

# BIO

## Sangodare

Julia Roxanne Wallace

Sangodare Akinwale (also known as Julia Roxanne Wallace) creates media and art intended to heal and transform and facilitates safe spaces for transformation. Julia is a filmmaker, multimedia collaborator & consultant, musician, composer, theologian and facilitator, building on her familial legacy of three generations of Black Baptist preachers working in communities in the South.

Julia is the founder of Queer Renaissance, a multimedia movement based on the premise that we can create the world anew. Julia's creations and collaborations work from the belief that by 1) expanding the realm of possibility within our minds and 2) tapping into the tools and resources necessary to actualize our expanded possibility, we can create balance for ourselves and the world we collectively deserve to have.

Julia's primary collaborator is Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs. Together they have co-created Mobile Homecoming, a national intergenerational experiential archive project that amplifies generations of Black LGBTQ brilliance by every means including using multimedia and building intergenerational family of choice across time and space. The Mobile Homecoming feature film is in post-production releasing shorts while in process including *No Legacy Let Go* which has toured with the show Queer Rebels of the Harlem Renaissance 2012-2013.

Black Feminist Film School, a collaboration between Alexis's organization Eternal Summer of the Black Feminist Mind and Queer Renaissance, engages and amplifies films that are (or may be) Black feminist and grows filmmaking skills amongst those who are historically under-represented in filmmaking. bffs is currently hosted by Center for Documentary Studies at Duke.

Julia's most recent project is a short film called **When We Free** created in collaboration with her national community and black feminist film school fellows. It imagines the first camp meeting (revival) a community of black folks in the Carolinas had after emancipation.

Julia and Alexis have also hosted more than 7 multi-day retreats in the Carolinas including Dark Sciences: POC Dream Retreat at Alma de Mujer in Austin, TX, Queer Black August at The Stone House (Mebane, NC), Combahee Pilgrimage at The Penn Center (St. Helena Island, SC), and Combahee Survival Revival Week (Durham, NC). They have also facilitated workshops, daylong retreats, residencies and coordinated tracks and institutes at over 50 universities, conferences and in communities across the country including USC, San Francisco State, Ramapo College, Creating Change/The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Colgate University, University of Texas at Austin, University of Florida, Smith, Barnard, Columbia, Rutgers, Allied Media Conference, At-

lanta's Black Gay Pride, Hotter Than July/Detroit Black Gay Pride, Sexuality in the Lesbian Community (Brooklyn, NY), to name a few.

Julia and Alexis offer workshops by request but mostly based on needs they see within community. For example, some of Julia's workshops draw from media literacy training and teaching that Julia studied as a theology student at Emory University, as a graduate communications student, independent multimedia consultant and artist working with institutional and grassroots organizations such as Digital Arts Entertainment Laboratory - DAEL (Atlanta, GA), Kindred Healing Justice Organization (Atlanta, GA), Allied Media Projects (Detroit, MI), and Tierra Negra Farms (Durham, NC).

Julia and Alexis have also been featured in national press - print, television and radio including being named one of Colorlines 10 LGBTQ Leaders building a new politics in 2012 and in The Advocate magazines Top 40 under 40 in 2012. Advocate Magazine is the leading national Gay and Lesbian magazine in the U.S.

Julia composes and produces music in multiple forms (e.g. West African derived, Gospel, Hip Hop, Blues, Jazz and more). Julia produced the audio piece for Alexis Pauline Gumbs's poem *To You Who Understand (My People)* which toured internationally with *Makeshift Reclamations: New Feminist Art and Activism* a multimedia showcase.

Julia received an undergraduate degree in Multimedia Computer Science from UNC Asheville, a Masters in Divinity from Emory University and has completed three years of coursework toward a Masters in Film Production at Georgia State University. As a part of the leadership council of Ile Ori Ogbe Egun, an African centered national spiritual community that bridges the gap between African and African American traditions, Julia focuses on self-development, pedagogy, logistics and cultural practices.

Julia has written and directed short narrative films and experimental films, feature length documentaries, a short documentary piece on award winning artist Lillian Blades and has also documented many LGBTQ community events. Julia debuted a collection of work at the event *Queer Renaissance: The Ties that Bind* in Atlanta, GA and continues to write, score, direct and produce independent films that prioritizes healing poetics.