

FILM SYNOPSIS

Faith is running through a train station, she rushes past a man sat waiting for his train, spilling his coffee. As she rushes for the exit, she suddenly hits a pole, leaving her passed out on the cold station floor, lying between a set of escalators above her and an old abandoned staircase below her.

An echoed voice begins to call Faith's name, she opens her eyes and begins to stand up slowly. She recognises the voice to be her mother, Imani. Imani suddenly appears beside her in a dreamy phantasm state; she questions why she seems so stressed and in such a hurry. Faith explains that she is rushing to arrive at an audition; as she is a ballet dancer, and this audition is to be a music video dancer for a new rapper. Imani cannot understand the temptation, begs Faith to forget this idea, and go back to her dance studio where she teaches classes with her husband. Faith argues that she just wants to be famous in order to provide a better life for her husband and daughter, that this will make her name famous and open more doors, because she wants to give her family more opportunities in life than what Imani could give to her.

Imani, hurting that Faith did not value the time her mother could spend with her, tells Faith of a story about a family man named Elikya who rushed for a moment of fame, but didn't take the time to work on something that he truly loved, which was making music with his lover... Instead he jumped on a train to a performance without his lover and became a solo singer in another country, writing music about his struggle to be a famous singer because he was offered more money for this. He thought this would be better for his family as he could send them money and gifts each month. But he became a slave to his audience's expectations; and meeting the demands of his label meant losing touch with his true self, his home, and family. When his fans finally became uninterested in him, and he stopped making money from his tours, he returned home. Only to find his lover and children had passed away three years ago. A letter was left from his sister explaining that they were in an accident, but nobody could reach him when he was on tour across the world, he had missed their funeral; but told he shouldn't worry too much as his lover married a new man that year and by then his children did not remember him.

Imani tells Faith that if she chooses to go upstairs, the doors will lead her back to her and her husband's studio, where together they can work on their dance classes and provide opportunities for students to dance in shows for many years to come; and that although they won't have riches and fame, their daughter Ayana will be proud of how hard and passionately they worked. Imani stresses that she will always be happy, loved and satisfied with doing what she enjoys the most in life, and surrounded by her family. However if she goes downstairs, she will become famous quickly, her name will be known across the music and performance industry; and she will be paid generously as she dances in many top artists' music videos all over the world. However, like many who have a moment in the spotlight, it will be short lived, and she will be forgotten as a new; younger, sexier dancer takes her place over time. Faith becomes angry and defensive, promises she will always be there for her family and still have the love of her fans for life... and that is why she would choose fame every time to provide a

lifetime of wealth for her loved ones. She runs down the stairs declaring that she will prove her mother wrong; that she will have it all and that she is nothing like that man Elikya. As she looks back up at Imani guilt ridden for ignoring her advice she misses a step... causing her to slip and tumble down the staircase.

A young girl rushes over and helps her up, as she dusts off her clothes. The girl screams, and says he recognises her from TV. She asks for her to sign her autograph on a newspaper where Faith sees an article about her 'London's hottest video vixen, Faith is amazed that she has come so far, and being recognised... Faith signs the young girl's autograph, and at the realisation that she has not checked in with her own daughter. Flees back up the stairs. The young girl screams with excitement, and Faith flees up the stairs saying she must run back and tell her husband and mother that she made it, and help their daughter become famous too. But as she rushed back to the top of the stairs where she first lay. The escalators were gone. She is confused by how much time must have passed, and calls her husband's phone. A young girl answers 'who is this?' when she happily asks to speak to her husband to tell him everything... the woman says you must not remember, my father got a divorce last year.. His wife had chosen a path in life which meant she valued fame, and never had time for myself or my dad. Faith frozen to realise it was her daughter speaking, and all grown up, her daughter sounds just like her mother who she had also lost touch with, as the rapper's she danced for and the fans who screamed her name became her family. She explained that her father argued often that he didn't want her to be inspired by someone willing to sell their soul to the world and so he made sure to forget what her name was from the moment she left. Faith then realised that she had lost sight of what was important. She drops her phone, cries and heads back to the platform, to sit beside a man on a bench.

He hands her a tissue and says, you finally stopped running to your temptations, and as she takes the tissue, sees it was what he used to wipe his split coffee... Faith says... you are still waiting for your train, how long has it been? He replies to her, he always wanted to sing with his wife, instead he spent his life performing as a solo act for the money. What was funny was that even though the world knew his name, his own family had forgotten it. He knows now he never should have gotten on the train to his first solo show. Faith remembering the story Imani gave her asked what his name was. He replied. Elikya. As tears rolled down her cheeks she said, I never should have gone down the staircase. Then he replied, ' I told you so'.

SHORT FILM: THE MIND DOMINANCE 2.0

written by

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SHORT FILM: THE MIND DOMINANCE 2.0

Short Synopsis: The story of a woman named Faith who is determined to chase her pipe-dreams, and forgets to acknowledge the value of what she already has. She is tested on how easily she will give into temptations, despite the red flags her path has shown.

SCENE 1: FAITH IS RUNNING THROUGH THE TRAIN STATION

She rushes past a man sitting waiting for his train, spilling his coffee.

ELIKYA:

Hey, why are you running so fast!

FAITH:

I'm sorry! I am late for an audition

ELIKYA:

Slow down!

As she rushes through the platform exit, looking back at the man, she turns back the way she is facing and suddenly hits a pole, and passes out on the cold station floor

FADES TO BLACK

SCENE 2: LYING ON THE FLOOR BETWEEN A SET OF ESCALATORS AND AN OLD ABANDONED STAIRCASE.

Faith opens her eyes and begins to stand up slowly as she hears an echoed voice, and sees an illusion of her mother appear.

IMANI:

Faith, why are you so stressed about this audition? You were in such a hurry, you bumped that poor man waiting for his train.

FAITH:

I have to be there mum, if I'm late I may never get this opportunity again!

IMANI:

But what is it for, you already have everything you dreamed of; your beautiful dance studio that you and Nathan own, and your daughter! Oh how proud she must be of -

FAITH: *interrupting*

- This audition is to be a music video dancer for a new rapper! I love being a ballet dancer, and teaching... but it will never pay enough, not like being famous could.

IMANI CONT/:

I'm sorry, I cannot understand the temptation, would Ayana be more proud to see her mother dancing for rappers, the same way she would if you were doing what you already are.

FAITH:

She will understand when she sees the life we can afford, and unlike me she will never have to hear that her dreams are too expensive! Mother this is what is best for Ayana AND Nathan...

IMANI:

Okay I'm begging you now Faith... please try to forget this idea

FAITH:

What?

IMANI:

Go back to your dance studio where you teach classes to the youth with your husband. You're arguing that you want to be famous in order to provide a better life for him and daughter, but not seeing that you already have it all. This is a pipe dream! A waste of time.

FAITH:

You just don't understand mum, this will make me famous and open more doors for all of us... how can you call this a pipe dream when it will give my family more opportunities in life than what you could give to me.

Imani glares at Faith with disappointment, and as she wipes a tear from her eye. She walks over to the escalators, takes up a seat on one of the bottom steps, and signals for Faith to sit beside her.

SCENE 3: IMANI TELLS A STORY

As they sit side by side, Faith listens deeply.

IMANI:

Many years ago, there was a loving family man named Elikya, it seemed as though their was nothing he valued more than his girlfriend and their two sons. But a moment of fame seemed almost impossible to ignore when he was presented with the opportunity... a little like you Faith. He and his lover always focused on making music together, they were passionate about jazz,

and appreciated the art of collaboration. But one day he was invited to an audition to sing, as a solo act. His girlfriend argued that he would be torn from his family, and he disagreed, debated that he would be able to provide a better life for them all and when she told him not to leave, he instead rushed for his train so he wouldn't be late to this performance. With much success, Elikya became a famous solo singer in Canada. He wrote music about his struggle to be a famous singer and his fans adored him. He eventually began to afford to send his girlfriend and sons money every month and gifts every Christmas. But he became a slave to his fan's expectations; he had to meet the demands of his label and always be available for them, which meant losing touch with his true self, his home, and eventually... even his family. When his fans finally became uninterested in him, and he stopped making money from his tours, he returned home. Only to find his lover and children had passed away three years beforehand. A letter was left for him in his old house, from his sister. She had written explaining that his family were in a fatal car accident, but nobody could reach him when he's on tour across the world at the time. He broke down reading about how he had missed their funeral; but told he shouldn't worry too much about them being alone, as his lover had married a new man that year and by then his children were so grown, they did not remember him.

FAITH:

That's so horrible!

IMANI:

I know how strong minded you are, and determined when your mind is set on something, but please think about the bigger picture Fay Fay.

FAITH:

I am, that's exactly what I am doing mum!

IMANI:

I'm going to give you a little test... if you choose to go up these escalators, the doors will lead you back to you and your husband's studio. There you will work on their dance classes and provide opportunities for students to dance in shows for many years to come... together.

FAITH: But that won't bring wealth and fame?

IMANI: No, but your Ayana will be proud to see how hard and passionately her parents worked for her regardless.

Faith looks up at the escalators with consideration

IMANI: You could always be happy, feel loved and satisfied with doing what you already are in life... if you just stop to appreciate what you have instead of chasing what you don't need.

FAITH:

What will happen if I choose to go downstairs?

IMANI:

Well my dear, you will become famous quickly, your name will be known across the music and performance industry.

Faith smiles as she listens

IMANI CONT.

You will be paid generously and become extremely popular amongst the best known pop and r&b artists'. Faith, many will recognise your incredible dancing skills from music videos all over the world. However, you will have to sacrifice a lot of time spent with your loved ones, and like many who have a moment in the spotlight, it will be short lived, and my love, you will be forgotten...

FAITH:

How can you say that?! I would not be forgotten, I can promise you too, I will always be there for my family and still have the love of my fans for life, I'm sure of it!

Imani shrugs her shoulders, and holds out each hand, initiating that a choice must be made

FAITH CONT.

I could choose fame every time if it meant being able to provide a lifetime of wealth for Ayana and Nathan! I'm sorry mum, but you will see, you are wrong about this! I'm nothing like the man in your story, I can and will have it all!

Faith runs down the stairs.

She looks back up at Imani guilt ridden for ignoring her advice and she misses a step... she screams as she slips and tumbles down the staircase.

FADES TO BLACK

SCENE 4: A YOUNG GIRL RUSHES OVER TO HELP GLAMOROUSLY DRESSED FAITH

As she dusts off her clothes, the girl screams in admiration

FAN GIRL: Oh my gosh, I recognise you from Lil Ozone and Nubo's music video. Can you please sign my autograph.

The young girl holds out a newspaper with an article about Faith being 'London's most famous video vixen.

FAITH:

Wow, real? I'm shocked you know who I am... who should I sign this to?

FAN GIRL: Can you sign it to me, my name's Ayalah

Faith pauses for a brief moment.

FAITH:

Beautiful, your name sounds so similar to my daughters

FAN GIRL: She must be so lucky to have you as her mother

FAITH: It's been so long since I checked in, I have to go back and ring them and my MUM!

Faith flees back up the stairs. Overwhelmed with joy and excitement

SCENE 5: BACK WHERE SHE BEGAN

Faith looks confused as she stands by the platform exit, only to notice the escalators have been removed. She reaches for her mobile, and calls her husband 'Nathan'

FAITH:

Hey my love, I have the most insane news! Are you okay?

AYANA: Sorry, who is this?

FAITH: It's Faith, this is my husbands phone. Sorry who am I speaking to?

AYANA: You must not realise how much time has past... or remember but my father got a divorce last year..

Faith frozen in silence for a moment, in shock and disbelief.

FAITH: Father... Ayana is that you, how do you sound so grown?

AYANA: His said his wife had chosen a path in life which meant she valued fame, and never had time anymore for me or my dad.

FAITH: That's not true at all! I did everything for you both!

AYANA CONT.

Dad argued often that he didn't want me to be inspired by someone willing to sell their soul to the world, your fans are your family now.

FAITH:

Okay I realised I had lost sight of what was important, and I'm sorry. You sound so much like my mother, has she spoken to you?

AYANA:

Granny Imani passed away a few years ago. You didn't even attend her funeral...

Faith drops her phone in shock, and breaks down crying

FADES TO BLACK

SCENE 6: THE MAN IN THE TRAIN STATION

She slowly heads back to the platform, with a blank gaze, she takes a seat beside a man on a bench, and then he hands her a coffee stained tissue

MAN:

You finally stopped running to your temptations?

Faith looking at the stained tissue, realises it's the same man she rushed passed in the beginning.

FAITH:

You are still waiting for your train, how long has it been?

MAN:

Not long enough, I am not waiting for a train anymore... I have nowhere to be but here.

Faith looks at him with confusion

MAN:

You know, I always wanted to play jazz with my wife, but somehow after catching one train to fame, I spent my life performing as a solo act instead. She warned me not to go, but I said it was for the money, so I could help her and the kids, y'know... but turns out she got married and the kids grew up not knowing who I was before they passed away.

FAITH:

Oh my!

MAN: But young lady do you know what was so funny?

FAITH:
What?

MAN:
Even though the world knew my name just like I dreamt, my own family had forgotten it, and they mattered the most.

Faith remembering the story Imani told her, looked over at the man worryingly

FAITH:
What is your name sir?

MAN:
Elikya...

Tears rolled down Faith's cheeks

FAITH:
I never should have gone down the staircase..

ELIKYA: I told you so

FADES TO BLACK

END