

A BECOMING LOVE PROJECT FILM

# THE WAY BACK HOME

*Electronic Press Kit*

Status: **In Post-Production**

First Screening: **Nov 14, 2026**

AT A GLANCE

# Quick facts.

LOGLINE

*After a panic attack forces her home, a high-powered attorney must confront the life she built to be loved and the woman she abandoned to build it.*

---

GENRE

*Drama*

FORMAT

*Feature Film*

STATUS

*In Post-Production*

FIRST SCREENING

*Nov 14, 2026 · The Artisan at Tannery Row, Buford, GA*

PRODUCTION COMPANY

*Becoming Love Project*

WEBSITE

*[becomingloveproject.org/twbh](http://becomingloveproject.org/twbh)*

SPECIFICATIONS

# Technical specs.

RUNTIME

*TBD · Finalizing at Picture Lock*

ASPECT RATIO

*TBD*

LANGUAGE

*English*

SHOOTING FORMAT

*Digital*

COLOR

*Color*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

*United States*

## THE STORY

*Brilliant attorney and classically trained cellist Diana Washington has spent her entire life building the kind of success that makes people stay.*

But when a panic attack brings her to her knees in her perfectly curated loft, everything she has been outrunning finally catches up to her.

She returns home to the Southern town she left behind, expecting to recover quietly. Instead she finds the thing she has been running from all along: a mother who loves her fiercely but has never learned to love her freely, and a version of herself she abandoned decades ago.

Through music, family, and the painful grace of telling the truth, Diana must reckon with the belief she has carried since childhood: that she is only worth loving if she keeps performing.



#### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*I wrote The Way Back Home because I know what it costs to perform strength instead of living honestly. Diana's story isn't mine exactly, but the belief underneath it is: that you have to earn the right to be loved by never falling apart in front of anyone.*

*This film grew directly out of the storytelling work we do at Becoming Love Project. It was written, cast, and crewed alongside young adults who are doing their own version of what Diana does: coming home to the parts of themselves they thought they had to leave behind.*

TAMALA BALDWIN, WRITER & DIRECTOR

INTRODUCING



THE LEAD

# Ericka Alexis

*as Diana Washington*

Ericka Alexis leads the film as Diana, a role that asks her to move between the armor of a high-powered attorney and the unguarded ache of a daughter who never learned she was enough without the accolades.

| “*She plays Diana like someone re-learning how to breathe out loud.*”

THE CAST

# The faces of the story.



**Terry Henry**  
*as Beverly*



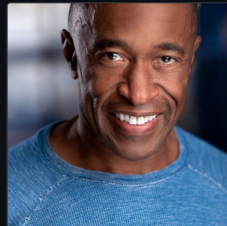
**Kadeem Isaiah**  
*as Gabriel*



**Chantress Williams**  
*as Candy*



**Camay McCollum**  
*as Zora*



**Wil Cooks**  
*as Joe*



**Shawn Francis**  
*as James*



#### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

## Tamala Baldwin

**Tamala Baldwin** is the Founder and Chair of Becoming Love Project, a nonprofit that uses storytelling and film to help young adults navigating housing instability and life transitions build futures.

*The Way Back Home* is her second feature as writer and director. Her first, *Blended Christmas*, aired on Paramount+ starring Jennifer Freeman, Victoria Rowell, and Anthony Dalton.

Her work centers identity, healing, and the cost of performing strength, themes drawn as much from her own life as from the young people BLP serves.

## The mission behind the film.

The Way Back Home was written and produced through Becoming Love Project's Youth Storytelling Program, a paid apprenticeship that teaches screenwriting and film production to young adults navigating housing instability and major life transitions.

Several cast and crew members came up through the program itself, working alongside industry professionals to bring this story to screen. BLP's model is non-clinical: a creative, workforce-building pathway that complements traditional support services rather than replacing them.

24

week paid apprenticeship:  
screenwriting and  
filmmaking combined

1st

feature produced through the program

# The Art of Becoming

*A film about the person underneath the performance.*

Diana Washington has built an identity around achievement. She is a brilliant attorney, a classically trained cellist, accomplished, independent and seemingly in control. Then her body essentially tells her: **you cannot keep living like this.**

A panic attack brings Diana's carefully curated life to a halt and forces her to confront a harder question than anything her career has demanded of her.

*"Who are we when the version of ourselves we built to survive no longer works?"*

*The Way Back Home* explores the space between who we learned to be and who we actually are — what it means to stop performing the version of ourselves that earned approval, success, safety or love, and begin becoming someone more honest.

*"Who are you underneath everything you learned to perform?"*

## MENTAL HEALTH

What happens when a highly functioning, successful person reaches the point where she simply cannot keep functioning the same way?

## WOMEN & CULTURE

How much of the "strong woman" identity is genuine strength, and how much of it is a survival strategy?

## WELLNESS

What if achievement, productivity and appearing okay have been mistaken for actually being well?

## LIFESTYLE & PERSONAL GROWTH

How do we recognize when an identity that once protected us has begun limiting us?

## ENTERTAINMENT & STORYTELLING

Can watching a fictional character confront the story she has been living give audiences permission to examine their own?



2

## Rewriting the Ending

*What happens when the philosophy behind a nonprofit becomes a feature film?*

*The Way Back Home* grew directly out of the storytelling work of Becoming Love Project, where storytelling isn't simply an art form — it's a way for young people to examine what they've experienced, imagine what could come next, and begin writing toward a different future.

That same idea lives inside Diana's journey. She has spent years living according to a story about who she needed to become in order to be successful, safe and loved. Returning home forces her to question whether that story still belongs to her.

| *"Can changing the story you tell about yourself change the life you believe is possible?"*

3

## From Classroom to Film Set

*Young adults didn't just learn filmmaking. They helped make a feature film.*

Participants in Becoming Love Project's Youth Storytelling Program weren't simply observing professionals or completing classroom exercises — **they worked alongside professionals making an actual feature film.**

That makes this a story about more than arts education. It's workforce development, youth opportunity, hands-on career exposure, and a potential pathway into Georgia's film industry.

| *"What changes when a young person stops imagining what it might be like to work in film and gets the opportunity to actually do it?"*

*Potential human interest component: spotlight one or more program participants and trace their experience from entering the program to working on the feature.*

4

## Who Gets to Work in Film?

*Building another doorway into Georgia's entertainment industry.*

Breaking into film often requires more than talent or training — emerging filmmakers need experience, professional relationships, credits, and access to environments where the work is actually happening.

Through *The Way Back Home*, Becoming Love Project created another possible entrance by allowing emerging creatives to work alongside experienced film professionals on an actual feature production.

| *"If talent is everywhere but opportunity isn't, who gets a chance to become a filmmaker?"*

5

## When the Strong Woman Breaks

*The hidden cost of always appearing okay.*

Diana Washington is accomplished, educated, talented, independent and successful — the person people assume is fine. Until she isn't.

A panic attack becomes the rupture that exposes something deeper: the emotional cost of spending years believing that strength means never falling apart where anyone can see you. The angle isn't simply mental illness — it's the cultural expectation that some women should be composed, dependable and fine regardless of what they're carrying.

| *"Who takes care of the person everyone assumes doesn't need taking care of?"*

PRESS STORY ANGLES · 6 & 7 OF 8

6

## Success Didn't Save Her

*What happens when achievement becomes a substitute for healing?*

Diana became an attorney. She became an accomplished musician. She built a successful, independent life that looks impressive from the outside. And none of it could resolve what she carried inside.

*The Way Back Home* challenges a powerful cultural promise: that if we accomplish enough, eventually we will feel like enough.

*"What happens when you get everything you thought would make you whole and discover that you're still hurting?"*

7

## Mothers, Daughters and the Things We Never Say

*Can someone love you deeply and still not know how to love you the way you needed?*

Going home doesn't only force Diana to confront herself. It forces her to confront her mother. At the film's heart is a relationship between two women who love each other deeply but haven't always known how to communicate that love in ways the other could receive.

The film explores an uncomfortable truth: **love can be real and still leave wounds behind.**

*"What becomes possible when both generations finally say what they've spent years avoiding?"*

# A Nonprofit Made a Feature Film

*What happens when a nonprofit's mission becomes the production model?*

Becoming Love Project didn't simply sponsor *The Way Back Home*. The organization's mission became part of the way the film was made. The feature grew out of BLP's storytelling work and brought emerging young creatives into a professional filmmaking environment alongside working cast and crew.

That creates an unusual story at the intersection of nonprofit innovation, arts education, workforce development and independent filmmaking. Instead of treating programming and filmmaking as separate activities, Becoming Love Project used the production itself as an opportunity for learning, work experience and creative development.

*There are ultimately two stories of becoming inside The Way Back Home: on screen, a woman is learning how to return to herself. Behind the screen, emerging storytellers are beginning to see themselves as people who can help make films.*

PRODUCTION STORY

# Behind the film.

*The Way Back Home* was shot on location in the Atlanta metro area, Georgia, across a compressed 10-day production window — principal photography ran July 12–22, 2026.

Three participants from Becoming Love Project's Youth Storytelling Program completed the full screenwriting curriculum and worked directly on the production as paid apprentices, alongside a crew of working film professionals.

24

weeks, paid storytelling and filmmaking apprenticeship

10

shooting days, principal photography

6

Georgia filming locations

3

apprentices completed the program and worked on set

10

community & industry partners supported the production



Full Circle Salon



The Blu Rose Art Bistro



Central Atlanta Props & Sets



Cinder Lighting & Grip



Aurora Theatre



Lawrenceville-Suwanee School of Music



Gwinnett Creativity Fund



PCE One Stop Shop



GANO



celtx

FROM THE FILM

# Selected stills.





FROM THE FILM

# More stills.





FULL CREDITS

# Cast & crew.

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY

Tamala Baldwin

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Brian Bradley

PRODUCED BY

Tamala Baldwin · Millie Habtemariam · Brittany C. Gooden · Alphonso Hayward · Dr. Dia Jones · Gerri Aldridge ·

Rachelle Le Blanc

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Tamala Baldwin · Penni Malloy-Harper, RN · Millie Habtemariam

A **BECOMING LOVE PROJECT** PRODUCTION

FULL CREDITS, CONTINUED

# Department heads.

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Albion Walker

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

Katja Akerman

SOUND MIXER

Eddie Morris

GAFFER

Ellis Morris Walker Jr.

KEY GRIP

Aaron Reid

ART DIRECTOR

Tristin Travis

KEY MAKEUP

Trevani Brooks

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

Talia Leslie

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

# Press interview subjects.

## **Tamala Baldwin**

*Writer & Director*

The Art of Becoming, writing The Way Back Home, storytelling and identity, Becoming Love Project, nonprofit filmmaking, and creating pathways into entertainment.

## **Terry Henry**

*Beverly Washington*

Diana and Beverly's mother-daughter relationship, generational patterns, love, forgiveness, and portraying a complicated bond.

*Additional cast and filmmakers available upon request.*

## **Ericka Alexis**

*Lead Actor, Diana Washington*

Becoming Diana, the strong-woman archetype, vulnerability, achievement, identity, and the emotional journey of the character.

## **Yomari Jackson & Kyriah Jacobs-Reid**

*Youth Storytelling Program Participants*

Completing the full screenwriting curriculum, then moving from learning filmmaking to working alongside professionals on a feature production.

#### CONTENT NOTE

The Way Back Home includes depictions of panic attacks, family estrangement, and emotional distress connected to childhood belief patterns.

Becoming Love Project's own work is non-clinical: a creative, community-based pathway to healing that complements, rather than replaces, traditional behavioral health care.

PRESS ASSETS

# What's available.

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| High-resolution film stills | Download    |
| Director headshot           | Download    |
| Full cast headshots         | Download    |
| Becoming Love Project logo  | Download    |
| Trailer                     | Coming Soon |

Full press folder: **Download**

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Official key art / poster     | TBD      |
| Lead cast headshot            | Download |
| Behind-the-scenes photography | Download |
| Film logo / title treatment   | Included |
| Press release                 | Download |



SCREENINGS & CONTACT

# *The story screens this fall.*

First Screening · Heart Awards & Fundraising Gala · Nov 14, 2026 · The Artisan at Tannery Row, Buford, GA

Tamala Baldwin, Writer & Director

PRESS INQUIRIES

*chair@becomingloveproject.org*

DISTRIBUTION & LICENSING

*chair@becomingloveproject.org*

WEBSITE

*becomingloveproject.org/twbh*

SOCIAL

*@becomingloveproject*

*Thank you for your interest in The Way Back Home.*