

FACT SHEET

- WHO:** Filmmaking is a collaborative process between multiple artists working together to create one piece of work. Many local filmmakers are collaborating to make *Layla's Girl* possible. They include: Nicole Sylvester (Director), Alisa Lomax (Producer), T. Dominic Cochran (DP), Carolyn Sutton (Production Designer) and Kali Gipson (Cosutmer).
- WHAT:** *Layla's Girl* – a feature film about Carla Avery, a young woman whose quest to understand her past leads her down a path of discovery that presents her with a new future.
- TAGLINE:** When can the death of someone you haven't spoken to in years completely change your life? When that someone is your mother.
- WHEN:** *Layla's Girl's* principal photography was July 14-26, 2003.
- WHERE:** *Layla's Girl* was shot in several locations in Detroit, Michigan.
- WHY:** The story of *Layla's Girl* is an idea that Nicole had when thinking about how little she knew about her own mother who, like Carla's mother died as a result of alcoholism. "I wanted to do a film that dealt with a woman discovering things about her mother that would ultimately shape her view of a mother's worth," says Nicole. "Once I felt I was ready to make the film I hired a writer that I met at the Acapulco Black Film Festival, who had similar ideas for a story and we combined the two and came up with *Layla's Girl*. It's ultimately a story about a family's willingness to forgive and unconditional love," she adds.
- HOW:** The initial funding for *Layla's Girl* came from The Public Benefit Corporation. They awarded us a grant of \$10,000 for production. We have also invested personal savings. We were able to tap into many resources that provided in kind services worth thousands of dollars.
- CAST:** Seasoned actor Richard Gant (*Nutty Professor II*, *Rocky V*, *The Big Lebowski*) has been cast as JB, newcomer LaShae Martin (Carla), and local professionals Rhoda English (Aunt Kay), Theo Williamson (Charles) and Walter Harris (Odai).

Layla's Girl