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**From First Class to International Film Festivals in One Semester:  
Monroe University Students Make History with Short Film “TYRONE”**

**New Rochelle, NY** – Monroe University proudly announces a landmark achievement for its newly launched Entertainment Media minor -- the program’s inaugural class has produced a film selected for the Toronto Shorts International Film Festival and the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival. While recognition from two international film festivals is a remarkable distinction for any production, it is even more extraordinary given that the film was created by students new to filmmaking.

The short documentary, [TYRONE](#), is the first film created by students in the University’s new Entertainment Media minor, which launched in Fall 2025. It is also the first in Monroe’s history to screen at international film festivals. The selections mark a defining achievement for both the students and the University, signaling the immediate impact of Monroe’s newest creative initiative.

Most recently, TYRONE was selected for the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, where 72 films from 24 countries were chosen from a highly competitive pool of nearly 4,000 finalists. The festival will take place April 10–11 in Los Angeles. Earlier this year, the film was selected for the Toronto Shorts International Film Festival, where it will premiere on Friday, March 20, at 8:00 pm at the Paradise Cinema on 1006 Bloor Street West in Toronto.

TYRONE was created as the capstone project for the University’s Business of Entertainment Media 1 course. The assignment was to produce a short documentary centered on a compelling personal story -- which is exactly what the student team who researched, filmed, directed, and produced TYRONE accomplished.

The film was directed by 18-year-old Monroe freshman Shavoy Alcock, a first-time director majoring in Business Management and minoring in Entertainment Media. Born in Jamaica, Alcock moved to the United States during his sophomore year of high school. A passionate skateboarder who often rides to class, he represents the energy and ambition of Monroe’s inaugural cohort.

For Alcock, the project became more than his first professional production; it became a portrait of redemption and the power of second chances. He centers the film on Tyrone Grant, a man who endured childhood loss and incarceration yet refused to let those hardships define him. Through intimate moments in Grant’s workshop, the documentary shows how, after prison, he rebuilt his life through steady work as a facilities employee and through art, channeling his past into

discipline, purpose, and service. Rather than dwelling on his obstacles, the film highlights a man transformed and demonstrates that with opportunity and determination, lasting change is possible.

"We are incredibly proud of what this inaugural class of future entertainment sector leaders has accomplished, and I look forward to traveling with them to Toronto and Los Angeles to celebrate the film at its festival premiers this spring," said Marc Jerome, president of Monroe University.

Led by Emmy and Palme d'Or–nominated producer Dorothy Toran and Emmy Award–winning showrunner Jacob Huddleston, the Entertainment Media minor was designed as a hands-on, career-focused program that mirrors real-world production environments. From day one, students worked with professional-grade cameras, studio lighting, and industry-standard storytelling frameworks.

Alcock said the hands-on approach of the classes fundamentally changed how he understands storytelling.

"The cinematography class taught me how to use professional-grade cameras, how to set up lights, and how to essentially tell a story from behind the camera," he said. "That's something I really appreciate about the program."

For the inaugural cohort -- many of whom are first-generation college students and students of color -- the festival selections represent more than recognition. They affirm the program's mission to expand access and diversify voices behind the camera in an industry that has historically lacked representation.

"Storytelling is an essential skill for preparing the next generation of creatives. The ability to drive a story from conception to execution provides the career readiness necessary in this ecosystem," Toran said.

The University warmly congratulates the incredible team of filmmakers who partnered with Shavoy Alcock to bring the story to life: Ezekiel Ashiagbor, Casieann Bell, Kevin Dokie, Donna Chocho, Tayvon Coakley, Olivia Coleman, Aaron Greenwood, Eric Martinez, Kyle Mollison, Rihim Odoms, Zachary Padilla, Sienna Powell, and Jeisson Terrero.

Toran called the film's selection for the festivals a powerful validation of the students' talent and dedication, noting that the achievement positions them for dynamic entry into the entertainment industry.

"I'm thrilled that our documentary short TYRONE has been selected for both the Toronto Shorts International Film Festival and the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival," she said. "This recognition shines a spotlight on the incredible talent of our student filmmakers and positions them for dynamic entry into the entertainment industry."

In less than a year, Monroe's newest academic program has moved from classroom launch to international festival selections, an extraordinary trajectory that underscores both the ambition of the initiative and the drive of its first class.

For Monroe University, TYRONE is not just a student project. It is a historic first -- and a clear signal that the next generation of storytellers is already finding its voice.

## **ABOUT MONROE UNIVERSITY**

Founded in 1933, Monroe University is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The University is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

Monroe educates more than 9,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from New York campuses in the Bronx and New Rochelle, as well as in the Caribbean nation of Saint Lucia. Students may also pursue degree programs through Monroe Online. Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available. For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroeu.edu>.