



244 W 137th Street #3R, New York, NY 10030 917.545.4360
Website: www.boiwondaphilmz.com Email: kirk@boiwondaphilmz.com

For Immediate Release

The Old Fashion Way – Trailblazing.

New York (April, 2008) – **“Without trailblazers like this, our film culture would be stagnant,”** Black Enterprise. Emerging filmmaker **Kirk Shannon-Butts** has been included in **Black Enterprise Magazine’s 2008 “Hollywood Issue”** for his provocative debut feature film **Blueprint**. **Blueprint**, which has been earning high praise and sold-out audiences on the international film festival circuit.

Shannon-Butts was also recently named one of **OUT magazine’s OUT100 for 2007**, while **Blueprint** has been nominated for **“Best First Film” at the San Francisco International Film Festival**, a finalist in the **“Best Film Not Playing in a Theater Near You” category by IFP Gotham Awards** and **short-listed for the 2008 “Someone To Watch” category at the 2008 Spirit Awards**. Requests for screeners of **Blueprint** have come from all over the globe -- **India, Hong Kong, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, Italy, South Africa, Dubai, Germany, and Philippines**.

“Definitely a new voice in African-American cinema,” announces Topher Campbell of the London International Film Festival. An urban valentine, **Blueprint** is the story of college students **Keith (Blake Young-Fountain)** and **Nathan (Damion Lee)**, two New York City boys seeking to connect. **Michael Fox of KQED** says, **“Blueprint** is a wonderful debut film. . . delicate and rarefied.” **ON Magazine’s Peter Canavese** declares, “Shannon-Butts’ make a good case to be the GLBT Spike Lee.” **Frameline states**, **“Blueprint** is a bold new direction in queer and African American cinema.” **Reel Affirmations** proclaims “Kirk is definitely a director to watch.”

Armed with his MFA in Film Production from Chapman University, Kirk headed for New York City to make his first feature film **Blueprint**. In 2004 Shannon-Butts **received a prestigious Jerome Foundation grant** in support of **Blueprint** and the **Plant-a-Seed Award for emerging filmmakers** from 1-in-10/Reel Affirmations. “I just want to make great films, engage film goers, present other stories and discover new talent like Damion and Blake,” says Shannon-Butts. “Most of the notable directors working today started out with a little independent film that stood out from the pack. **Blueprint** is that for me.”

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Shannon-Butts currently lives in Harlem where he is completing his **follow-up screenplay The Pain Session** -- the story of an Arab and American romance rekindled after a chance meeting on a New York City subway platform on the very hot and tense Thursday, September 13, 2001. Shannon-Butts’ **next film is an adaptation of James Earl Hardy’s bestseller The Day Eazy E Died**.

For more information contact **boiWONDA pHilmZ** at **917-545-4360**.

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