ten years of development, DC filmmaker, Marjuan Canady is set to make her directorial debut with the release of her film, *Girls! Girls? Girls.* The short performance documentary features Canady's Off-Broadway one-woman play as its foundation and takes the audience on a journey of exploring the past, present and funny, yet frightening future of the global black woman. Through the use of satire, Canady and her comrades take their wit to the streets and throughout the entertainment industry to gain perspective on the 21st-century black female image.

Canady began developing *Girls! Girls? Girls.* independently as a stage play in 2009. Long before the Me Too Movement, she used the play as a tool to address issues such as sexual exploitation, media stereotyping, violence and assault and the power of the media on black and brown women and girls. From 2009-2013, she toured the show nationally performing at over 50 regional theatres, colleges and high schools. After successfully performing and leading post show media literacy workshops for youth of color, Canady saw the impact the play was having on her audiences and these conversations drove her to develop the play into a film. So she enlisted the help of her Los Angeles and New York City team (with over 50% of women working behind the camera) and over the past 8 years they have integrated this satirical stage play into a documentary film shedding light on issues that still plague black and brown women and girls.

The film is based in a fictitious yet realistic world where characters are brainwashed by pop culture icons, capitalism, reality tv and celebrity culture. The film also features sit down interviews with accomplished women who are advocates for women's rights including President and CEO of the Chicago Community Trust, Dr. Helene Gayle, Legendary Calypsonian singer-songwriter, Calypso Rose, 3-time Track and Field Olympian Dee Dee Trotter, Grammy nominated singer-songwriter-emcee, Maimouna Youssef, Philanthropist, Irena Medavoy, filmmaker and media activist, Dr. Jean Kilbourne and the Executive Director of H.I.P.S, Cyndee Clay.

Canady is thrilled to finally share this film with the world. "This piece has meant so much for me as an artist, as a woman and as an educator. It has allowed me to create my own door instead of knocking on industry doors. Most importantly it has given space for so many black and brown women and girls to share their truths. I wrote this piece long before it was trending to say #MeToo and #TimesUp with the intention to reveal how we as a society ridiculously look and experience and contribute to the demonization of black female bodies. Today, there are more black women in powerful positions but we still have much more work to do. I am assured the only way to change the industry is to unapologetically create your own. I hope this film makes you laugh, cry and think," says Canady.

The film will screen at film festivals internationally throughout the 2019-2020 year but the DC premiere is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th at Anacostia Arts Center, 1231 Good Hope Road SE Washington, DC. The red carpet will begin at 7:00pm, the screening will begin at 7:30pm and a post-screening talk-back will follow with the production team. Running time is 34 minutes.

For more information please visit [www. sepiaworks.org/gggdocumentary](http://www.sepiaworks.org/gggdocumentary).

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