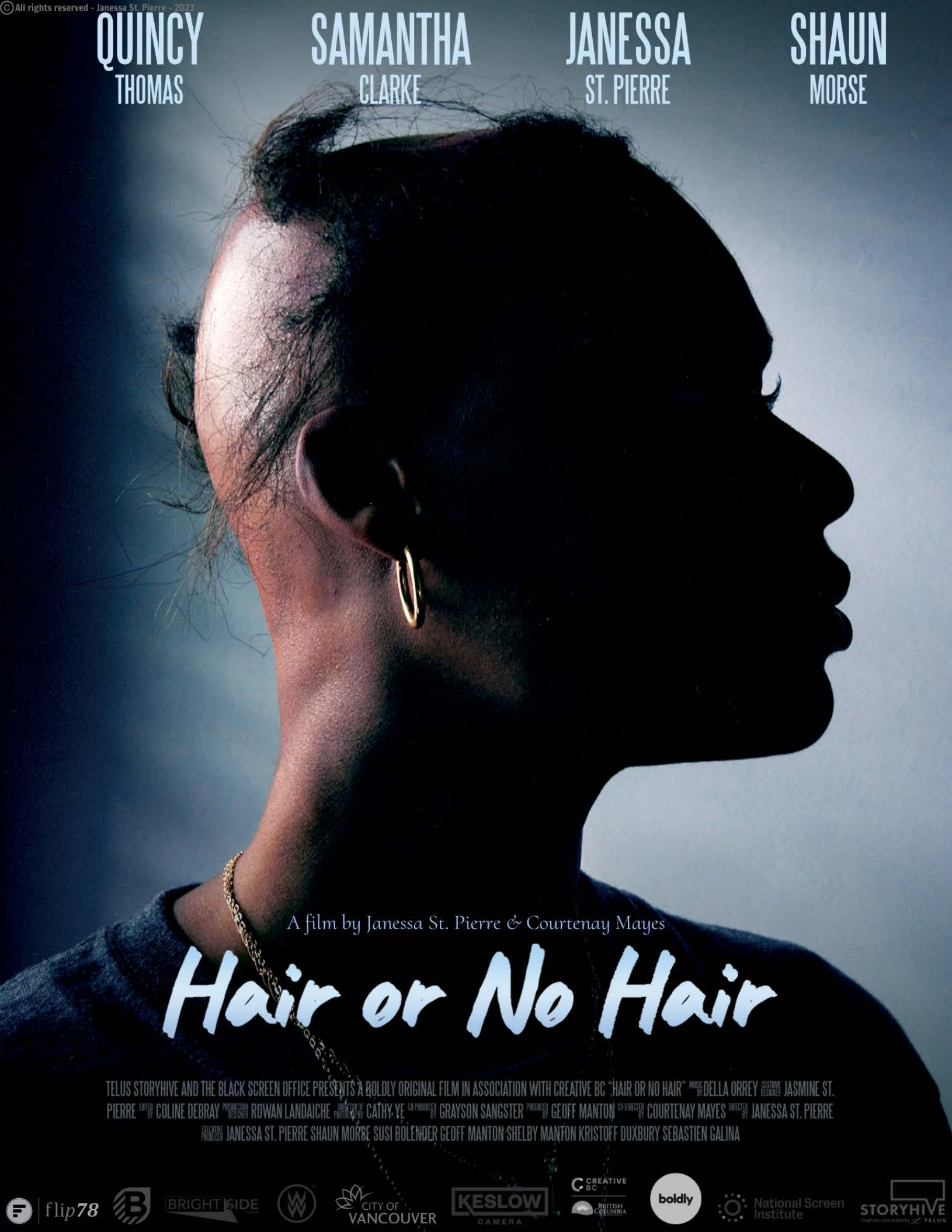


QUINCY  
THOMAS

SAMANTHA  
CLARKE

JANESSA  
ST. PIERRE

SHAUN  
MORSE



A film by Janessa St. Pierre & Courtenay Mayes

# Hair or No Hair

TELUS STORYHIVE AND THE BLACK SCREEN OFFICE PRESENTS A BOLDLY ORIGINAL FILM IN ASSOCIATION WITH CREATIVE BC "HAIR OR NO HAIR" MUSIC BY DELLA ORREY COSTUME DESIGNER JASMINE ST. PIERRE EDITOR COLINE DEBRAY PRODUCTION DESIGNER ROWAN LANDAICHE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CATHY YE CO-PRODUCED BY GRAYSON SANGSTER PRODUCED BY GEOFF MANTON CO-DIRECTED BY COURTENAY MAYES DIRECTED BY JANESSA ST. PIERRE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JANESSA ST. PIERRE SHAUN MORSE SUSI BÖLENDER GEOFF MANTON SHELBY MANTON KRISTOFF DUXBURY SEBASTIEN GALINA



**Hair or No Hair** is a short dramatic film about a young Black woman. She has been hiding behind wigs for years until her Alopecia is exposed publicly. She uses this experience as a catalyst to break free of the shame she feels towards her baldness.

The story follows Bel Davis, a young Black woman who used to be a model before her hair loss and now works as a Librarian. She wears a wig to hide away from the world, wrapped up in shame and embarrassment over her baldness. One day, she forgets to take food with her Alopecia medication and faints, her wig falls off resulting in being exposed publicly. However, a little black girl with short hair helps Bel up and encourages her to let go of outside expectations. Just when she attempts to go out without a wig; she runs into her hair obsessed ex modelling agent. This interaction leaves Bel defeated once again. However, Bel then sees a confident Bald, Black woman walking down the street without shame. Bel is entranced by this woman and she finally begins to open up to the idea of living her life...Bald.





## Film Information

**Original/English Title:** [Hair or No Hair](#)

**Country of Production:** Canada

**Duration:** 15 minutes & 10 seconds

### FESTIVAL SCREENINGS (to date)

**BEST ACTRESS WINNER - Mичeaux Film Festival (2023),**

**BEST ACTRESS WINNER - LA Shorts International Film Festival (2023),**

**WINNER of CHILLIWACK SPIRIT AWARD - Chilliwack Independent Film Festival (2023),**

**Vancouver International Film Festival (2023),**

**Blackstar International Film Festival (2023),**

**Sydney's International Women's Film Festival (2023)**

**Unstoppable Shorts - SLAMDANCE (2024)**

### TECHNICAL DETAILS

**Screening Material :** DCP & MOV/MP4

**Sound:** 5.1 surround

**Screen Ratio:** 2.39

**Speed:** 24fps

**Colour**

**English Language (with English subtitles)**

### [ONLINE TRAILER LINK](#)

### WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[hairornohair.com](http://hairornohair.com)

[@hair.ornohair](#)

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*I recently got diagnosed with androgenic alopecia, and the storytelling you did accurately described how I feel on a day to day. Thank you so much for bringing awareness and giving a voice to those with alopecia.*

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**Anonymous (VIFF Audience Member)**

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# Filmmaker Statement

The genesis of this project begins with my own personal experience. After being diagnosed with Alopecia in 2015, I've navigated the various stages of hair loss, which ignited a profound shift in my perception of beauty. As a Black woman, I've spent a significant portion of my life being aware of my hair, not for my comfort, but for the convenience of others. When Alopecia divested me of my hair, it also divested me of societal expectations, allowing me to redefine my personal standard of beauty. This narrative, one of self-acceptance and liberation, is a story I believe must be shared.

The vision for this film is to illuminate the experiences of Black women with Alopecia, a subject seldom discussed or accepted. My aim is to normalize this dialogue and inspire self-love and redefinition, regardless of societal norms. I want to highlight that beauty isn't just one way, it lives and grows inside individuals who choose themselves.

My cinematic inspirations include filmmakers like Ava DuVernay and Nikyatu Jusu, who have consistently told authentic and empowering narratives that investigate and transcend intersections. They uplift and empower Black women in all their work which is something that inspires me. Their work has demonstrated to me the power of honest storytelling and the influence it can wield on society.

During the phases of production and post-production, we made discoveries that influenced the final form of the film. We realized our narrative was not solely about accepting and raising awareness of Alopecia; it was about the authentic nature of living with a visible insecurity, not about altering or fixing it, but about learning to find beauty in the very thing you conceal. The raw and unfiltered real-life experiences I've endured during my journey with Alopecia are embedded in this narrative. I chose to integrate these layers into the film to portray the complexity and multifaceted nature of hair loss.

I hope our audience will leave with a reshaped perspective on beauty, one that surpasses societal norms and expectations. I want them to feel empowered to accept and love themselves just as they are. More importantly, I hope this film instigates a conversation about the intersection of Alopecia and Black hair, and the unnecessary pressure we put on women, particularly Black women, to conform to certain beauty standards.

In [Hair or No Hair](#), we peel back the superficial layers of beauty to expose the truth: sometimes, we're not okay, but we're trying, and that's where resilience and beauty reside within us all. My journey with Alopecia has taught me to perceive beauty in a different light, and now, I wish to share this perspective with the world.

- Janessa St. Pierre





## Janessa St. Pierre - Writer | Director | Lead Actress

she/her

Award-winning Black, Queer filmmaker Janessa St. Pierre, rooted in the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, has made her mark in the Vancouver film industry since 2017. A Concordia and Capilano alumna, Janessa has experience in various roles including Production Designer, Set Dresser, and Director's Assistant. Her varied body of work includes Shorts, Features, Music Videos, and Commercials, with notable projects like "The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open" and "FRESH".

Janessa's first writing credit, the short film "Think Again", won the Best Short at the IGen Youth Festival in Miami. Her most recent film, [Hair or No Hair](#), part of the Black Creators Edition Grant (2022) by TELUS StoryHive and the Black Screen Office, was a double winner at the Mischeaux Film Festival and LA Shorts Festival, and was nominated for the prestigious Panavision "Best Short" award at Mischeaux.

Selected for the esteemed VIFF catalyst mentorship program for 2023, Janessa's unique voice and dedication to storytelling continues to inspire and break boundaries in the film world.

## Geoff Manton - Producer | Boldly

he/him

Geoff Manton is a Co-Founder and Executive Producer of Boldly. Based in Vancouver, Boldly is a creative production studio that empowers filmmakers and photographers through its values-based producing model built around a culture of care, community, and vision. While producing commercials, Geoff has also produced the Telus Originals webseries, Literally, starring Shane Koyczan, Random Is My Favourite Colour, a documentary for the CBC, and several short films, including: Paco and Hair or No Hair. Geoff is currently co-developing two narrative features and a climate change documentary with his partners at Boldly. Geoff co-founded Filmable in an effort to create more opportunities for meaningful connection and career development within the Vancouver Independent Filmmaking Community.

## Courtenay Mayes - Co-Director

she/they

Courtenay Mayes is a multidisciplinary artist, writer and designer living on the stolen territories of the Coast Salish communities. Working various roles in film production, costuming/styling, performance and the healing arts, Courtenay is interested in world-building, collaboration, and the self-imposed limits of their own and other's vulnerability. She was a participant in the 2021 TIFF Lab x Black Women Film Canada cohort, sits on the Board for Arts Assembly (Vancouver/Toronto) and is currently completing Intimacy Direction training through IDC, and therapist training in Hakomi, mindfulness-based somatic psychotherapy. They hold a BFA in Fibres and Material Practices from Concordia University in Montréal, and have gained teaching certification in a number of meditation modalities.

## Cathy Ye - DOP

she/her

Based out of Vancouver, BC, Cathy has worked in New York, London, Los Angeles, and Boston. Cathy is passionate about shooting immersive cinematic experiences that inspire forward momentum in daily life. In her spare time, Cathy loves cooking and hosting, and believes the art of lighting is just like cooking - less is more. Cathy believes that cinema is a powerful psychological medium capable of building empathy and influencing change, and is passionate about mentorship and community building within the film industry. Cathy was recently selected for the ASC Vision Mentorship 2022-2023 program, launched by the American Society of Cinematographers, where she will learn under mentor, Patti Lee, ASC. As a first-generation Chinese-Canadian immigrant, Cathy grew up between Vancouver and Beijing, and attended undergrad at Wellesley College in MA.



# Film Credits

**Director - Janessa St. Pierre**

**Co - Director - Courtenay Mayes**

**Producer - Geoff Manton**

**Producers with Boldly**

**Shelby Manton**

**Sebastien Galina**

**Kristoff Duxbury**

**Angelica Stirpe**

**Producer/ Locations Manager - Graysen Sangster**

**Executive Producer - Susi Bolender**

**Production Assistant - Peter Westergaard**

**Production Assistant - Parker Willis**

**Production Assistant - Andrew Hall**

**Script Supervisor - Sara Daruvala**

**1st AD - Kate McCallum**

**Director Of Photography - Cathy Ye**

**1st AC - Danny Rodriguez**

**2nd AC - Valeria Khan**

**Steadicam Operator - Parker Chen**

**Camera Mentee - Rashi Sethi**

**Portrait Photographer - Brian Van Wyk**

**Gaffer - Paula Lara**

**Key Grip - Cooper**

**Grip/LX Swing - Krystal Chan**

**Grip/LX Swing - Natalia Bahamon**

**Grip/LX Swing Volunteer - Russel Cabeliza**

**Grip/LX Swing Volunteer - Alfred**

**Editor - Coline Debray**

**Composer - Della Orrey**

**VFX Artist - David McDonald**

**Colourist - So Young Park**

**Credits/Titles - Jasmine St. Pierre**

**Sound Mixer - Michael Jones**

**Boom Operator - Samuel Adimora**

**Shadow Boom Operator - Conner Englesby**

**Production Designer - Rowan Landaiche**

**Art Assistant - Ren Yue**

**Art Assistant - Katie Christing**

**Key Hair/Makeup Artist - Deo Rodriguez**

**Wig Technician - Blandine Mas**

**Wardrobe/Graphic Designer - Jasmine St.**

**Pierre**

**Location Production Assistant - Darnel St.**

**Pierre**

**Location Production Assistant - Mena**

**Peach**

**Location Production Assistant Volunteer -**

**John Metcalfe**

**Crafty/First Aid - Ksenia Stepkina**

## Cast

**Bel Davis - Janessa St. Pierre**

**Clementine (Girl) - Quincy Thomas**

**Dermatologist - Shaun Morse**

**Gina - Samantha Clarke**

**Bel's Mother - Petra St. Pierre**

**Receptionist - Sarah Reech**

**Bald Woman - Saba Adara**

**Child #1 - Loa Geres**

**Child #2 - Kome Ani**

**Child #3 - Emersyn Wright**

**Child #4 - Julliana Schreder**

**Hair Twirling Girl - Mariana Trujillo-Lezama**



# boldly

**Geoff Manton - Boldly - [geoff@boldly.ca](mailto:geoff@boldly.ca) - (604) 785-4867**  
**Angelica Stirpe - Boldly- [angelica@boldly.ca](mailto:angelica@boldly.ca) - (416) 230-7541**  
**143 W. 3rd Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Y 1E6**

**Boldly Originals**