

NIKKI LYNETTE

KEELEY MORRIS

JYREIKA GUEST

DJ P1



ABOUT

GET OUT ALIVE



A MUSICAL ABOUT DEPRESSION.



ABOUT THE SHOW



“When I went into the psych ward after a suicide attempt, I met all of these people with the same issues as me, and they felt alone, too. I told them when I got out, I would use my platform to tell our stories... and I’m keeping my word.” – Nikki Lynette



Get Out Alive is a new autobiographical musical by independent artist, actor and activist Nikki Lynette. This afrogoth musical is equal parts raucous, tender, intelligent and triumphant. Recounting her personal journey marked by abuse, grief, sexual assault and suicide, Lynette raises mental health awareness through the lens of a hip-hop concert. Using storytelling, song, dance, visual media and a live DJ, Lynette’s offbeat approach to sharing her mental health journey shows that even when life leads us to a bad place, we can always make it out alive. The first songs from *Get Out Alive* were performed in 2018, when Lynette opened for Russian feminist protest punk rock group Pussy Riot. The full piece was later workshopped in a developmental reading produced by the American Music Theatre Project (AMTP) at Northwestern University in May 2019. Lynette was the first black woman to have her work developed and produced by AMTP and the first AMTP work to debut at Steppenwolf. It was also Steppenwolf’s first LookOut Series work to add a 5th sold out show, after the initial run sold out three weeks early. Since its completion in March 2021, *Get Out Alive* has been invited into nine festivals, including the biggest Black film fest in the world, The Pan African Film+Art Festival. The musical won Best Actress and was a Nominee for Best Feature at BronzeLens Film Fest, and won Best First Time Filmmaker at the Chicago Indie Film Awards.

“Those who saw the play, as did I, watched an immensely talented and arresting performer... It was honestly intimate, sometimes to the point of pain. But this was not a polemic or a couple of hours filled by dry lessons. Most left the theater with, yes, a greater understanding of the ravages and realities of mental illness but also with an appreciation of the artfulness and courage it took to bring it all on stage. They were entertained.” – Rick Kogan, The Chicago Tribune

PLEASE ENJOY THE TRAILER FOR

GET OUT ALIVE

TAP IMAGE TO PLAY



Film fests

- The 12th Annual BronzeLens Film Festival (Winner–Best Actress; Atlanta)
- Chicago Indie Film Festival (Winner-Best First Time Filmmaker; Illinois)
- The 11th Annual Lake County (Winner–Audience Best Feature; Illinois)
- The 9th Annual AuContraire Film Festival (Canada)
- Cannes World (France)
- Melbourne Lift-Off (Australia)
- The 23rd Annual Decibels (San Francisco)
- The 22nd Annual Sound Unseen (Minneapolis)
- The 30th Anniversary Pan African Film + Art Festival (Los Angeles)

NIKKI LYNETTE

(she/her) is a performer, writer and visual artist whose individual style is equal parts hip hop, alternative and pop. A Chicago native, she fuses mental health activism into her performances and has created a lane for her music that is uniquely her own. Her self-produced tunes have been featured in popular shows on Netflix, Hulu, Showtime, Fox and MTV, and have garnered national attention through digital and print features for publications like XXL, Bust and Vibe. A proud indie artist, Lynette's success in music licensing has earned its own accolades, including a prominent feature in Billboard and an invitation to speak on a panel at South By Southwest. After a hiatus from releasing new music, Lynette returned to the public eye with a confession—she had secretly been battling mental health issues. She began writing articles about depression and suicide for prominent sites like BlackDoctor, AFROPUNK and AllHipHop, as well as held her own among medical professionals in live chats and panel discussions with hundreds of thousands of viewers. Lynette's latest musical releases have been featured in shows such as *She's Gotta Have It* on Netflix and *Work in Progress* Showtime. In Spring of 2021 Nikki was honored with an Ambassador of the Year Award by NAMI, the largest grassroots mental health organization in the country. Lynette's mental health docuseries *Happy Songs About Unhappy Things* is also currently in production. With her play about depression entitled *Get Out Alive*, Nikki has made history as the first black female playwright to ever be produced by American Music Theatre Project, the first AMTP work to debut at Steppenwolf. With her unique approach to social impact art, Lynette has opened for Pussy Riot, Lion Babe, Leikeli47, and Mykki Blanco. She recently gave [her first TEDx Talk](#) as part of an event amplifying women, hosted by Princeton University. She is currently the host of the popular iHeartRadio podcast *About a Girl*.



Writer, Performer,
Art Director &
Executive Producer

ROGER ELLIS

Co-director | Executive Producer



(they/them) is a Black, queer, nonbinary director-producer based in Chicago. Ellis cultivates tech-forward experimental performance projects such as the upcoming app-based performance [re: CLICK] devised in response to *Click* by Jacqueline Goldfinger. Ellis directed the workshop, Steppenwolf LookOut Series production and the feature film adaptation of *Get Out Alive*. Their choreography for *AntigoneNOW* was screened at the Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre. Ellis has worked in New York, Atlanta, and across the US with companies such as San Diego Repertory, Sacramento Music Circus, and Horizon Theatre Company. Ellis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre at Northwestern.

BRANNON BOWERS

Creative Producer



(they/them) is a creative producer and shepherd of new work. A bridge between the creative and administrative, Brannon makes the theoretical possible and the impossible practical, leading to transformative art. They have developed over 30 new musicals in five years, produced 6 shows at the Edinburgh Festival, and doubled the American Music Theatre Project program budget in their first three years as Producing Director of [Northwestern University's internationally regarded incubator for new musicals.](#)


PRESS

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Local NewsAtlanta Mayor's RaceCOVID-19Crime & Public SafetyOpinionSportsPress On

It's worth knowing what's really going on. [Subscribe today for 99¢.](#)

12th annual BronzeLens Film Festival goes virtual again this year



Credit: Nikki Lynette

LIFE

By [Rosalind Bentley](#), The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Aug 16, 2021

Virtual format has drawn entries from filmmakers of color from around the globe.

GET OUT ALIVE received a write-up as a festival highlight in the Atlanta Journal Constitution

“A very different, bracing, but ultimately uplifting film is singer, songwriter and playwright Nikki Lynette’s “Get Out Alive.” Directed by Roger Ellis, it’s an Afro-punk, hip-hop musical about Lynette’s decades- long battle with depression and an attempt to end her own life. Of a piece with Michaela Coel’s Emmy Award-nominated HBO limited series, “I May Destroy You,” Lynette’s musical is raw, direct, funny and unflinching in the way it explores the aftermath of trauma.” - Rosalind Bentley, [THE ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION](#)

PRESS



Get Out Alive was featured on the front page of the Arts & Entertainment section in the Holiday Edition

It was an intensely autobiographical play with music that boldly addressed her mental illness and her life peppered with childhood sexual abuse, adult physical abuse, the dysfunctional relationship of her parents, the loss of her baby, death of her mother, suicide attempts, hospitalizations and some of the other reasons that combined, she told me, “To give me PTSD and all the things that come with that. But to be able to use music and theater to rebuild my life and to spread the word has been a salvation and a joy.” - Rick Kogan, [THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE](#)



Nikki Lynette debuted the trailer for Get Out Alive live on WGN News

PRESS



“Lynette is poised to her musical *Get Out Alive* to her virtual theater this winter, affording those who missed the sold-out regional debut, during the Steppenwolf Theatre Company’s LookOut Series, a chance to see the show in all its glory. The story is not your average theatre piece. It is a work that combines technology with her edgy life’s story, tiptoeing through mental health challenges & strolling down her lanes of personal triumph.” - Kershaw St. Jawnsen, ALLHIPHOP.COM



WGN Radio’s Rick Kogan invites Nikki Lynette on-air to talk about her life, career and upcoming national debut of her musical “*Get Out Alive*.” Nikki also teases her forthcoming TEDx Talk taking place on November 24th as part of TEDx Princeton Women’s virtual event.

[Stream the full interview on wgnradio.com](http://wgnradio.com)



“Those who saw the play, as did I, watched an immensely talented and arresting performer... It was honestly intimate, sometimes to the point of pain. But this was not a polemic or a couple of hours filled by dry lessons. Most left the theater with, yes, a greater understanding of the ravages and realities of mental illness but also with an appreciation of the artfulness and courage it took to bring it all on stage. They were entertained.” - Rick Kogan, [THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE](http://THECHICAGOTRIBUNE)



It may be hard to believe that Nikki Lynette has led anything less than a charmed life — after all, no less of an entity than Spike Lee has featured her work in his television series, *She’s Gotta Have It....* But “*Get Out Alive*” shows that even the brightest smiles can hide the deepest pain”. - [21 NINETY](http://21NINETY)



“Tagged as a musical about depression, Nikki Lynette’s stage play, *Get Out Alive*, is an Afrogothic celebration of life, loss and the lessons learned along the way... The production, which is scheduled to debut digitally, is designed to raise awareness about mental health through the lens of a hip-hop concert.” Tony Binns, [ROLLINGOUT.COM](https://rollingout.com)



“In March she was in discussions with a couple of theaters, one here and one elsewhere, about restaging her remarkable show, “*Get Out Alive*.” It was coming off a critically acclaimed and sold out five-show run at Steppenwolf’s 1700 Theatre, as part of that theater company’s LookOut series, which is in the inspiring business of presenting the work of emerging artists.” - [YAHOO NEWS](https://news.yahoo.com)



“First Impressions: Nikki Lynette, who has worked with Spike Lee, will be digitally debuting a theatrical performance (which originally debuted in early 2020 at the renowned Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago) “that takes viewers into her world of dealing with trauma, suicide, and depression.” Much like Taraji’s Facebook Watch show, we need all the mental health awareness content we can get.” - [THE ROOT](https://theroot.com)



We have all witnessed singer, songwriter, and playwright, Nikki Lynette’s music on popular networks such as MTV, Fox, Hulu, and Netflix but now we’re preparing to see her in an exciting light. Lynette is currently working on the debut release of her upcoming theatrical music performance, *Get Out Alive* – a project curated to allow viewers insight into her world of trauma, suicide, and depression.” - [SHEEN MAGAZINE](https://sheenmagazine.com)



“The pertinent attention to the auditory experience sets the pace for what is in store for the rest of the evening. Lynette performs songs throughout the piece sometimes with wonderfully scored backing tracks and occasionally a capella. The audience is embraced as an active listener and the safe space within the confines of these walls the conversation is ripped open through melody & color.” - Mary Crylen, [CHICAGO STAGE STANDARD](https://chicagostagestandard.com)



Nikki Lynette discusses her music & mental health activism on Fox 32's *Later With Leon*



WGN Radio welcomes Nikki Lynette to discuss *GET OUT ALIVE*

On-air personality Amy Guth has an in-depth discussion about Nikki's inspirational journey of improving her mental health as gives some insight into her new play *Get Out Alive*. [Stream the full interview on wgnradio.com](https://www.wgnradio.com)



WGN's Cornerstore Podcast invites Nikki Lynette & Ira Antelis to discuss her new solo show

The Cornerstore spoke to rapper/actress Nikki Lynette about her new solo show. In addition, the show's producer & longtime friend of the podcast, composer & songwriter Ira Antelis joined in to discuss producing the show & more. [Stream the podcast.](#)



Music from *GET OUT ALIVE* featured in Showtime's new hit show *WORK IN PROGRESS*

Nikki's upbeat tune *My Mind Ain't Right* is prominently featured in episode 6 of the hit series *Work In Progress* on Showtime. Check out the full song on all major streaming platforms.



CONTACT

BRANNON BOWERS

317.696.1068

bowersbrannon@gmail.com

