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HOUSTON-BASED DOCUMENTARY WINS “BEST OF FESTIVAL” at INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

TO BE US: To Work highlights microaggressions, discrimination against Blacks while at work

(Houston, Texas—October 5, 2020) -- A documentary highlighting stories of what it’s like to work while Black just won “Best of Festival” at this year’s International Black Film Festival, beating 40 other films to take the title. The film, *TO BE US: To Work* is the debut documentary for TO BE US Productions, a Houston-based production company dedicated to elevating Black stories. During a summer when many companies are committing to expanding their diversity and inclusion efforts, the film’s message is especially timely.

The documentary was filmed in The Ensemble Theater, which was founded in the 1970’s with a mission to preserve African-American culture. This makes *TO BE US: To Work* especially powerful, considering its message, and those who were interviewed for the film.



TO BE US Productions is a multimedia production company created by co-CEOs Tosca Davis and Cedrick Smith. Their debut 96-minute documentary holds a mirror to the systemic racism faced by Black people in the workplace by featuring employees, and business owners from diverse professions sharing experiences of misogynoir, retaliation, wrongful termination, and other discriminatory practices.

“We understand the reluctance or fear, to speak candidly about our experiences is a symptom of white supremacy,” says Tosca Davis, co-CEO of TO BE US Productions. “But we believe naming things as they are can wield power and be liberating.”

The film has been selected for nine film festivals, including the San Francisco Black Film Festival, Miami Independent Film Festival, Whistleblower Summit and Film Festival, Geelong International Film Festival, and the Chain NYC Film Festival.

“This film specifically identifies the trauma Black folks experience every day,” said Smith. “Oppression is an isolating feeling. But none of us are in this fight alone.”

About TO BE US Productions

Founded by Tosca Davis and Cedrick Smith, TO BE US PRODUCTIONS is a multimedia production company dedicated to reshaping storytelling by elevating Black creatives above mainstream consumption. The company is based in Houston, Texas and is powered by an all-Black crew. To learn more about TO BE US and to request a viewing of "To Be US: To Work", please visit www.tobeusproductions.com

About TELL Public Relations

TELL Public Relations is an agency dedicated to helping women-led businesses earn more of the shine they deserve. Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, the team represents minority women both nationally and internationally who are leading the way in their respective spaces. To learn more about this company, visit www.tellpublicrelations.com