



presents

DALTON'S DREAM

a film by

Kim Longinotto & Franky Murray Brown



90 minutes / 2023 / UK/US

produced by Lorine Plagnol

WORLD PREMIERE - SHEFFIELD DOCFEST

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Logline

After winning one of the world's top singing competitions, a young musician from rural Jamaica struggles for stardom whilst battling life-threatening allegations about his sexuality.

Short Synopsis

In 2018, a young musician from rural Jamaica called Dalton Harris became the first black man and foreigner to win "The X Factor" UK and, with it, a lucrative record deal that promised to transform his life. Filmed over four years, this coming-of-age documentary follows Dalton as he struggles for fame, love and acceptance whilst battling dangerous allegations about his sexuality and spiraling mental health.

Long Synopsis

In 2018, a young musician from rural Jamaica called Dalton Harris became the first black man and foreigner to win "The X Factor" UK and, with it, a lucrative record deal that promised to transform his life. Filmed over four years, this coming-of-age documentary follows Dalton as he struggles for fame, love, and acceptance whilst battling dangerous allegations about his sexuality and spiraling mental health.

Charting an extraordinary rise, the film follows Dalton's new life in London. The film explores the challenges he faces after his single fails to make the top 40, the constant homophobic death threats he receives because of assumptions of his sexuality and the added stress of trying to keep his career afloat in a foreign country where all friends and family are out of reach.

Gradually, Dalton starts to write more personal, revealing lyrics and becomes more open about his ongoing battle with his mental health. He tries to come to terms with his difficult upbringing and the fear and shame he experienced growing up in a very homophobic atmosphere in Jamaica.

Dalton's Dream is a coming-of-age film about a young man's search for love and acceptance. It shows his determination to fight on despite the great prejudice he faces every day. It is an inspirational story and a celebration of musical excellence.

Directors' statement

Dalton is keen for his story to be told. He thinks that if he'd watched a film like this as a child in Jamaica it would have really helped him – giving him a role-model and a sense of hope. He believes that we desperately need more Black, openly LGBTQ people on our screens. Too often they are portrayed negatively or not at all. Dalton is a talented man who could inspire others to embrace who they are and who they love and follow their dreams.

Dalton's Dream will challenge Jamaica's homophobic culture through Dalton's own brave journey. Jamaica has extremely high rates of anti-LGBTQ violence: any sexual encounter between men is still illegal and there are no protections or safeguards for LGBTQ+ people against discrimination. The film will also show that global North society still has its inherent prejudices. Dalton always struggled with his own identity due to these external pressures feeding into his inner turmoil.

The film looks at the exploitation of vulnerable talent at the heart of the UK entertainment industry. Since the beginning of the British pop industry, many of the most talented young stars have struggled with their mental health and even ended their own lives. This film reflects the pressures that can lead to this.

About Dalton

Dalton Harris is a Jamaican singer-songwriter. He rose to fame after winning the 15th season of the UK singing competition The X Factor in 2018, becoming the first foreigner and the first black man to do so. Before winning The X Factor, Dalton won the Jamaican singing competition "Digicel Rising Stars" in 2010. He has released several singles since his winning The X Factor and appeared in several theatre productions in the UK.

The filmmakers

Among her more than 20 films, **Kim Longinotto** challenged the tradition of female genital mutilation in Kenya in 2002's THE DAY I WILL NEVER FORGET and told the story of an Indian Muslim woman who smuggled poetry out to the world while locked up by her family in 2013's SALMA. SISTERS IN LAW celebrates two female judges in Cameroon and DREAMCATCHER looks at the life and work of a former sex worker who rescues Chicago girls from the street. Her latest film SHOOTING THE MAFIA premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival & Berlinale 2020.

Franky Murray Brown is a Scottish documentary filmmaker making his directorial debut with Dalton's Dream. Previous work includes documentaries for Netflix, HBO, the BBC and Channel 4, where he produced the acclaimed OUR BABY: A MODERN MIRACLE, documenting transgender couple Jake & Hannah Graf as they navigated starting a family through surrogacy. His most recent project WHEN THE WORDS AWAY WENT captures the lives of three people living with Aphasia, a loss of language caused by a stroke.

The production company

Sungazer Limited is a UK-based film production company founded in 2018 by Lorine Plagnol and Oskar Pimlott. The company's focus is on producing independent films with unique and compelling stories. They aim to tell stories that challenge audiences' perceptions and promote diversity and inclusivity in film. Their productions include "Romantic Comedy", "Life In Love" and " Know the Grass".

Dogwoof

Dogwoof is a London-based documentary film company integrating production, sales, and UK theatrical distribution. Dogwoof has so far released 31 Oscar®-nominated documentaries, with five wins and an additional four BAFTA winners; notable titles include 2023 Oscar®-winning and BAFTA-winning Navalny, Oscar®-winning and BAFTA-winning Free Solo (the UK's highest-grossing documentary of 2018), BAFTA-nominated Apollo 11 (the UK's highest-grossing doc of 2019), BAFTA-winning The Act of Killing, and Blackfish. Dogwoof is increasingly ramping up its production activities and recent titles it has financed and produced include: Playing with Sharks (Sundance 2021, sold to National Geographic), The Lost Leonardo (Tribeca 2021, sold to Sony Pictures Classics), Citizen Ashe (Telluride 2021, sold to CNN / HBO Max), and McEnroe (Tribeca 2022, sold to Showtime). Dogwoof started 2023 with three Oscar® and three BAFTA-nominations, with all three titles premiering and winning awards in Sundance 2022: Navalny by Daniel Roher which won both the US Documentary Audience Award and the Audience Favourite Award and went on to receive the 2023 Oscar® and BAFTA awards; All That Breathes by Shaunak Sen which took the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize and was part of the Cannes 2022 official selection; and Fire of Love by Sara Dosa, winner of the Jonathan Oppenheim Editing Award. In 2023 Dogwoof distribution has so far released Dreaming Walls by Maya Duverdier and Amelie van Elmbt, executive produced by Martin Scorsese, and Subject by Jennifer Tiexiera and Camilla Hall which premiered in Tribeca 2022. Dogwoof's current films in production include: Lomu on rugby legend Jonah Lomu; Schmeichel about the world's greatest soccer goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, and Copa 71 by Rachel Ramsay and James Erskine, executive produced by Serena and Venus Williams.

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Kim Longinotto and Franky Murray Brown

Produced by
Lorine Plagnol

Edited by
Ollie Huddleston

Co-Producer
Franky Murray Brown

Executive Producer
Kevin Jennings
Ted Snowdon

Executive Producer (For Dogwoof)
Anna Godas

Oli harbottle
Ana Vicente

Executive Producer (For BBC)
Derren Lawford

Music by
Chelsea Carmichael

Associate Producer
Bianca Harley

Production Coordinator
Mabel Evans

Production Assistant / Fixer
Ashley Cork

Archive Researcher
Rosie Hough