

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to work with Camille Monae on my short film SPIN, a piece that explores the complicated nature of sexual assault at the hands of a partner. Camille not only stepped up on short notice to take the lead when our original Intimacy Coordinator fell through, but she did so wholeheartedly and very quickly brought a sense of calm and collaboration to our team. Working with her as a director was a learning experience, as there were moments where I was prioritizing the safety of the actors while Camille made sure there were parameters in place to protect not only the cast but the crew as well. Working with her as a performer, on the other hand, was even more valued. It allowed me to feel taken care of and protected. There was one moment, for example, prior to shooting a sensitive, challenging scene where I began to hyperventilate unexpectedly, likely due to my body anticipating what was ahead. Camille led me through an exercise that helped me to breathe through it, reminded me that I was not the character that I was playing (a needed prompt since this piece was based on real-life events), and ultimately helped me to get centered enough to be able to continue while feeling safe. I would work with Camille again in a heartbeat and look forward to seeing her future work as an Intimacy Professional.

-Brandi Nicole Payne

Writer/Co-Director/Performer - SPIN (short film)