

Boy.Brother.Friend

Announces Tenth Artist Commission:

Akinola Davies Jr

Film:

Untitled (Play)

In collaboration with artist Akinola Davies Jr and Somerset House Studios, **Boy.Brother.Friend** premieres this new film work on the **Boy.Brother.Friend** digital platform over the next 30 days. *Untitled* is a film that explores the power of vulnerability, redemption, the passage of time and a confrontation of morality and the eternal.

Combining photography, moving image, experimental sound design and archive interviews, Somerset House Studios resident Davies's beautifully intimate film draws on his interactions with his mother during lockdown, exploring themes of mortality, intergenerational relationships, the black female body, and resilience.

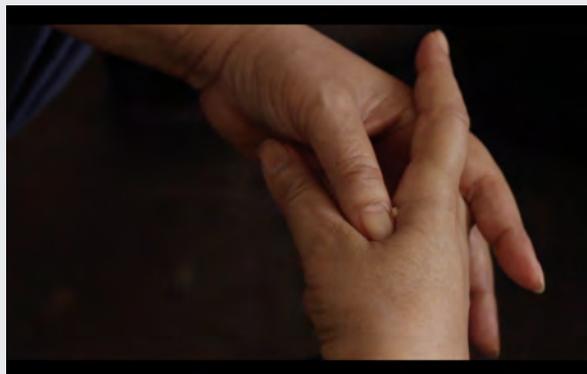
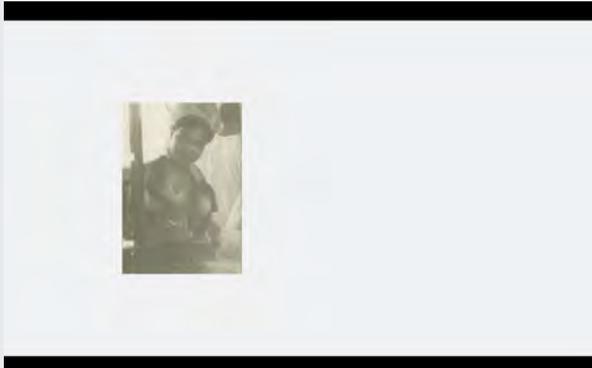


A statement from Akinola Davies Jr

My mother represents for me a lot of emotional outpouring. My fascination with my mother has existed longer than I remember. She was my best friend till I was 13 and still is one of my closest confidants.

She was raised, daughter to a teacher and a civil servant within a working class cultured yet colonial upbringing. Flanked by both rural and cosmopolitan existence. The second daughter within 6 siblings she carved an air of authority which at times made me think she was the eldest. She married my father and lost him a year into my birth. Leaving her widowed, unemployed and in possession of 4 children. She lives in the same house, the same room and sleeps in the same bed in which we lost our father - her partner. I often wonder how she remained so strong - how she compartmentalised the world she found herself.

A curiosity about her life and her stories have always taken a centre stage in our conversations. About 10 years ago I started to record these conversations and have a relatively small archive of interviews. These offerings delve into the psyche and ultimately teach me about her resilience about our resilience. All the interviews happen in different areas of the house. Her favourite chair in the lounge where you can find her slumped over asleep in the living room and in her kitchen whilst she toils away trying to cook a meal for us. Beyond my mother it serves as stories, teachings, anecdotes - a relationship with oneself.



“This work leans on the sacrifice of motherhood.

The process of ageing.

The relationship of the human body with the physical space as expansive lives inhabit the daily ritual of being. It is a requiem of living memories. Homage to technology as an archive of embalming our history, bringing life to our past.

It is the honouring of our mothers so our days on earth can be long.

Ultimately I don't know what the work is about, but I also know exactly what it is about. It is a work that lives in the quiet space, beyond words. It is ultimately what I place value on. The most value.”

About the Artist

Akinola Davies is a BAFTA nominated and Sundance award-winning Filmmaker, Visual Artist, and Music Curator, whose work spans nations to explore themes of community, race, spirituality, identity and gender, telling stories that bridge the gap between traditional and millennial communities. His first narrative short film 'Lizard' premiered at the 2020 BFI London Film Festival and was selected for the Raindance Film Festival. As an individual Akinola was selected for the Berlinale Talents 2020 Collective and was named one of Screen Daily's 'Stars of Tomorrow' alongside Emma Louis Corrin, Paul Mescal and more. Most recently, Akin won the Sundance Grand Jury Prize in Short Film for 'Lizard' and the short is now nominated for a BAFTA. The film has since picked up the Best Narrative prize at Philadelphia's prestigious Blackstar film festival. As part of Akinolas visual practice has had 2 solo art shows; his first at the 1.1 Gallery in Basel and at the Dupont underground in Washington D.C. Equally he participated in numerous group shows nameley Les Urbannes in Lausanne and Kunsthal Rotterdam. Akinola has become a go to creative in the fashion industry working with brands such as Gucci, Acne Studios, COS, Kenzo, Louis Vuitton and the like on multiple creative projects, in front of and behind the camera. Alongside his work in narrative film and fashion, Akin has directed music videos for the likes of Dev Hynes and Neneh Cherry.

About Somerset House Studios/PAUSE Series

Somerset House Studios is an experimental workspace in the centre of London connecting artists, makers and thinkers with audiences. Located inside the repurposed former Inland Revenue building, the Studios offer space and support to artists pushing bold ideas, engaging with urgent issues and pioneering new technologies. It is also a platform for the development of new creative projects and collaborations. Up to 100 artists are resident at any one time and are supported to develop their practice for a defined period. The PAUSE Series which goes live at midday each week, is when Somerset House delves into its rich and varied archives to re-present works featured in previous programmes, including many commissioned sound and video works previously unseen online.

**For further information
about Akinola Davies
please visit:
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**For further information
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