

# DURAN M. JONES

(HE / HIM / HIS)



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Los Angeles

## SYNOPSIS

Duran Jones is a multi-hyphenate whose directing is strengthened by his history as a producer, actor, rapper, and writer. Jones' keen ability to understand all facets of production, make him an ideal collaborator. He is a graduate of The American Film Institute Conservatory, a 2020 PGA Power of Diversity workshop fellow, a 2021 Sundance Feature Film Producers Lab Fellow, and a 2024 resident of the Mara Brock Akil Writer's Colony. With over 15 short films under his belt, Jones is building an impressive slate of features and television with his BLK MGC Content imprint, including a feature film that landed development with 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks (Spike Lee). "Hallelujah" the short film proof of concept for that feature, produced by Jones, won the Grand Prix for Best Short and the Best Producer Award at the Holly Shorts Film Festival; qualifying for the Oscars.



## EDUCATION

### AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE

#### M.F.A. in Producing | Los Angeles, CA | Class of 2021

- Selected Fellow's Advisory Committee Representative and Academic Chair, Dr. David M. Milch Foundation Scholarship Recipient., PGA Student Ambassador

### HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

#### B.A. in Broadcast Journalism | Hampton, VA | Class of 2007

## DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

### TIME IS MONEY

#### Short Film | Release: Fall 2025

- **Logline:** Jace, a financially challenged writer/director and self-proclaimed graduate of the school of Mark Duplass, delivers packages to survive while struggling to secure funds for his first indie feature.
- **Genre:** Comedy

### KANAVU

#### Short Film | Release: 2022

- **Logline:** Vidya, a first-generation South Asian American teen, learns to appreciate her culture and heritage through a family heirloom that transports her through time.
- **Genre:** Family Drama

### ALMOST PERFECT

#### Music Video

- **Artist:** Duran
- **Genre:** Hip Hop
- **Synopsis:** A struggling artist finds inspiration when he bumps into a young single mother and her adolescent daughter at the bus stop.

### KING KONG

#### Music Video

- **Artist:** Duran
- **Genre:** Hip Hop
- **Synopsis:** Duran goes beast mode as he lyrically transforms into his King Kong alter ego.

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## BASI NIENDE

### Music Video

- **Artist:** Duran
- **Genre:** Hip Hop
- **Synopsis:** After 15 years, Duran cuts his locs and is led to cathartic expression of the fear and anxiety that comes with it.

## DIE SLOW

### Music Video

- **Artist:** Duran
- **Genre:** Hip Hop
- **Synopsis:** Trayvon Martin, Oscar Grant, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland. Duran expresses the outrage and lessons learned from the senseless killing of innocent black bodies.

## FESTIVALS/AWARDS

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

#### Jerome | Short Film | Release: 2023

- **Awards:** Nominated, HBO Short Film Award American Black Film Festival | Audience Award, Film Series at Cine Gear Expo | Festival Prize, Boston Short Film Festival | 2nd place Honourable Mention, Montreal International Black Film Festival | Nominated, Best Actor and Best Actress, BronzeLens Film Festival
- **Official Selections:** American Black Film Festival | Boston Short Film Festival | Cine Gear Expo | Montreal Black International Film Festival | BronzeLens Film Festival

### PRODUCER

#### Hallelujah | Short Film | Release: 2022

- **Awards:** Grand Prix Best Short/Best Producer (Oscar Qualified) HollyShorts Film Festival | Best Narrative Short RiverRun Film Festival
- **Official Selections:** Sundance Film Festival | HollyShorts Film Festival | AFI Fest | Micheaux Film Festival | Toronto Black Film Festival | Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival | BronzeLens Film Festival | Crested Butte Film Festival | Nashville Film Festival | Pittsburgh Film Festival | RiverRun Film Festival | Palm Springs International Film Festival | Crested Butte Film Festival | Salute You Shorts Film Festival | Jacksonville Film Festival | Official Latino Film and Arts Festival | Nashville Film Festival | Pittsburgh Shorts Film Festival | Cleveland International Film Festival | Arkansas Shorts Film Festival | Americana Film Festival | Cordillera Film Festival

### WRITER/PRODUCER

#### FIVE | Short Film | Release: 2021

- **Awards:** Best Student Film, Jacksonville Film Festival
- **Official Selections:** American Black Film Festival | AFI Fest | Toronto Black Film Festival | Micheaux Film Festival | BronzeLens Film Festival | Official Latino Film and Arts Festival | BHERC Reel Black Men Showcase

### CO-PRODUCER

#### After That We Didn't Talk | Short Film | Release: 2020

- **Awards:** Best Actor Jelly Film Festival
- **Official Selections:** LA Shorts International Film Festival | Hollyshorts Film Festival | Black Harvest Film Festival | Jelly Film Festival | LA Black Film Festival | San Diego Black Film Festival | UK Seasonal Short Film Festival | Indie Short Fest | Fox Soul's Screening Room

## FELLOWSHIPS/LEADERSHIP

**RESIDENT** 2024 Mara Brock Akil Writer's Colony | Apr. 2024 - Jul. 2024 

**FELLOW** 2021 Sundance Feature Film Creative Producers Lab | Jul. 2021 - Jul. 2022 

**PRODUCER** 2020 PGA Power of Diversity Masters Workshop | Jul. 2020 - Sep. 2020 