

Xavier Burgin is an [Emmy-nominated](#) writer/director from USC's School of Cinematic Arts. He's the director of Shudder's first original documentary, [Horror Noire: A History of Black Horror](#). He's a [Sundance Lab Fellow](#), [HBO Alumni](#), [Ryan Murphy Half Fest Mentee](#), [Top 50 Academy Nicholl Screenwriting Fellowship Alumni](#), and [Screencraft Feature Winner](#).



Xavier's feature documentary, [Horror Noire](#) expounds on the history of Black Americans in horror cinema. It is the first original documentary produced by AMC Networks' Shudder streaming service. The film currently holds a "[100% Fresh](#)" on [Rotten Tomatoes](#). Horror Noire has been listed as one of the "Best Horror Movies of 2019" from [USA Today](#), [Entertainment Weekly](#), [Shondaland](#), [Harper's Bazaar](#), and more. It had its world premiere at American Cinematheque's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood, along with screening at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film won a [Trailblazer Award from FEARNyc Film Festival](#) and was a best documentary nominee for the Detroit Film Critics Society.

Xavier directed [Episode 204: Lights Out](#) and [Episode 207: Okay In the Silence](#) of the Emmy winning series, *Giants*, an [Issa Rae Color Creative](#) and [TV One](#) series. Xavier's work was nominated for an [Emmy in the "Outstanding Directing for a Digital Drama Series"](#) category.

Xavier has written multiple projects he is attached to direct and/or is currently in development. Xavier's interactive story, [Tina & The Gucci Flip Flop](#), earned him a significant following online thanks to its raunchy, but relatable humor. Xavier developed the short form story into [SANKOVA](#), an animated series focusing on the adventures of young, black adults in an afro-futuristic, mega-city utopia based on black internet culture.

[On Time](#), a story focusing on the unfair treatment of single mothers by police and the judicial system, is a [2019 Academy Nicholl Fellowships Top 50 Screenplay](#). It is the winner of Screencraft's Drama Competition and is a top 5 finalist for The Atlanta Film Festival. The proof of concept short film premiered on HBO and [Issa Rae's Color Creative Channel](#). *Late Registration*, a comedy series focusing on black students at predominantly white colleges, was a selection for [The Sundance Institute's Youtube New Voices Lab](#).

A Family Reunion, Xavier's southern, gothic mystery horror about a young boy at a family reunion who fights to stop his grandmother from sacrificing a loved one to an African deity for generational wealth and eternal prosperity, was chosen for the Sundance Beta Workshop.

Xavier shadowed on the set of *American Horror Story* as a member of Ryan Murphy's Half Foundation. He's been a semifinalist for ABC|Disney's Directing and Writer Programs, Sony's Diverse Director's Program, and Viacom's Emerging Directors Program. Xavier has also been a finalist for the [Commercial Directors Diversity Program](#). [Olde E](#), his thesis film, was a semifinalist for the 43rd Student Academy Awards. It is currently playing on [Omeleto](#), where it has amassed over 300K+ views. [Other](#), his film about Black America's two voices, has been featured on [Shadow & Act](#), [Bossip](#), and [Colorlines](#).

EDUCATION

USC School of Cinematic Arts: MFA - TV & Film Production

University of Alabama: Telecommunications & Film Department - Film Production, Writing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY** - Professor, Intro to Film & Television Production (2020-Present)
 - **AMC/SHUDDER** - Feature Documentary Director, Horror Noire (2019)
 - **COVERFLY** - Script Coverage and Breakdown (2019-Present)
 - **GIANTS** - Emmy Nominated, "Outstanding Directing For a Digital Drama Series" - Director (2018)
 - **USC MEDIA INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE** - Freelance Writer (2018)
 - **NO LABEL/LOL NETWORK** - Short Form Content Writer/Director (2018)
 - **RIVETING ENTERTAINMENT** - Pilot Series Writer (2017)
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FELLOWSHIPS

- **SUNDANCE INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP** - Youtube New Voices Lab (2016)
 - **RYAN MURPHY HALF INITIATIVE** - Diversity Directing Program (2016), American Horror Story
 - **COMMERCIAL DIRECTORS DIVERSITY PROGRAM** - Finalist (2020)
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FILMS

- HORROR NOIRE, Director (2019) - AMC Networks/Shudder Feature Documentary
 - Documents History of Black Americans in Horror from 1910s to 2018
 - **100% Fresh Rotten Tomatoes Score** (26 Reviews)
 - GIANTS, Director (2018), Episode 207: Okay In The Silence, Episode 204: Lights Out
 - **EMMY NOMINATED, "OUTSTANDING DIRECTING FOR A DIGITAL DRAMA SERIES"**
 - OTHER, Director (2018) - Short Film, Featured in Shadow & Act, Colorlines
 - ON TIME, Writer/Director (2017) - **Premiered on HBO, Issa Rae Color Creative Short Film**
 - OLDE E, Director (2016) - **Ryan Murphy Director's Showcase, 43rd Student Academy Awards**
 - A BLACK TWITTER DATE, Writer/Director (2016) - Commercial for **Blavity, 1Million+views**
 - THE GET DOWN, Writer/Director (2016) - Commercial, **Project Greenlight Winner**
 - **Directing Reel:** <http://www.vimeo.com/xay/directingreel>
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AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Nominated, Daytime Emmy Awards Outstanding Directing. Top 50 Academy Nicholl Fellowship Screenplay. Winner, Screencraft Drama Feature Competition. Winner, The Film Empire Diversity Screenplay Competition. Winner, Ivy Film Festival Screenplay Competition. Winner, Audience Awards. Finalist, HBO Short Film Competition. Finalist, Audience Awards Social Justice Competition. Semi-Finalist, ABC|Disney Directing Program. Semi-Finalist, Sony Diverse Directors Program. Semi-Finalist, Viacom Emerging Directors Program. Semi-Finalist, ABC|Disney Writers Program. Finalist, Atlanta Film Festival Screenplay Competition.

DIRECTORIAL WORK

Horror Noire: A History of Black Horror - A Shudder/AMC Original Feature Documentary Film - Features Jordan Peele, Tony Todd, Keith David, & Rachel True
<http://www.vimeo.com/xay/horrornoire> | PW: horrornoire

On Time - A mother must make a difficult decision when she's late for a job interview. | HBO Short Film, SAG AFTRA Short Film Showcase, Issa Rae Presents #ShortFilmSundays
<https://youtu.be/GKs6CoIgnNo>

Olde E - A rising basketball star is on the brink of recruitment. But his father pushes him too far. | Ryan Murphy Director's Showcase, Student Academy Awards Semifinalist
<https://youtu.be/okeUthHFMys>

Other - A Short Film About Black America's Two Voices | Featured on Shadow & Act, Bossip, & Colorlines/RaceForward
<http://www.vimeo.com/xay/other>

Giants 204: Lights Out - A citywide blackout unexpectedly brings everyone together, strengthening some bonds and threatening others. | Emmy Winning Digital Series, Now on TV One/CleoTV
<http://vimeo.com/xay/giants204>

Giants 207: Okay In the Silence - Malachi returns home to Georgia in an attempt to get his life back on track. | Emmy Winning Series, One Hour Special, Now on TV One/CleoTV
<http://vimeo.com/xay/giants207>

A Little Closure - A black man dies and comes back as ghost to make amends with his girlfriend |
<http://www.vimeo.com/xay/alittleclosure> | PW: alittleclosure

Outta Pocket | Episode 7 | "Don't Make Me Stretch These Jeans" | Mello has caught his second wind and is yearning for some affection. Things get really weird when he decides to try his luck on the newest dating app in Los Angeles: <http://www.vimeo.com/xay/outtapocket>

A Black Twitter Date - Black Twitter tags along on a date | 1million+ views on Facebook
<https://vimeo.com/171789492>

Mr.Hall's Interview - A Film About Workplace Discrimination
<https://vimeo.com/90084930>

Directing Reel: <http://www.vimeo.com/xay/directingreel>
For More Work: <http://www.quethelights.com/director>