EBONY NEWS TODAY
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT · SPACE COAST
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026 · EBONYNEWSTODAY.COM



RED CARPET PREMIERE · DECEMBER 12

Some Secrets Should Stay Buried. *This One Is Getting a Red Carpet.*

AMPD UP PRODUCTIONS brings A Stiff Situation 2: Calvin's Turn, the sequel to the Space Coast's 2025 People's Choice winner, to Premiere Theaters Oaks 10 for an evening of film, glamour and homegrown talent.

BY EBONY NEWS TODAY STAFF · MELBOURNE, FLA. · PHOTO: PATIENCE AND SARAH, COURTESY AMPD UP PRODUCTIONS

SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 2026 ★ 5:30–8:30 PM ★ PREMIERE THEATERS OAKS 10 · MELBOURNE

ON THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, the lights outside Premiere Theaters Oaks 10 in Melbourne will burn a little brighter. The red carpet will be rolled out, the cameras will be waiting, and the Space Coast's independent film community will gather for the premiere of *A Stiff Situation 2: Calvin's Turn*, the new short film from Melbourne-based AMPD UP PRODUCTIONS.

From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., guests are invited to walk the carpet, take their seats for the screening and stay for a reception with food, drinks and a showcase of Brevard County and Space Coast creatives presenting their own work. Tickets are on sale now at ampdupproductions.com.

For a local production, it's a big night. And it has a story behind it.

FROM PEOPLE'S CHOICE TO PART TWO

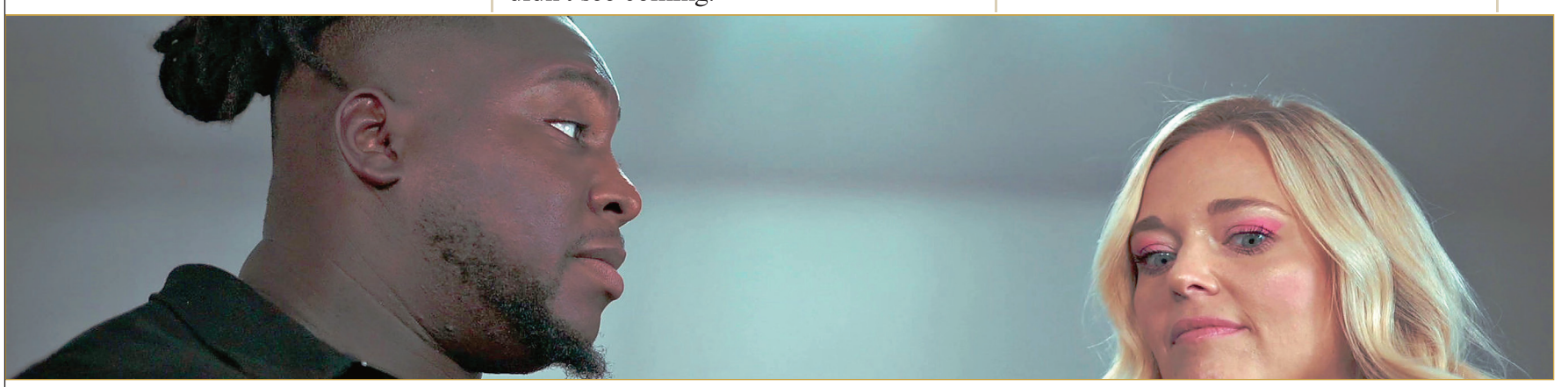
The original *A Stiff Situation* started out small. The comedy was filmed in June 2024, written by Antonia Parris and Dan Stinston III, and directed and edited by Parris. Its premise is pitch-black and hard to forget. A woman tries to get back into dating, and everything goes sideways when she discovers her ex-boyfriend has been taxidermied. The result is a run of awkward encounters and emotional chaos that audiences didn't see coming.

In October 2025, the film screened at the 27th annual Melbourne Independent Filmmakers Festival. The three-day festival ran October 16–18 at the same Premiere Theaters Oaks 10 where the sequel will premiere. That year's theme, "Space Dance," honored Florida's Space Coast heritage and NASA's human spaceflight program. More than 50 shorts, features and panels filled the program, and the festival's proceeds supported the No Limits Academy, which serves children with complex physical disabilities.

When the awards were announced, *A Stiff Situation* took **People's Choice for Best Film**. The film had also been nominated for Best Comedy. But People's Choice comes straight from the audience, from the people who bought tickets, sat in the dark and decided what they loved. For a hometown production, few honors mean more.

> ***"When A Stiff Situation won People's Choice at the Melbourne Independent Film Festival in 2025, the Space Coast told us they wanted more, so we gave Calvin his turn."***
>
> — ANTONIA, WRITER & DIRECTOR

The audience asked for more. AMPD UP answered with a sequel.



CALVIN AND LYDIA. A PRODUCTION STILL FROM *A STIFF SITUATION 2: CALVIN'S TURN*. COURTESY AMPD UP PRODUCTIONS.



THE OFFICIAL POSTER.

IT'S CALVIN'S TURN

A Stiff Situation 2: Calvin's Turn runs 15 minutes. That's short enough to be lean and long enough to land its punches. This time the story belongs to Calvin, and the setup tells you everything about the film's macabre sense of humor: **his late ex, Sarah, is still in the house.**

The poster sets the mood with its tagline, "Some secrets should stay buried." Two faces fill the frame. One woman leans in to whisper, while the other stares straight out at the viewer, half-hidden, as if she already knows something you don't. The promise is the same mix that won over the 2025 audience. The comedy is morbid, the stakes are personal, and you can't quite look away.

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE LENS



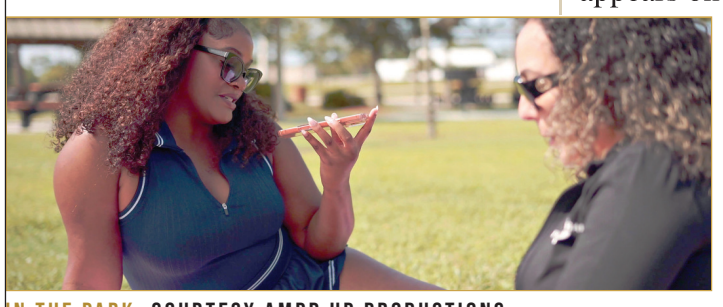
ANTONIA PARRIS

Antonia Parris wrote, produced and directed *Calvin's Turn*. AMPD UP PRODUCTIONS is the independent film arm of AMPD UP Media Group, a full-production media group based in Melbourne. Dan Stinston III, her co-writer on the original film, returns as co-director and also appears on screen.

Filmmaking is only one part of the AMPD UP world. Antonia also hosts **AMPD UP LIVE**, the group's interview platform and podcast. It spotlights Space Coast entrepreneurs, artists and leaders, covers red carpet events, and runs under the motto "Everyone has a vision, a craft or a mission." The production side has made the drama short *Asher Knows* and *Texture*, a creative collaboration filmed in Brooklyn and Manhattan that aims to uplift and inspire women through events, workshops and projects.

That background explains why the premiere is built the way it is. Antonia has spent years putting other local creatives in front of the camera and the microphone, so it makes sense that her big night shares the spotlight too.

> ***"This premiere is about more than our film. It's a night to celebrate the incredible creatives right here in Brevard County and show that you don't have to leave home to make movies people love."***
>
> — ANTONIA, WRITER & DIRECTOR



IN THE PARK. COURTESY AMPD UP PRODUCTIONS.



BEHIND THE WHEEL. COURTESY AMPD UP PRODUCTIONS.

BEFORE YOU GO

WHEN Saturday, Dec. 12, 2026 · 5:30–8:30 PM

WHERE Premiere Theaters Oaks 10, 1800 W. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901

TICKETS: AMPDUPPRODUCTIONS.COM

THE ENSEMBLE

The sequel brings back several members of the original's award-winning cast, including Kalio Young, Ashanti Robertson, Heaven Walker, Isaiah Franklin and Ackeem Ferguson, and adds a group of new faces. The full ensemble:

- KALIO YOUNG
- ASHANTI ROBERTSON
- KEVIN ROBINSON
- WHITNEY WARD
- DAN STINSTON III
- JULIANA RIOS
- HEAVEN WALKER
- SHAYLEN DUNN
- SHELLEY "BUDDY" ROWE
- ACKEEM FERGUSON
- NADIA JOHNSON
- ANTONIA PARRIS
- ISAIAH FRANKLIN
- ERIKA BORRERO (V.O.)

For many of these performers, a red carpet premiere at a commercial multiplex is a milestone. It lets them be seen, photographed and celebrated in their own hometown, in front of the neighbors, family members and fellow artists who make up the Space Coast's creative scene.

MORE THAN A SCREENING

Many premieres end when the credits roll. This one keeps going. After the screening, AMPD UP will host a reception with food and drinks, plus a dedicated spotlight on local Brevard County and Space Coast creatives presenting their work.

That choice matters. Independent artists in mid-sized markets often hear that the real work, the real audience and the real opportunities are somewhere else, in Atlanta, Los Angeles or New York. With this premiere, AMPD UP is arguing that the Space Coast already has the talent and the audience, and that a local film can win a hometown crowd, grow into a franchise and fill a theater for its next chapter.

For anyone in Brevard who writes, shoots, acts, designs, sings or builds, the evening is also a chance to network in a room full of people doing the same thing.

DRESS THE PART

It's a red carpet, so treat it like one. Arrive early for photos, bring your best holiday glamour, and come ready to cheer for the people who made it happen. Coming just two weeks before Christmas, it's an easy holiday night out: a story, a party and a celebration of the Space Coast all in one evening.

And if you haven't seen the first film yet, now's the time. You can watch the original *A Stiff Situation* at ampdupproductions.com. The audience that crowned it wanted to know what happened next. On December 12, they'll find out.

Media and interview inquiries: Antonia, Writer & Director, AMPD UP PRODUCTIONS · ampdupproductions1@gmail.com · (321) 877-5107

★ ★ ★

"The Heartbeat of Our Community" E-mail us to Place Your Display Ad Today at ebonynewstoday@gmail.com