



August 2007 ROCKET SCIENCE

An Interview with Producer Effie Brown

ROCKET SCIENCE

An Interview with Producer Effie Brown

By Wilson Morales

August 6, 2007

With all the films that come out, it's such a rarity of seeing a female director behind them. The number is staggering low when it comes to seeing an African-American woman producer in the credits. Effie Brown hopes to change that. Ms. Brown has worked up the ladder in the producing circles. According to her bio, after graduating with a degree in Film production from Loyola Marymount University, Effie worked her way up the indie ranks. She was Director of Development for Tim Burton Productions and served as line producer on several features including *DESERT BLUE*, *BUT I'M A CHEERLEADER* and *THINGS YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HER*. More recently, Effie was a Producer on Cheryl Dunye's HBO film, *STRANGER INSIDE*, which was nominated for three IFP Spirit Awards. She produced Patricia Cardoso's *REAL WOMAN HAVE CURVES*, winner of two Sundance Film festival awards. Effie was Executive Producer for Jane Campion's *IN THE CUT* and recently produced Jim McKay's latest film, *EVERYDAY PEOPLE* which premiered this year at Sundance. Effie received the Motorola Producer Award at the 2003 IFP West Independent Spirit Awards.

In 2001, Brown launched her own production company, Duly Noted Inc., where she continues to produce original film projects by emerging and established filmmakers. Demonstrating a continued commitment to championing challenging independent work, Duly Noted Inc. has seven new feature films in development and production, with producing partners that include HBO Films.

Coming up is her latest project, 'Rocket Science', which won a Director Award for Jeffrey Blitz at this year's Sundance Film Festival. In the film, Hal Hefner is an average sophomore at Plainsboro High School in New Jersey. He stutters and suffers the daily indignities of a typical teenager. With only a little encouragement, Hal falls in love with the star of the debate team, Ginny Ryerson and finds himself suddenly immersed in her ultra competitive world of high school debating, with its players, its politics and its own set of rules. In speaking to blackfilm.com, Ms. Brown talks about producing her latest film, working with Mos Def for her next two films, and being a female producer in the business.



How did the project come about for you to produce?

Effie Brown: Basically, I had a deal with HBO and my company, Duly Noted, Inc.. Mod Madler put me together with the director Jeff Blitz. We were both up for (Independent) Spirit Awards. That's how we got together. At the time, we were supposed to write a spelling bee movie but wasn't quite working out and then he told the story of, because he's a stutterer, when he was in high school it was a disaster but he managed to pull through it; and that's the story that he wind up writing. We just moved on from there.

<http://www.blackfilm.com/20070803/features/effiebrown.shtml>