



BLACK ELEPHANT PRODUCTIONS and

SPIRIT MOON PRODUCTIONS present

A film by DANA SOLOMON

NIIMI

An Indigenous ballerina attempts to reignite her
passion for dancing following a traumatic incident
with her previous coach.

15 MINUTES

~

ENGLISH

PRESS KIT

FILMMAKER

Niimi was written, directed, and co-produced by **DANA SOLOMON**,
who also stars in the film and choreographed the dance sequences, too.



Dana Solomon in 2025

Solomon is a multi-disciplinary artist born and raised in the town of Selkirk, Manitoba along the Red River. She now works and resides in Mississauga, Ontario. She is an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) member of the Sagkeeng First Nation, and she is also Guyanese.

She got her start in the performing arts as a dancer attending the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School at a young age. After moving to Ontario, Dana went on to graduate from York University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, specializing in Dance. Her love of performance led her to the world of acting and filmmaking which are now her two biggest passions.

Some of her credits as an actor include a recurring role on Netflix's *Anne with E* and a leading role in Houston Bone's award-winning web series *Teenagers*, as well as guest roles on CBC's *Heartland* and *Diggstown*.

In 2025, Solomon wrote and directed *Niimi*, a short film based on her own experiences as an Indigenous ballet dancer.

Solomon is also the lead in Métis filmmaker Gail Maurice's forthcoming feature film *Blood Lines*.

PRODUCER



*Houston Bone at the TIFF premiere of **I Don't Know Who You Are** in 2023*

Niimi was produced by **HOUSTON BONE**, who also served as the film's editor.

Bone first attracted acclaim for writing, directing, and editing the award-winning web series *Teenagers*, which aired from 2014—2017 and has since been viewed more than 20 million times on YouTube. Bone created that series in 2013 while he was still in film school at York University. Bone's film work has since focused on queer characters and relationships, often through horror or supernatural lenses. His short film work includes *Ghost* (2020) and *Spaghetti* (2023), both of which have screened at film festivals internationally such as the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) and the South African Horror Fest.

In 2023, his feature film directorial debut, ***I Don't Know Who You Are***, had its world premiere at TIFF; the film has since received significant critical acclaim ([100% on Rotten Tomatoes!](#)) and was released theatrically across the U.S. and Canada in 2024.

For his work on the film, Bone won the Rising Star Award at the 2024 Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival.

Son of Sara: Volume 1, Bone's second feature film project, serves as the first instalment of a planned horror franchise.

FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

DANA SOLOMON:

Niimi (which translates to "**She Dances**" in Ojibwe) explores the concept of **movement as medicine**.

I wanted to explore how a young woman (Skye) can move and dance her way through physical trauma and the aftermath of that experience. This film is about finding confidence and embracing new concepts of what sexiness can mean to a person, and in doing so, finding autonomy and ownership of one's sexuality and of one's self.

Skye's love for dance is also mirrored by the trauma that she has endured. Reacquainting means relearning to move and rediscovering our motivations for dancing in the first place. Why do we dance? *Niimi* explores the idea that healing isn't linear, it can be *messy*. Stepping outside of your comfort zone or trying something new can give you insight and a fresh perspective on the things you once loved.

This film is also **a love letter to all Indigenous dancers**, who have rarely had our stories told in an authentic way on screen.



FAQ

Q: When was this film written and shot?

A: Dana Solomon has been thinking about this story for years and she began work on the script in early 2024 after receiving an arts grant. She completed the script by the end of that same year.

The film was shot in January 2025 and was edited by Houston Bone between February and April 2025, with post-production wrapping in May of that same year.

Q: How long did production last?

A: The film was shot in 2 days.

Q: Where was this film shot?

A: The film was shot in the East End of Toronto.

Q: What's next?

A: *Niimi* will have its world premiere at TIFF 2025!

We are also in the early writing stages of a feature film adaptation of this short film, which we plan to pitch to financiers during TIFF. The feature film version will expand on Skye's trials and tribulations as an Indigenous woman in the tough world of ballet.



OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff50

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2025

PROMOTIONAL IMAGES

FILM STILLS

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PRODUCTION COMPANIES:

BLACK ELEPHANT PRODUCTIONS

HOUSTON BONE

hb@blackelephantproductions.com

SPIRIT MOON PRODUCTIONS

DANA SOLOMON

spiritmoonproduction@gmail.com



PUBLICITY CONTACT:

hb@blackelephantproductions.com

U.S. / WORLD DISTRIBUTOR:

TBD

CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR:

TBD



SPIRIT MOON

PRODUCTIONS