

# Alison Duke

*Producer/Director*

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## *Career Overview*

From 2004 to present, Ms. Duke has spearheaded numerous media-based projects while producing and developing documentaries, PSAs for TV broadcast, web, 2.0 and community organizations. Some titles include, *Hear the Story* (marginalization of Toronto's youth of colour), *Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home* (tracking a Canadian family's eco footprint) and *The Women I Have Become* (African and Caribbean women living with HIV).

Ms Duke's filmmaking career began in the mid-90s when she was asked to co-write and produce a short film for a friend and a music video for another. What started off as a dare became an experience so enjoyable, she started producing music videos full-time. Between 1996-1999, she co-owned and operated Raje Film House Inc. Over the course of 4 years, the boutique production company created 150 music videos for some of the brightest up and coming Canadian artists such as Nelly Furtado, Kos and Motion. Raje was nominated for 19 Much Music Awards and won two awards for Rascal's *Northern Touch* and Blackkat's, *If I were a Planet?* As a co-owner of Raje she became knowledgeable in responsibilities included grant writing, marketing and also production.

From there Ms. Duke wrote and directed the seminal hip-hop film *Raisin' Kane: a rapumentary*. The critical acclaim of *Raisin Kane* helped to launch her directing career in 2000. She then went on to work as a senior segment producer for Chum Television's syndicated Gemini award-winning documentary series *Sex TV* and produced short docs (2001-2003). Some of her pieces, such as *Booty Nation*, *From the Pimpstick to the Pulpit*, which looked at the sexualization of women of colour in pop culture screened in numerous markets and festivals. A string of other seminal social issues documentaries followed such as *A Deathly Silence* (for CBC Witness and Newsworld) and *Sisters in Cinema*.

## *Skills*

Ms. Duke is a multi-faceted filmmaker with many production skills including: producing, directing, and camera operation. She is contracted for all areas of production including scriptwriting and story development, grant writing, camera operation and her expertise in lighting, editing, sound mixing and general post-production work-flow is often highly appreciated by her clients. She is also commissioned regularly to teach and mentor youth people how to make films. Ms Duke currently sits on several film festival boards including Planet in Focus, and regularly attends and participates in film festivals around the world.

## *Current Developments*

Ms. Duke is currently in development on several projects: *Digital Diaspora Family Reunion (Canada)*: a cross-platform interface created by Thomas Allen Harris which serves as a portal for black photography from 1860 to present. She is also producing *A Hate Supreme*, a feature drama with iconic Canadian filmmaker Bruce McDonald as well as writing her feature dramatic debut and is also developing two other projects. On Sept 20, 2009 she was inducted to the University of Windsor's Sports Hall of Fame for achieving excellence in sports and in her community work.

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## *Film, Television, Web, DVD Production*

CIBC/Amicus Financial Webspots

Director/Co-writer (2009)  
3 X 1min spots for HR Dept. to stream on Workopolis  
Producers: Marsha Clarke  
Justbecuz Media/CIBC/Amicus Financial

Digital Diaspora Family Reunion

Producer (2009) In-production

	Cross-platform/ new media project with feature doc Producers: Thomas Allen Harris/Deborah Willis Chimpanzee Production/ Goldelox Productions
A Hate Supreme	Producer (2009) In-production Experimental Feature Drama Directors: Bruce McDonald Shadow Shows Production/Goldelox Productions
The Woman I Have Become	Writer/Director (2007) 60 min Independent Documentary Producer: Notisha Massaquoi & Wangari Tharao
Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home	Producer (2007) Feature Documentary Executive Producers: Andrew Nisker & Yvonne Welbon Garbage Productions/Take Action Films Television Premiere Superchannel, March 2008
Traditions and Transitions	Writer/Director (2007) 28 min Independent Documentary Producers: Annemarie Shrouder Women's Intercultural Network
Half Life	Co-writer (2007) Independent Feature Dramatic Film (2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Draft) Director: Yvonne Welbon Producers: Tracy Baim and Yvonne Welbon Windy City Media Group/Half Life Productions
The Calling	Story Editor for Development (2006) Feature Drama (In-Postproduction) Director: Dany Chiasson Executive Producer: Bruce McDonald, Dany Chiason Shadow Shows Production
Get Your Move On	Co-writer/Director (2006) 7 x 30 sec PSA Producer(s): Susan Nation and Alison Duke City of Toronto/Goldelox Productions Inc./OMNI
Hip Hop In the T-Dot	Director (2006) 6 X 1/2hr Reality Teen Dance Show Pilot Producer(s): Susan Nation and Nina Beveridge Tween Entertainment/Rogers TV
Behind the Mask	Director/Producer (2006) 1/2 hr Documentary Across Boundaries, Y-Connect & Griffin Center Goldelox Productions Inc.
Hear the Story	Director/Producer (2005) 1/2 hr Documentary A Youth Documentary Project City Hall/Social Development and Administration
Sex & Dis(order)	Director (2005) Televised Short Competition (2 <sup>nd</sup> Place) Producer: Brad Brough/Lina Cino/ Pedro Orrego

	CHUM Television/ City TV/Sex TV
A Deathly Silence	Writer/Director (2003) TV One-hour documentary Producer Nataline Rodrigues CBC Newsworld/ CBC Witness/Yap Pictures
A Taste of Dirt	Creative Consultant (2002) Short drama Producer/Director: Yvonne Welbon American Film Institute/Directing Workshop for Women
Sex TV	Segment Producer (2002-2003) Documentary Series 20 X 1/2 hr episodes (Season 3&4) Producers: Brad Brough/Pedro Orrego City TV/Chum Television
Sins of the Father	Director's Documentary Consultant (2001) MOW/Docudrama Director: Robert Dornhiem Producer: Fank Siracusa The Fox Network/Whizbang Film Inc.
Skin-deep	Director (2001) 3 X 1/2 hr Documentary Series - Season 3 Producer: Alfonso Adetuyi and Amos Adetuyi Life Network/ Inner City Films
Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary	Writer/Director (2001) Feature Length Documentary (72 Min) Producer: Karen King-Chigbo National Film Board of Canada CHUM TV/Much Music/Much Vibe
Free of Eden	Producer's Assistant (1999) MOW Producer: Cedric Scott. ShowTime Network/Dufferin Gates
Sony Playstation	Producer/Editor (1999) 30 sec. Commercial Spot Director: Cliff Skelton. Much Music/Raje Film House
Music Videos (Directed)	Artists (1998 – 2001): Motion, Citizen Kane, Gavin Hope, Nelly Furtado, Carlos Morgan Jason Allen, V.I.P. Just Cool,
Music Video (Co-Produced)	Artists (1996 – 2002): Rascalz, Choclair, Maestro, Citizen Kane, Temperance, Shauna Davis, KOS, Ghetto Concept, RAM-Z, In-Essence, Glenn Lewis, Puppet, Black-I, Motion.
<i>Grants, Awards and Fellowships</i>	
Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home	CIFVF Production Grant (2007)
Reel World Trailblazer Award	Reel World Film Festival (2005)

Telefilm Screenwriting Assistance Program	Treatment to First Draft Screenwriting Award (2004)
Toronto Arts Council	New Media Film Development Grant (2004)
Ontario Arts Council	Film Development Grant (2004) Production Grant (2009)
Sisters in Cinema	Denver Pan African Film Festival – Renaissance Award St..Louis Int'l Film Festival – Women in Film Award African Diaspora Film Festival – Audience Award Women in the Director's Chair – ACTION! Award Philadelphia Gay & Lesbian Festival – Best Doc
A Deathly Silence	Nomination Best Social Documentary 2003 Yorkton Film Festival Golden Sheaf Nominee 2003 Chris Awards Honorable Mention Columbus International Film Festival
Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary	2001 HBO Award for Best Documentary Urbanworld Film Festival 2001 Best Canadian Documentary Reel World Film Festival Theatrical Release 2bscene/Universal
Music Video – Producing	Raje Film House (1996 - 1999) 18 Much Music Video Award Nominations Winner of 2 Much Music Awards
Black Film and Video Awards	The Reel Award (1998) Outstanding Achievement in Film

*Workshops*

Lighting, Camera and Sound, Avid Editing, Documentary/Reality TV Directing, Drama Production Proposal Writing and Financing, Integrated Acting System for Directors, Final Cut Pro Editing, Robert McKee Story Workshop, WGC-WIFT Screenwriting Workshop, Federal and Ontario Film Tax Credits.

*Selected Screenings*

- CINEMAMBIENTE** Environment Fest (Italy) 2009 - Special mention award
- DOCSDF** International Documentary Film Festival (Mexico) 2009
- Pepena Film Festival** ( Mexico ) 2009
- Guangzhou GZ** Doc Film Festival (China) 2009
- EcoKnights** Environmental Film Fest in (Malaysia )
- Gimli** Film Festival
- New Kingston Film Festival** 2009
- UNAIDs Conference** (Gevena, Switzerland) 2009 The Woman I Have Become
- United Nations Association Film Festival** (Palo Alto) 2008 Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home
- Hot Docs!** (Toronto , ON ) 2008 Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home
- International Aids Conference** (Mexico City) 2008 The Woman I Have Become

**Caribbean Tales Film Festival** ( Toronto , ON) 2008 Raisin' Kane: a rapumentary  
**Bloor Cinema,** ( Toronto, ON) 2007 International Aids Day The Woman I Have Become,  
**Metro Hall** ( Toronto , ON) 2007 International Women's Day Traditions and Transitions  
**Reel World Film Festival** (Toronto , ON) (2006) Hear the Story  
**Commfest** , Toronto, ON (2006) Hear the Story  
**Toronto City Hall,** Toronto, ON (2006) Hear the Story  
**Feminism and Hip Hop Conference,** University of Chicago, Center of Race, Politics Culture (2005) Booty Nation  
**Hot Seat 5** (Toronto, ON) 2004 A Deathly Silence  
**Inside Out Film Festival** (Toronto ON (2004) Sisters in Cinema  
**Chicago Film Festival** (Chicago, IL) 2003 Sisters in Cinema  
**Cinema Arts Center Women's Film Festival** (Indianapolis, IN) 2003 Sisters in Cinema  
**Harlem Film Festival** (Harlem, NY) 2003 Sisters In Cinema  
**San Francisco Black Film Festival** (San Francisco, CA) 2003 Sisters In Cinema  
**Pan African Film Festival** (Los Angeles, CA) 2003 Sisters In Cinema  
**Boston International Women's Film Festival** (Boston, MA) 2003 Sisters In Cinema  
**Cleveland Film Festival** (Cleveland, OH) 2003 Sisters In Cinema  
**Los Angeles Outfest Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** (Los Angeles, CA) 2003 Sisters in Cinema  
**African Canadian Film Festival** (London, ON) 2003 Raisin Kane – A Rapumentary  
**CBC's Newsworld Documentary Festival** (Toronto, ON) 2003 A Deathly Silence  
**Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** (Philadelphia, PA) 2003 Sisters in Cinema  
**Paramount Theatre** (Toronto, ON) 2002 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**Black Inc. Film Festival** (Rotterdam, AMR) 2002 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**Annual Jamerican Music & Film Festival** (Jamaica, WI) 2002 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**London Hip Hop Festival** (England, UK) 2002 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**Flanders International Film Festival-Gent** (Gent, BE) 2002 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**Pan African Film Festival** (Los Angeles, CA) 2002 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**Revelation Perth International Film Festival** (South Fremantle, AUS) 2002 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**Black Hollywood Film Festival** (Los Angeles, CA) 2002 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**Durban International Film Festival** (Durban, SA) 2001 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary  
**Urbanworld Film Festival** (New York, NY) 2001 Raisin' Kane: A Rapumentary

*Post Secondary Education*

Masters of Science, Human Kinetics  
Bachelors of Science, Kinesiology

*University of Windsor Degree Awarded (1991)*  
*University of Windsor Degree Awarded (1989)*

*References will be supplied upon request.*

To book an appointment or interview, contact Alison Duke

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