

'*BlackSkin*' Review: The Personal Story Depicted from a cousin of Philando Castille

Actor Miguel Nunez plays the role of a journalist who interviews the cousin (Louis Hunter) of Philando Castille played by actor Sheldon Bailey.

by Gabrielle Holloway

It starts in Minneapolis, Minnesota at a construction site where Hunter and two co-workers have a couple of beers while on lunch break. Disturbed by their boss who took their beers for himself while threatening to fire them. He proves to be a racist played by actor Cody Cowell where he hangs a confederate flag and claims they (whites) built America. Philando Castille's fiancé played by actress Jazzlyn Brown depicts how his fiancé who endured being arrested after his murder; she gets backlash from the community due to rumors that she flew through the money she received from the lawsuit. She spills her emotions to her family and friends who care more about her being broke rather than her rally cries of police brutality. Throughout there are more interviews from Forbes Magazine journalists played by Miguel Nunez who claimed to want an interview about his restaurant business in the community but asked personal questions about his cousin. Hunter seemed stuck between a rock and a hard place throughout the riots over police brutality and protecting his business. Many actual riveting videos of news footage are placed in different areas in the movie that bring the story into focus by storyteller and director Marc Cayce who plays the role of the assistant principal of the school where Philando Castille worked at the time of his death. Philando Castille's actor Duane Finely brings him to life when he interacts with the child he serves as a lunch man. He went to the principal to ask for assistance to feed children whose parents could not afford the daily lunch but were not poor enough to receive a free lunch. My own black son who attended a suburban public school was threatened by his principal that he could be arrested for giving his free lunch away to another kid who did not qualify. Hunter received the call while driving that his cousin has been killed. He cannot help but to pull over on the side of the road to have a good cry. Hunters' cousin's murder by cop melds Cayce's

niche for storytelling through film when it gives Philando Castille the persona of a man who loved his family and cared about the children in his community. Not many say, "when I grow up I want to work in the school cafeteria", Castille touched his community in that way. People who do the job sometimes end up those who affect kid's lives in a positive way and/or are taken for granted by the community and those who employ them. After the film was over I had a chance to interview an audience member (Amber Momon), a single black mother raising two boys (Ashton and Blake), who stated she does not watch television due to bias news on television about black people, but she wanted her young sons to know what happens to black people when it comes to racial bias cops. Both boys explained to me how they (black men) are portrayed as monsters on television. They took it personally and were not shy about their opinion about the unfairness. The end of the movie made my eyes water when a spoken word poet on the streets of Minneapolis drove home the point as a battle cry that no one cares...but us.