

A black and white photograph capturing a volcanic eruption. In the foreground, a hand is seen from the right, dropping a stream of dark ash into a volcano. The ash falls in a thick, vertical column, creating a misty atmosphere. The background features a range of mountains under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is dramatic and somber.

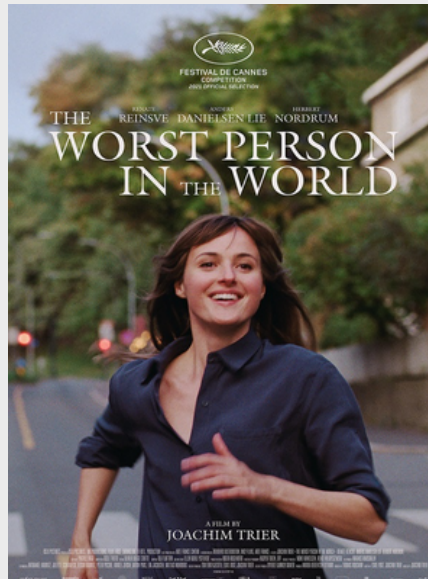
ASHES

a short film by
NICOLE OHARA

Format:
Live-Action Drama Short Film

Log Line:
After the death of her mother, Natalia rebuilds her relationship with her father Maurice.

Inspiration:
Departures, Worst Person in the World, Drive My Car



TONE

A black and white photograph showing a person's hand dipping into a small, dark, round container filled with ash. To the right, a larger, light-colored bowl is partially visible, also containing ash. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Sentimental. Honest. A meditation on love and loss, grief and healing. *Ashes* is a cinematic tone poem that every parent-child relationship can relate to. It is deeply mournful with a sense of humor because life is just funny that way.

SYNOPSIS

Emerging from a storm of incredible loss Natalia attends her mother's funeral. Body to ashes, she weathers mourner after mourner alone while her emotionally avoidant father Maurice hides behind the shadow of his wife's passing.

Without her mother to bridge their relationship, Natalia and Maurice collide at long last, unraveling years of hurt, resentment, and misunderstanding. Neither can admit nor communicate how much they need each other until Natalia uncovers the severity of her father's situation.

Drowning in debt and his home in disarray, Maurice must move in with Natalia. The bond between parent and child evolves over time. They piece together their relationship according to new rules based on new roles.

We blink and our children become capable adults. Meanwhile, our parents are as vulnerable as we once were...
an inevitability reminding us that nothing in life is permanent.



A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of a woman on the left and a man on the right, standing in a field. They are facing each other, with their arms crossed. The background is a bright, hazy sky, and the foreground is dark, suggesting a field of grass or reeds. The word "CHARACTERS" is centered in the middle of the image in a serif font.

CHARACTERS

NATALIA

Daughter. Mid to late 20s. Natalia is serious and responsible. She is not a child anymore and has grown up to be a more than capable young woman.

Recently parted from her partner Penny after a late pregnancy miscarriage she appears strong, resilient, and often stoic - seemingly taking the death of her mother in strides.

She has a difficult time connecting with her father. She resents his detachment from her life. They were close when she was little, but as she grew older at some point their relationship fell apart. All she wants is for her father to want to get to know her. She wants his support and warmth. She wants to know he still loves her, but she has a hard time finding the words to ask him. She is her father's daughter after all.





MAURICE

Father. Late 60s early 70s. Maurice is a private and proud man incapable of asking for help. He is better left alone. He's become bitter over the years and the death of his wife was the straw that broke the camel's back.

Maurice is repelled by emotions and most people. He can't understand why people concern themselves so much with their feelings.

He does not see anything wrong with his relationship with Natalia. Getting to know her is irrelevant. He is her father. She is his daughter. What more is there to discuss?

Emotionally barren Maurice does not have the tools to tell his daughter he loves her, but memories of her childhood still warm his heart. His baby girl is all grown up, and he must learn to build a new bond with the adult she's become.

THEMES

LOVE vs LOSS

GRIEF vs REPRESSION

FAMILY vs THE INDIVIDUAL

RECONCILIATION

FAMILY HEALING



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repair what can be restored

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AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Semifinalist - 2024 ScreenCraft Short Film Screenplay Competition



COVERFLY RANKING:

Top **8%** of all 134,267 Projects

Top **9%** of all 36,932 Drama Projects

Top **5%** of 22,387 Short Projects

Top **6%** of 7,521 Short Drama Projects

PRODUCTION TEAM



DAYO ADE is an Actor, Producer and Writer. Dayo was born in Lagos Nigeria, raised in Toronto Ontario Canada and now resides in Los Angeles California. Dayo is one of the original cast members of “Degrassi High” who paved the way for future alumni such as Aubrey Graham’s (a.k.a. Drake) who also graduated from Degrassi. Dayo is currently recurring on Chuck Lorre’s WB sitcom “Bob Heart Abishola”. He’s just wrapped the final season of “Workin’ Moms” and won 3 Best Actor Awards in a Leading role for his performance in “Cinema of Sleep” 2022. Other shows on his CV range from “Lost”, “The Rookie” “Animal Kingdom”, “Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D”, “October Faction”, “StartUp”, “Criminal Minds Beyond Borders”, “Castle”, “C.S.I NY”, “N.C.I.S” and “N.C.I.S Los Angeles” just to name a few. Dayo believes in giving back so he teaches at the Art of acting studios in Los Angeles to guide newer actors in the begins of their journey

NICOLE OHARA is a Hapa* actor, writer, and producer. She is a graduate of the Stella Adler Art of Acting Studio MFA Program and her recent credits include: Small and Mighty on Disney+, Snowdrop on Disney+, Elaina Simms- Mortuus Est.: Legacy on Spotify, Elise Rudy- Found Family (Paris Film Festival Best LGBTQ), Producer - Gummy Worm (Best Comedy Nominee, Encore Producers' Award Winner), and post-production producer at Roundabout Entertainment. She is on a mission to build a body of work that takes people on a journey of self-discovery and awareness. We all hurt, we all love, we all laugh, we all cry. By exploring the humanity in all of us, she hopes to create art that brings us one step closer to healing.

*Hapa is a word used to describe mixed-race people – primarily, though not exclusively, those who are half white and half Asian.



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