

**Rodney Evans**  
Curriculum Vitae

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**Films**

- 2014 *DAYDREAM (currently in development)*  
90 minute 35mm film, Narrative Drama  
*Writer, director and producer of a musical drama that follows jazz composer Billy Strayhorn on a quest for musical inspiration as he travels to New Orleans to investigate the life of Buddy Bolden, the forefather of modern jazz who spent the last 24 years of his life in a mental institution. Producers- Shelby Stone, Rodney Evans. Cast-Idris Elba, Aunjanue Ellis.*
- 2013 *THE HAPPY SAD*  
86 minute HD Video, Narrative Drama  
*Director, producer and editor of a feature-length drama that follows two couples, one black and one white, whose lives collide as they navigate open relationships and sexual identity. Cast- LeRoy McClain, Sorel Carradine, Charlie Barnett, Cameron Scoggins, Maria Dizzia.*
- 2009 *BILLY AND AARON*  
10 minute digital video, Narrative Drama  
*Writer, director and producer of a short drama about African-American composer Billy Strayhorn and the personal and professional consequences of his decision to live as an openly gay man within the homophobic jazz milieu of the 1940's. Filmed on location in Amsterdam.  
\*\*Official Selection 2010 Tribeca Film Festival*
- 2004 *BROTHER TO BROTHER*  
90 minute 35mm Film, Narrative Drama  
*Writer, director, and producer of a film that looks back on the Harlem Renaissance from the perspective of an elderly, black writer who meets a gay teenager in a New York homeless shelter. Cast- Anthony Mackie, Roger Robinson, Larry Gilliard, Jr., Aunjanue Ellis, Duane Boutte, Daniel Sunjata, Alex Burns and Ray Ford. Winner-Sundance 2004-Special Jury Prize-Drama. Distributed by Wolfe Releasing (U.S. and Canada)*
- 1999 *TWO ENCOUNTERS*  
7 minute 16mm film, Experimental Documentary  
*Producer, director, and editor of a film which utilizes hidden camera footage recorded by two gay men of different ethnicities in order to examine racial divisions within New York's gay male community. Distributed by Frameline*
- 1998 *CLOSE TO HOME*  
24 minute 16mm film, Experimental Documentary  
*Producer, director, writer and editor of a film which documents the filmmaker's journey as he comes out to a conservative Jamaican family and negotiates a painful relationship with a 21-year old heterosexual man. Distributed by Third World Newsreel*

1996 *THE UNVEILING*  
58 minute 16mm film, Documentary  
*Producer, director and editor of a film which chronicles the lives and experiences of two present-day exotic dancers, one male and one female, who perform for gay and lesbian audiences and one former burlesque queen who performed during the 1950's. Distributed by Third World Newsreel*

## **Television**

2005 *SIX FEET UNDER*  
Season 5, Episode 9 -“Ecotone”  
*Observed pre-production and ten-day shoot on one of the final episodes of the acclaimed HBO series. Worked closely with director Daniel Minahan and writer Nancy Oliver.  
Executive Producers-Alan Ball and Alan Poul*

## **Select Awards**

1999/2002/04 NY State Council on the Arts Grant (Individual Artists Program)

1999 Jerome Foundation – NYC Film and Video Grant

2000 IFP’s Gordon Parks Award for Screenwriting

2000/2004 Vito Russo Award and Showtime Vanguard Award (NewFest)

2000 MIX Emerging Innovator Award (NY Experimental Gay/Lesbian Festival)

2002 Finalist for the IFP’s Gordon Parks Award for Directing

2003/04 Rockefeller Foundation-Media Arts Fellowship

2004 Sundance Film Festival (Special Jury Prize, Dramatic Competition)

2004 Best Fiction Feature (Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival)

2004 Audience Award, Best Fiction Feature (San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival)

2004 Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize, Best Feature (Outfest LA)

2004 Audience Award, Best Feature (Roxbury Film Festival)

2004 Audience Award, Best Feature (Wash. DC Gay and Lesbian Film Festival)

2004 Best New Director (Seattle Gay and Lesbian Film Festival)

- 2004 Nominee for IFP Gotham Award, Breakthrough Director
- 2004 Nominee for 4 IFP Spirit Awards including Best First Film and Best First Screenplay
- 2005 NY Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Film/Video
- 2005 HBO's Director To Watch Award, Black Movie Awards
- 2006 Recipient of development financing from ITVS-Diversity Development Fund
- 2007 Urban Artist Initiative Grant
- 2008 Recipient of research and development funds from NBPC
- 2008 Creative Capital Foundation Grant
- 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship
- 2008 Tribeca All Access Program-Honorable Mention-Creative Promise Award
- 2008 Winner-NewFest Screenplay Competition
- 2009 Binger Film Lab Fellowship-Director's Coaching Programme
- 2011 NY State Council on the Arts Grant (Individual Artists Program)
- 2012 Frameline Completion Fund Grant
- 2012 Philadelphia Independent Film and Video Association Grant

## **Teaching**

Visiting Assistant Professor- August 2010-Present  
 Temple University  
 (Graduate Course: "Advanced Problems in Film/Video", Undergraduate Courses: "Senior Projects", "Writing for Media II", "Experimental Media Workshop")

Visiting Professor-Spring 2010  
 Bryn Mawr College  
 (Undergraduate Course: "Advanced Video Production")

Adjunct Professor-Fall 2009  
 Montclair State University  
 (Undergraduate Course: "Advanced Filmmaking")

Documentary Lab Instructor-September 2009-August 2010

Reel Works Productions  
(Teen Filmmaking Program for At-Risk Youth: “Documentary Production”)

Visiting Professor-Fall 2007  
School of Visual Arts  
(Graduate Course: “Video Development, Preparation and Production”)

Adjunct Professor-Fall 2007  
New Jersey City University  
(Undergraduate Course: “Literature and Film”)

Visiting Professor-Fall 2006  
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art  
(Undergraduate Course: “Advanced Film and Video Production”)

## **Education**

1996 California Institute of the Arts, MFA, Film Production  
1993 Brown University, BFA, Modern Culture & Media/Film Production

## **Professional Training**

2001 Black Nexxus-Acting Classes taught by Susan Batson  
2000 Gotham Writer’s Workshop-Advanced Screenwriting  
1996 Writer’s Boot Camp-Screenwriting Intensive

## **Artist Residencies / Visiting Artist Engagements**

1998/2000/06 Yaddo  
1998/2006/07 The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA)  
2000/05 The Edward Albee Colony  
2000 Centrum  
2001/07 The Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences  
2004/05/06/08 Macdowell  
2004 Harvard University  
2004 Brown University

2004 Wesleyan University  
2004 UCLA  
2004 Howard University  
2004 The California Institute of the Arts  
2004 The Art Institute of Chicago  
2004 St. John's University  
2005 Bryn Mawr College  
2005 Bard College  
2008 Chateau de La Napoule Artist Residency

### **Grant Panels/Lectures**

2005/07 Independent Television Service (ITVS)  
2005 The IFP's Gordon Parks Awards  
2005-2007 The Jerome Foundation  
2005 Guest Lecturer, The University of Cape Town  
2005 Guest Lecturer, The University of Nebraska at Lincoln  
2008/09 Independent Spirit Awards – Someone To Watch Award Panelist  
2011 Guest Lecturer, McGill University  
2013 Guest Lecturer, Princeton University

### **Select Screenings/Exhibitions**

1998 The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
1998 The Brooklyn Museum  
1999 The San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival  
2000/04/10 OUTFEST Los Angeles  
2004 Sundance Film Festival  
2004 The Berlin International Film Festival

2004	South by Southwest Film Festival
2004	Chicago International Film Festival
2004	San Francisco International Film Festival
2004	Seattle International Film Festival
2004	FESPACO
2004	Out in Africa
2004	The London Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
2006	The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA)
2010	The Tribeca Film Festival

### **Theatrical Engagements**

New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, Washington DC, Austin, Portland, St. Louis, Denver, Dallas, Houston

### **National Broadcast**

PBS Series - Independent Lens, Starz, Logo

### **Biography**

**RODNEY EVANS** is the recipient of The Independent Feature Project's Gordon Parks Award for Screenwriting for his screenplay, *Brother To Brother*. This film premiered at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival where it won the Special Jury Prize in Drama. *Brother To Brother* had its European premiere at The Berlin International Film Festival in February 2004 and was nominated for 4 Independent Spirit Awards including Best First Film and Best First Screenplay. His second feature-length screenplay, *Day Dream*, is the first place winner of the Newfest Screenplay competition. His short film, *Billy and Aaron*, premiered at the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival. Evans was a Creative Capital Grantee and a Guggenheim Fellow for 2008/09. He recently completed his second narrative feature, *The Happy Sad*.

# BROTHER TO BROTHER

## Critical Acclaim

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“The Harlem Renaissance comes thrillingly alive in Rodney Evans’s evocative and profoundly moving feature film”

-Dennis Dermody, Paper

“Breathtaking...a fascinating and absorbing tale...heralds the emergence of an exciting new voice in filmmaking”

-Kirk Honeycutt, The Hollywood Reporter

“A captivating drama...Tremendously accomplished filmmaking by writer/director Rodney Evans”

-David Germain, The Associated Press

“The story Evans tells of the spiritual link between a contemporary black gay New York artist and the trailblazers of the 1930’s Harlem Renaissance is an excitingly ambitious one, conveyed with guileless passion of purpose”

-Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly

“A well-acted work of grace and depth”

-Kevin Thomas, LA Times

“Haunting...a film of great beauty and conscience”

-Marjorie Baumgarten, The Austin Chronicle

“BROTHER TO BROTHER brings depth and intelligence to black politics and sexuality”

-David Rooney, Variety

“Excellent...a gifted cast brings to vibrant, sexy life the likes of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin and Eldridge Cleaver, and in the process conjures the neatest hat trick of all — making the loves and woes of the past resonate with those of the present.”

-Chuck Wilson, LA Weekly

“Heartfelt. Filled with ideas and nice acting, especially from Mackie and Robinson”

-Manohla Dargis, NY Times

“Mackie and Robinson are superb actors...has the quiet urgency of a story that must be told”

-Carrie Rickey, Philadelphia Inquirer

“An instantaneous classic. BROTHER TO BROTHER is an extraordinarily brave, uncompromising, witty and riveting cinematic debut from writer/director Rodney Evans. A gem of a movie that should not and cannot be easily dismissed”

-Natasha Grant, NY Amsterdam News