

WITH WONDER

A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY BY SHARON LEWIS



WITH WONDER

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

TRT: 74 MINUTES

Release Date: Sept 24, 2021 (Out on Film Atlanta LGBT Film Festival)

Producers: Sharon Lewis and Byron Kent Wong

Director: Sharon Lewis

Production Company (Canada):

urbansoul inc
33 Poucher St
Toronto, ON
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AND

Iron Bay Media
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Toronto, ON
M5V 3A8

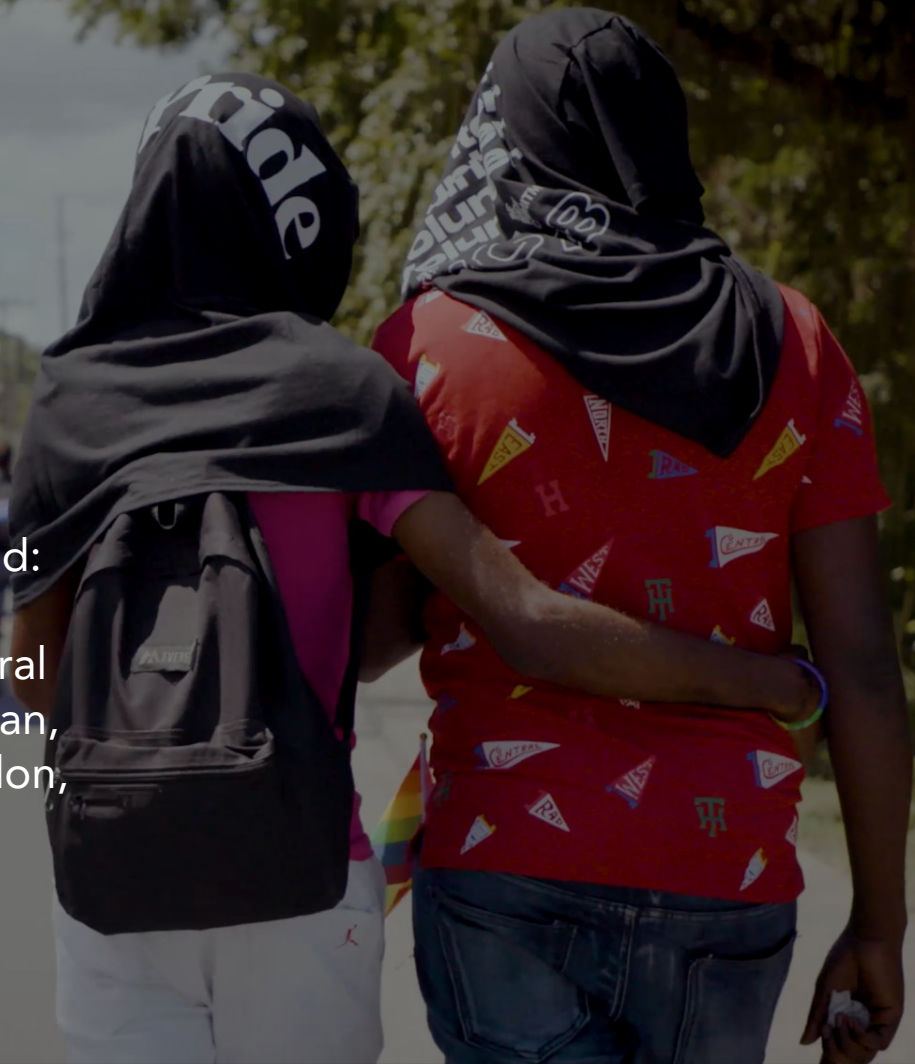
Log line: *WITH WONDER* is a subjective documentary that tries to answer the question: *can you be Christian and Queer?*



WITH WONDER

Is a
Love Letter to God

From Queer activists around the world:
a Queer/Transgender Tamil-Sri
Lankan-American Comedian in LA, rural
Queer folks in Jamaica, and Black, Asian,
and South Asian Queer Clerics in London,
San Francisco and New York.



TRAILER



"This film will find your heart and hold it gently. Lewis's incredibly sincere documentary delves deep into the lives of people who have found the other side of their trauma, in order to live in their power as who they are.."

- Aisha Evelynna, Reelworld Film Festival Programmer

"*With Wonder* made me uncomfortably aware of my privilege... It does make one think and opens a window into a world that otherwise I would never have ventured into. Or tried to understand."

- Drew Rowsome, Editor, *My Gay Toronto*

"*With Wonder* follows eight queer people of colour and their evolving, sometimes strained, but always hopeful, relationships with God. Their stories take place across cities like Montego Bay, Los Angeles and Lagos, but all are connected by their faith, and Lewis' poignant portrayal of their queerness."

- Ashleigh-Rae Thomas, Writer, [XTRA Magazine](#)



High stakes in documenting the first PRIDE march to Montego Bay...

"Jamaican LGBTQI+ face intolerable levels of physical and sexual violence."

- Human Rights Watch

"Jamaica is not really ready yet to accept gays with open arms."

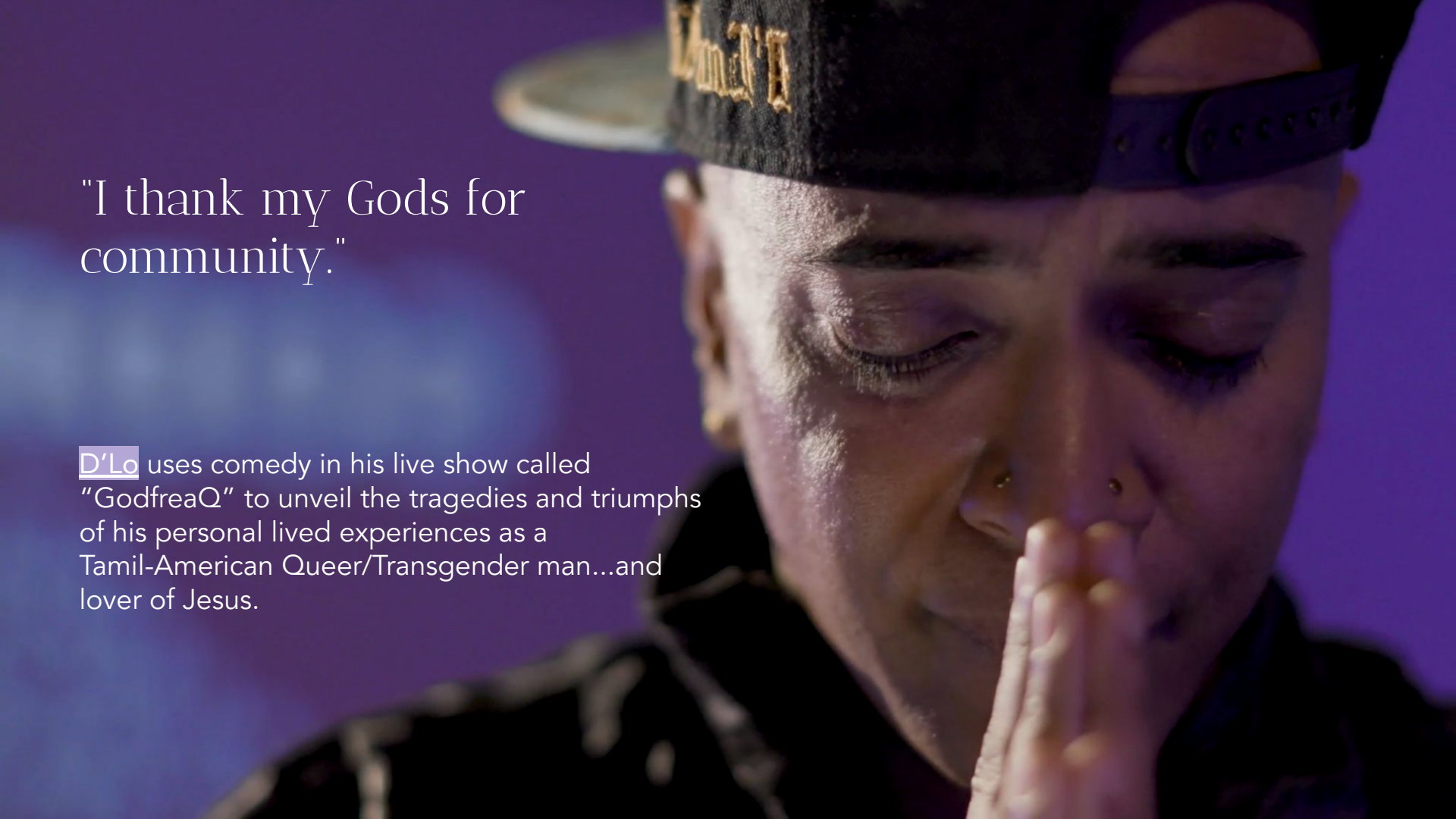
"The police officer basically told me he hates gays and we make him sick."






"I don't ever want to choose between being a Jamaican, Christian, and LGBT."

Maurice is an internationally recognized Jamaican LGBTQI & HIV activist who, despite several death-threats, potentially being jailed, his father's disapproval and harassment from the church, he is determined to lead the first ever Pride walk in Montego Bay.




"I thank my Gods for
community."

D'Lo uses comedy in his live show called
"GodfreaQ" to unveil the tragedies and triumphs
of his personal lived experiences as a
Tamil-American Queer/Transgender man...and
lover of Jesus.

A close-up, profile view of a person's face, focusing on the eye and nose. The person has dark skin and is looking slightly upwards and to the right. The background is blurred, showing another person's face in profile on the left side. The overall lighting is soft and natural.

"I know you're going to find this constantly a struggle and difficult because you don't understand why somebody, unless they're white, would be LGBT..."

Lady Phyll, founder of UK Black Pride, is an internationally renowned activist who makes the trip from London, UK to Jamaica to support her queer black brothers/sister/folk in the first Montego Bay Pride march. Although Lady Phyll speaks bravely on public stages, she shares her vulnerability in coming out to her very religious Ghanaian-British family.

A woman with dark, curly hair is smiling warmly, looking down and to her right. She is wearing a green clerical vestment with a gold and brown patterned stole. The background is a church interior with stained glass windows and wooden pews.

"When I let go of wanting to be different so that I could be a follower of Jesus... I came to know myself."

Reverend Winnie goes beyond her role as a priest to share her own story about the intersection of Queerness and Christianity.

PARTICIPANTS



D'Lo - Los Angeles

A queer/transgender Tamil-Sri Lankan-American actor/writer/comedian whose work ranges from stand-up comedy, solo theater, plays, films & music production, to poetry & spoken word. He's been seen on HBO, Amazon, Netflix, & CW. D'Lo is currently in development on a scripted series based on his life that is set up at BTR Media & Paul Feig's Powderkeg Media.

Reverend Jide - London/Nigeria

Founding Pastor & CEO of House Of Rainbow CIC. Jide is an openly gay British-Nigerian Christian minister who is an inspirational speaker, author, poet & HIV Positive Activist. He holds a degree in Law, masters degree in Theology & Post-graduate certificate in Pastoral Theology. Jide focuses his ministry on inclusion & reconciliation of sexuality, spirituality & human rights.



Reverend Winnie - New York

Reverend Winnie is a South Asian queer priest who uses her calling as a social justice activist in all her formal roles. She was previously the Priest for Ministries and Program Coordination at Trinity Church Wall St. Winnie serves as the rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta.

Tanya - Jamaica

Tanya currently resides in Montego Bay with her partner and is aiming to buy a house.



PARTICIPANTS



Maurice - Jamaica/Toronto

A Jamaican Attorney-at-Law, law lecturer, and leading Gay Rights & HIV activist in the Caribbean for over 20 years. Maurice is one of the only Jamaican LGBTI human rights advocates to challenge the country's 1864 British colonially-imposed anti-gay Sodomy Law (known as the Buggery Law). In 2012, Maurice received the David Kato Vision and Voice award which recognizes individuals who defend human rights and the dignity of LGBTI people around the world.

Serena - San Francisco

A second generation Asian American of Chinese heritage with roots in the Bay Area & New York City. Brought up in Evangelical and Charismatic ministries, Serena supports the spiritual and psychological well-being of queer Evangelical Asian Christians and their allies, and is a finance professional.

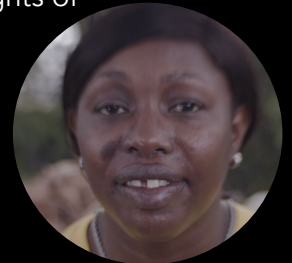


Lady Phyll - London

Lady Phyll is the nucleus of the award-winning celebration and protest that is UK Black Pride. Widely known as Lady Phyll – partly due to her decision to reject an Most Excellent Order of the British Empire to protest Britain's role in formulating anti-LGBTQI+ penal codes across its empire – she is also the executive director of Kaleidoscope Trust, an organisation working to uphold the human rights of LGBTQI+ people.

Jessicka - Jamaica

Previously lived and worked in Montego Bay with a security company and has two lovely children.





DIRECTOR + PRODUCER

Sharon Lewis

With Wonder (2021), was born out of Sharon's own muted struggle with not fitting into neat racial/Queer/Christian boxes. This captivating feature documentary, which won Audience Choice Award at Reelworld Film Festival 2021, is the latest in a long list of her creative work in the black, women of color, and Queer communities. Sharon's work has been recognized with 6 Canadian Screen Award (CSA) nominations and she is the recent winner of a CSA for Best Direction of a Factual Series. Sharon continues to blaze trails in both scripted and unscripted storytelling.

www.thesharonlewis.com

Nominated: *Standout Writer, Standout Producer, Standout Director* at Reelworld Film Festival 2021 for *With Wonder*.

PRODUCER

Byron Kent Wong

As a producer and creative director, Byron has over two decades of creative development experience. He is the founder and lead of the Emmy-nominated production ecosystem, [ZERO11ZERO](#). Over his career, Byron has produced television series, feature films, music, immersive installations and documentaries and won multiple awards and nominations including Emmy and Genie/Canadian Screen Awards. Byron has worked with HBO, Netflix, CBC, NBC, CBS, Michelle & Barack Obama, David Bowie, Kelly Rowland, TIFF, and Kanye West to name a few. Notable Documentary work includes: the Emmy-nominated, 'Jason Day: Never Say Die', 'Choir!Choir!Choir! Hallelujah with Rufus Wainwright', 'Disruptor Conductor', 'Player Zero', 'From Far and Wide", ProMax BDA-awarded '4 Days in April' and projects with renowned Toronto LGBTQ community centre, The 519.



Nominated: *Standout Producer*
at Reelworld Film Festival 2021

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Justin Lovell



Nominated: *Standout Cinematographer*
at Reelworld Film Festival 2021

Justin's distinctive style as a cinematographer comes from his firm understanding of visual movement, composition and creative sculpting of natural lighting. He has been nominated by the Canadian Society of Cinematographers for his Documentary work and nominated for a CSC award for his accomplishments in Lifestyle/Reality Cinematography. His work has been highlighted internationally at festivals such as Sundance, Berlin Nomos and Reelworld, and has been broadcast on HBO, Bravo!, NBC, CBC, FOX, YTV, MTV, ESPN and TSN. Justin has also done socially impactful work creating opportunities for underprivileged families and individuals. Justin shot the Emmy-Nominated documentary, 'Jason Day: Never Say Die', CBC Docs' 'Player Zero', and completed two back-to-back feature films with teams from Suicide Squad, Triple X and Netflix' Marco Polo.

EDITOR

Kejd Kuqo

Kejd Kuqo is an award winning filmmaker and a graduate of the Humber College Film and Television Program where he majored in Editing, Cinematography and Directing.

Kejd's short documentary "Building on Sand" has screened at various international festivals and has premiered in OMNI1. Kejd's short film "Bosniak" has screened at over 25 festivals and aired on CBC as part of it's Canadian Reflections program. The film has gone on to win several awards including Best Film, Best Directing and multiple Audience Choice Awards. Kejd is the recipient of the Kenneth Post Achievement Award for Excellence.

Kejd's been a part of the Emmy-Nominated ZERO11ZERO ltd creative team since 2016 with such projects as "On The Ropes", "From Far and Wide" and is currently developing a feature documentary "Lazarat" on the biggest secret drug operation in Europe's history.



IRON BAY MEDIA

Iron Bay Media is an award-winning and Emmy-nominated creative team that produces several feature films, documentaries, broadcast, documentaries, commercial and premium content.

Established in 2014, Iron Bay Media works in diverse environments that range from global brands to community narratives and continue to lead compelling storytelling for rockstars, athletes, political figures, authors, at-risk youth, fashion designers, and satellite makers.

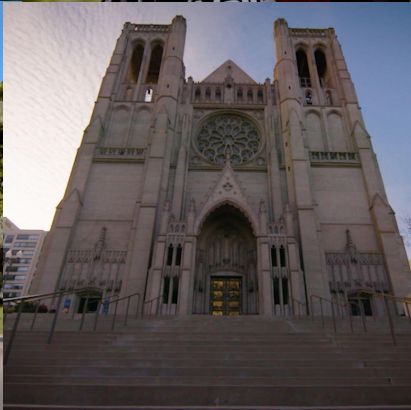
Current and past clients and collaborators include HBO, NBC, CBC, Netflix, TSN, Michelle Obama, Giorgio Armani, Comicon, Wattpad, Deloitte, Myseum of Toronto, the Toronto Raptors, BMW, Ronald McDonald House, Toyota, Roger Mooking, the Toronto Bluejays, the PGA, the Toronto International Film Festival, and musicians Frank Turner, The Tragically Hip, Shad, Delhi 2 Dublin, Choir!Choir!Choir!, and The Crystal Method, and many more.

Iron Bay Media are currently developing a number of narrative projects that bridge entertainment, education, and social-impact.

URBANSOUL INC

urbansoul inc. is an award-winning, vibrant and nimble boutique production company based in Toronto, Canada. It was founded in 2002 by Sharon Lewis as a vehicle to express and create engaging stories, particularly those that give voice to black women, women of color and Caribbean peoples. Selected projects include: *Brown Girl Begins*, *CHAINS*, *In Between Life*, and *Disruptor Conductor* which have been viewed on HBO, Hulu, Amazon, CBC, CTV, and numerous festivals around the world.

PRODUCTION STILLS



BEHIND THE SCENES



CREDITS

Contributors:

D'Lo
Serena
Rev. Jide
Phyll
Nemo
Jessicka
Tanya
Maurice
Rev. Winnie

A film by Sharon Lewis
Editor Kejd Kuqo
Producer Byron Kent Wong
Director of Photography Justin Lovell
Producer/Writer Sharon Lewis
Original Music by: A Thousand Black Birds Fall
from the Sky

Executive Producers:
Byron Kent Wong
Sharon Lewis

Ontario Arts Council
Canada Council for the Arts

Production Manager: Jordan Holt
Associate Producer: Nora Navarro
Associate Producer: Elise Bailey
Associate Producer: Kate Latimer
Associate Producer: Andreanna Chin
Production Coordinator: Domenique Arnold
Media Relations Coordinator: Cheyenne Goolcharan

Additional Photography:

Max Attwood
Alex Neaves
Kejd Kuqo
David Nguyen
Tim Bourgette

Audio Recordists:
Tom McGowan
Jordan Holt
Michael Ademilua

Production Crew:
Kingsley Craib
Dalmane Bridge

Christine Cote
Matthew Hedlin
Bryanna Pollock
Shaun Boyd
Romana Diaconescu
Teejay Madely

Post by ZERO11ZERO
Post Supervisor: Kejd Kuqo

Audio by: Iron Bay Audio
Roger Sader

Colour by Walt Biljan / Redlab
Opening Title Design by Jono Flett
CCAP & DV Provided by Bitsmith Media

Original Music by:
A Thousand Black Birds Fall from the Sky and
Kejd Kuqo

CREDITS

Published by: S.T.N. Music Publishing

Music Supervision: Kejd Kuqo

Music provided by:
Random Science Inc
Artlist.IO

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Micah Fink Common Good Productions
Royal St. George's College
Stephen Beatty
Cheri DiNovo
Pi Boyd
Jeanne Lewis
Bryanna Pollock
Kathleen Lewis
RiverCross Ranch
Wai Hin Chan & Kirby Hom & family
Michael Lebor / Lebor Films
*All the attendees at RSGC for Rev. Winnie's
sermon*

Round Hill Hotel and Villas Managing Director:
Josef Forstmayr
Carver & Painter: Errol Gilfillian
Basket Craftsman: Richard Miller
Hotel Gloriana and Spa Owner: Eugennie Carroll
Minto
Mark Stevens/Redlab

Featured Documentaries:

Gay and God Fearing in Nigeria (2008)
The Abominable Crime (2013)

Special thanks to:

Kingsley Craib
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Justin Lee
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Geronimo Cerezo Poon
Anujan Navasivayam
Andrew Navasivayam

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Kate Kung
Shaun Boyd
Akua Delfish
Carla Moore
Alicia K Harris
Nora Marku
Ryan Maggs
Michael Glassbourg
Lindsey Hilliard-Wong

In loving memory of Carmen Tomlinson

URBAN
SOUL INC

IRON BAY MEDIA

ZERO1
1ZERO



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