



CLING

A STORY ABOUT WALKING AWAY

Directed by Mel Mah
Written by Enisha Brewster

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Shooting format: digital
- Aspect Ratio: 16x9
- Audio Format: stereo
- Length: 10:05
- Original language: English



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SYNOPSIS

Heartbroken and fed up, Jade, an idealistic LA transplant, abruptly walks out on her boyfriend. On her journey through the streets of Los Angeles, the city's transforming facade reflects her inner struggle, and eventually leads her to a final crossroads. But is she prepared to face the consequences of the path she decides to follow?



ABOUT THE FILM

With its limited dialogue, CLING is a visual and emotional appeal to anyone trapped in an unhealthy situation to take one step and then another toward peace, to never forget who they are, and to take responsibility for their happiness no matter what.

Shot in a variety of East Los Angeles neighborhoods, the moving pictures of CLING are meant to serve as a metaphor of the inner struggle one wages as she contends with one unsustainable reality after another. And, it is an ode to the power of a mother's love which knows no depths and defies all distances.

CLING is inspired by the real-life events of writer and lead actress, Enisha Brewster, detangling from bad relationships and surviving the harsh realities of life far from home. Enisha also drew inspiration from "lady in green," a character from Ntozoke Shange's Choreopoem, *For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf*. For Enisha, making CLING has served as a catharsis and an acknowledgement of a reclaimed self.



ABOUT MEL MAH (director & producer)



Mel Mah is a Chinese-Canadian filmmaker based in Los Angeles, and she was born and raised in Toronto. She directed and produced the short films VEGAS BABY (2018), LITTLE BIRD (2019), and DEAR MOM (2021), and she's directed music videos for Liane V., GIRLKIND, and Anh Minh. Mel studied film directing at the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles, and she's worked as the Executive Director's Assistant to George Tillman Jr. since 2017. Mel has been a close collaborator with Tillman on 20th Century Fox's THE HATE U GIVE (2018), the ABC TV show FOR LIFE (2020), and she is currently associate producing a Sony biopic with him called HEART OF A LION. She also produced the short film A

CURE FOR ALL THINGS (director: Katherine Chou) through Visual Communications' Armed With A Camera fellowship, which premiered at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival in 2020.

Director Statement

Our short film shows the importance of standing in your power when confronting toxic relationships and the capacity within all of us to return home to who we truly are no matter how far removed we've become. Jade's journey demonstrates how we are the only ones responsible for the direction we take, and we can always choose to turn things around.

Additional Filmmakers

Enisha Brewster - Writer, Lead Character

CLING is actress Enisha Brewster's first written and produced film. She is currently writing a pilot, and two feature films centering the unique experiences of the intersectional millennial on her quest for answers. Enisha's film and tv credits include *Footloose* (2011), *NCIS Hawaii*, *Good Trouble*, *9-1-1*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *All American*, and *The Vampire Diaries* among others.

Taryn Kelly - Producer

Producer, writer and actress, Taryn Kelly has been in the industry since age seven. She is now going into her third year of production working on some of the largest sets in Hollywood. Taryn is currently developing two new scripts, assisting on other projects, and is more excited than ever to bring people's stories to life.

Yahna Harris - Director of Photography

Yahna, Los Angeles-based DP/Cam-Op, is known for her intimate camera-work. She is the co-founder of the production company, 4:3 Collective where she creates commercials, music videos, and narratives. Freelancing, she has worked with clients such as Fresh Truck, Funny or Die, America's Test Kitchen, and Summits Education.

Julen Murguia - Editor

Julen is an interdisciplinary artist with a background in film production, directing, editing and songwriting/music-making. Julen's filmmaking credits include *K's Lament*, *Silver Twins: Bruce Lee*, and *Yale Farm*.

Tony Neiman - Composer

Tony Neiman is an Italian composer & a classical and jazz pianist. In 2018 Tony Neiman composed music for a thriller 'Midnight Climax' directed by Joseph Sorrentino and in 2019 he scored a Sci-Fi/Fantasy movie 'Gatekeeper of the Galaxy' by Dzhaniq Fayziev. Moreover, Tony has collaborated with a renowned composer John Ottman on a Fox Tv series 'The Gifted' and has been a part of the postproduction music team on "Georgetown" by Christoph Waltz.



CAST

JADE

Enisha Brewster

DARLENE

Liz Benoit

JASON

Tristan Bailey

PASSERBY

Taryn Kelly



FAQ

Q: Where did the title CLING come from?

A: In addition to the definition of the word “cling” aptly representing the cause and cure for Jade’s dilemma, writer, Enisha Brewster, lived on Kling St in Los Angeles during the relationship that most inspired the short film.

Q: Why is there so little dialogue?

A: It was important to the filmmakers to emphasize the emotional journey of Jade and highlight the dialogue between Jade and her mother, Darlene, as the turning point in the film.

Q: How long did it take to make the film?

A: Six months: preproduction began April of 2021, filming took place in June, and the film was completed in October.

Q: How many days of filming were there?

A: Two

Q: Why does Jade throw Jason’s phone in the trash?

A: Jade is angry and beyond her capacity to communicate rationally. Instead of responding to his messages about her taking his phone, she tosses it.

Q: Does the dialogue between Jade and Darlene happen in present day?

A: Though intentionally ambiguous at the start, this conversation is one of several flashbacks Jade recalls during her single-day journey.

Q: Why does Jade say “Yeah, it’s me” on the phone to her mom?

A: Darlene has likely been trying to reach Jade all day. She responds this way as a confirmation and answer to Darlene’s admonishment earlier in the film.

Q: In how many different locations did filming take place?

A: Eight, many of which were visited twice in a single day of shooting to capture the passing of time.

Q: How did ‘Lady in Green’ inspire the story?

A: The Ntozake Shange character has a famous poem that begins: “somebody almost walked off wid alla my stuff”. The metaphoric poem inspired both the name of the lead character and parts of the plot.

Q: Did CLING have an all-female crew?

A: Nearly. All key filmmaker roles were held by women: writer, director, cinematographer, assistant camera, and producers.

Reviews / Awards

IndieFest Film Awards
Award of Merit Winner

Actress Leading: Enisha Brewster as Jade

IndieFest Film Awards
Award of Merit Winner

Original Score: Tony Neiman

City of Angels Women's Film Festival
Best Actress Winner

Enisha Brewster as Jade

"Congratulations on such a vulnerable, beautiful, artistic short film."

- Aaron Testa, Director, Talent & Casting, ABC Entertainment Group

"Well shot and good atmosphere. It makes me want to see the longer version."

- Michael R. Morris, Filmmaker

"I love the visual journey I was taken on. So amazing what can be communicated without words."

- Cheray O'Neal, Filmmaker of the Award Winning film 'Weep Not'

Links

Film: <https://youtu.be/jOWIk8f0xG0>

Webpage: www.enishabrewster.com/CLING

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ClingMovie

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15053360/>

CREDITS

Directed By

Mel Mah

Written By

Enisha Brewster

Executive Producers

Giuseppe Russo & Enisha Brewster

Producers

Taryn Kelly & Mel Mah

Director of Photography

Yahna Harris

Associate Producer

Emily Won

Composer

Tony Neiman

Production Sound Mixers

Scott Kaser & Stephen Harrod

Hair & Makeup

Akihiro Sawada

Editor

Julen Murguia

1st Assistant Camera

Bonnie Bellevue

Gaffer

Daymian Seasar Mejia

Sound Design

Garret Peters

Production Assistant

Nicole Ohara