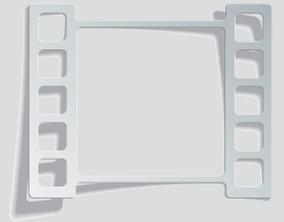




# NAMI Film Discussion Guide



LIONSGATE and SPYGLASS FILMS present a production by STAN WATSON FRANKIE & ALICE starring HALLE BERRY, STELLAN SKARSGÅRD, PHYLICIA RASHAD, PATTYVALE CASARSA, CHANDRA WILSON, BRADLEY STELTMAN, JOANNE WHIRON, TRINA MANNING, PHILIP ANTONI, CELIA CLIC, JESSICA MARCELA TRUPEY, JESSIE HARRIS, WICKSTON, BOBBY BROTHERS, and DAVID ROSSIGNOL  
 PRODUCED BY OSCAR JAMBEK & PHILIP GOLDBERG AND CHERYL EDWARDS WRITTEN BY CHERYL EDWARDS AND MARCO KING & DAVID KING DIRECTED BY JONATHAN WATERS AND JOE SHANPHEL & ANNA WATERHOUSE  
 CASTING BY CHERYL EDWARDS COSTUME DESIGNER MICHAEL LEVY MUSIC BY GUY BLAKE EDITOR VINCENT CARONINGO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HALLE BERRY, PATTYVALE CASARSA, PHYLICIA RASHAD, OSCAR JAMBEK & PHILIP GOLDBERG, AND CHERYL EDWARDS PRODUCED BY CHERYL EDWARDS AND MARCO KING & DAVID KING WRITTEN BY JONATHAN WATERS AND JOE SHANPHEL & ANNA WATERHOUSE DIRECTED BY CHERYL EDWARDS

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 SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 17  
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 AMP  
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 Canada  
 LIONSGATE

# About **the Movie**

From Lionsgate, Codeblack Films and the executive producers of INTRODUCING DOROTHY DANDRIDGE and LACKAWANNA BLUES comes a mind-bending drama starring Academy Award® winner and Golden Globe® nominee Halle Berry (The Call, Monster's Ball). FRANKIE & ALICE is inspired by the remarkable true story of an African American go-go dancer "Frankie" with multiple personalities (dissociative identity disorder or "DID") who struggles to remain her true self while fighting against two very unique alter egos: a seven-year-old child named Genius and a Southern white racist woman named Alice. In order to stop the multiple voices in her head, Frankie (Halle Berry) works together with a psychotherapist (Stellan Skarsgård) to uncover and overcome the mystery of the inner ghosts that haunt her.

Always at the forefront of women's issues, from Halle Berry, Academy Award® winner turned film producer, comes a must-see, award-worthy film FRANKIE & ALICE - a moving psychological drama inspired by a woman suffering with multiple personality disorder in early 1970s Los Angeles.

Story by Oscar Janiger & Philip Goldberg and Cheryl Edwards; Screenplay by Cheryl Edwards and Marko King & Mary King & Jonathan Watters and Joe Shrapnel & Anna Waterhouse; Directed by Geoffrey Sax.

[www.FrankieandAlice.com](http://www.FrankieandAlice.com)

## Frankie & Alice Cast



### HALLE BERRY (Frankie, Alice, Genius)

Academy Award®-winning actress Halle Berry continues to break down barriers with a multitude of critically acclaimed, diverse roles and continued success at the box office. For her brilliant performance in *Monster's Ball*, she won the Academy Award for Best Actress, as well as the SAG Award, the Berlin Silver Bear Award and was named Best Actress by the National Board of Review. No stranger to accolades, Berry earned the Emmy, Golden Globe, SAG and NAACP Image Award for her extraordinary performance in HBO's telefilm, *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge*, which she also produced. Berry has tackled some of Hollywood's toughest roles, making her one of today's most sought after leading ladies.

Berry was last seen starring in her reprised role as Storm in the fourth installment of the X-Men series, *X-Men: The Last Stand*, which continued the franchise's worldwide success, opening #1 at the box office. She also appeared opposite Benicio Del Toro in *Things We Lost In The Fire* and opposite Bruce Willis in the thriller, *Perfect Stranger*.

In 2006, Berry received Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for her acting work in the Oprah Winfrey-produced movie, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and as executive producer for the HBO telefilm *Lackawanna Blues*.

Previously, Berry heated up theatres across the globe in *Catwoman* and she provided the voice of 'Cappy' in the animated hit, *Robots*. She also starred in the psychological thriller *Gothika*, which helped to cement her status as an international box office draw. In 2002, Berry starred as 'Jinx' in the James Bond feature, *Die Another Day*, opposite Pierce Brosnan, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Bond franchise and becoming its largest-grossing film to date.



# Frankie & Alice Cast

Critics and filmgoers first took notice of Berry in her feature film debut, Spike Lee's *JungleFever*. She went on to star opposite Warren Beatty in the socio-political comedy, *Bulworth*. Her other film credits include *Losing Isaiah*, opposite Jessica Lange; *Executive Decision*; the live action version of *The Flintstones*; *The Last Boy Scout*; *Strictly Business*; *Boomerang*, opposite Eddie Murphy; and *Swordfish*, with John Travolta and Hugh Jackman.

Other television credits include starring in the highly-rated ABC mini-series, "Oprah Winfrey Presents: The Wedding," as well as the title role in Alex Haley's mini-series, *Queen*. The latter performance earned Berry her first NAACP Image Award for Best Actress, as well as the Best Newcomer Award from the Hollywood Women's Press Club. She also starred opposite Jimmy Smits in Showtime's original telefilm, *Solomon and Sheba*.

In recognition of her achievements as an actress, the Harvard Foundation at Harvard University honored Berry as Cultural Artist of the Year. Currently, she serves as an International Spokesperson for Revlon and devotes considerable time and support to numerous charitable and humanitarian causes and organizations.



## STELLAN SKARSGÅRD (Dr. Joseph Oswald, "Dr. Oz")

Stellan Skarsgård was most recently seen as Martin Vanger in *The Girl with The Dragon Tattoo*, as Dr. Erik Selvig in *The Avengers*, and *Thor: The Dark World*. Skarsgård was seen as Commander Richter in *Angels and Demons*, starring Tom Hanks and directed by Ron Howard. In 2008 starred in the smash hit musical *Mamma Mia!* with Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan; *Goya's Ghost*, with Javier Bardem and Natalie Portman; and as Bootstrap Bill in *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*, with Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, and Kiera Knightley. He was also recently seen in HBO's series "Entourage," in the role of an eccentric German director.

Skarsgård starred in the feature *Time Code*, with Salma Hayek, Jeanne Tripplehorn and Saffron Burrows; *Passion of Mind*, with Demi Moore; *Deep Blue Sea*, for director Renny Harlin; and *Aberdeen*, directed by Hans Petter Moland.

Additional credits include the action adventure *Ronin*, with Robert De Niro; Gus Van Sant's Oscar-winning *Good Will Hunting*; and Steven Spielberg's acclaimed *Amistad*.

A native of Sweden, Skarsgård is considered one of the country's top stage and film actors. He began his career with the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm where he spent 16 years working with such leading directors as Alf Sjöberg and Ingmar Bergman. His breakthrough role came in the 1982 Swedish film *The Simpleminded Murderer*, for which he received the Best Actor award at the Berlin Film Festival.

In addition to the more than 30 films in which he starred in Sweden, Skarsgård's additional credits include *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *The Hunt for Red October*, *The Ox* (Oscar nominated for Best Foreign Film), *Breaking the Waves* (which won the Grand Prix at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival), and the Norwegian film *Insomnia*.

In addition to the Berlin Film Festival, Skarsgård has been honored with awards from the Swedish motion picture industry, and the Rouen, Chicago, St. Sebastian and Telluride Film Festivals. In 1998, he was awarded Best European Achievement in World Cinema at the European Film Awards.



# Frankie & Alice Cast



## PHYLICIA RASHAD (Edna)

Whether she is bringing laughter to millions of television viewers around the world, moving theatre-goers to tears, thrilling movie fans, offering new insights to students by teaching Master Classes at renowned learning institutions that include Howard University, Julliard, and Carnegie Mellon, serving on Boards of prestigious organizations, or breaking new ground as a director, Phylicia Rashad is one of the entertainment world's most extraordinary performing artists.

A versatile performer, Rashad became a household name when she portrayed "Claire Huxtable" on *The Cosby Show*, a character whose appeal has earned her numerous honors and awards for over two decades. She teamed up with Bill Cosby in later years on television as "Ruth Lucas" on *Cosby*. She portrayed the role of Dr. Vanessa Young in the NBC series, *Do No Harm*.

While television was a catalyst in the rise of Rashad's career, she has also been a force on the stage, appearing both on and off-Broadway, often in projects that showcase her musical talent such as "Jelly's Last Jam," "Into The Woods," "Dreamgirls" and "The Wiz." As a dramatic actress, Rashad has performed on Broadway as "Violet Weston" in "August Osage County," "Big Mama" in Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (a role that she reprised on the London Stage), "Aunt Ester" in August Wilson's "Gem Of The Ocean," (Tony Award nomination) and "Queen Britannia" in Shakespeare's "Cymbeline" at Lincoln Center. Ms. Rashad received both the Drama Desk and the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play for her riveting performance as Lena Younger in the Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin In The Sun." She appeared in Tyler Perry's *Good Deeds*, and starred in Perry's highly acclaimed film version of Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Euf.* Ms. Rashad has also directed plays by August Wilson including "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" and "Fences."

Among the awards that decorate her walls and shelves are the Texas Medal of Arts, the National Council of Negro Women's Dorothy L. Height Dreammaker Award, AFTRA's AMEE Award for Excellence in Entertainment, the Board of Directors of New York Women In Film and Television's Muse Award for Outstanding Vision and Achievement, Dallas Women In Film Topaz Award, Peoples' Choice Awards, several NAACP Image Awards, and the Pan African Film Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Respected in the academic world, Rashad is the first recipient of the Denzel Washington Chair in Theatre at Fordham University. She received an Honorary Doctorate from Spelman College where First Lady Michelle Obama delivered the 2011 commencement address. Rashad also holds Honorary Doctorates from Fordham University, Carnegie Mellon University, Howard University, Providence College, Morris Brown College, Clark Atlanta University, Barber Scotia College, St. Augustine College, and Brown University. A native of Houston, Texas, Ms. Rashad graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theater from Howard University.

Rashad serves on the Advisory Board of the PRASAD Project and the Board of Directors of True Colors Theatre, the Broadway Inspirational Voices, The Actors Center, the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University, and the ADEPT Center, which is steering the restoration of the historic Brainerd Institute.



# Frankie & Alice Cast



## CHANDRA WILSON (**Maxine**)

Chandra Wilson has earned Screen Actors Guild Actor Awards for Best Actress in a Drama Series and Best Drama Series Ensemble, two NAACP Image Awards, three Emmy nominations and a BET Award nomination for her critically acclaimed role of Dr. Miranda Bailey on *Grey's Anatomy*.

For her stage work, she won the Theatre World Award for Outstanding Debut Performance for her portrayal of Bonna Willis in "The Good Times are Killing Me," by Lynda Barry, at both the Second Stage and Minetta Lane Theatres. In the spring of 2004, she was selected by The New York Times as one of "8 to Watch, Onstage and Behind the Scenes." This honor came in conjunction with the Broadway opening of "Caroline, or Change," in which she portrayed Dotty Moffett, at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre. She was also in the Broadway productions of "Avenue Q" and "On the Town." Other stage credits include "The Miracle Worker" at Charlotte Repertory Theatre, "Paper Moon: The Musical" at The Papermill Playhouse and "The Family of Mann" by Theresa Rebeck at the Second Stage Theatre, Believing for the Young Playwright's Festival at Playwrights Horizons and Little Shop of Horrors at the Falmouth Playhouse.

Wilson recently starred in *Accidental Friendship*, for the Hallmark Channel. Other television credits include a series regular role on *Bob Patterson*, along with numerous guest appearances on *The Sopranos*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Sex and the City*, *Third Watch*, *100 Centre Street*, *Cosby* and *The Cosby Show*. She has also had recurring roles on *One Life to Live* and *Queens Supreme*. On the big screen she's had supporting roles in the films *Lone Star*, directed by John Sayles, and *Philadelphia*, directed by Jonathan Demme.

Born in Houston, Texas, Wilson began performing in musicals at the age of five with Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS), where she appeared in more than 10 of their major musical productions. At Houston's Ensemble Theatre she portrayed Li'l Bits in "One Monkey Don't Stop No Show" and, in the summer of 2005, received their Rising Star honor for her accomplishments. She graduated from Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and later went on to acquire her BFA in Drama from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. There she spent four years training at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute.

Learn more about Frankie & Alice

[www.frankieandalice.com](http://www.frankieandalice.com)



# Group Ticket Sales

Community organizations, college associations, healthcare professionals and church groups can now experience the drama and passion of FRANKIE & ALICE, starring Academy Award® Winner and Golden Globe® Nominee HALLE BERRY.

Groups are encouraged to "Take A Friend" opening weekend to see the film that will shape the way we deal with those who operate with DID, and to learn how, together, we can better understand their needs. Don't forget to be seen in green to show your support of mental illness!

To learn more about group sales, private theater rentals in your area and staging for post-screening Q&A events, please contact the appropriate theater chain below, or the 'Guest Services Manager' at your local theater (if not listed below):



AMC Theatres  
Tim Anderson  
[tanderson@amctheatres.com](mailto:tanderson@amctheatres.com)



Carmike Cinemas  
Ben MacMinn  
(706) 576-3885  
[bmacminn@carmike.com](mailto:bmacminn@carmike.com)



Cinemark Theatre  
Christina Minton  
(972) 665-1727  
[cminton@cinemark.com](mailto:cminton@cinemark.com)



Regal Cinemas  
Kylene Alexander  
(303) 300-9291  
[Kylene.Alexander@regalcinemas.com](mailto:Kylene.Alexander@regalcinemas.com)



# Discussion Questions

Frankie & Alice explores complex issues of violence, tragedy, racism and family dysfunction and embarrassment. Included here are some questions and responses to help guide a discussion or to encourage a deeper understanding of mental illness and its impact.

**Discussion Questions** (Use the space below each question for your notes)

1. **Do you think race was a barrier for Frankie—and individuals today—either socially within their families or community in receiving appropriate mental health care?**
2. **How can access to care be improved for groups who find it more difficult to gain access to treatment?**

## Facts About Mental Illness

**African Americans in the U.S. are less likely to receive an accurate diagnosis. Prior misdiagnoses, inadequate treatment and a lack of cultural understanding by providers prevents people from seeking treatment.**

3. **How important is the relationship Frankie had with her mental health care provider, Dr. Oz, and what did this mean to the progress of her recovery journey?**
4. **How important, and/or destructive, is the family relationship in the film? What role does family play in getting and providing help and support?**



# Discussion Questions

5. What role do movies play in public education and awareness about mental illness or other causes?

## Facts About Mental Illness

Nearly 1/3 of all people with mental illness and 1/2 of people with severe mental illness also experience substance abuse.

6. Are education and awareness the same? Is one more important than the other? How important do you feel an accurate portrayal of mental illness is in films such as Frankie & Alice?
7. What's the difference between the kind of mental, physical or emotional abuse shown in Frankie & Alice and the kind you might see in an action movie?
8. Frankie seems to use drinking, smoking, sex and drugs to cope with her problems. What are the consequences of that kind of behavior/thinking in real life?

## Continue the Discussion Online & in Your Community



Join other NAMI members in the discussion groups to share your thoughts about the film at [NAMI.org/frankieandalice/discussion](https://www.nami.org/frankieandalice/discussion).

Or use the hashtag **#FrankieandAlice** on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest.



# Dissociative **Identity Disorder**

## What is DID and how common is it?



Dissociative identity disorder (DID), previously referred to as multiple personality disorder, is a dissociative disorder involving a disturbance of identity in which two or more separate and distinct personality states (or identities) control an individual's behavior at different times. When under the control of one identity, a person is usually unable to remember some of the events that occurred while other personalities were in control. The different identities, referred to as alters, may exhibit differences in speech, mannerisms, attitudes, thoughts and gender orientation. The alters may even present physical differences, such as allergies, right-or-left handedness or the need for eyeglass prescriptions. These differences between alters are often quite striking.

A person living with DID may have as few as two alters or as many as 100. The average number is about 10. Often alters are stable over time, continuing to play specific roles in the person's life for years. Some alters may harbor aggressive tendencies, directed toward individuals in the person's environment or toward other alters within the person.

At the time a person living with DID first seeks professional help, he or she is usually not aware of their condition. A very common complaint in people affected by DID is episodes of amnesia, or time loss. These individuals may be unable to remember events in all or part of a proceeding time period. They may repeatedly encounter unfamiliar people who claim to know them, find themselves somewhere without knowing how they got there or find items that they don't remember purchasing among their possessions.

## What is dissociation?



Dissociation is a disturbance of thinking, awareness, identity, consciousness or memory. It can occur in a number of mental illnesses in addition to DID including borderline personality disorder (BPD) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Some people have dissociative events that last only moments while others have experiences that last extended periods of time. There is an association between traumatic events and the process of dissociation.

## What causes DID?

Dissociative identity disorder is caused by extreme or chronic physical, sexual or emotional abuse, usually experienced during childhood. The person usually has a heightened ability to detach themselves from a situation.

## What are the symptoms of DID?

Often people living with DID are depressed or even suicidal and self-mutilation is common in this group. Approximately one-third of individuals affected complain of auditory or visual hallucinations.



# About **DID**

While the causes are unknown, statistics show that DID occurs in 0.01 to 1 percent of the general population. DID is a serious mental illness that occurs across all ethnic groups and all income levels. It affects women nine times more than men.

In addition to the dissociation—split personalities—individuals living with DID may also experience any of the following symptoms:

- **Depression**
- **Suicidal Tendencies**
- **Anxiety and panic attacks**
- **Alcohol and drug abuse**
- **Confusion**
- **Memory problems**
- **Delusions**
- **Headaches**
- **Flashbacks**
- **Eating disorders**
- **Personality change**
- **Selective loss of memory**
- **Disorientation**

## **What does treatment for DID look like?**

Treatment for DID consists primarily of psychotherapy with hypnosis. The therapist attempts to make contact with as many alters as possible and to understand their roles and functions in an individual's life. In particular, the therapist seeks to form an effective relationship with any personalities that are responsible for violent or self-destructive behavior and to curb this behavior. The therapist aims to establish communication among the personality states and to find ones that have memories of traumatic events in an individual's past. The goal of the therapist is to enable the individual to achieve breakdown of the patient's separate identities and their unification into a single identity.

Retrieving and dealing with memories of trauma is important for a person living with DID, because this disorder is believed to be triggered by physical or sexual abuse in childhood. Young children have a pronounced ability to dissociate and it is believed that those who are abused may learn to use dissociation as a defense. In effect, the child slips into a state of mind in which it seems that the abuse is not really occurring to him or her, but to somebody else. In time, such a child may begin to emotionally and cognitively split into alternate identities. Research has shown that the average age for the initial development of alters is 5.9 years old. In individuals where dissociation is thought to be a symptom of another mental illness such as borderline personality disorder (BPD) or posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), treatment of the primary cause is of utmost importance.

Children affected by DID may experience a great variety of symptoms, including depressive tendencies, anxiety, conduct problems, episodes of amnesia, difficulty paying attention in school and hallucinations. Often these children are misdiagnosed as having schizophrenia. By the time the child reaches adolescence, it is less difficult for a mental health professional to recognize the symptoms and make a diagnosis of DID.



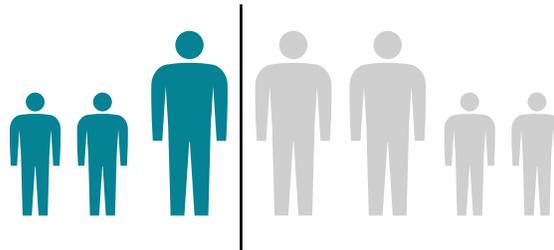
# About DID

## What can a friend or family member do to help someone who lives with DID?

- Be informed. Learn all you can about DID.
- While a friend or family member can help and support a person living with DID, they need professional help to support their recovery process. You can help them locate a therapist who is trained and experienced in treating the condition and encourage them to attend therapy appointments regularly.
- Agree to attend a therapy appointment with your loved one, if he or she is open to it. The therapist can give you some more information about DID and help you find additional ways to help.

### Facts About Mental Illness

**Fewer than 1/3 of adults and 1/2 of children receive services and treatment for a diagnosed mental health condition in a given year.**



- If your friend or loved one living with DID “switches” to another alter, they may sound and act differently and this change can be abrupt. They may not know who you are. Introduce yourself if they don’t know you and offer reassurance if they are frightened.
- Peer support is vitally important to many who live with mental illness. Therefore, you can encourage your loved one to join a support group for people living with DID or a peer support group for people living with mental illness, such as NAMI Connection Recovery Support Groups.
- Be aware of signs that your loved one might be at risk for suicide as this is not uncommon for someone affected by DID. If you think they may be at risk for harming themselves, call the Suicide Hotline at 1(800) 273-TALK, get them professional help as soon as possible or take them to the nearest emergency room.
- Be willing to simply listen if your loved one wants to talk. Listening without interruption and without judging when your friend or loved one wants to talk is extremely helpful. You don’t need to try to solve their problems; just listen.



# Exploring DID on the Big Screen

## In *Frankie & Alice*, Halle Berry Portrays Mental Illness with Compassion and Perseverance

By **Katrina Gay**, National Director of Communications, and **Courtney Meyers**, Director of Publishing, NAMI



In her latest film, *Frankie & Alice*, Academy Award® winner Halle Berry plays a '70s-era go-go dancer with dissociative identity disorder (DID) named Frankie—a black woman with two alternative identities: a scared, 7-year-old little girl named Genius and a white, bigoted Southern belle named Alice. With the care and support of a dedicated psychiatrist, Frankie is able to progress on a recovery journey that saves her and helps her reclaim her life.

The film, to be released by Codeblack Films, is set to premiere in select theaters on April 4, 2014. NAMI recently talked with Ms. Berry about her role, the film and her commitment to the project.

### Why was this project important to you?

Aside from the role being desirable as an actor—the opportunity to embrace a challenging, complex role—it was important to me because the film helps put light into a dark space. People who live with mental illness often struggle. Others often look down on them or have negative opinions of them. Hopefully, this film will do some good. I am happy that the film is being released in theaters and, eventually, DVD, and hope that it promotes the importance of compassion for others, that it helps to educate the public. In playing Frankie Murdoch, based on the true story of her life, as I grew to understand the condition of DID, and as I acted through Frankie's struggle, I grew as a human being. I would like to inspire that with this film.

### You play a character that lives with DID. How did you prepare for this role?

Initially, it was through meeting the real woman that the story is modeled after, Frankie. She was my greatest source of information and inspiration; I wanted to protect her and her story. I wanted to understand and portray her stories of frustration and fear. I felt responsible for making sure that these stories were addressed in the movie. I also did basic reading on DID and mental illness—but most of my understanding and inspiration came from Frankie's life and her story; the personal story is the best source. And finally, Dr. Oz, her doctor, had transcripts as well that spoke to his feelings. I was able to secure some videotapes of health care providers who have worked with and helped people with DID in their recovery. Watching these was very beneficial to helping me ensure that we were incorporating the medical side of the condition into the film, too.

### When I recently watched the film, I have to say that parts of the film were difficult for me to watch. Witnessing the scenes where Frankie was self-destructive



# Exploring **DID** on the Big Screen

**was hard to see—and yet I couldn't look away. It was very real. What do you want people to take away from the film, and why was it important for you to include these raw moments?**

Often, movies are sheer entertainment. This movie was, of course, intended to be entertaining, but it was also designed to help educate and make people aware. We wanted to offer a human perspective to mental illness, to reveal the constant life struggle of mental illness and the devastating impact it can have. I hope that people are enlightened as a result of *Frankie & Alice*, that they learn something. I want people to feel hopeful. Watching the character come to terms with what her illness was and her process and acceptance of that—it was hopeful. Frankie manages to find her journey of recovery, to live her life and to eventually achieve a full life. She will always struggle with her condition, to some degree, for the rest of her life because it is a part of who she is, but she has learned how to deal with it. The end message, therefore, is positive and uplifting. And part of it is this: When we can embrace recovery, there is hope.



**Did playing this role change you at all? Did it change the way you see mental illness or your understanding of what individuals dealing with mental illness are going through?**

Yes, it did. Speaking to Frankie when I was preparing for this role—listening to what she told me—I came to understand that there were moments that she felt like she didn't want to be here anymore. This illness had a hold on her; it was so big and large. But underneath it, a deep desire and a true love of self won. This battle within and a realization of her own love and desires to accomplish her dreams helped her to keep fighting. Yes, to keep fighting. And Dr. Oz, her psychiatrist, made her feel worthy. He validated her and reminded her of that character genius in her that was there. Her relationship with her psychiatrist was, for Frankie, instrumental in helping her hold on to keep fighting to manage her condition.

**As we discussed at the beginning of this conversation, NAMI is the largest grassroots organization in the country, and we work every day to make sure people living with mental illness get the services and support they need. What do you want other people to know? If you had one thing to say to NAMI members, what would it be?**

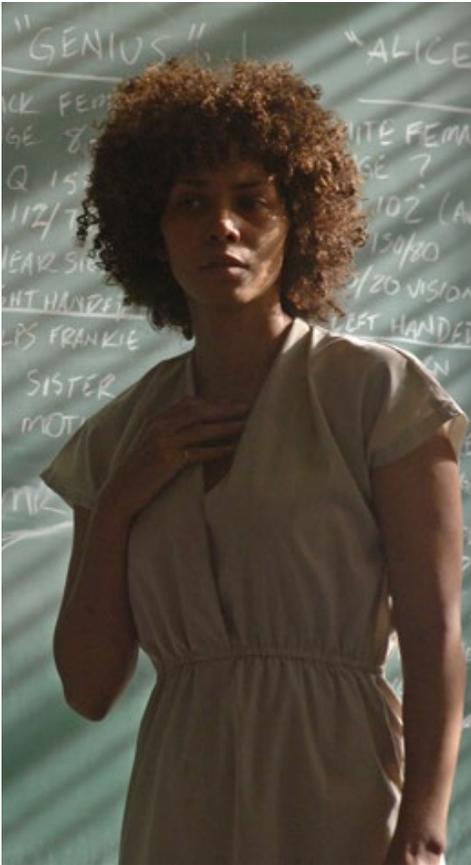
That we are all worth it. What I found in preparing for this role was that, sadly, most people don't think they are worth it. They don't have strong support systems that remind them that they are worth it. Loving families are a huge help—but not everyone has access to a loving and supportive family. So, if they don't, they need to know that help and support are important and that they are available. We have to help people and assist them in holding on and finding ways to get the support they need.

**Throughout your career, have you seen a connection between creativity and mental illness?**

I have been curious about that myself, yes. Over the years, I have looked into it. Yes. There is an argument to be made—some say yes, and some say no—that there is a connection between



# Exploring DID on the Big Screen



creativity and mental illness, at least in the entertainment industry. It is really hard to say one way or the other, but within my industry, I have come across some of the most complicated individuals who are highly creative who have on some level suffered from some sort of mental illness. There are many things about them that would lend you to believe they have a mental health condition that has impacted their lives and, thus, their creativity. I do believe that as a matter of point, if you have a mental illness you may not be creative and, conversely, if you are creative you may not have a mental illness. But there does often seem to be some connection.

## **NAMI has a large membership and community. Are there any parting thoughts you'd like to share with them?**

My main message is one of hope. As in the movie, the way the movie ends, Frankie found a way to rise above her illness. There were moments when it could have destroyed her life and her will. But in the end, her will to live and survive ultimately won. This is a message for all of us, regardless of our personal struggle, but certainly one that is important for people affected by mental illness. I worked on this for eight years. It has been my passion to bring this to light. I was influenced by my mother, who for 35 years was a psychiatric nurse in the VA. In addition, I have had mental illness and alcohol abuse in my family, and I think that many other people can say the same thing. The stories of mental illness have been a part of my life and have been on my radar for a long time. When the story of Frankie Murdoch came along, it was no surprise to those who know me that I would champion this film. Now, that fight continues: I have worked equally hard so that the film is distributed, is available and gets seen. Finally, the film is coming out! And these important messages—fighting for self, human compassion, hope, understanding—will become part of others' awareness, too.

Halle Berry is an actress, producer, Revlon cosmetics spokesperson and former model. She is the mother of two children, a daughter and son, and the wife of French actor Olivier Martinez. She was the first and, as of 2013, only woman of African-American descent to win an Oscar for Best Actress, receiving the Academy Award® in 2002 for her performance in Lionsgate's *Monster's Ball*. In addition to *Frankie & Alice*, Ms. Berry can be seen in the Steven Spielberg futuristic thriller series, "Extant," which debuts on the CBS network Wednesday, July 2.

NAMI is grateful to Codeblack Films, Lionsgate and Halle Berry for their support of our important movement. For more information, including theater and ticket information, a discussion guide, resources and more, visit [NAMI.org/FrankieandAlice](http://NAMI.org/FrankieandAlice), or follow the conversation at **#FrankieAndAlice**.



# About **NAMI**

Since NAMI's beginning in 1979, we have established ourselves as the largest and strongest grassroots mental health advocacy organization in the nation. NAMI is the foundation for hundreds of NAMI State Organizations, NAMI Affiliates and volunteer leaders who work in local communities across the country to raise awareness and provide essential and free education, advocacy and support group programs.

To fulfill our promise, NAMI confronts the unprecedented mental health crisis experienced by individuals, families and communities. Through our nine peer-led signature education programs, offered for free in communities across the nation, and our toll-free NAMI HelpLine at (800) 950-6264, which responds to more than 100,000 requests each year, we provide information and support to those in need.

Public awareness events and activities, including Mental Illness Awareness Week, National Mental Health Awareness Month and NAMIWalks, unite communities to successfully combat stigma and stereotypes, promote awareness and encourage understanding.

NAMI.org  
Facebook.com/OfficialNAMI  
Twitter.com/NAMICommunicate



**IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION!**

Join NAMI & Academy Award® winner **Halle Berry** to support those with mental illness.

Take your group to see **frankie & alice** opening in theaters **april 4** & start a discussion in your community.

**frankie & alice**

BUY TICKETS

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# In Theaters **April 4th**

Special Advanced Showing, Thursday, April 3rd at 10pm



LIONSGATE and JIVE BLACK FILMS PRESENT A LIONSGATE FILM A JIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION A JIVE/BEERY/CHRONIC PRODUCTION A SEPTHEE SIX AND HALLE BERRY "FRANKIE & ALICE" STELLAN SKARSGÅRD  
PHYLICIA RASHAD CRANDIA WILSON ROSALEY WILSON JENNIFER BARON JOHN HOPKINSON MUSIC BY JULI-ANN KAY COSTUME DESIGNER ANDREA DUPRE EDITOR ANDREW LICKINGTON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RUTH E. CHAFFER AND DAVID BOHRENSEN  
PRODUCED BY DEL BASTARDI RICHARD PERRY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEVIN THOMAS SEEL AND JACQUEE SAVAN WILKINSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN RAY ARIAN BASTOS MICHAEL LEVY PRODUCED BY SIMON STANAK WRITTEN BY CHRONIC HALLE BERRY RASHAD WILSON  
DIRECTED BY SEPTHEE SIX AND SEPTHEE SEVEN CASTING BY SEPTHEE SEVEN AND SEPTHEE KING & MARY KING EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AND JONATHAN WALTERS AND JOE BRADLEY & ANNA WATERHOUSE PRODUCED BY SEPTHEE SIX

R RATED FOR SOME STRONG LANGUAGE AND DRUG USE

APRIL 4

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[www.FrankieandAlice.com](http://www.FrankieandAlice.com)

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