



Share and Share Alike





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Short Synopsis

There are few bonds stronger than the collective love and values of a West Indian family. *Share & Share Alike* shows this by exploring the relationships between three Antiguan brothers and the unique way in which they continue to fight for a brother who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia almost 25 years ago. The story of the Hodge brothers is an example of what 'family' should be all about.

Long Synopsis

There are few bonds stronger than the collective love and values of a West Indian family. *Share & Share Alike* shows this by exploring the relationships between three Antiguan brothers – George, Wayne, and Christopher -- and the unique way in which they continue to fight for their brother, Gary, who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia almost twenty-five years ago.

After the first tumultuous years of Gary's diagnosis came a period of seven years of mental stability. A change of medication in 2004, however, caused a violent relapse from which Gary has never recovered, opening a Pandora's box of emotions for each brother. George and Gary were best friends for twenty-two years – today Gary's paranoia has cast George as an enemy; Wayne is Gary's primary caretaker, the stress of which has strained his marriage; Christopher, being the youngest, is wrought with guilt about being far removed from Gary, and about not having more of a relationship with him.

Having dealt with the pain of this reality in solitude in England, New York, and Florida respectively, Christopher, George, and Wayne come together in Florida, committed to figuring out what next they can do to help Gary. In the face of hopelessness, though they struggle to communicate, the three brothers celebrate what is important in life: family and laughter.

Told from the perspective of Christopher's 10-year long girlfriend, the story of the Hodge brothers is an example of what 'family' should be all about.



Reviews of *Share and Share Alike*

- *Frances-Anne Solomon, Filmmaker & Director of the Caribbean Tales Film Festival (Toronto, Ontario):*

"I like the way that *Share and Share Alike*, is about 3 (or 4) men and how they deal with their emotions, and its from a woman's point of view. It's a sensitive perceptive and entertaining doc."

- *Christopher Laird, Filmmaker & CEO Gayelle TV (Trinidad & Tobago):*

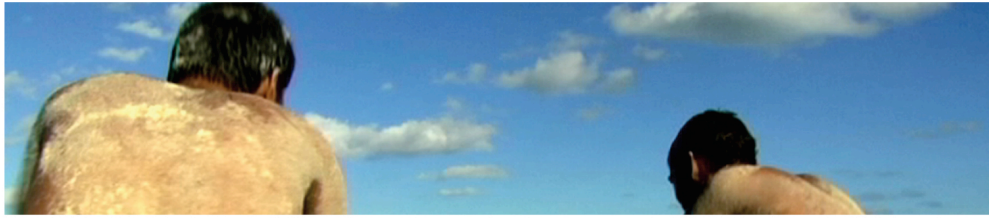
[The film shows] "great technical skill in difficult circumstances. Melissa's efforts to delve beneath the skins and souls of macho Caribbean males demonstrates a sensitive touch and her rewards are hard won."

- *Tony Dowmunt, Course Convenor MA Screen Documentary, Goldsmiths College, University of London (London, England):*

"*Share and Share Alike* is a beautifully shot and sensitively directed film about a remarkable family of four brothers from the Caribbean island of Antigua. One of them goes through periods of hospitalization because of his schizophrenia, the other three take it in turns to look after him. The film is unflinching in its examination of the toll this takes on all their lives, at the same time as being positive and life affirming in the way it portrays their humour, and their love for and solidarity with, each other. *Share and Share Alike* achieves a rare and precious intimacy."

- *2009 Bridgetown Film Festival (Barbados):*

"[*Share and Share Alike* is] an intimate look at one Caribbean family and the view, despite the family issues present, is beautiful."



Production Information

Title: *Share and Share Alike*

Genre: Documentary Short

Completion Date: June 12th 2008

Language: English (not subtitled)

Length: 37 mins, 15 secs

Country of origin: Antigua

Countries where production took place: Antigua, UK, USA

Producer, Camera, & Director: Melissa A. Gomez

Format: HDV 1080 60i NTSC, 16:9, Stereo

This film was produced as Melissa Gomez's final project in her MA Screen Documentary Course at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Contact info

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http://www.melissaannegomez.com/share_and_share_alike.html

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Director's Biography: Melissa A. Gomez

Originally from the island of Antigua in the West Indies, Melissa's perspective as a documentary filmmaker has been greatly shaped by her experience of being a hearing child of deaf parents. Her parents' deafness meant that she grew up in a unique world, where visuals had much more value than words. It is no surprise then, that her first feature-length documentary is a portrait of her parents, entitled *Silent Music* – a film that has turned into a five-year long labour of love, expected to be completed in late 2009. Cynthia Loyst, Supervising Producer at CTV Entertainment Group (Canada), screened a recent edit of the film and said "the shots, the music and the editing are all really wonderful. I... found myself totally enchanted by this beautiful family".

Melissa's career as a filmmaker began at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, where she completed an undergraduate degree in Image Arts: New Media with honours. At Ryerson, Melissa produced and directed several short films, three of which were officially selected for the National Student Shorts Film Festival in 2001 and 2002.

Following these studies, Melissa returned to Antigua for three years where she founded and managed her own independent production company, "Cinqué Productions", with her fiancé Christopher Hodge. During this time she worked in the capacity of Producer and Production Manager and her biggest achievement was the writing and producing of two seasons of *EcoZone* – a 12-programme, 45-minute reality television series aimed at educating the public about pertinent environmental issues affecting the Caribbean region. Both seasons were broadcast throughout the Caribbean in 2005 and 2007 respectively.

In 2007, anxious to specialise and broaden her creative horizons, Melissa pursued an MA in Screen Documentary at Goldsmiths College, University of London, which she completed with distinction one year later. That year allowed her to focus on producing and directing *Share and Share Alike*, a medium-length documentary which explores the relationships between three

Antiguan brothers and the uniquely Caribbean way in which they continue to fight for a brother who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia almost 25 years ago. This film will have its US premiere at the 2010 San Diego Black Film Festival in February 2010 and had its North American premiere at the 2009 Caribbean Tales Film Festival in July. Christopher Laird, CEO of Trinidad & Tobago's Gayelle TV, has lauded the film as showing "great technical skill in difficult circumstances. Melissa's efforts to delve beneath the skins and souls of macho Caribbean males demonstrates a sensitive touch and her rewards are hard won." Tony Dowmunt, Course Convenor of the MA in Screen Documentary at Goldsmiths describes Melissa as, "an assured and stylish documentary director, whose work shows visual flair and great sensitivity to her characters."

In addition to recently being commissioned by Artscape (Canada) to produce and direct a documentary short entitled Changing Course, Melissa has worked as a documentary researcher with director Emily James at Dartmouth Films in London and Oscar-winning director Alex Gibney at Jigsaw Productions in New York.

Director's Filmography

2009	<i>Silent Music</i> – Feature-Length Documentary, DV (Currently in Post Production)	Director, Producer & Cinematographer
2008	<i>Share & Share Alike</i> – Medium-Length Documentary, HDV CARIBBEAN TALES FILM FESTIVAL (Toronto, 2009) BRIDGETOWN FILM FESTIVAL (Barbados, 2009)	Director, Producer & Cinematographer
2002	<i>Coincidence</i> – Short Fiction Film, DV THE NATIONAL STUDENT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL (Toronto, 2002)	Director, Cinematographer & Editor
2001	<i>2 Dollar Picture</i> – Short Animated Film THE BARBADOS FESTIVAL OF AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN FILM (Barbados, 2003)	Director, Writer & Animator
2000	<i>Deaf not Dumb</i> – Short Fiction Film, 16mm THE NATIONAL STUDENT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL (Toronto, 2001)	Director, Cinematographer & Editor