

STUCK

APRIL 19TH 2019
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS



03.28.19

Entertainment Weekly Online

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Entertainment
WEEKLY

Let Ashanti (and her new subway musical *Stuck*) soothe your MTA nightmares

By [Joey Nolfi](#) | March 28, 2019 at 02:00 PM EDT



Taking a ride on the New York City subway is the stuff of unimaginable nightmares. For millions of city dwellers, the fantasy begins by boarding a trash-smelling car in anticipation of a shoulder-to-shoulder commute with total strangers. If you're lucky, the worst you'll deal with is an interestingly odored individual clipping their toenails four inches from your face; On the other hand, if you hold a special place in Satan's heart, you'll unwittingly step into an unidentifiable pool of human excrement before your 12-hour workday. It's a scenario ripped from the bowels of hell that's become a part of our daily routine. But, what if you could get trapped on the subway honing your vocal chops with Grammy-winning pop icon Ashanti? Would you suddenly *want* to spend several blissful hours gallivanting about the subterranean abyss?

Stuck — a musical-drama movie the “Happy” and “Foolish” hitmaker stars in and executive-produced — makes that fantasy a reality, and EW’s exclusive trailer for the film (above) features the multi-Platinum R&B artist as one of six unlucky strangers (Amy Madigan, Giancarlo Esposito, among others) thrust together when their Manhattan-bound 1 train unexpectedly grinds to a halt deep beneath the skyscrapers of the Big Apple. Their solution? Sing about their problems (Unwanted pregnancy! Misplaced grief! Casual racism!) until salvation arrives.

“We’re putting a positive spin on things and looking at the glass half full versus half empty, and we tried to paint a positive picture of all those scary moments,” Ashanti — who’s also working on a new album, due for release later this year — tells EW of the project. “It shows that we’ve all gone through situations where we may not be thinking the best while going through situations with other people, dealing with racism, feeling different, or feeling frustrated in the moment.”

So, the next time you find yourself rolling your eyes at the woman eating a pungent Chicken Korma sandwich at 7:00 in the morning or the manspreading lunatic barring you from a seat, think of what’s possible! Think of the song-and-dance opportunities that’ll enhance the trip for everyone! Take a breath, think of *Ashanti*, and sing your heart out!

Stuck rides into theaters on April 19. Watch EW’s exclusive trailer above, and read on for our full conversation with Ashanti.



ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY: From a conceptual perspective I don't think I've ever heard of a musical about six passengers stuck on a subway. What was your reaction when you first read the script?

ASHANTI: I was like, *wait, what?* It's something very different, which is what drew me to it. It's a little bit scary at first but trying something different and outside the box is what it's all about. I did *The Wiz* before, but the combination of smooshing [music and acting] together is still very new. At first when I was doing lines on set, I was like, *I'm used to this*; When you inject the musical aspect, it felt like I was shooting a video! I was a little nervous at first, but it was a cool experience.

Most people think of using the New York subway as a total nightmare, but this film has a relatively hopeful ending. Miss Ashanti, are you selling us subway propaganda?

[Laughs] No! We're putting a positive spin on things and looking at the glass half full versus half empty, and we tried to paint a positive picture of all those scary moments.... It shows that we've all gone through situations where we may not be thinking the best while going through situations with other people, dealing with racism, feeling different, and feeling frustrated in the moment. This is a bold conversational piece; It's only human that when you have six different people from six different ethnicities and walks of life, that stuff is going to come out — especially in New York City when it's late and it's not your fault and you want to blame someone else. You're going to crack a joke about someone or where they're from because you're mad. Even though we shot this film a few years ago and the message was relevant then, I feel like it's way more relevant now.

I wish I had that perspective on my morning commute, because I was trapped underground for 30 mins with a passionate rage building inside me this morning.

You should've gotten up and started singing and it would've had a different ending.

Do you think our differences could be solved if we all just got stuck on a subway with each other and were forced to talk our issues out?

Fifty percent of me feels like there's a possibility that if we all got stuck it would create a platform for us to express ourselves and our frustrations; The other 50 percent of me feels like what probably would happen in New York City is someone would get shot, because unfortunately real life is that there are some crazy people out there; Not everyone has time to sit and talk with a therapist, so they'll take it out on the next person. I hope this film creates a dialogue and [inspires] people to *think* about something the next time they have a [dangerous] thought.

You grew up close to New York City, right? Do you have any subway nightmare memories?

Yes! I'm a Long Island girl.... I remember one time my mom and I were on the subway because my mom used to work in Manhattan. I was around 11, and I had a cool gold chain on. You know those gates where you walk through them and they spin around? They're tall and almost pointy? This guy pushed me through the gate and snatched my gold chain off my neck. My first reaction, even back then: I threw a glass Snapple bottle at him! We stopped a policeman, and I ended up going to do a lineup to pick one of the guys out.... That's different from the message of this film, but these are things that happen in life. Sometimes you can't control it. But showing different perspectives and saying maybe I should give this a second thought and handle it differently, *that's* what I hope we created.

With that perspective, how do you think you'd fare in an actual MTA nightmare like this? If your train actually got stuck underground, what would be your first instinct?

I'd be *pissed*. I'd try to get off of there! I'd call the MTA and be like, "Listen, we have to do something immediately!" I don't know if I'd fake labor pains to try to get out of there as soon as possible.

I mean, ok, but if I'm on that train and see that I'm stuck on the subway next to Ashanti, we're singing "Happy" and "Only U" until that damn train moves.

[Laughs]. Could you imagine if we really did get stuck? I'd be looking at you like, *Is this guy crazy? He wants me to sing this?*

It might make it go faster. Did you guys film on a real subway during working hours?

We did! Toward the end, there was a day of real subway shooting where we'd do the most important cuts instead of renting and blocking on a real subway for the duration of the film.

Were you singing live on the set as they filmed your solo song?

Yeah, I was. You lip-sync some of that, but some of the takes I definitely sang.

Did you help write or produce the solo song?

I definitely helped to write. They came with the idea, but I had to make it a little Ashanti-ish and put a little swag on it.

Which of your own songs would lend itself well to being turned into a full musical?

That's a *very* hard question. You know I've put out a lot of albums, right? [Laughs]. I have a lot of records. I guess off the top of my head, I'm thinking "The Way That I Love You" was very theatrical and the video was a twist and something I hadn't done before. On *Braveheart* there's a song called "Never Should Have" that was very visual. I'd want to see that as a musical. One of those very dramatic records I think would work.

You've released some new music recently. I love "Say Less" with Ty Dolla \$ign. Is a new album coming soon?

Absolutely! I'm working with some amazing producers, really cool ideas, and collabs! I'm excited about the next few moves, the year ahead, and releasing new music. It's going to be a lot of fun.

Who are you collaborating with?

I'm working with Metro Boomin! He and I are executive-producing the project together. I'm working with Tory Lanez, Jeremih, and Swae Lee. I'm doing some stuff with Wiz Kid, and there are some talks of doing stuff with Davido, J-Roc, L. T. I've been talking to.... J Balvin, J. White [about] some really cool ideas.



Will we get a single anytime soon?

I'm hoping so. With me, it's timing. There are a lot of things going on and it's important to line everything up as much as you can, but it's also important to not sit and wait on things. Sometimes I have a bad habit of waiting for things to line up perfectly because sometimes that doesn't happen and then you miss out. I'd love to have some new stuff out this summer!

Do you have an album title or concept you're working with?

I do, but I can't tell you yet [*Laughs*]. And it has a concept and it's really cool. It really tells a story. You *really* have to get it. I don't even want to put a little bit out there because people are going to be like, *what?* I'd rather give you the whole, full-course meal instead of just the appetizer, because if you don't taste it right, it might not go down right!

03.28.19

Entertainment Weekly Online

Unique Monthly Users: 23,994,172



Ashanti reveals new album plans, potential collabs with J Balvin, Swae Lee, more

By [Joey Nolfi](#) | March 28, 2019 at 02:30 PM EDT



Ashanti fans have some happy news to celebrate.

The Grammy-winning R&B icon tells EW she's currently working on her first new album in five years, which she hopes to have out by the end of 2019.

"I'm working with some amazing producers, really cool ideas, and collabs!" the 38-year-old star and executive producer of the new movie *Stuck* (out April 19) says of the planned follow-up to her 2014 LP *Braveheart*. "I'm excited about the next few moves, the year ahead, and releasing new music. It's going to be a lot of fun."

In addition to overseeing the project's production with mega-producer Metro Boomin, Ashanti says Tory Lanez, Jeremih, and Swae Lee will also appear on the album, while she's discussed potential collaborations with Davido, J-Roc, J Balvin, and Cardi B/**Iggy Azalea producer J. White Did It.**

As for a release date, Ashanti says her seventh LP still needs more time in the oven.

"With me, it's timing. There are a lot of things going on and it's important to try and line everything up as much as you can, but it's also important to not sit and wait on things. Sometimes I have a bad habit of waiting for things to line up perfectly because sometimes that doesn't happen and then you miss out," she explains, seemingly referencing the six-year gap between 2008's *The Declaration* and *Braveheart*. "But I'd love to have some new stuff out this summer!"



Ashanti, who rose to prominence with smash hits like "Happy" and "Foolish" in 2002, previously teased the forthcoming album with the Ty Dolla \$ign-assisted, DJ Mustard-produced slapper "Say Less" in November 2017, though she hasn't released a single from the studio set since. Still, she promises something "really cool" with a concept that will be worth the wait.

"I can't tell you yet. It *has* a concept.... it really tells a story [but] you really have to get it. I don't even want to put a little bit out there because people are going to be like, 'what?'" she continues of the album's title and thematic narrative. "I'd rather give you the whole, full-course meal instead of just the appetizer, because if you don't taste it right, it might not go down right!"

03.28.19

Red Carpet Crash

Unique Monthly Users: 98,000



[Home](#) > [Movie Trailers](#) > [Movies](#) > Watch Trailer For 'Stuck'

Watch Trailer For 'Stuck'

RedCarpetCrash March 28, 2019

Modern musical film Stuck starring Giancarlo Esposito (Breaking Bad, Better Call Saul), Amy Madigan (Gone Baby Gone, Field of Dreams), musical sensation Ashtanti, Omar Chaparro (Show Dogs, Compadres), Arden Cho (Teen Wolf) and Gerard Canonico (Be More Chill) as New York Subway commuters with stories to sing will play in select theaters nationwide on April 19th, 2019

An original pop musical film about six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway. Through the power of music, they learn about each other's lives and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another. Connecting across lines of race, culture and class in a way that only situations of circumstance or happenstance can create, this will be a day that none of them will ever forget.

The music and songs in the film are all original with musical styles specific to each character – a lyrical and musical extension of their culture, thoughts, story and experience with elements of Pop, Rap, Rock, Classical and Motown – set almost entirely on the New York City Subway.

Stuck was directed by Michael Berry from a screenplay by Michael Berry based on the Stage musical by Riley Thomas. It was produced by Mike Witherill (John Wick franchise) and Joe Mundo, executive produced by Ashtanti, with original music by Riley Thomas, Tim Young and Ben Maughan.



03.29.19

FirstShowing.net

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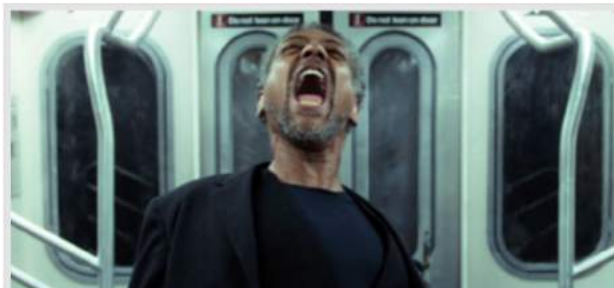
MOVIE TRAILERS

First Trailer for 'Stuck' Musical About People Stuck on a NYC Subway

by Alex Billington

March 29, 2019

Source: YouTube



"We're just trying to get to where we're going..." Eammon Films has debuted an official trailer for an indie musical film titled **Stuck**, which originally premiered at a few smaller film festivals back in 2017. Based on a play by Riley Thomas, the film is about six strangers who get stuck on a New York City subway together and change each others lives in unexpected ways. This is definitely a theater concept, but adapted for the big screen and brought to life with a few vibrant and uplifting performances. This looks charming and inspiring, in all the ways Broadway can be. Starring **Giancarlo Esposito** (seriously singing his heart out), plus **Amy Madigan**, **Ashtanti**, **Omar Chaparro**, **Arden Cho**, & **Gerard Canonico**. Don't know why it has taken almost two years for this to be released, it's looks wonderful. Who doesn't love a good musical? Check it out.

Here's the first official trailer (+ new poster) for Michael Berry's **Stuck**, direct from YouTube:



*An original pop musical film about six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway. Through the power of music, they learn about each other's lives and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another. Connecting across lines of race, culture and class in a way that only situations of circumstance or happenstance can create, this will be a day that none of them will ever forget. Stuck is written and directed by American actor / filmmaker **Michael Berry**, his second feature film after making *Frontera*, as well as a few short films and other Broadway work. Based on the musical play by Riley Thomas. This first premiered at the Newport Beach Film Festival in 2017, and also played at the Raindance and Woodstock Film Festivals. Eammon Films will release Berry's *Stuck* in select US theaters starting on **April 19th** this spring. Who's in?*

03.29.19

Hollywood.com

Unique Monthly Users: 3,773,729



Giancarlo Esposito and More Are 'Stuck' in New Trailer

MOVIES TRAILER



Millions take the New York subway every day. Whenever I'm up there, my NY friends tell me one thing, don't talk to anyone on public transportation. I always kind of wonder who they are, where they're going, and why, but I prefer not to get yelled at and/or stabbed, so I take my friends advice.

'Stuck' is a musical turned film that deals with that exact situation. Six commuters (Giancarlo Esposito, Arden Cho, Amy Madigan, Ashanti, Omar Chaparro, and Gerard Canonico) are on their daily ride when the train breaks down. The 6 can either sit there in silence, or they can talk to one another, learn about their various problems in life (homelessness, abusive relationships, poverty, etc), and possibly grow from this experience.

While I might not be that into musicals, I love a good human story, and this film has plenty of that.

'Stuck' releases on April 19, 2019.

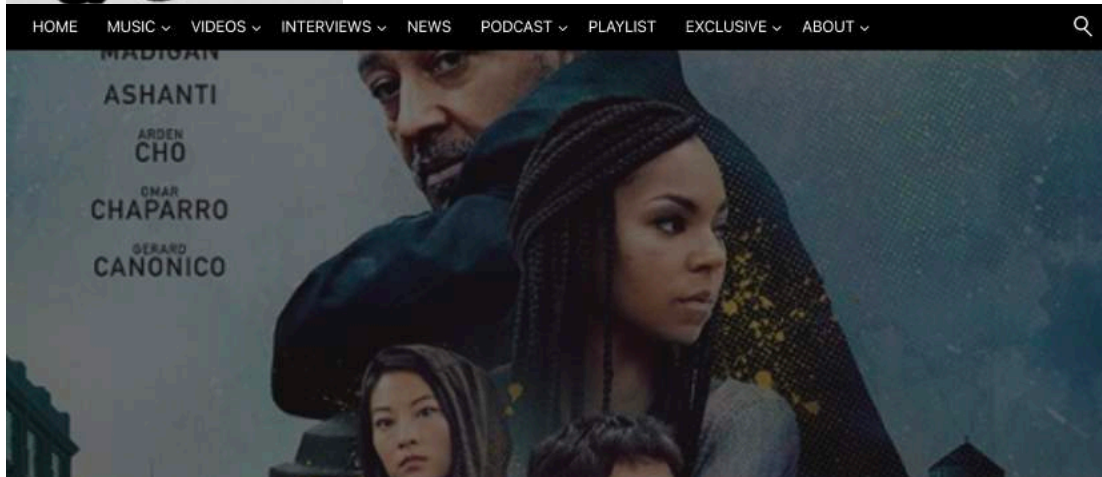


[#amymadigan](#) [#ardencho](#) [#gerardcanonico](#) [#giancarloesposito](#) [#omarchaparro](#) [#reynadecourcy](#) [#stuck](#) [#timyoung](#) [#ashanti](#)

03.30.19

You Know I Got Soul

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



HOME PAGE / NEWS / ASHANTI TO STAR IN "STUCK" MUSICAL ABOUT PASSENGERS STUCK ON NYC SUBWAY

NEWS

Ashanti to Star in "Stuck" Musical About Passengers Stuck on NYC Subway

YKIGS March 30, 2019

Although Ashanti has been quiet with new music in recent years, she's been hard at work on other aspects of her career lately. The veteran R&B singer has just announced that she will star in the upcoming musical movie called "Stuck".

For all of us who live in NYC and take public transportation, the movie details an issue that is all too real. The musical takes a look at the lives of complete strangers who are stuck on the subway and take a musical approach to dealing with it.

On the new music front, it's been over five years since Ashanti released her last album "Braveheart". [She released the new single "Say Less" with Ty Dolla \\$ign](#) in 2017, but it did not lead to an album. Ashanti was also working on a joint album with Ja Rule and [they released the single "Encore"](#) but we haven't got that project either.

In the meantime, Ashanti continues to do shows by herself and along with Ja Rule.

"Stuck" will arrive in select theaters on April 19th. Check out the trailer below.



Tagged: [Ashanti](#)

03.30.19

ABC News Radio Online

Unique Monthly Users: 669,226



Ashanti reveals she has a new album on the way: "I'm excited about the next few moves"

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ABC/Paula Lobo

Ashanti fans, rejoice: The R&B staple is gearing up to release her seventh studio album, *Entertainment Weekly* has learned.

"I'm working with some amazing producers, really cool ideas, and collabs!" Ashanti shared. "I'm excited about the next few moves, the year ahead, and releasing new music. It's going to be a lot of fun."

While the project doesn't have a title yet, Ashanti did spill a few details: She'll be overseeing production in tandem with **Metro Boomin**. In addition, fans can expect the album's star-studded features to include **Tory Lanez**, **Jeremih** and **Swae Lee**.

As for a release date, Ashanti said the LP is all about "timing."

"There are a lot of things going on and it's important to try and line everything up as much as you can, but it's also important to not sit and wait on things," she explained.

She continued, "Sometimes I have a bad habit of waiting for things to line up perfectly because sometimes that doesn't happen and then you miss out. But I'd love to have some new stuff out this summer!"

The anticipated LP will serve as a follow up to 2014's *Braveheart*.

In the meantime, however, the early-aughts icon has been busy executive-producing *Stuck*, a new musical film that takes place in a subway. It'll be out April 19.

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03.31.19

That Grape Juice

Unique Monthly Users: 857,202



Movie Trailer: Ashanti Stars In the Subway Musical Movie 'Stuck'

60
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Published: Sunday 31st Mar 2019 by Rashad

Singer-songwriter **Ashanti** (born Ashanti Douglas) reminds fans her talents are certainly not limited to the pen and microphone, a feat evidenced by the trailer for the forthcoming musical-drama, **'Stuck.'**

Executive produced by and starring Douglas, the film showcases what happens when "six unlucky strangers (**Amy Madigan, Giancarlo Esposito**, and others) [are] thrust together when their Manhattan-bound train unexpectedly grinds to a halt deep beneath the skyscrapers of the Big Apple. Their solution? Sing about their problems until salvation arrives."



Speaking to our friends at EW about the film, [Ashanti said](#):

"We're putting a positive spin on things and looking at the glass half full versus half empty, and we tried to paint a positive picture of all those scary moments," she said. "It shows that we've all gone through situations where we may not be thinking the best while going through situations with other people, dealing with racism, feeling different, or feeling frustrated in the moment."

'Stuck' rides into theaters on **April 19.**

03.31.19

Rated R&B

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

RATED R&B

NEWS

Ashanti to Star and Executive Produce Musical Drama 'Stuck'

Posted On March 31, 2019

Antwane Falk



Ashanti has announced her return to the silver screen in Michael Berry's directed music drama *Stuck*.

The original musical will follow six strangers who get trapped on a New York City subway together. Ashanti, who plays Eve, one of the six passengers on the train. She and the other commuters find the strength to survive and inspire each other through songs that tell their troubled stories.

"We're putting a positive spin on things and looking at the glass half full versus half empty, and we tried to paint a positive picture of all those scary moments," shared Ashanti to [Entertainment Weekly](#). "It shows that we've all gone through situations where we may not be thinking the best while going through situations with other people, dealing with racism, feeling different, or feeling frustrated in the moment."

Not only does Ashanti star in the film, but she is also signed on as executive producer.

Stuck is slated to make its stop in theaters on April 19 via Freestyle Releasing.

While Ashanti is busy acting, she hasn't abandoned her plans to the fill "a real void for true, soul-touching R&B." She mentioned to EW that she is hoping to release the official single for her forthcoming album soon. But for the singer, she keeps one thing in mind when it comes to delivering new music to fans.

“With me, it’s timing,” [she said to EW’s Joey Nolfi](#). “There are a lot of things going on and it’s important to line everything up as much as you can, but it’s also important to not sit and wait on things. Sometimes I have a bad habit of waiting for things to line up perfectly because sometimes that doesn’t happen and then you miss out. I’d love to have some new stuff out this summer!”

While she is hush about the album title, she did reveal the follow-up to 2014’s *Braveheart* “has a concept and it’s really cool.”

Watch the trailer for *Stuck* below.



04.1.19

Power 98 FM

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



APRIL 1, 2019

Ashanti Stars In Subway Musical 'Stuck'

Ashanti will be on the silver screen soon in her new film *Stuck*.

YOUTUBE FILMISNOW MOVIE TRAILERS



The R&B singer, actress, and producer executively produced the musical about "six unlucky strangers" who are united when their Manhattan-bound train comes to a halt in the New York City subway.

Ashanti stars in the movie alongside Giancarlo Esposito and Amy Madigan, among others. While the passengers wait to be saved, they end up singing about their problems.

"We're putting a positive spin on things and looking at the glass half full versus half empty, and we tried to paint a positive picture of all those scary moments," Ashanti [told EW](#). "It shows that we've all gone through situations where we may not be thinking the best while going through situations with other people, dealing with racism, feeling different, or feeling frustrated in the moment."

Stuck hits theaters on April 19.

04.1.19

105.1 The Bounce Online

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

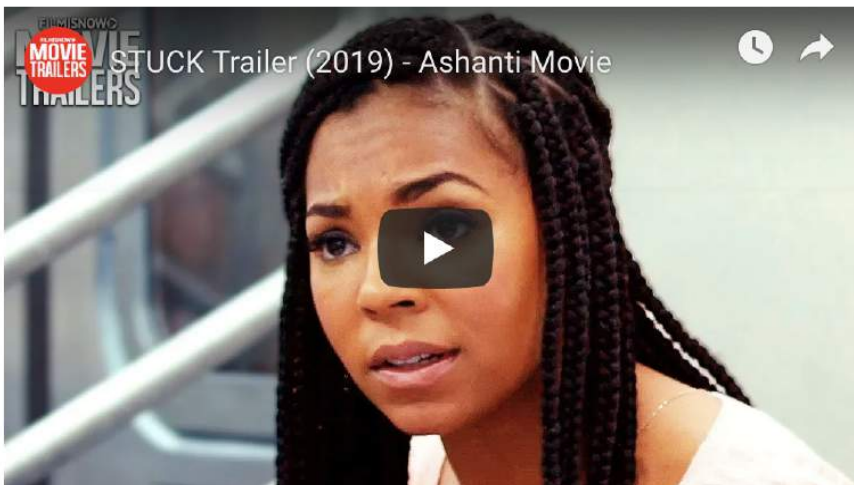


APRIL 1, 2019

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 YOUTUBE FILMISNOW MOVIE TRAILERS



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Stuck hits theaters on April 19.



04.1.19

Retro World News

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

RETROWORLDNEWS

Ashanti to Star in “Stuck” Musical About Passengers Stuck on NYC Subway



04.4.19

Playbill Online

Unique Monthly Users: 1,549,954

PLAYBILL

FILM & TV NEWS

Hear *Be More Chill*'s Gerard Canonico Sing From His Star Turn in the Movie Musical *Stuck*

BY RUTHIE FIERBERG
APR 04, 2019

[Buy Tickets to Be More Chill](#)

Canonico joins Ashanti, Giancarlo Esposito, Amy Madigan, Omar Chaparro, and Arden Cho in the film, out this April.



Stuck, a new pop movie musical, will hit select theatres April 19.

Based on the stage musical by Riley Thomas, the film stars Giancarlo Esposito (*Breaking Bad*, *Better Call Saul*), Amy Madigan (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), musical sensation Ashanti, Omar Chaparro (*Show Dogs*, *Compadres*), Arden Cho (*Teen Wolf*) and Gerard Canonico (*Be More Chill*) as New York Subway commuters with stories to sing.

Directed and adapted by Michael Berry, *Stuck* features original music by Thomas, Tim Young, and Ben Maughan, and choreography Shannon Lewis. Each song is written in the style of each character with elements of pop, rap, Motown, and classical.

Canonico currently stars as Rich in the new musical *Be More Chill*. He made his Broadway debut in the original production of *Les Misérables* as a replacement for Gavroche. He returned to the Main Stem in 2006 as part of the original company of *Spring Awakening*. Since then, he has appeared in *American Idiot* and *Groundhog Day*.



04.8.19

Playbill Online

Unique Monthly Users: 1,549,954

PLAYBILL

VIDEO

Watch This Exclusive Clip of Broadway's Gerard Canonico Sing From New Movie Musical *Stuck*

BY RUTHIE FIERBERG
APR 08, 2019

[Buy Tickets to Be More Chill](#)

The *Be More Chill* star and *Groundhog Day* alum sings "Angles of Your Face."



Gerard Canonico isn't just tearing up the stage as Rich in Joe Iconis' musical *Be More Chill* on Broadway, he's also about to shine on the big screen. The new movie musical *Stuck* will debut in select theatres April 19. In the clip above, Playbill gets an exclusive sneak peek at Canonico's solo "Angles of Your Face."

Based on the stage musical by Riley Thomas, the film stars Giancarlo Esposito (*Breaking Bad*, *Better Call Saul*), Amy Madigan (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), musical sensation Ashanti, Omar Chaparro (*Show Dogs*, *Compadres*), Arden Cho (*Teen Wolf*) and Gerard Canonico (*Be More Chill*) as New York Subway commuters with stories to sing.

[READ: Who Are the Characters of Be More Chill?](#)

Directed and adapted by Michael Berry, *Stuck* features original music by Thomas, Tim Young, and Ben Maughan, and choreography Shannon Lewis. Each song is written in the style of each character with elements of pop, rap, Motown, and classical.

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04.11.19

Film Jerk

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



APRIL 11, 2019 BY EDWARD HAVENS

Movie Watch: The New York City Subway Edition

The second movie we're watching today is Michael Berry's *Stuck*, a pop musical film, based on a stage musical by Riley Thomas, about six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway.

Through the power of music, they learn about each other's lives and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another. Connecting across lines of race, culture and class in a way that only situations of circumstance or happenstance can create, this will be a day that none of them will ever forget. Starring Oscar-nominee Amy Madigan, Emmy nominee Giancarlo Esposito and Grammy winner Ashtanti, the music and songs in the film are all original with musical styles specific to each character – a lyrical and musical extension of their culture, thoughts, story and experience with elements of Pop, R&B, Rock, Classical and Motown.



Stuck will be distributed by Eammon Films next Friday, April 19th, in Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Houston, Lansing, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Tampa. We'll do our best to get you a full list of theatres in time for next week's Early Report.



04.12.19

Parade

Unique Monthly Users: 2,082,030

Parade

HEALTHY NOW

Steal Singer Ashanti's Fitness Routine



By **NICOLE PAJER**

@NicolePajer



Singing and acting may be what she's known for—but in order to excel at both, **Ashanti** says it's crucial that she **stays fit**. "If I want to maintain longevity with traveling and being on stage, I have to take care of my body," she says. The star also candidly admits that since the camera "puts 10 pounds on," preparing for a tour or an on-screen engagement is another added motivation to get in her gym sessions.

>>> *Steal Her*
ROUTINE

Ashanti, 38, who is currently working on a new EP, will next appear in *Stuck*, an original pop musical that follows six commuters who find themselves on a stalled subway together. The project is playing in theaters nationwide and will release on VOD and DVD later this year. It's a role that the actress says "was something really different" for her. "I felt like the message was really cool and very relevant. And with me being a true New Yorker, this is something that is a possibility of happening in New York," she says, with a laugh.

We caught up with Ashanti on the press tour for her latest film, where she filled us in on her **fitness** routine.

Her typical routine

When I'm home in NYC, I have a trainer, **Raheem**. We do weight training, cardio, running. I'm kind of a tomboy and I'm very competitive so I never want him to beat me. Sometimes he has me work on mobility, other times endurance, and then we'll go for strength. I think it's important to mix it up and hit different parts of your body. We'll do the Stairmaster, lots of core work.

I try to get four to five days in a week with my trainer. When I know I'm going for something specific, like preparing for a role, I try to definitely make it five. When I knew I was going down to Trinidad for carnival, for example, we had like two months. So I said, "Look, I have to be in this little itty bitty costume!" We maybe missed a couple of days but I was really strict with that one.

The workout of choice

For a while, I was obsessed with cycling. I would try to do two classes in a day because I would sweat so much and I loved it! Now I'm on a new kick. There is this new thing my trainer had me do the other day and it was so amazing. I don't know the exact name for it but you're in a plank so you're holding your body weight up with one side, your left side for instance. And then you take your right arm and you're pulling a weight towards you. So you're on the ground and you're pulling the weight. And I could feel everything tightening up on the sides, from my shoulder to my toes and I'm just like, "Oh, this is something that's going to be really, really cool if I continue it." I haven't tried to do it without having the machine yet but I'm definitely going to have to figure out how to accomplish that when I'm not home.

Her fitness nemesis

I hate burpees! I cannot stand burpees but they are so good for you. And I remember this goes back all the way to middle school gym class where they would call them squat thrusts.

Staying fit on the road

I usually travel with my jump rope. I definitely try to do stuff when I'm not with my trainer and he's always paying attention to what I am or am not doing though (*laughs*). So for instance, I had a cheat day last Saturday morning so I had pancakes and he DMed me and he's like, "What is that? Are you doing crunches after?" When I'm not at home, he'll text me a workout and I'll try to get it done. I'll try to do crunches and jump rope and pushups and stuff on my own. I try!

I have another trainer in L.A., **Donamatrix**, who I work with when I'm there. He's completely different than my trainer in New York. So I feel like I'm in a really good position to have the best of both worlds on either coast.

Not always in the mood

I don't always feel like working out but finishing a **gym session** is the best feeling. I did that like two weeks ago. I was I so out of it and I was like, "I don't feel like it." We were in New York. It was raining. It was gloomy. It was cold. But I pushed myself and I went and I put it on my Insta stories and I'm laying on the floor in the gym and I was like, "Oh my gosh, I was so dead before I got here. And I'm even more tired now but I'm so proud of myself that I actually did the workout."

I'm really into green juices. I'm glad I got one today! I'm actually drinking one now. And I'll make a plant-based protein smoothie to snack on in between as well. I also like the **No Cow** bars. The raspberry one is the best.

A primarily plant-based diet and some fabulous cheat days

I'm a pescatarian so I don't eat a lot of meat. I try to stay away from carbs and I know diet is super essential to being healthy and maintaining and trying to stay fit. But I do have two cheat days and I look forward to them every week. I try to make it the weekend for those but sometimes I get tempted during the week. So I'll be like, "OK, I'm going to use Taco Tuesday as my day!"

I do a lot of plant-based—[Beyond Burgers](#) and the [Beyond Sausage](#) are my favorite right now. I've been eating them every day. I'll do egg whites. I'll do some kind of fish, broccoli, asparagus or cauliflower rice. I'm a big cereal girl. I'll do nondairy yogurt. I'll throw some crab legs in there every now and again. But I've tried to keep it under wraps during the week. Not anything too crazy or too strict but I do try to stay away from the carbs as much as possible.

Cheat day is like pizza, cake, potatoes. It's a little bit of everything. I will definitely have some carbs. If we go out to dinner or something, I might have the garlic bread. Oh my gosh, or the lobster mac and cheese!

04.12.19

BlackFilm


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BLACKFILM

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Star-Studded Musical Film **STUCK**, Headlined by Giancarlo Esposito and Ashanti, Opens Nationwide April 19th

Michael Berry wrote and directed, adapting the stage musical by Riley Thomas



SOMETIMES IT TAKES A STRANGER TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR VOICE.

ESPOSITO
MADIGAN
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CANONICO

STUCK

AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL FILM

IN THEATERS APRIL 19TH

Eammon Films is proud to announce the nationwide theatrical release of **Stuck**, a modern musical film starring **Giancarlo Esposito** (“Breaking Bad”, “Better Call Saul”), **Amy Madigan** (Gone Baby Gone, Field of Dreams) and musical sensation **Ashanti** set on the New York City Subway. The supporting cast includes **Omar Chaparro** (Show Dogs, Compadres), **Arden Cho** (“Teen Wolf”) and **Gerard Canonico** (Broadway’s Be More Chill) as New York City commuters with stories to sing. **Stuck will open in select theaters nationwide on April 19th, 2019.**

Markets include New York City, Los Angeles, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Houston, Lansing, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Tampa.

Michael Berry wrote and directed, adapting the stage musical by **Riley Thomas**. The music and songs in the film are all original with musical styles specific to each character – a lyrical and musical extension of their culture, thoughts, story and experience with elements of Pop, R&B, Rock, Classical and Motown. A soundtrack will soon be available.



An original pop musical film about six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway. Through the power of music, they learn about each other's lives and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another. Connecting across lines of race, culture and class in a way that only

situations of circumstance or happenstance can create, this will be a day that none of them will ever forget.





04.12.19

People Magazine Online

Unique Monthly Users: 43,500,570



Ashanti Says Ja Rule Is 'Working on Music' and They're 'On the Path' to Dropping a Joint Album

"He's definitely gonna be working on stuff and we're gonna be doing some stuff together as well," Ashanti says of her frequent musical partner Ja Rule

Ashanti is opening up about an upcoming joint album with good friend Ja Rule.

The 38-year-old actress and singer spoke to PEOPLE about their upcoming collaboration while promoting her new musical film, *Stuck*.

"I believe he is working on music," she tells PEOPLE exclusively of Ja Rule. "We were touring for the past three years. I just saw him two days ago, we had a show together in Indio [California]."

She continued, "We have some shows together. He's definitely gonna be working on stuff and we're gonna be doing some stuff together as well."

"We're still on the path to dropping a joint album," Ashanti added. "I think that should be kind of cool, too."

Ashanti previously spoke to PEOPLE in February about Ja Rule's involvement in the disastrous Fyre Festival, which the rapper co-founded with entrepreneur Billy McFarland.



“What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger,” Ashanti said. “I think that it’s so important when you fall down to get right back up. You have to try. People make mistakes, you know what I mean, and you have to be man enough to admit when you make a mistake and keep pushing.”

She added the two were like “a real brother and sister” as they embarked on a joint tour.

“I kick it in his dressing room, he comes and takes stuff out of my dressing room,” she said, adding Ja Rule steals her “candy, chips, juice, everything.”



STUCK

@Stuckthemusical



When @ashanti tells you to apologize, you WILL apologize.

#GetStuck

37 3:39 PM - Apr 8, 2019

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While she has also been busy working on a new album, Ashanti has been promoting *Stuck*, in which she stars alongside an all-star cast that includes Giancarlo Esposito, Arden Cho and Amy Madigan.

“Everyone got along, everyone brought their own little spirit to the table, there were no egos,” Ashanti tells PEOPLE. “Everyone took the project really serious and everyone knew their lines, and was on time. The wanted to make it perfect.”

Stuck hits theaters on April 19.

04.12.19

ABC News Radio Online

Unique Monthly Users: 69,226



It's Murrddaaa: Ashanti says she's "on the path" to releasing a joint album with Ja Rule

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Scott Dudelson/Getty Images)

Ashanti is serious about making studio magic happen again with her good friend and former Murder Inc. labelmate **Ja Rule**.

The singer tells *People* that she and Ja are gearing up to release a joint project together. In fact, Ashanti says Ja is already in the studio.

"I believe he is working on music," she said. "We were touring for the past three years. I just saw him two days ago, we had a show together in Indio, [California]."

"He's definitely gonna be working on stuff and we're gonna be doing some stuff together as well," she continues. "We're still on the path to dropping a joint album. I think that should be kind of cool, too."

In addition to traveling with Ja on their joint tour, Ashanti has been working on her own album and promoting *Stuck*, a movie musical about six strangers who get stuck on a New York City subway together.

"Everyone got along, everyone brought their own little spirit to the table, there were no egos," Ashanti tells *People* of the film. "Everyone took the project really serious and everyone knew their lines, and was on time. They wanted to make it perfect."

Stuck, which also stars **Giancarlo Esposito**, **Arden Cho** and **Amy Madigan**, hits theaters on April 19.

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04.12.19

Yahoo

Unique Monthly Users: 8,404,605

YAHOO!
FINANCE

Ashanti Says Ja Rule Is 'Working on Music' and They're 'On the Path' to Dropping a Joint Album

People Alexia Fernandez
People April 12, 2019



[Ashanti](#) is opening up about an upcoming joint album with good friend [Ja Rule](#).

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Stuck hits theaters on April 19.


04.13.19

WLS-AM Mancow

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Local superstar Amy Madigan talks Chicago with Mancow.

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Amy Madigan calls the Mancow and they talk about her new movie, Stuck and where Amy likes to go for pizza when she visits home!

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04.14.19

The Los Angeles Times

Unique Monthly Users: 23,975,350

Los Angeles Times

MOVIES ENTERTAINMENT

What movies are opening this week? 'Red Joan,' 'Drunk Parents' and more

By KEVIN CRUST and MATT COOPER APR 14, 2019 | 5:00 AM



April 17

Breakthrough

A woman turns to prayer as her teenage son lies unconscious in the hospital after nearly drowning in an icy lake. With Chrissy Metz, Josh Lucas, Topher Grace, Mike Colter, Sam Trammell, Dennis Haysbert. Written by Grant Nieporte. Directed by Roxann Dawson. (1:46)
PG.

Penguins

A plucky penguin in Antarctica searches for a mate in this nature documentary. Directed by Alastair Fothergill, Jeff Wilson. (1:16) G.

April 19

Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blaché

Documentary about the pioneering late 19th-century French filmmaker. Narrated by Jodie Foster. Directed by Pamela B. Green. (1:43) NR.

Breaking Habits

Documentary about Sister Kate, a nun who started a medical-marijuana operation. Written and directed by Robert Ryan. (1:27) NR.

Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise

Fans recall the feminist-themed 1991 film that starred Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon in this documentary. Directed by Jennifer Townsend. (1:27) NR.

The Curse of La Llorona

A social worker and her young children are menaced by an evil entity in 1970s L.A. With Linda Cardellini, Sean Patrick Thomas, Tony Amendola. Written by Mikki Daughtry, Tobias Iaconis. Directed by Michael Chaves. (1:33) R.

Daddy Issues

A pixie-ish queer artist falls for a sexually fluid fashionista with a mysterious benefactor. With Madison Lawlor, Montana Manning, Andrew Pifko. Written by Alex Bloom; story by Bloom, Amara Cash. Directed by Cash. (1:21) R.

Drunk Parents

An upper-class couple with a daughter in college try to hide their mounting financial woes from friends and family. With Alex Baldwin, Salma Hayek, Jim Gaffigan, Michelle Veintimilla, Joe Manganiello. Written by Fred Wolf, Peter Gaulke. Directed by Fred Wolf. (1:37) R.

Family

A socially inept businesswoman is tasked with looking after her rebellious young niece. With Taylor Schilling, Brian Tyree Henry, Matt Walsh, Allison Tolman, Kate McKinnon. Written and directed by Laura Steinel. (1:25) R.

Fast Color

A woman with superhuman abilities returns home after years on the run. With Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Lorraine Toussaint, David Strathairn. Written by Julia Hart, Jordan Horowitz. Directed by Hart. (1:40) PG-13.

High on the Hog

A hog farmer and his cadre of attractive young women defend their marijuana-growing operation against federal agents. With Sid Haig, Joe Estevez, Robert Z'Dar. Written by Andy Golub, Kevin Lockhart, Jeremy Silva, Tony Wash. Directed by Wash. (1:25) NR.

His Father's Voice

A dancer in India tries to reconnect with his musician father. With CB Ramkumar, Jeremy Roske. Written and directed by K. Kaarthikeyan. (1:45) NR.

Little Woods

Desperate times drive estranged sisters in North Dakota to turn to crime. With Tessa Thompson, Lily James, Luke Kirby, James Badge Dale, Lance Reddick. Written and directed by Nia DaCosta. (1:45) R.

Long Day's Journey Into Night

A man in China's Guizhou province is haunted by his past. With Jue Huang, Wei Tang, Sylvia Chang. Written and directed by Gan Bi. In Mandarin with English subtitles. (1:50) NR.

Lost & Found

Items left behind at a local train station connect the lives of assorted characters in an Irish town. With Liam O Mochain, Norma Sheahan, Brendan Conroy. Written and directed by Liam O Mochain. (1:36) NR.

The Man Who Killed Don Quixote

A cynical filmmaker is drawn into a fantasy world inspired by Cervantes' classic tale about a delusional Spanish knight errant. With Adam Driver, Jonathan Pryce, Stellan Skarsgard, Olga Kurylenko. Written by Terry Gilliam, Tony Grisoni. Directed by Gilliam. (2:12) NR.

Naples in Veils

A woman has a passionate one-night stand with a man who later turns up dead. Written by Ferzan Ozpetek, Gianni Romoli, Valia Santella. Directed by Ozpetek. In Italian with English subtitles. (1:53) NR.

Red Joan

A British retiree's past comes to light when she is revealed to have been a longtime spy for the Soviet Union. With Judi Dench, Sophie Cookson, Tom Hughes, Stephen Campbell Moore. Written by Lindsay Shapero. Directed by Trevor Nunn. (1:41) R.

Satan & Adam

Documentary about the unlikely musical partnership between a Jewish harmonica player and an African American street musician in 1980s Harlem. Directed by V. Scott Balcerrek. (1:20) NR.

Stuck

Six diverse commuters stranded together on a New York City subway train share their stories in song. With Amy Madigan, Giancarlo Esposito, Ashanti, Arden Cho. Written by Michael Berry; based on the stage musical by Riley Thomas. Directed by Berry. (1:30) PG-13.

Suburban Birds

An engineer in China uncovers a deeper mystery while investigating a ground subsidence in an abandoned suburb. With Mason Lee, Zihan Gong, Lu Huang. Written and directed by Qiu Sheng. In Mandarin with English subtitles. (1:58) NR.

04.15.19

BBC America

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

BBC AMERICA

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS WEEK APRIL 15- 21

ON THE BEAT

10. AND FINALLY, WHAT TO GO SEE IF YOU FEEL LIKE TAKING A PUNT



Stuck

Opening in select theaters Friday, *Stuck* definitely has an original premise: it's a movie-musical set on a New York City subway train! Based on a stage musical by Riley Thomas, it follows six strangers who share their life stories in song and dance after the train stalls between stations. Features pop-leaning original tunes, lots of choreo, and a cast that includes *Breaking Bad*'s Giancarlo Esposito and R&B singer Ashanti, it could be just the tonic after a stressful evening commute.

04.15.19

Yahoo

Unique Monthly Users: 8,404,605

YAHOO!
FINANCE

Ashanti Shares Her Last Text With Nipsey Hussle: 'I'm Still in Disbelief' (Exclusive)

ET

Leena Tallor

Entertainment Tonight April 15, 2019



Two weeks after Nipsey Hussle's shocking death, R&B star [Ashanti](#) is still in "disbelief" about the beloved rapper's passing.

Hussle was [shot and killed on March 31](#) outside his clothing store in South Los Angeles.

"I'm still little bit in disbelief," Ashanti shared while stopping by ET Live on Monday.

"Going to the funeral, I think it shocked me a little bit and it became a reality, seeing the casket on the stage. It was like everyone stood back like, 'This really happened,' and it just shows you that life is so short and so precious."

"He's such an amazing person and an amazing spirit and he's done so much," she added. "He had so much more that he was doing."

The "Foolish" singer noted how special it was to see the ["overflowing" love from fans](#) following the musician's death and even more significant to see how those who didn't even know him have felt his loss.

"It's so weird, I got a text from one of my friends, and she didn't know him personally at all, and she's like, 'My heart is hurting,'" Ashanti said. "You didn't have to know him personally. He touched people without you knowing the person."

As a close pal of Hussle's, Ashanti reflected on what a great friend he was, recalling how he tried to help her battle a recent illness, which prevented her heading to the studio to work with him.

“Nip was always helpful. It’s funny because I was looking at some of the last texts that we had, and I was recording at his studio and was like, ‘Nip, I don’t think I’m gong to make it tonight. I have allergies, I’m sneezing, I got a headache,’” she shared. “He was like, ‘Oh I got these herbs that are really good for you! I know where you can get some good stuff!’ And he was sending me links and like, ‘Sis, I got you, you gotta try this.’ And it just made me sad because he was such an amazing spirit. His heart was pure and he was always willing to help and always really positive.”

Ashanti added that the last time she and [Hussle](#) hung out, she played him some of her new music, and said she will be thinking of his feedback when it comes to picking [new songs to release](#).

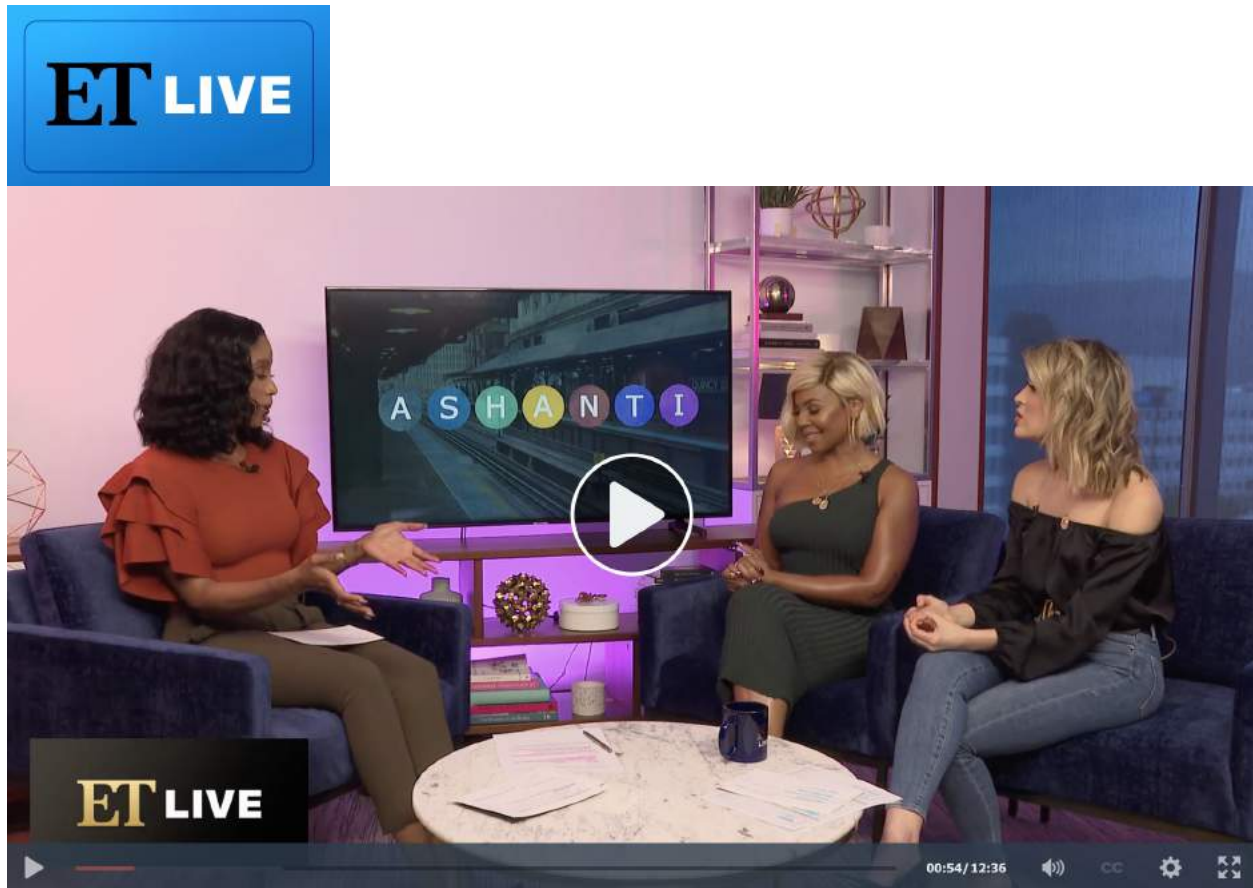
She will also continue to remember his legacy and the messages he worked hard to spread amid the music community and beyond.

“One of his messages that was so powerful as an artist [was] owning your masters,” she said. “Knowing about ownership. Thinking outside the box. Not holding onto these contracts and signing things that you know nothing about. Trying to make it on your own. Having your own platform, your own voice. Just thinking outside the box and trying to come up with other ways to be an entrepreneur.”

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ET Live

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Access Hollywood

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Getty Images

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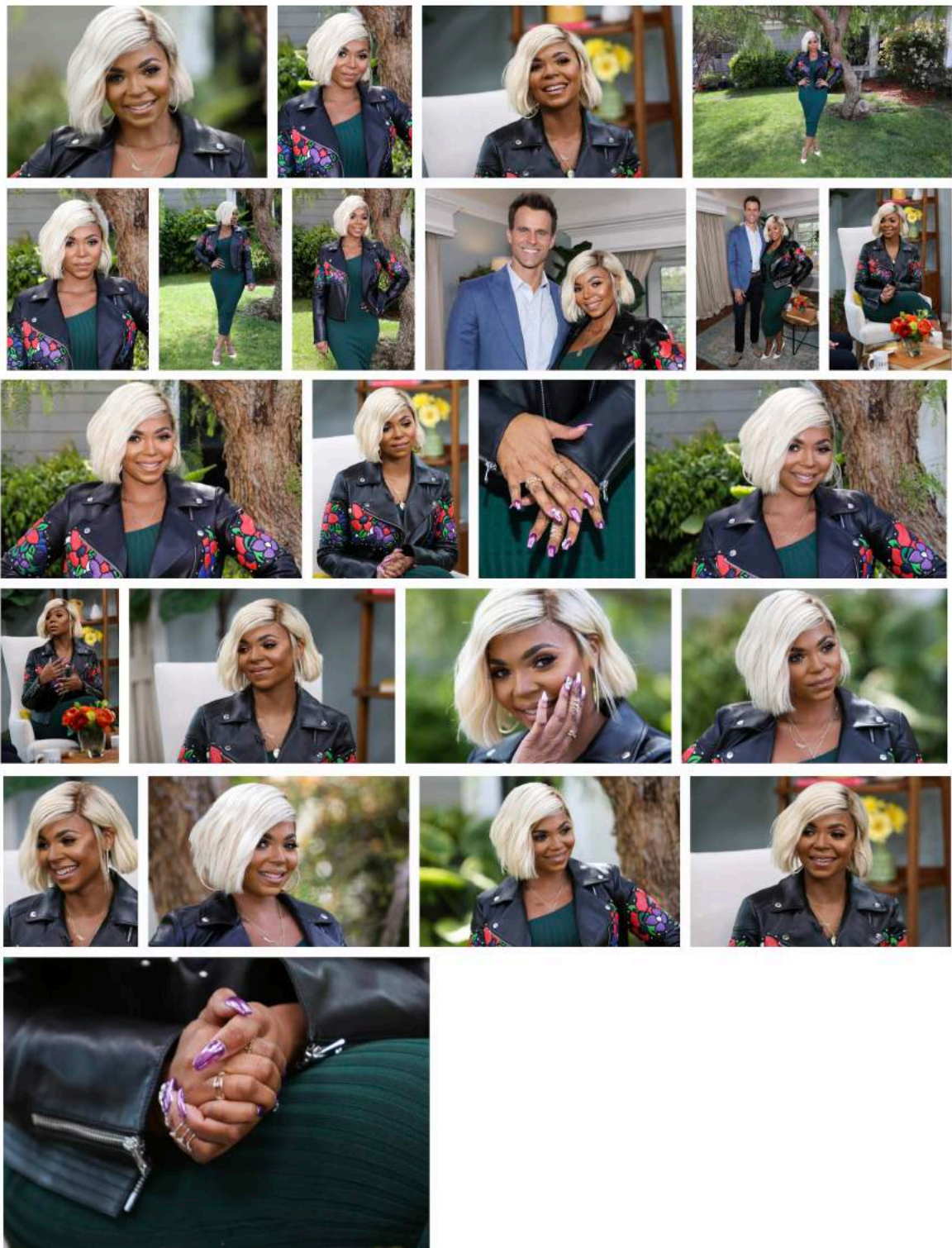
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Celebrities Visit Hallmark's "Home & Family"

UNIVERSAL CITY, CALIFORNIA - APRIL 15: Actress / Singer Ashanti visits Hallmark's "Home & Family" at Universal Studios Hollywood on April 15, 2019 in Universal City, California. (Photo by Paul Archuleta/Getty Images)



More from this event [View all >](#)



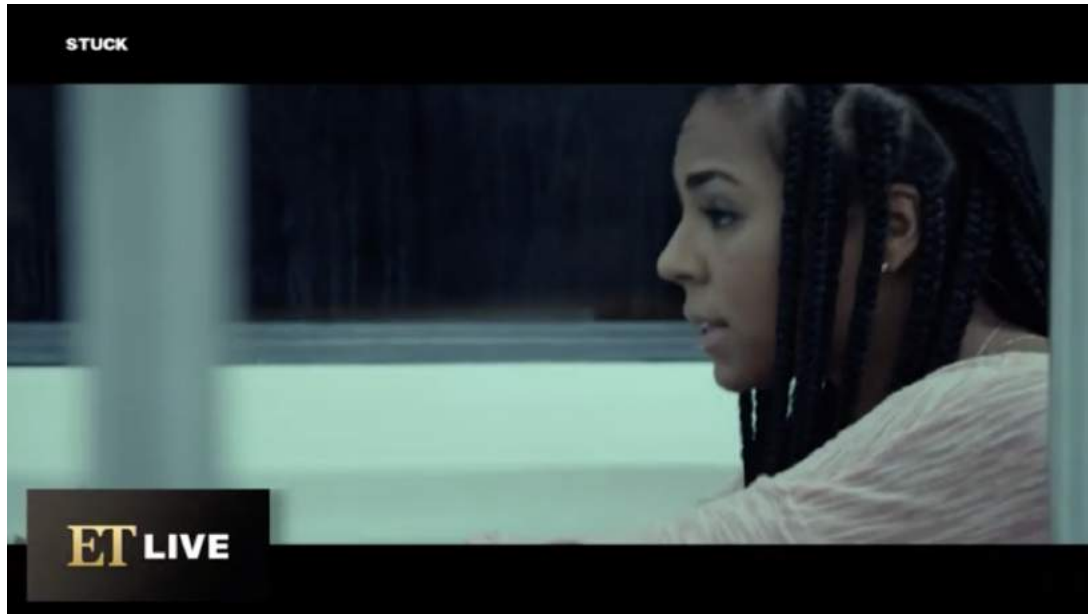
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Ashanti Shares the Last Text She Shared With Nipsey Hussle (Exclusive)

Duration: 12:37 15/04/2019

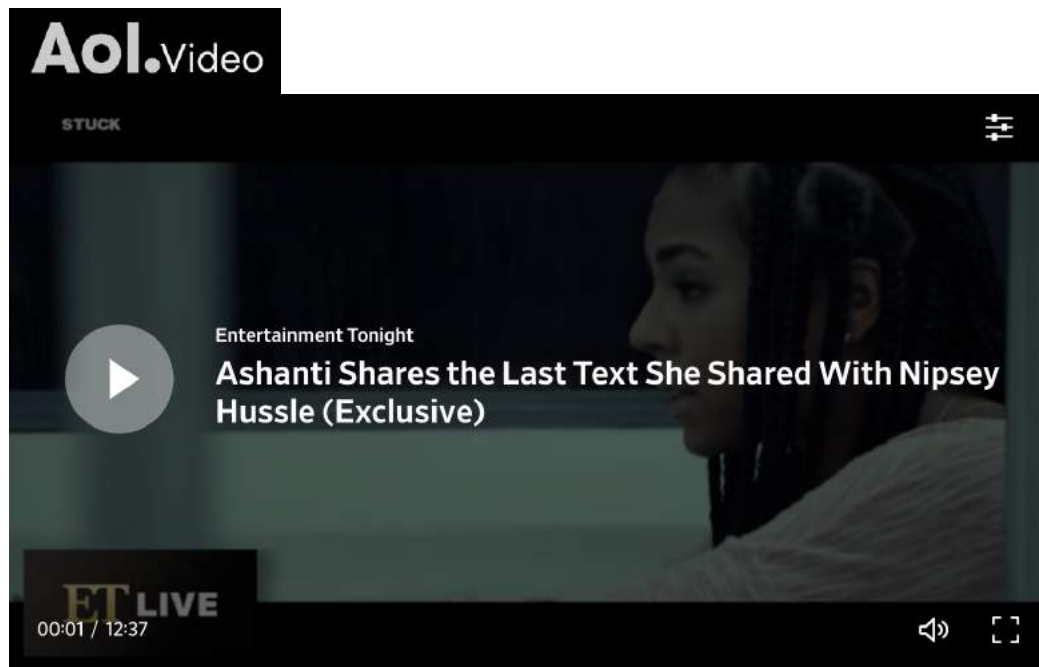


The singer and actress spoke with ET about her friendship with Nipsey Hussle and her new movie, 'Stuck,' premiering April 19.

04.15.19

AOL.com




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04.16.19

The Paul Mecurio Show

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

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24 min [Play](#)

Amy Madigan, Golden Globe Winning Actress

[The Paul Mecurio Show](#)

Comedy

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Seen in such iconic films as, "Gone Baby Gone," "Field of Dreams," "Places in The Heart," "Uncle Buck," it's a special treat to hear from this acting legend as she talks about her new movie musical, "Stuck," her days starting out as a young actress in NYC, her early music career and love of music, posing nude in a tub of jelly and more (but really how could you want any more than that!)

[Episode Website](#)

[More Episodes](#)

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04.16.19

Newsday

Unique Monthly Users: 3,165,549



ENTERTAINMENT / MOVIES

LI's Ashanti talks her new movie, 'Stuck'

The Glen Cove singer is also one of the executive producers of the movie about six diverse New Yorkers who interact on a delayed subway train.



By Glenn Gamboa

glenn.gamboa@newsday.com [@ndmusic](https://twitter.com/ndmusic)

Updated April 16, 2019 6:00 AM

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The movie "Stuck," about six diverse New Yorkers who interact on a delayed subway train, was held at the station for years before it finally hits theaters on Friday.

But as Ashanti, one of the movie musical's stars and executive producers, declared in her breakout hit with Ja Rule, she is always on time.

"They say everything happens for a reason and timing is everything," said the Glen Cove native. "You know what's so crazy? I think this is a really good time for the movie ... I think people are becoming cold because we are under so much pressure and we are continuously worrying about how to just survive. This is a message that can let people know on both sides of the fence that it's still OK to talk."

In "Stuck," Ashanti plays Eve, who stands up for herself and some of the others on the train while working through her own problems. That mix of strength and softness, as well as the chance to sing in the film, appealed to her.

"This is something that I hadn't done and I was like, 'Wow, this could be something cool,'" she said. "And just reading the script, the reality just set in, as a New Yorker and understanding the subway, this could really happen."

When Ashanti started work on the movie, which also stars Giancarlo Esposito and Amy Madigan, she really felt a connection to Eve, especially because she was working on launching her album "Braveheart" at the same time in 2014. "When we filmed that, there were a couple of things going on in my life, a couple of really wild changes," she said. "I was on my own, with my own label. I remember specifically the day that we shot my scene, where I had to sing my solo in the house, I also had to shoot a video with French Montana. And we were running behind."

Ashanti had already paid for the video shoot and the director, so they were all waiting for her to finish the movie shoot, as well as remove the intricate braids that Eve wears in the movie. "I literally had to take all those braids out of my hair after the shoot and then get it rebraided the next day to shoot again," she said. "It took like 27 hours. I had five girls taking braids out of my hair. It was crazy. But it definitely taught me that when I want something, I have to give it my all and just be determined to get it done. So to be able to say, I shot a video and I shot a film and they're both successful is a really cool feeling."

"Stuck" director Michael Berry said Ashanti was the only actress he approached to play Eve, impressed by the stories she tells in her music and her performance as Dorothy in City Center's 2009 production of "The Wiz."

"I thought she was really truthful and then I met with her and she's a blast," Berry said. "She's nice. She's so fun to make laugh. Her laugh is amazing. And she's a pro. She's just really, really ready to go. She wants to keep things simple, which is my favorite thing. And she really liked this character and she wanted to do it."

Though "Stuck," based on an Off-Broadway musical, was originally expected to be released in 2017, Berry said the delay may work to its advantage.

"Of all times, it's a good time for this movie," he said. "It's a good time for a movie about having compassion for people who are different from you, who have different beliefs and opinions."

WHAT "Stuck"

WHEN|WHERE In limited release Friday, at AMC Times Square and Cinema Village in Manhattan

INFO stuckmovie2019.com

04.16.19

Broadway Wiz

Unique Monthly Users: 12,000



Gerard Canonico is "Stuck" on Musicals

From a young age, Gerard Canonico knew he wanted to be in front of a camera. Theater wasn't on his radar, but then he was cast in *Les Misérables* and made his Broadway debut at only ten years old. Since then, Gerard has had a busy career in shows like *Spring Awakening*, *American Idiot*, and *Groundhog Day*. He is currently playing Rich in *Be More Chill* and is starring in the movie musical, *Stuck*.



When did you first become interested in theater and decide to pursue it as a career?

When I was 7 years old I noticed a friend of mine was in an ad for the Gap or Old Navy or something. And I thought to myself "huh, I could do that". So my mom arranged meetings with managers and we found one who started sending me out for auditions. First for print and then for commercials. Within 4 weeks I booked my first national network commercial for Burger King. I turned 8 on that shoot. Then my manager sent me out for the tour of *Les Misérables*. I had never auditioned for musicals or sung professionally, so it was a bit scary for my parents. I, however, was fearless and I believe I sang "I Just Can't Wait To Be King" for my first audition. They called me back and gave me specific Gavroche material. It went well. Six months later I got a phone call saying they didn't want me on the tour but instead, I was going to replace the current actor on Broadway and make my Broadway debut with *Les Misérables* in the summer of 1999. Needless to say, I was hooked and I haven't stopped performing in theater since!



Gerard Canonico as Gavroche in *Les Misérables*

Are there any shows that have had a big impact on you?

The shows that started my obsession with the type of musical theater I pursue would be *Footloose* and *Rent*. They showed me that you don't have to stick to convention in order to make good musical theater. You can rock belt in a musical!!! It sort of changed my perspective on what was "allowed".

You list *Groundhog Day* as your favorite credit, what was it about that show that made it so special to you?

Groundhog Day was quite the experience! When I say "favorite" it's because I can't put all my credits for certain categories in my bio or it'll be hundreds of words long. It's up there as one of the greatest shows I've ever been in. The experience backstage was the polar opposite of the experience onstage. It was kind of brutal backstage and the creative team was very hard on us. We were all character actors, however we were being treated like principal dancers. Very different ways of working. My all time favorite Broadway show that I've gotten to do night after night was *American Idiot*. I never got tired of doing that show. It was like a rocket exploded from start to finish and you're either on the ride or you'll fall off. It was thrilling.



Backstage at *Groundhog Day*

Stuck is a very different kind of movie musical, can you tell us more about it?

Stuck is a movie about six people of different ethnicities and backgrounds who all get stuck and locked into their 1 train car underground in NYC. Throughout the movie, you get a peek at each of our outside worlds through song. The songs sort of transport us to different times and places in these characters lives. It's as if we take a trip into their brains and memories and the words they are singing become vibrantly alive in front of you and then when the song is over, it's back to the train car. They all grapple with assumptions about each other. Mostly unfair ones. We get to really "see" each character through the journey of the movie. Keeping things interesting in a tight space like that proved to be the biggest challenge but we all made it work!



The cast of Stuck: Amy Madigan, Gerard Canonico, Arden Cho, Ashanti, Omar Chaparro

What was it that drew you to the role?

Well, this was a last minute booking. I wasn't working on much at the time but I just switched agencies. They called me one day and said I have a last minute feature film audition for a musical movie. I said "okay sure". Not expecting anything, I listened to the song and it reminded me of a U2 song and I immediately was like "ohhhhhh I have to sing this in this movie." Then I read the script and I was sold. The character is very misunderstood. He's pre-judged. He's made out to be something he's not at all. I feel that we as a society do that to people all the time. I've had it happen to me my whole life. I'm just some punk and I'm probably stealing something or not paying my tab or whatever. I felt immediately connected to that idea. So I auditioned on a Tuesday. Read with my co-star on Wednesday for a call back and by Thursday I was on set. Apparently they had to fire the person they hired originally because he couldn't handle the workload. The director (Michael Berry) begged the producers to let him hire a theater kid cuz we get sh

it done fast. Low and behold, I was making my principal debut in a film in my mid twenties. Four years later and the movie is finally seeing the light of day. I'm so thrilled!

Have you ever been stuck on the subway?

Regularly. So regularly in fact, that I can no longer rely on it in my life to get me anywhere on time without leaving a ridiculous amount of extra travel time. It's becoming a real problem.



Gerard Canonico in Stuck

What's the strangest or funniest experience you have ever had on the NYC subways?

Too many to count really. I don't enjoy those guys who do "showtime." But there is a quartet of older gentlemen that always sing barbershop style through the train cars and their harmonies are great! Their spirits are high! It's always a delight to see them.

Be More Chill had a lot of fans before it even opened on Broadway. What is it like to be part of a popular show like that?

Totally surreal. Yet, we are so separated from the mania of it because we created it. It feels incredible to have people see themselves in this show and attach themselves to certain characters. It gives me ease to know that we are doing our jobs to convey these characters with hyper detail and people are responding so positively to that.

Were you a cool kid in high school?

I wouldn't say "cool" but I was respected. In middle school, I was bullied relentlessly. Every single day. Verbally and physically. I've had to literally fight my whole childhood for respect. Kids would always call me gay (but the meaner and more offensive word) regularly because I did theater. Which honestly, if you think I'm gay and that's affecting you negatively, then DAMN you got issues. Once I got to high school, I had an opportunity to start fresh and be boldly myself at that time. People definitely respected me for singing solos very early on in freshman year during church (I went to Catholic school, it was a nightmare), but there were still those odd three or four jocks who hadn't fully evolved yet so they used their insecurities to create anger to try to intimidate me. But I didn't care, I was fourteen with a savings account, haha.

What message do you want fans to take away from *Be More Chill*?

Be yourself. Loudly and proudly. Have opinions. Have conflicting thoughts. Have moments of doubt. Have sadness. Have all of it and receive it to move forward. Don't try to change yourself for anyone else. You are absolutely enough.

If you could revisit any previous role, which would it be?

Moritz in *Spring Awakening*

If you could switch places with anyone on Broadway right now and play their role for one show, who would you choose?

Andrew Feldman as Evan in *Dear Evan Hansen*. I'm a dinosaur now, but I never got to go on when I covered all the guys at Second Stage, so it would feel full circle.

If there were a book or play about your life, what would the title be?

Too Blunt for Broadway.



STUCK is a modern pop musical set almost entirely on the New York City subway. Through the power of music, six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway learn about each others very different lives, and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another, becoming a day they will never forget. IN SELECT THEATERS NATIONWIDE APRIL 19th



04.16.19

Mail Online

Unique Monthly Users: 302,567,769

Daily **Mail**
.com

Ashanti shows off her legs in clinging metallic purple mini dress for Extra interview as she talks new movie Stuck

By [BRIAN GALLAGHER FOR DAILYMIL.COM](#)

PUBLISHED: 02:42 EDT, 16 April 2019 | UPDATED: 11:42 EDT, 16 April 2019

Ashanti rocked a super short mini-dress to promote her new movie Stuck on Extra Monday.

The 38 year old singer and actress was interviewed by Tanika Ray on Extra, with the interview slated to debut on Extra during Tuesday's all new episode.

Her film Stuck, a New York-set musical also starring Giancarlo Esposito and Amy Madigan, is slated to hit theaters April 19.





Ashanti smiles: Ashanti rocked a super short mini-dress to promote her new movie *Stuck on* Extra Monday



Interview: The 38 year old singer and actress was interviewed by Tanika Ray on Extra, with the interview slated to debut on Extra during Tuesday's all new episode



Posing: Ashanti (born Ashanti Shequoiya Douglas) was wearing a slinky and short purple mini-dress



Ashanti's style: She was also wearing large gold hoop earrings and black heels, with purple nails that matched her dress

Ashanti also took some time to take selfies with fans during her time on the Extra set after her interview.

The singer and actress plays Eve in *Stuck*, a pop musical set in New York City, which follows a group of strangers who get stuck on a NYC subway.

Eve is one of six strangers, whose lives are changed forever through their encounter on the stuck subway car.

Ashanti also stars in the CBS pilot *Murder*, which is based on the BBC true crime anthology series of the same name.

The show, 'takes the audience inside the emotional journey of an investigation, allowing them to discern the truth and judge the suspects' guilt or innocence for themselves,' according to the plot description.

The multi-talented actress stars alongside Michael Chiklis, Luna Lauren Velez and Tenoyah Parris.

Ashanti also revealed last June that she is working on new music, a collaborative album with Ja Rule.

'Listen, me and Rule, it's so funny because we've been talking about that for so long, but I think now he's like, "OK, now it's time to do it,"' she said in an interview with **Entertainment Tonight** at the BET Awards in June.

Ja Rule first sparked speculation about the album when he tweeted about Beyonce and Jay-Z's collaborative album, *The Carters*, tweeting to Ashanti that, 'I think we should do one of these joint albums haha.'

04.16.19

Mail Online

Unique Monthly Users: 302,567,769

Daily **Mail**
.com

Ashanti reveals she was working on new music with Nipsey Hussle before his tragic death: 'He was an amazing spirit who was willing to help anyone'

By [HEIDI PARKER FOR DAILYMAIL.COM](#)

PUBLISHED: 10:04 EDT, 16 April 2019 | **UPDATED:** 11:38 EDT, 16 April 2019

Ashanti has revealed she was working with Nipsey Hussle before his death.

The 38-year-old singer told Extra that Nispey - a 33-year-old rapper was shot and killed last month outside his Marathon clothing store in Los Angeles - was a very supportive man.

The recording artist added he had an 'amazing spirit' and was 'willing' to help anyone.



They were making music: Ashanti has revealed she was working with Nipsey Hussle before his death. The 38-year-old singer told Extra that Nispey - a 33-year-old rapper was shot and killed last month outside his Marathon clothing store in Los Angeles - was a very supportive man

'It's funny because I was looking at some of the last texts that we had, and I was recording at his studio and was like, "Nip, I don't think I'm gong to make it tonight. I have allergies, I'm sneezing, I got a headache."

'And he was like, "Oh I got these herbs that are really good for you! I know where you can get some good stuff!"

'And he was sending me links and like, "Sis, I got you, you gotta try this."

The singer admitted that she felt the blow of his loss.



'It just made me sad because he was such an amazing spirit. His heart was pure and he was always willing to help and always really positive.'

The Foolish hitmaker says the invaluable advice he gave her on the music industry and feedback on her new songs will always stay with her.

She added to Entertainment Tonight: 'One of his messages that was so powerful as an artist [was] owning your masters.'

'Knowing about ownership. Thinking outside the box. Not holding onto these contracts and signing things that you know nothing about.'

'Trying to make it on your own. Having your own platform, your own voice. Just thinking outside the box and trying to come up with other ways to be an entrepreneur.'



Ashanti smiles: Ashanti rocked a super short mini-dress to promote her new movie Stuck on Extra Monday

Ashanti admitted that she is still in 'disbelief' that Nipsey - who was laid to rest in Los Angeles last week - is gone and said he had 'so much more' he wanted to do and that his passing is a reminder of how 'precious' life is.

She added: 'I'm still little bit in disbelief. Going to the funeral, I think it shocked me a little bit and it became a reality, seeing the casket on the stage. It was like everyone stood back like, "This really happened," and it just shows you that life is so short and so precious.

'He's such an amazing person and an amazing spirit and he's done so much. He had so much more that he was doing.'

Ashanti rocked a super short mini-dress to promote her new movie Stuck on Extra on Monday.

The 38 year old singer and actress was interviewed by Tanika Ray on Extra, with the interview.

Her film Stuck, a New York-set musical also starring Giancarlo Esposito and Amy Madigan, is slated to hit theaters April 19.

Ashanti (born Ashanti Shequoiya Douglas) was wearing a slinky and short purple mini-dress.

She was also wearing large gold hoop earrings and black heels, with purple nails that matched her dress.

Her mini-dress had a purple sash that hung down the front, below the edge of her skirt hem.

Ashanti also took some time to take selfies with fans during her time on the Extra set after her interview.

The singer and actress plays Eve in Stuck, a pop musical set in New York City, which follows a group of strangers who get stuck on a NYC subway.

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04.16.19

Mail Online

Unique Monthly Users: 302,567,769

Daily **Mail**
.com

Ashanti stuns in VERY low-cut metallic silver dress at New York City premiere of her new film Stuck

By [BRIAN GALLAGHER FOR DAILYMAIL.COM](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:01 EDT, 16 April 2019 | **UPDATED:** 14:51 EDT, 19 April 2019

Just one day after appearing on Extra in Los Angeles, singer/actress Ashanti was arrived in **New York City** for the premiere of her new film Stuck.

The 38 year old singer/actress was spotted posing on the red carpet with her co-star Arden Cho during the event at the Crosby Hotel.

Her film Stuck, a musical set on a New York City subway car, opens in theaters nationwide on April 19.



Ashanti's premiere: Ashanti poses on the red carpet of the New York premiere of her new musical drama Stuck on Tuesday night

Ashanti (real name Ashanti Shequoiya Douglas) was wearing an elegant metallic silver dress with a plunging neckline.

She was also wearing rather large and elaborate diamond earrings plus a diamond encrusted bracelet at the premiere.



Premiere look: Ashanti (real name Ashanti Shequoiya Douglas) was wearing an elegant metallic silver dress with a plunging neckline

Stuck is described as an original pop musical drama that follows six strangers who get stuck on a New York City subway car.

Through their interactions during this harrowing ordeal, their lives are all changed in ways they weren't expecting.

Ashanti and Cho are part of a cast that also includes Giancarlo Esposito, Amy Madigan, Omar Chaparro and Gerard Canonico.

VH1 announced yesterday its annual "Dear Mama: A Love Letter to Mom" will premiere on Monday, May 6th at 10PM ET/PT.

Ashanti and MTV Push Artist H.E.R. will perform and pay tribute to their mothers who have shaped their success. Ciara, on behalf of #SeeHer, will honor deserving moms for the strides they've made in support of the group's mission of increasing accurate representation of women and girls in advertising and media.



Co-stars: The 38 year old singer/actress was spotted posing on the red carpet with her co-star Arden Cho during the event at the Crosby Hotel

Ashanti also stars in the CBS pilot *Murder*, which is based on the BBC true crime anthology series of the same name.

The show, 'takes the audience inside the emotional journey of an investigation, allowing them to discern the truth and judge the suspects' guilt or innocence for themselves,' according to the plot description.

The multi-talented actress stars alongside Michael Chiklis, Luna Lauren Velez and Tenoyah Parris.

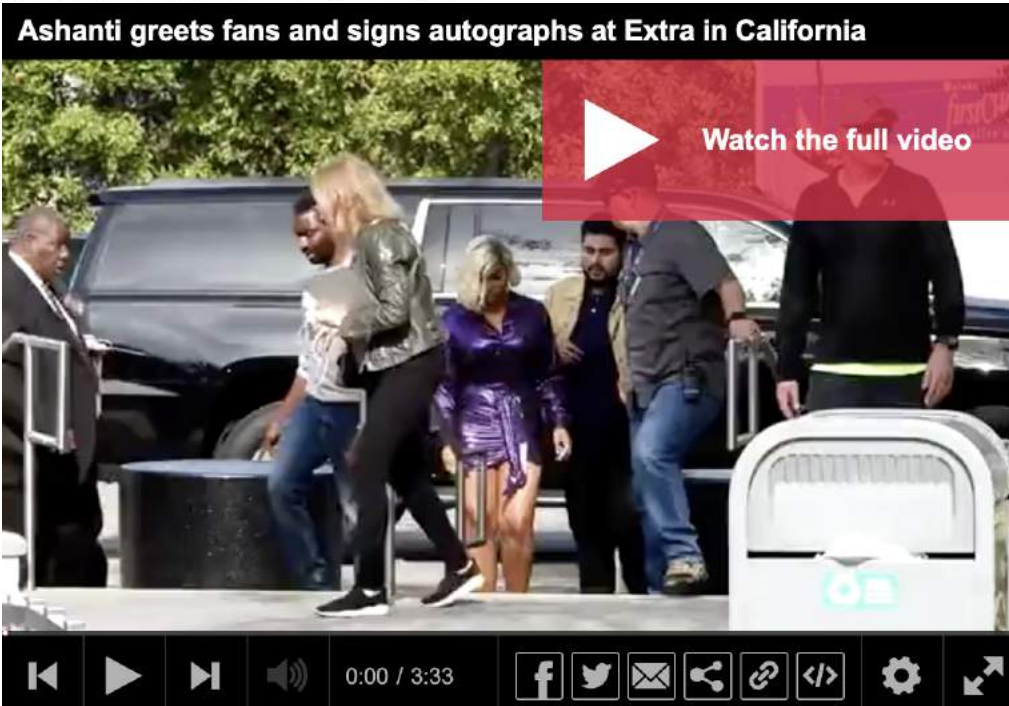


Coming soon: Ashanti also stars in the CBS pilot *Murder*, which is based on the BBC true crime anthology series of the same name

Ashanti was first discovered as a teenager and signed to Murder Inc. Records before appearing on the hit song What's Luv with Fat Joe and Ja Rule's Always On Time in 2001.

She released her self-titled debut album in 2002, followed by Chapter II and Ashanti's Christmas in 2003, Concrete Rose in 2004, The Declaration in 2008 and Braveheart in 2014.

The singer revealed last June that she's working on a collaborative album with Ja Rule, that may be released later this year.



04.16.19

Radio Now Houston

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Home > Entertainment News

Ashanti Produces And Stars In New Musical Film "STUCK" [VIDEO]



Written By Amir Diamond

Posted April 16, 2019



Source: MJW Films / MJW Films

I used to have Ashanti posters plastered on my bedroom walls in my Bush High School days. I freekin loooooove her. It's amazing at how she manages to still look so young and beautiful. She looks better than some girls half of her age. Check out the trailer to the new musical-movie she's starring in and producing called STUCK:



Follow @AmirDiamond & @RadioNowHouston on Instagram

04.16.19

Entertainment Tonight Online

Unique Monthly Users: 9,384,904



MUSIC

Ashanti Shares Her Last Text With Nipsey Hussle: 'I'm Still in Disbelief' (Exclusive)



Two weeks after Nipsey Hussle's shocking death, R&B star [Ashanti](#) is still in "disbelief" about the beloved rapper's passing.

Hussle was [shot and killed on March 31](#) outside his clothing store in South Los Angeles.

"I'm still little bit in disbelief," Ashanti shared while stopping by ET Live on Monday. "Going to the funeral, I think it shocked me a little bit and it became a reality, seeing the casket on the stage. It was like everyone stood back like, 'This really happened,' and it just shows you that life is so short and so precious."

"He's such an amazing person and an amazing spirit and he's done so much," she added. "He had so much more that he was doing."

The “Foolish” singer noted how special it was to see the “[overflowing](#)” [love from fans](#) following the musician’s death and even more significant to see how those who didn’t even know him have felt his loss.

“It’s so weird, I got a text from one of my friends, and she didn’t know him personally at all, and she’s like, ‘My heart is hurting,’” Ashanti said. “You didn’t have to know him personally. He touched people without you knowing the person.”

As a close pal of Hussle’s, Ashanti reflected on what a great friend he was, recalling how he tried to help her battle a recent illness, which prevented her heading to the studio to work with him.

“Nip was always helpful. It’s funny because I was looking at some of the last texts that we had, and I was recording at his studio and was like, ‘Nip, I don’t think I’m gong to make it tonight. I have allergies, I’m sneezing, I got a headache,’” she shared. “He was like, ‘Oh I got these herbs that are really good for you! I know where you can get some good stuff!’ And he was sending me links and like, ‘Sis, I got you, you gotta try this.’ And it just made me sad because he was such an amazing spirit. His heart was pure and he was always willing to help and always really positive.”

Ashanti added that the last time she and [Hussle](#) hung out, she played him some of her new music, and said she will be thinking of his feedback when it comes to picking [new songs to release](#).

She will also continue to remember his legacy and the messages he worked hard to spread amid the music community and beyond.

“One of his messages that was so powerful as an artist [was] owning your masters,” she said. “Knowing about ownership. Thinking outside the box. Not holding onto these contracts and signing things that you know nothing about. Trying to make it on your own. Having your own platform, your own voice. Just thinking outside the box and trying to come up with other ways to be an entrepreneur.”

Spreading important messages is also something the singer is passionate about, as evidenced by her latest project, *Stuck*. The musical drama centers on six strangers from different backgrounds, who get trapped on a New York subway and must learn to connect through cultural, racial and class boundaries.

"Although we shot the film a little while ago, I think the message is way more prominent now," Ashanti said. "I just think it's important to be kind. You never know what a person is going through, you never know what they've experienced. Having six different people from six different walks of life being stuck and faced with those frustrations and those racial stereotypes and stuff -- it's like a mirror to say, 'Hello? We're all human at the end of the day.'"

As well as starring in the film as Eve, [Ashanti](#) also executive produced the project.

"It was good," she says of working behind the scenes. "Sometimes as things don't go as you would like them to go, you have to step in and call some shots and make some statements to get things done!"

See more on Ashanti and the [death of Hussle](#) below.

04.17.19

Lipstick Alley

Unique Monthly Users: 510,579

LIPSTICK ALLEY

Ashanti, 38, at New York City premiere of her new film Stuck

Discussion in 'Paparazzi Alley' started by funnywithfierce, Apr 17, 2019.









Source: Ashanti stuns in VERY low-cut metallic silver dress at New York City premiere of her new film Stuck | Daily Mail Online

04.17.19

New York Post Page Six Online

Unique Monthly Users: 23,952,440

Page Six



Ashanti nearly 'Stuck' without a seat after woman refuses to move at premiere

By Francesca Bacardi

April 17, 2019 | 9:50am



**MORE ON:
ASHANTI**

**Ashanti is giving her friends
deodorant for Christmas**

**Ja Rule supports Ashanti at
party amid joint album talk**

**Ashanti's comeback
includes a 'sexy and
swaggy' fashion line**

**Star couple late to movie
premiere thanks to car
trouble**

Ashanti almost didn't get a seat at her own movie premiere.

As Ashanti made her way into the screening room at the Crosby Street Hotel on Tuesday night to watch the premiere of her new movie-musical, "Stuck," she found herself without a seat.

Spies told Page Six that a woman working the event asked another woman sitting in a "reserved row" if she could vacate her seat, as the "reserved" rows were designated for cast members and their friends and family.

The woman refused and put up a fight with the usher.

"We need two seats for Ashanti, who is a member of the cast," the employee was heard telling the stubborn viewer.

The "Rock Wit U" songstress and star of the evening, however, had no problem sitting elsewhere.

"I'll sit in the back," Ashanti was heard saying. "I'll sit back there. I've seen the movie!"

Eventually, three men volunteered to move so that Ashanti could sit with her father and younger sister. As the men exited the row, Ashanti was seen graciously thanking them. The woman never moved except to allow Ashanti and her family into their seats.

Fellow cast member Arden Cho and the film's director, Michael Berry, were also in attendance and put on a brief Q&A following the film.

We're told that "Stuck" cast member and Broadway star Gerard Canonico rushed from his Broadway performance in "Be More Chill" to attend the reception that followed the screening, where Ashanti was seen posing for photos with fans.

"Stuck" also stars Giancarlo Esposito, Amy Madigan and Omar Chaparro, but they were unable to attend the premiere due to scheduling conflicts.



FILED UNDER ASHANTI, MOVIE PREMIERE

04.17.19

Just Jared

Unique Monthly Users: 6,569,967



Ashanti Shines At New York Premiere of 'Stuck' - Watch Trailer!



Ashanti is radiant as she hits the red carpet at the New York premiere of ***Stuck*** held at the Crosby Street Hotel on Tuesday evening (April 16) in New York City.

The 38-year-old singer-actress was joined at the event by her co-star **Arden Cho**, executive producer **Aaron Klusman**, producer **Mike Witherill**, co-composer **Tim Young**, choreographer **Shannon Lewis** and director **Michael Berry**.

Ashanti is also one of the executive producers of the movie about six diverse New Yorkers who interact on a delayed subway train.

"They say everything happens for a reason and timing is everything," **Ashanti** recently expressed about the film's two

year delay. "You know what's so crazy? I think this is a really good time for the movie... I think people are becoming cold because we are under so much pressure and we are continuously worrying about how to just survive. This is a message that can let people know on both sides of the fence that it's still OK to talk."



'Stuck' Movie Trailer

FYI: **Ashanti** is wearing a *Honayda* dress, *Giuseppe Zanotti* shoes, and *Lorraine Schwartz* jewelry.



04.17.19

Just Jared Jr.

Unique Monthly Users: 700,040



Arden Cho Shines in Pretty Pink Dress at 'Stuck' Premiere in New York City



Arden Cho looks lovely in a pink dress at the premiere of her new movie, ***Stuck***, held at Crosby Street Hotel on Tuesday night (April 16) in New York City.

The 33-year-old actress joined co-star **Ashanti** and director **Michael Barry** for the event.

Arden actually brought her mom **as her date!**

Stuck is about six strangers, trapped in a subway car, who over the course of the day come to change each other's lives in unexpected ways, and has a simple message about love and compassion and seeing that people,

as a whole, are not so very different from one another.

Arden plays Alicia, an aspiring dancer with a deep secret.

FYI: **Arden** wore a *Rebecca Taylor* dress.



04.17.19

Wonderwall

Unique Monthly Users: 878,058

WONDERWALL

SIT DOWN

ASHANTI DIDN'T HAVE A SEAT AT HER OWN MOVIE PREMIERE

By Mark Gray • Wonderwall • 9:31am PDT, Apr 17, 2019

Ashanti was a woman without a seat at her own movie premiere.

On Tuesday night, the R&B singer's new movie-musical "Stuck" premiered in New York, but Ashanti was seatless. Page Six said a woman working the event asked another woman sitting in a "reserved row" if she could vacate her seat, as the "reserved" rows were designated for cast members and their friends and family.



Charles Sykes/Invision/AP/REX/Shutterstock

The woman refused to budge, even after being told that Ashanti was in the film.

The singer, though, was a good sport.

"I'll sit in the back," she said. "I'll sit back there. I've seen the movie!"

Noticing the commotion, several men graciously volunteered to move so that Ashanti could sit with her father and younger sister. In a twist of fate, the aforementioned woman had to get up to let Ashanti and her family into their new seats.

The seat snafu didn't seem to put a damper on Ashanti's night, as she gushed about the evening on Instagram.



34,028 likes

ashanti

What an amazing night...at the premiere of my musical film "Stuck".. in theaters this Friday!

[view all 426 comments](#)

[Add a comment...](#)



"What an amazing night...at the premiere of my musical film "Stuck".. in theaters this Friday!," she captioned a photo from the red carpet.



04.17.19

Urban Girl Mag

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

URBAN GIRL MAG



R&B ARTIST ASHANTI AND ACTRESS ARDEN CHO PREMIERES THEIR NEW MOVIE STUCK IN NYC

📄 Desiree Hadley | 🕒 17.04.2019 | 📁 Celebrities, Entertainment | 🔍 🔍 | ❤️ 0 | ➦ Share

Last night, Multi Grammy Award-winning RnB artist and actress Ashanti and actress Arden Cho (*Teen Wolf*) celebrated the release of their new modern musical film *STUCK* from director Michael Berry at the NYC premiere at the Crosby Street Hotel.

Ashanti and Arden Cho shined in stunning metallic dresses and discussed what they loved about their roles in *STUCK*, a pop musical film set on the New York City subway, riding into theaters on Friday, April 19. Ashanti wore a low-cut metallic silver dress by Escada paired with Lorraine Schwartz jewelry. Arden Cho wore a pink metallic dress by Rebecca Taylor paired with clear strap Vince Camuto shoes.



Ashanti, Arden Cho and Michael Berry were joined on the red carpet by Berry's wife, Broadway actress Sarah Uriarte Berry and actress Patten Hughes (*Heirloom*), Broadway actress Jessica Bogart (*Rent*), author of "*The Shadow of Freedom*" Tchicaya Missamou and *STUCK* crew members Mike Witherill (producer), Riley Thomas (Writer & Co-Composer), Tim Young (*Executive Music Producer & Co-Composer*) and Shannon Lewis (choreographer). *STUCK* cast member, Broadway star Gerard Canonico rushed from his Broadway performance in "*Be More Chill*" to attend the reception that followed the screening.



Guests enjoyed delicious canapés and an open bar at the stunning Soho Crosby Street Hotel.

STUCK also stars Giancarlo Esposito, Amy Madigan and Omar Chaparro who were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts but sent video messages to the cast and crew to show their support.

04.17.19

Top Movie and TV

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

Top Movie and TV

ARDEN CHO SHINES IN PRETTY PINK DRESS AT 'STUCK' PREMIERE IN NEW YORK CITY

April 17, 2019 |



Arden Cho looks lovely in a pink dress at the premiere of her new movie, ***Stuck***, held at Crosby Street Hotel on Tuesday night (April 16) in New York City.

The 33-year-old actress joined co-star **Ashanti** and director **Michael Barry** for the event.

Arden actually brought her mom as her date!

Stuck is about six strangers, trapped in a subway car, who over the course of the day come to change each other's lives in unexpected ways, and has a simple message about love and compassion and seeing that people, as a whole, are not so very different from one another.

Arden plays Alicia, an aspiring dancer with a deep secret.

FYI: **Arden** wore a *Rebecca Taylor* dress.

04.17.19

The Pledge

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Ashanti Stuns In Very Low-Cut Metallic Silver Dress

🕒 April 17, 2019 | 💬 0 | 👁 70



Just one day after appearing on Extra in Los Angeles, singer/actress Ashanti was arrived in New York City for the premiere of her new film Stuck.

The 38 year old singer/actress was spotted posing on the red carpet with her co-star Arden Cho during the event at the Crosby Hotel.

Her film Stuck, a musical set on a New York City subway car, opens in theaters nationwide on April 19.

Ashanti (real name Ashanti Shequoiya Douglas) was wearing an elegant metallic silver dress with a plunging neckline.

She was also wearing rather large and elaborate diamond earrings plus a diamond encrusted bracelet at the premiere.

Her dress had a slit up the leg, which revealed her silver strappy heels.

Stuck is described as an original pop musical drama that follows six strangers who get stuck on a New York City subway car.

Through their interactions during this harrowing ordeal, their lives are all changed in ways they weren't expecting.

Ashanti and Cho are part of a cast that also includes Giancarlo Esposito, Amy Madigan, Omar Chaparro and Gerard Canonico.

Dailymail

04.17.19

Hip Hollywood

Unique Monthly Users: 97,576



NEWS

#AboutLastNight: Ashanti Is Hawt, Wiz Khalifa Is High & A Kardashian Is Honored!



Published 4 weeks ago on April 17, 2019

By [Vanessa Barnett](#)

From New York to Los Angeles, celebs hit the town to celebrate premieres, debuts and openings. And, because you're not Superman, you may have missed it. Don't fret — that's why we're here. Take a look at a round-up of last night's events including a gorgeous Ashanti, a turnt up Wiz, and a few Kardashians.

The princess of R&B hit the red carpet to celebrate her big screen role in the new movie "Stuck". Ashanti looked radiant in silver as she posed solo and with the cast at Crosby Street Hotel in NY.





Executive producer Aaron Klusman, producer Mike Witherill, choreographer Shannon Lewis, director Michael Berry, Ashanti, co-composer Tim Young, Arden Cho, and writer and co-composer Riley Thomas

04.17.19

On Mogul

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

Mogul

**Ashanti and Arden Cho
shine in metallic at NYC
premiere of STUCK last
night**



Judith Davis
23rd - New York, NY, United States · Story
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Ashanti and Arden Cho shined in stunning metallic dresses and discussed what they loved about their roles in [STUCK](#), a pop musical film set on the New York City subway, riding into theaters on Friday, April 19. Ashanti wore a low-cut metallic silver dress by Escada paired with Lorraine Schwartz jewelry. Arden Cho wore a pink metallic dress by Rebecca Taylor paired with clear strap Vince Camuto shoes.



Ashanti, Arden Cho and Michael Berry were joined on the red carpet by Berry's wife, Broadway actress Sarah Uriarte Berry and actress Patten Hughes (Heirloom), Broadway actress Jessica Bogart (Rent), author of "The Shadow of Freedom" Tchicaya Missamou and STUCK crew members Mike Witherill (producer), Riley Thomas (Writer & Co-Composer), Tim Young (Executive Music Producer & Co-Composer) and Shannon Lewis (choreographer). STUCK cast member, Broadway star Gerard Canonico rushed from his Broadway performance in "Be More Chill" to attend the reception that followed the screening.



Guests enjoyed delicious canapés and an open bar at the stunning Soho Crosby Street Hotel.

STUCK also stars **Giancarlo Esposito**, **Amy Madigan**, and **Omar Chaparro** who were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts but sent video messages to the cast and crew to show their support.

Through the power of music, six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway in [STUCK](#) learn about each others very different lives, and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another, becoming a day they will never forget. Connecting across lines of race, culture and class in a way that only situations of circumstance or happenstance can create, this will be a day that none of them will ever forget. STUCK is a timely film that reminds people in our troubled times on the importance of connecting with one another and valuing others.



04.17.19

Billboard Online

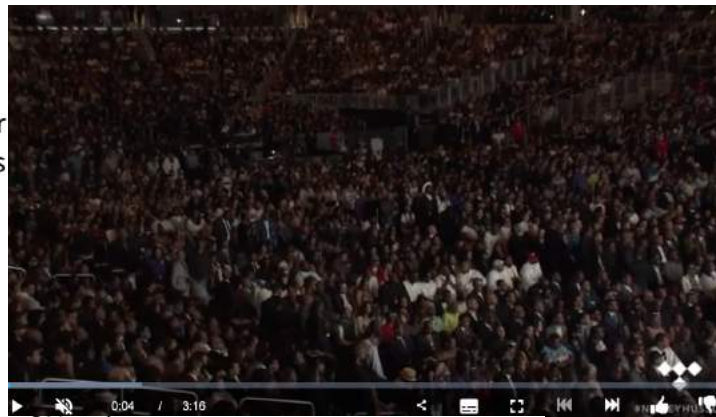
Unique Monthly Users: 23,992,907



HIP-HOP

Ashanti Remembers Nipsey Hussle, Shares Their Last Text Messages

Ashanti had grown close to [Nipsey Hussle](#) over the years through her sister's relationship with the late rapper's girlfriend Lauren London. She was in attendance at the Staples Center to say her goodbyes to the Los Angeles MC during his [Celebration of Life ceremony](#) last week. On Monday (April 15), Ashanti stopped by [Entertainment Tonight](#) to promote her upcoming musical project *Stuck*, and to remember Neighborhood Nip by sharing some of her favorite memories of Hussle.



"I'm still a little bit in disbelief," the "Baby" singer reflected. "Going to the funeral, I think it shocked me a little bit and it became a reality, seeing the casket on the stage. It was like everyone stood back like, 'This really happened,' and it just shows you that life is so short and so precious. He's such an amazing person and an amazing spirit. He had so much more that he was doing."

The New York native recalled recently recording at Nipsey's studio, but having to leave early when her allergies acted up. "Nip was always helpful. It's funny because I was looking at some of the last texts that we had, and I was recording at his studio and was like, 'Nip, I don't think I'm gong to make it tonight. I have allergies, I'm sneezing, I got a headache,'" she said.

She recalled that Nip was always about wellness and self-betterment. "He was like, 'Oh I got these herbs that are really good for you! I know where you can get some good stuff' And he was sending me links and like, 'Sis, I got you, you gotta try this.' And it just made me sad because he was such an amazing spirit. His heart was pure and he was always willing to help and always really positive," Ashanti continued.

A message that Hushle always harped on that will forever stick with Ashanti was his business acumen when it came to having an ownership stake in all of his ventures.

"One of his messages that was so powerful as an artist [was] owning your masters. Knowing about ownership. Thinking outside the box. Not holding onto these contracts and signing things that you know nothing about," the 38-year-old singer explained. "Trying to make it on your own. Having your own platform, your own voice. Just thinking outside the box and trying to come up with other ways to be an entrepreneur."

Watch the interview in full over at [ET](#).

04.17.19

Music News

Unique Monthly Users: 219,637



NEWS

Ashanti reflects on last texts from Nipsey Hussle

🕒 16 April 2019

✍️ Newsdesk

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Ashanti has shared how slain rapper Nipsey Hussle showed his typically positive spirit in the final texts they exchanged.

The Foolish singer was a close friend and collaborator of the 33-year-old, who was shot and killed outside his Marathon Clothing store in Hyde Park, Los Angeles, on 31 March (19). And in an interview with Entertainment Tonight she recalled how, when an illness prevented her heading to the studio to work with him, Nipsey sent her a string of texts full of helpful advice.

"Nip was always helpful. It's funny because I was looking at some of the last texts that we had, and I was recording at his studio and was like, 'Nip, I don't think I'm going to make it tonight. I have allergies, I'm sneezing, I got a headache,'" she told Entertainment Tonight Live. "He was like, 'Oh I got these herbs that are really good for you! I know where you can get some good stuff!' And he was sending me links and like, 'Sis, I got you, you gotta try this.' And it just made me sad because he was such an amazing spirit. His heart was pure and he was always willing to help and always really positive."

The Happy songstress, who attended the father-of-two's funeral on 11 April, added that she was still a "little bit in disbelief" about his untimely death.

"Going to the funeral, I think it shocked me a little bit and it became a reality, seeing the casket on the stage," she sighed. "It was like everyone stood back like, 'This really happened,' and it just shows you that life is so short and so precious".

The 38-year-old added she will remember the rapper for the powerful messages of ownership he shared in the music community and beyond.

"One of his messages that was so powerful as an artist (was) owning your masters," she said. "Knowing about ownership. Not holding onto these contracts and signing things that you know nothing about.

"Just thinking outside the box and trying to come up with other ways to be an entrepreneur."

04.17.19

Inquistr

Unique Monthly Users: 8,778,512

INQUISITR

April 17, 2019

Ashanti Reflects On The Last Texts She Received From Nipsey Hussle



> **Fabio
Magnocavallo**

R&B songstress, Ashanti has shared the last text messages she received from the recently deceased rapper Nipsey Hussle. Hussle was only 33-years-old when he was shot and killed outside his Marathon Clothing store in Hyde Park, Los Angeles, on March 31.

According to *Music News*, in an interview with *Entertainment Tonight* she recalled how, when being ill prevented her from heading to the studio to work with Nipsey, he sent her a string of texts full of helpful advice.

“I was recording at his studio and was like, ‘Nip, I don’t think I’m going to make it tonight. I have allergies, I’m sneezing, I got a headache,’” she told them.

“He was like, ‘Oh I got these herbs that are really good for you! I know where you can get some good stuff!’ And he was sending me links and like, ‘Sis, I got you, you gotta try this.’ And it just made me sad because he was such an amazing spirit. His heart was pure and he was always willing to help and always really positive,” she continued.

The “Rain On Me” hitmaker attended his funeral on April 11 and revealed she still couldn’t believe what happened to him.

“It was like everyone stood back like, ‘This really happened,’ and it just shows you that life is so short and so precious.”

In 2001, Ashanti rose to fame when she collaborated with Ja Rule on the hit song “Always on Time.” The single topped the U.S. singles chart and was a worldwide success. In 2002, she released her debut self-titled studio album. The album topped the U.S. album charts and peaked within the top three in the U.K. The record achieved triple platinum status in the U.S. and was certified double platinum in Canada. The album sparked three hit singles — “Foolish,” “Baby,” and “Happy.” She won Best Contemporary R&B Album at the 2003 Grammy Awards and was nominated for Best New Artist.

04.17.19

Atlanta Black Star

Unique Monthly Users: 1,235,352

ATLANTA BLACK STAR

Entertainment Celebrity Gossip

Ashanti's Elegant Ensemble Staggers Fans as She Walks Red Carpet at Her Film Premiere

By Tia Berger - April 17, 2019

1500 0

R&B singer **Ashanti** looked nothing less than stunning while attending the screening for her new film "Stuck" on Tuesday evening.

The singer/actress wowed folks with her **snazzy fashions** while gracing the red carpet event at Crosby Street Hotel in New York. As she posed with actress Arden Cho and many others amid the movie premiere festivities, it seemed Ashanti's eye-catching garments alone became the center of attention.



The 38-year-old sported a slate-gray metallic dress with a plunging neckline and side high-slit, adding a pair of open-toe high heels to complete her ensemble. She accentuated her voguish look with diamond drop earrings, an encrusted bracelet and an oversized brown amulet ring.

She also went full glam with makeup look, including a smoky purple and blue shimmer eye shadow look and nude-colored lipstick. She also opted for a short sandy-blond hairdo.



Ashanti posted the images of her red carpet wear to [Instagram](#) on April 17, writing, "What an amazing night...at the premiere of my musical film "Stuck".. in theaters this Friday!"

Her dazzling look received a shower of compliments.

"#STUCK #ON #YOUR #FASHIONABLE #PIC !!! 🤩 #WHOOAAA !!!"

"Beautiful is an understatement 🥰 you looking f—king amazing 💰❤️!"

"Beautiful Queen @ashanti. Your style is impeccable 🥰🔥!"

"Muva ❤️ I just wanna be like u when I grow up 🥰 you look absolutely perfect and stunning!"

The film "Stuck" is set to hit theaters on Friday, April 19, and centers on six diverse New Yorkers who engage one another on a delayed subway train. It's based on an off-Broadway musical.

"I think this is a really good time for the movie," she told [NewsDay](#) this month. "I think people are becoming cold because we are under so much pressure and we are continuously worrying about how to just survive. This is a message that can let people know on both sides of the fence that it's still OK to talk."

Ashanti plays the character Eve, who's known for her frank attitude, as she stands up for herself and others on the train. The singer said her character's strong but gentle nature appealed to her.

"This is something that I hadn't done and I was like, 'Wow, this could be something cool'," the singer said. "And just reading the script, the reality just set in, as a New Yorker and understanding the subway, this could really happen."

TAGS

Ashanti

04.17.19

OK! Online

Unique Monthly Users: 4,744,772



OK! OH NO!

ASHANTI SHINES AT 'STUCK' PREMIERE – EVEN AFTER WOMAN REFUSED TO GIVE HER A SEAT

APRIL 17, 2019 17:25PM



The singer stepped out looking as gorgeous as ever!

Ashanti had quite the evening at the *Stuck* premiere on Tuesday, April 16. She debuted her new movie at New York City's famed Crosby Street Hotel where she was the shining star. But there was trouble when she almost didn't get a front-row seat to her own premiere! Keep reading to learn what went down on the red carpet.



The 38-year-old singer made sure she was the center of attention at her premiere. She sported a dark grey and silver shimmery gown that showed off some major cleavage.



The "Always on Time" crooner brightened up the red carpet with her unique blonde bob and purple sparkly eye makeup. She added a touch of glam with her large silver bejeweled statement pieces.



*Ashanti had a bit of a dilemma when a woman refused to give up her seat at the premiere. Eyewitnesses told **Page Six** that as the Long Island-native made her way into the theater, a woman working the event asked another woman sitting in a "reserved row" if she could leave her seat. The "reserved" rows were left empty for cast members and their guests.*



Even when the woman was told Ashanti was part of the cast, she refused to leave her seat. But the *John Tucker Must Die* star said, "I'll sit in the back. I've seen the movie!"



Ashanti executive produced the movie musical and stars with *Arden Cho* and *Giancarlo Esposito*. *Stuck* follows the adventures of six strangers who are stuck on a subway car and each have a story to tell.



Will you be watching Ashanti's new film? Sound off in the comments below!

04.17.19

Orange Juice and Biscuits

Unique Monthly Users: 27,134



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Ashanti Shines At Stuck Movie Premiere In NYC

Reply 4/17/2019



Ashanti arrives at premiere of Stuck the Movie Musical in New York City

On Tuesday, April 16th OJ&B attended the premiere of Stuck the Movie Musical at the Crosby Street Hotel in New York City.

Actress and singer Ashanti stunned premiere guests in a sultry silver dress by Honayda paired with Lorraine Schwartz jewels and Giuseppe Zanotti shoes.

Ashanti was joined by her fellow cast and team from the original pop musical film which tells the story of six strangers who get stuck on a New York City subway train together and change each other's lives in unexpected ways.

Stuck hits theaters nationwide on April 19th and also stars Arden Cho, Giancarlo Esposito, Amy Madigan, Omar Chaparro & Gerard Canonico.

Check out more photos from the NYC premiere of Stuck the Movie Musical below.



Ashanti plays the character of Eve in Stuck the Movie Musical





Jonathan Valdez of Orange Juice and Biscuits attends the premiere of Stuck the Movie Musical at the Crosby Street Hotel in New York City



Photo courtesy of Stuck The Movie Musical

Guest awaiting the start of the premiere of Stuck the Movie Musical at the Crosby Street Hotel movie theater

Actress Ashanti celebs entertainment Featured Movies musicals new movie premiere Premiere Party singer

04.17.19

Fashionista Stories

Unique Monthly Users: 28,559

The Fashionista Stories

BY CHERYL SIMMONS

Ashanti & Arden Cho at the 'Stuck' NY Premiere



Yesterday evening (April 16th) Ashanti and Arden Cho attended the premiere of their new film 'Stuck' at the Crosby Street Hotel in New York City.

Ashanti worked a sexy look courtesy of HONAYDA. Her FALL 2019 see-through pewter metallic, faux wrap dress, featured a deep v-neckline and a high split. She seemed to struggle with the neckline, as she was seen holding onto it in several of her images. Also the visible nipples and panties, doesn't make this the most attractive look. I actually prefer the look of the dress on the runway but body wise, she looks great. GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI sandals finished up her look.



Arden Cho looked great wearing a REBECCA TAYLOR SPRING 2019 pink lurex, double bow cut-out & ruffle panel dress. Offset with transparent, multi strap sandals, she finished up with a natural pink lip and side parted waves.

04.17.19

Hot 99.5 Online

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Ashanti Stars In New Movie, "Stuck"



"Stuck" is described as a [musical film](#).

"Stuck, a movie based on the musical stage play by Riley Thomas, is about six strangers, trapped in a subway car, who over the course of the day come to change each other's lives in unexpected ways. Stuck is a move with a simple message about love and compassion and seeing that people, as a whole, are not so very different from one another."

Ashanti plays Eve. Eve is described as an "intelligent and career-oriented African-American" woman.

The movie boasts an interesting and diverse cast that includes Giancarlo Esposito who plays Lloyd and Amy Madigan who portrays the character of Sue.

These two actors alone, in my eyes, make this movie one to watch.

We've seen Esposito in everything from *Breaking Bad* to *The Death Cure*. You may remember Madigan from *Field of Dreams* and even a couple episodes of *Criminal Minds* where she plays a lost soul in love with a sociopath.

According to [Newsday](#) the *Foolish* singer is also an Executive Producer on this project.

Stuck hits theaters this week on April 19.

It's rated PG-13.

Check out the trailer!



04.17.19

Hip-Hop Magz

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



ASHANTI REMEMBERS NIPSEY HUSSLE, SHARES THEIR LAST TEXT MESSAGES

By Brandon Kelly On 17 April 2019  5859  64



Ashanti had grown close to Nipsey Hussle over the years through her sister's relationship with the late rapper's girlfriend Lauren London. She was in attendance at the Staples Center to say her goodbyes to the Los Angeles MC during his Celebration of Life ceremony last week. On Monday (April 15), Ashanti stopped by *Entertainment Tonight* to promote her upcoming musical project *Stuck*, and to remember Neighborhood Nip by sharing some of her favorite memories of Hussle.

"I'm still a little bit in disbelief," the "Baby" singer reflected. "Going to the funeral, I think it shocked me a little bit and it became a reality, seeing the casket on the stage. It was like everyone stood back like, 'This really happened,' and it just shows you that life is so short and so precious. He's such an amazing person and an amazing spirit. He had so much more that he was doing."

The New York native recalled recently recording at Nipsey's studio, but having to leave early when her allergies acted up. "Nip was always helpful. It's funny because I was looking at some of the last texts that we had, and I was recording at his studio and was like, 'Nip, I don't think I'm going to make it tonight. I have allergies, I'm sneezing, I got a headache,'" she said.

She recalled that Nip was always about wellness and self-betterment. "He was like, 'Oh I got these herbs that are really good for you! I know where you can get some good stuff!' And he was sending me links and like, 'Sis, I got you, you gotta try this.' And it just made me sad because he was such an amazing spirit. His heart was pure and he was always willing to help and always really positive," Ashanti continued.

A message that Hussle always harped on that will forever stick with Ashanti was his business acumen when it came to having an ownership stake in all of his ventures.

"One of his messages that was so powerful as an artist [was] owning your masters. Knowing about ownership. Thinking outside the box. Not holding onto these contracts and signing things that you know nothing about," the 38-year-old singer explained. "Trying to make it on your own. Having your own platform, your own voice. Just thinking outside the box and trying to come up with other ways to be an entrepreneur."

Watch the interview in full over at *ET*.

04.17.19

Collider

Unique Monthly Users: 3,511,170

COLLIDER

Giancarlo Esposito on the Original Pop Musical Film 'Stuck' and Overcoming the Demons Inside Yourself

BY STEVE 'FROSTY' WEINTRAUB ⌚ APRIL 17, 2019



With director **Michael Berry**'s original pop musical film, ***Stuck***, opening in limited release this weekend in movie theaters around the country, I recently sat down with **Giancarlo Esposito** to talk about the film. If you aren't familiar with *Stuck*, the film was written by Berry and **Riley Thomas** and it's about six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway. Through the power of music, they learn about each other's lives and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another. *Stuck* also stars **Amy Madigan**, **Ashanti**, **Arden Cho**, **Omar Chaparro**, and **Gerard Canonico**. You can watch the *Stuck* trailer further down the page and check out [a list of theaters](#) playing the movie.

During the interview, Giancarlo Esposito talked about why he wanted to be part of *Stuck*, the inspirational message of the movie, growing up around music with his mother being an opera singer, why making *Stuck* was like making a film early in his career, if this was a role he was looking for, what it means to be part of a movie musical, and a lot more.

Check out what he had to say in the player above and below is exactly what we talked about, a more detailed synopsis, and the trailer.

Giancarlo Esposito:

- The challenges of getting *Stuck* made and why he wanted to be part of it.
- How you don't get to make movies like *Stuck* very often and what it means to be part of a musical.
- What the film is about and who he plays.
- Was this the kind of role he was looking for?
- How his mother was an opera singer and his father was an opera "freak".
- Has he paid for a drink in Albuquerque, New Mexico?
- With the limited schedule and budget making *Stuck* what was the energy like on set having to get things in only a few takes?
- Why making *Stuck* was like making a film early in his career.



Here's a more detailed synopsis on *Stuck*:

Set in the New York City subway, Stuck revolves around six strangers who find themselves trapped with each other after their train breaks down.

Absorbed in their own lives, they barely notice each other, and then only through a lens of preconceived notions.

Over the course of the day, as emotions and frustration build, they begin to interact with one another. Initial snap judgments and raised voices give way to new insights as the subway car becomes a kind of musical conduit cell.

Most of Stuck takes place in a single location (a subway car), so the audience is essentially trapped with the passengers. It's only through song that they're transported to other times and places. This allows the audience to become wholly invested in the characters and the inspirational message of the Stuck movie.



Image via Atlas Distribution

Here's the *Stuck* trailer:



04.18.19

Pop Dust

Unique Monthly Users: 508,040



FILM |

Now in Theaters: 5 New Movies for the Weekend of April 19

Stuck



STUCK Official Trailer #1 (2017) | Ashanti, Amy Madigan | Musical Film HD Trailer

www.youtube.com

Imagine being stuck on the subway in NYC and then a bunch of assholes start singing about their most intimate problems. That's the premise of this mind-blowingly stupid concept for a musical starring Ashanti, Arden Cho (*Teen Wolf*), and Giancarlo Esposito (Gus from *Breaking Bad*) for some reason. Maybe the music is good, I don't know. But as a New Yorker who encounters singing subway lunatics on my daily commute, I can think of better ways to waste my weekend.

04.18.19

Essence Magazine Online

Unique Monthly Users: 2,122,703

ESSENCE

HOME · STAR GAZING

Salt n Peppa, Lena Waithe, Normani And More Celebs Out And About

CELEBRITIES ATTENDED COACHELLA AND OTHER EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

25 Ashanti

attends the New York premiere of "Stuck" at Crosby Street Hotel in New York City.



04.18.19

Billboard Online

Unique Monthly Users: 23,992,907



Ashanti Sings 'Make it Better' in New Movie Musical 'Stuck': Exclusive Premiere & Interview

4/18/2019 by [Nicole Pajer](#)



The singer also tells Billboard about her upcoming EP, teases collabs from Sean Paul, Metro Boomin', Swae Lee & more.



Courtesy Photo

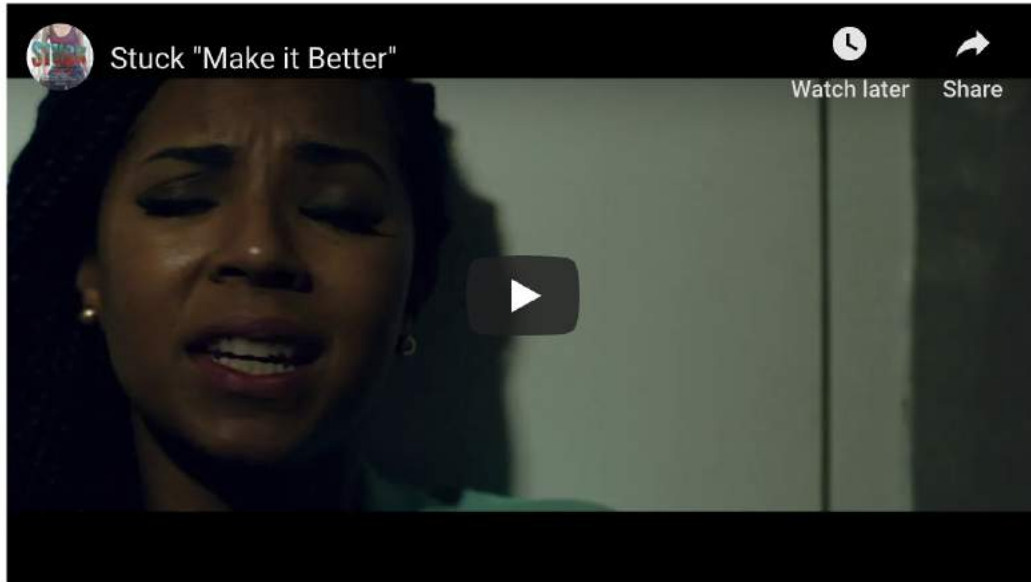
Commuting on the subway is a fact of life for most New Yorkers, but what happens when six complete strangers get trapped together on a stalled train?

Ashanti, "Make it Better"

Tensions will inevitably rise, lives will be contemplated and... they will break out in song.

That's what *Stuck*, the new musical drama by Michael Berry, opening Friday in select theaters, sets out to explore. In addition to portraying Eve in the film and serving as an executive producer, [Ashanti](#) also co-wrote (along with Riley Thomas, Ben Maughan and Tim Young) and performs on one of the movie's iconic anthems "Make it Better."

Check out an exclusive clip of the film with Ashanti singing the track below.



Billboard caught up with the R&B star to chat about the project and hear the latest on her upcoming EP, which features an array of exciting collaborations.

What attracted you to *Stuck*?

The role of Eve. I just think she's really relatable. A lot of females have gone through very similar situations with having to make huge life decisions and feeling alone in the process, and just being very grounded. It's funny. After the film, a lot of people came up to me and were like, "oh my gosh. I loved your character! I feel like I know her. I feel like it was me riding the train" and things like that. So I think that was one of the best things. She was really authentic to herself.

The film is about six different people from six different walks of life being stuck on a subway train in New York City in the dead of summer. And the frustration, the racial tension, and all of these stereotypes come flying out as they're spewing out their frustrations on why they're stuck on this train. It's kind of like a mirror to what's going on in our society. And I think it's just a really important conversational piece to get people to start being real and facing the reality of what it is. We've come a long way, but I just feel like we really have a, a long way to go.

And the film has a musical component to it. How fun was that?

This is what attracted me I think to the film because I'd never done anything like before, just combining -- kind of like with my music -- it was like combining the marriage between hip-hop and R&B, the marriage between a musical and the film, a musical film. So I'd never done anything like that. Obviously I've done films, I've done musicals, but to have the two in one was a really cool experience. And I was a little nervous. I didn't want it to come off corny you know because sometimes it's possible to intertwine the two when and have it seem a little corny. But I think this was done so well and it was integrated so well that you're really moved. And another thing that people were saying is that it touched every emotion -- you laugh, you cry, you get upset, you're a little bit confused. So it hits every emotion, which is cool.

Tell us about the inspiration behind "Make it Better."

It was about Eve making the decision to make it better -- just about everything that she's going through. And I wrote obviously on the record and I feel like it was painting a picture of what she was going through in her life. This film reminds me of a musical version of *Crash* -- everyone has like their situation that happens and then it all ties in together at the end. Six people specifically are stuck. So they're all going through their issues on the train. And it's not like other people are around. So the scene happens as Eve is reflecting, sitting on the train.

What do you hope that people take away from the film and hearing this song in it?

I hope that people take away the very important fact that this is a mirror and there are so many things that are going on with politics and the racial issues. I hope that people take away that it really doesn't take a lot to be kind. You never know what someone is going through and if you smile at someone or you wave at someone or maybe you hold the door for someone, that small gesture can completely change a person's outlook on you, outlook on life, outlook on their day. Something small like that can make a huge impact.

And we hear that you are currently working on a new EP. What can you tell us?

Yes. Super excited about the music! Me and Metro Boomin' are doing a project together. We went to the studio on Sunday in LA. I did a Live on my Instagram and we were asking the fans what kind of songs do they want? And it was like a landslide: Ashanti's R&B, 2019 style. So I've worked with a bunch of really cool people. Sean Paul actually pulled up on me that night. We did a record together. Tory Lanez, I've been texting him and we've got some stuff moving on back and forth – just a bunch of different artists and producers and concepts. Swae Lee and I had done some records together but we're going back in to do some more stuff. I've done some stuff with Wizkid. Oh I've been talking to J. White, who just did all of Cardi's records. He had a dope concept!

Stylistically, how is this music going to be different than past Ashanti releases?

I think music just changes in time, sound, sonically, cadence but still at the same time being true to why people fell in love in the beginning. I think that's the formula. But this time it definitely sounds like the fans want vintage R&B. Just classic Ashanti R&B. They want R&B as opposed to other genre music of records. So I'm getting back to my roots with a 2019 spice and edge, and sound just sonically. I feel like this EP is going to be very bold. There are things that I'm talking about that I've never touched before and I'm excited about it. I'm hoping to have something drop in June and it's probably going to be around 7 tracks.

Anything else exciting coming up for you this year?

We're going to be touring. I believe we're going to Australia. There's some stuff in Belgium. So I'm doing some stuff overseas. Hopefully new film stuff coming. I know that there's two projects that are in the works now. And of course, things I can't tell you about yet (laughs).

04.18.19

Inquistr

Unique Monthly Users: 8,778,512

April 18, 2019

INQUISITR

Ashanti Shows Major Cleavage In A Metallic Dress At Premiere For Her Musical Film, 'Stuck'



Ashanti turned up the heat for her movie premiere on Wednesday.

The “Rock Wit U” singer, 38, stunned her fans for the premiere of her musical film, *Stuck*. The multi-talented star reportedly executive produced and starred in the film. For the premiere, which took place in New York, based on Ashanti’s Instagram geotag, the singer donned a metallic dress designed by Honayda. The dress had a deep split and plunging neckline and was transparent to show off Ashanti’s killer curves.

To add to the look, the “Baby” songstress wore Giuseppe Zanotti heels and Lorraine Schwartz earrings. The star also rocked a curly blonde cut to finish the look. Ashanti’s post was shared with her 4.5 million **Instagram** followers and received more than 29,000 likes. The post also received more than 29,000 comments from the singer’s fans.

“Wow looking so great,” one follower commented.

“Queen!! When are we getting an album?” another fan inquired.

According to *Billboard*, *Stuck* tells the story of six strangers who are trapped on a New York City subway as the train stalls. The musical drama was created by Michael Berry and also stars Amy Madigan and Giancarlo Esposito. According to *IMDB*, the film was released independently in 2017 and will premiere in theaters on Friday. Ashanti, who co-wrote a song for the film, spoke to *Billboard* about her character, Eve, and her decision to take on a musical film.

“The role of Eve. I just think she’s really relatable,” Ashanti said during her interview. “A lot of females have gone through very similar situations with having to make huge life decisions and feeling alone in the process, and just being very grounded.”

The “Foolish” singer also mentioned that she would be returning to the music scene with a new EP. She told *Billboard* that the EP will be “Ashanti style in 2019.” The singer also said the venture will feature artists like Metro Boomin, Sean Paul, Tory Lanez, and Swae Lee of Rae Sremmurd. Ashanti said the changes in the music industry since she came on the scene in 2001 have been something she’s had to adjust to when releasing new music.



“I feel like this EP is going to be very bold. There are things that I’m talking about that I’ve never touched before and I’m excited about it,” Ashanti said.

The “Rain on Me” songstress said she expects to release her EP in June and will have seven tracks. In the meantime, the singer is set to go back on tour soon with some overseas performances.

04.18.19

Variety

Unique Monthly Users: 6,597,964



HOME > FILM > REVIEWS

APRIL 18, 2019 2:35PM PT

Film Review: 'Stuck'

Six people from radically different backgrounds sing about their experience while trapped in a NYC subway car in this scrappy indie musical.

By **EDDIE COCKRELL** 



Director: Michael Berry

With: Giancarlo Esposito, Omar Chaparro, Ashanti

Release Date: Apr 19, 2019

Rated PG-13 • 1 hour 24 minutes

A stalled New York City subway carriage serves as a toe-tapping musical Petri dish for six socioeconomically diverse souls in the unique stage-to-screen musical adaptation "Stuck." Sharing a stylistic template with its 2016 left-coast cousin "La La Land" (which it predated Off-Broadway by a good four years), the film's 2017 copyright suggests a missed opportunity for momentum that could be made up by the positive word-of-mouth (generated by the film's fest-circuit delay) for a modest achievement that benefits from a lot of heart and not being like anything else out there.

"I bring a measure of grace to the world," says Shakespeare-spouting homeless philosopher Lloyd (Spike Lee regular [Giancarlo Esposito](#), well-known to another generation for his work on "Breaking Bad"), a dishevelled yet dignified Greek chorus who sets the stage in song: "It's a common notion that the universe will shove together people who uniquely offer what the other needs."

With that, the train on which he seems to live grinds to a halt. "A police emergency," says the conductor (Mel Johnson Jr., who played Lloyd in the stage version) before mysteriously and decisively locking the doors at either end of the car. Thus are three men and three women, each with their simmering frustrations, clichéd prejudices, and elusive dreams ... stuck.

There's the strapping Ramon (Mexican star Omar Chaparro) seen dashing from his dishwashing job to make the train on his way to another hard-labor gig, no-nonsense Eve (singer-actress [Ashanti](#)), and seemingly timid academic Sue (vet Amy Madigan, who also appeared in director [Michael Berry's](#) fine first feature "Frontera"). Joining them are tense Korean dancer Alicia

("Teen Wolf's" Arden Cho), her geekily half-hearted stalker Caleb (Gerard Canonico, from Broadway's "Be More Chill") and, of course, their derelict enabler, the loquacious Lloyd.

This fine cast talks and sings through a timely, hot-button laundry list of issues that encompass but are not limited to immigration, health insurance, racism, parenthood, social media, and sexual assault: Ramon works three jobs to support a wife and three young daughters, Caleb's an aspiring artist, Eve's newly-pregnant, Sue's lost her son, Alicia's haunted by an attack, and so on.

Films made in close quarters and/or talk-sung in a parallel reality are nothing new: Roman Polanski excels at the former, and Jacques Demy polished the latter (there's even another movie that does both, director Reinhard Hauff's 1996 tube-set German musical "Line 1," also based on a stage show). What Berry and his troupe bring to the table is a lean focus on getting to their points in a New York minute with pithy dialogue, a broad palette of musical influences and a winning confidence.

Cinematographer Luke Geissbuhler, who has shot multiple documentary and fiction projects for Sacha Baron Cohen, Thom Zimny, and others, leads the craft charge by employing a fluid camera that at once emphasizes and expands the claustrophobic set while capturing unguarded character moments. And the much-maligned Metropolitan Transit Authority gets a well-earned shout-out for their access (and sense of humor), which lends the film an authenticity that sells the musical fantasy.

Stage musical creator Riley Thomas has a fleeting cameo as a ballet studio manager, as does co-composer and lyricist Tim Young as Sue's son. Madigan, Cho, Esposito, and Chaparro are listed as associate producers, while the film is "in memory of" production accountant Danita "Misha" Turner, "a ray of positive joy," per producers, who passed away just after filming.

"Oftentimes these connections are neglected or rejected," sings Lloyd early on to complete the couplet, "but every now and then the universe succeeds." So, in its sincere and refreshingly scrappy way, does "Stuck."

Film Review: 'Stuck'

Reviewed online, Balmain, Australia, April 18, 2019. MPAA Rating: PG-13. Running time: 84 MIN.

PRODUCTION: An Eammon Films release of an MJW Films, Little Angel production. Producers: Mike Witherill, Joe Mundo.

CREW: Director, writer: Michael Berry. Based on the musical "Stuck" by Riley Thomas, with music and lyrics by Thomas, Tim Young, Ben Maughan. Camera (color): Luke Geissbuhler. Editors: Jimmy Hill, Elisa Cohen, Lucy Donaldson. Music supervisor: Tim Young. Music Mix: Chris Arias.

WITH: Giancarlo Esposito, Omar Chaparro, Ashanti, Amy Madigan, Arden Cho, Gerard Canonico, Noah Fleiss, Anita Welch, Shannon Lewis. (English, Spanish dialogue)

04.18.19

Hot New Hip Hop

Unique Monthly Users: 11,505,405



Ashanti's "Ample Curves" Set Off A Planetary Shift After "Stuck" Movie Premiere



Ashanti's leggy outfit sets off a social media storm, after the "Stuck" movie premiere this week.

Stuck hits theaters this afternoon after much deliberation. The Michael Berry-directed musical movie was co-written by the unlikelyst of sources in **Ashanti**, in conjunction with the acting role she takes up on the project - as **Eve**, one of six strangers cramped in a broken down Subway car. Berry's project is the latest in a line of micro story ideas expanded to fit the big screen.

To mark the occasion, Ashanti posted a series of "risqué" video clips depicting her in a chair with her ample leg room. In case you haven't noticed, Ashanti's re-emergence in the 2010's is **a thing of beauty**.

ashanti
New York, New York

[View Profile](#)



ashanti
New York

[View Profile](#)



The sentiment governing the selfies she's been posting of late on social media is overwhelmingly positive. It would appear that women and men alike are smitten over her ever-expanding curves - to the point where people have jokingly labeled those changes as "potentially harmful" to the planet's equilibrium.

For what it's worth, Ashanti will be releasing a follow-up to her 2014 album *Braveheart*; its title is quietly being kept under wraps. The only indication we have **of its progress** lies in the conversations she had with a few notable periodicals in 2019, namely *People Magazine* where she openly admitted that **a joint album** with **Ja Rule** was still within the realm of possibility.

Music

News

Ashanti

Stuck

Film

Premiere

Curves

Dangerous

Michael Berry

Theaters

Co-Wrote

Couch

Chair

Legs

Trap

Comeback

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Celebrity Insider

Unique Monthly Users: 1,500,000

CELEBRITY INSIDER

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Ashanti Dons Racy Dress At 'Stuck' Movie Premiere — Fans Say This Video Featuring Her Dangerous Curves Is Just Too Much Too Handle



Mel Walker APR 18, 2019 10:51 PM PDT

1 1.6K Views 0 Like 12 Share



It is official, Ashanti's sexy curves are very dangerous! This week, the R&B princess took to social media where she posted a few risqué pictures that almost caused an accident.

In the clip, Ashanti is wearing a very racy dress that features an extremely dangerous slit while the top is completely open.

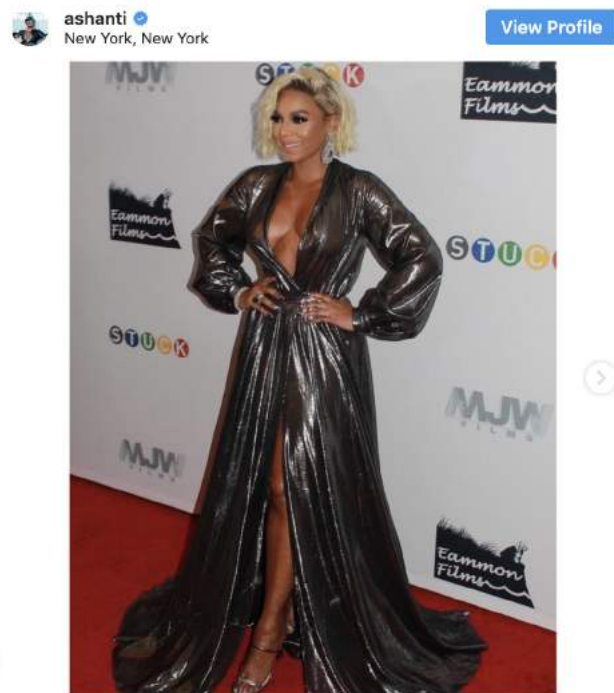
Ashanti took a naughty pose sitting on a chair where she was able to flaunt her killer legs. The provocative pose surprised one of her fans who almost got in a car accident.

The supporter explained: "Why you so fine? One of the finest woman on the planet. I almost crashed when I saw this pic. Hot dayuuuuuum looking so poised with legs crossed but stunning at the same damn time. 🌞👀"

Another music lover revealed: "The way you shaking that dress I want you to shake those records! Can we get a single, please? 😊 Btw you love amazing! 🥰"

This Instagram user shared: "All woman...totally the hottest chic fa sure 🥰. Beautiful and gorgeous indeed my WCW for life."

A fourth commenter shared this hilarious remark: "Yassssss looking like the sexiest hefty garbage bag 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔 (the dress not you) lol my fav is so beautiful."



The suggestive dress prompted this comment: "Why you so fine? One of the finest woman on the planet. I almost crashed when I saw this pic. Hot dayuuuuuum looking so poised with legs crossed but stunning at the same damn time. 🤔🤔"

The 38-year-old diva said she will be dropping a new album, the follow-up to her 2014 LP *Braveheart*.

Ashanti recently gave fans some happy news by saying: "The Grammy-winning R&B icon tells *EW*: "I'm working with some amazing producers, really cool ideas, and collabs! I'm excited about the next few moves, the year ahead, and releasing new music. It's going to be a lot of fun."

She added: "With me, it's timing. There are a lot of things going on, and it's important to try and line everything up as much as you can, but it's also important to not sit and wait on things. Sometimes I have a bad habit of waiting for things to line up perfectly because sometimes that doesn't happen and then you miss out."

Ashanti was at the premiere of her new movie, a musical titled *Stuck* that will out in theaters this Friday.

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Today.com

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MOVIES

Ashanti talks about her new movie musical, 'Stuck'

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Grammy winner Ashanti joins the 3rd hour of TODAY to talk about her role in "Stuck," a movie musical about strangers from different backgrounds who use music to confront their differences.

April 19, 2019

04.19.19

Good Morning America

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



04.19.19

MSN.com

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 **TODAY**

Ashanti talks about her new movie musical, 'Stuck'

Duration: 03:33 4/19/2019



Grammy winner Ashanti joins the 3rd hour of TODAY to talk about her role in "Stuck," a movie musical about strangers from different backgrounds who use music to confront their differences.

04.19.19

TL, DR Reviews

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Movie Review – Stuck

TL;DR – When it gets to the emotional core of music *Stuck* has some real emotional weight, but it has issues getting between those moments.

Score – 2.5 out of 5 stars

Post-Credit Scene – There is no post-credit scene



Review –

There are many things that can make a bad day and I can tell you that being stuck in a train carriage with a bunch of strangers for an indeterminate amount of time would be very high on that list. With this in mind, I was captivated with the idea of setting a musical in that setting and where you could go with the pressures and opportunity of keeping everyone in that one space. What we get in the final film is a story with two halves, however, unfortunately, they don't quite work together.

So to set the scene, it is a day in New York and disconnected strangers are running around in their day trying to get from one place to another. You have Lloyd (Giancarlo Esposito) a homeless gentleman who is getting ready for the day in the actual train carriage. Alica (Arden Cho) a dancer trying to get home and avoid her stalker Ramon (Omar Chaparro), Caleb (Gerard Canonico) who is running between his many jobs, then Eve (Ashanti) and Sue (Amy Madigan) who are just trying to get home on a difficult day. Fate is a precarious thing at times, and this day as they board the train everything grinds to a halt as a police incident closes the train lines trapping the train in-between stations, and as the carriages are locked there is the realisation that they are trapped and the only thing you can do is sing.



— When *Stuck* hits those emotional beats it has some really powerful moments. Image Credit: MJW Films.

While I don't think parts of the film worked, there were moments where *Stuck* really shines. The first thing is that the cast is amazing, Giancarlo is instantly compelling from the moment he appears on the screen and that continues throughout the film. The concept itself is a really good idea because it is something that everyone can relate to because we have all been stuck with strangers on public transport when it all fell apart. Also at the core, this is a musical, and when it gets into the musical side of things the film comes alive. The cast all have wonderful voices that in the big whole cast numbers it just pops. All of this makes those emotional beats especially towards the end of the film really hit home.

Where the film does not quite work is in the connective tissue in-between the musical numbers. At times it falls flat and at other times borders on the offensive. Now I have not seen the original musical this film is based off so I can't tell you if the following issues are because of the original or the adaptation. At the start, it felt like these awkward encounters were fitting because they were strangers but as the film went on it never progressed from this. Part of the issue is I think that this was filmed a couple of years ago and the world has shifted in that time. There was a sub-plot with a woman and a guy that is following her around and even though there is a song about how dangerous it is for women in the city, there is a whole dialogue scene where she is the bad guy for not even giving him a go, like that, is something she needs to do, and it is as difficult to watch as it sounds.



— There are some really stand out moments hen it gets into the musical mode. Image Credit: MJW Films.

Part of what doesn't quite work is that film is working on playing off a fantastic reality scenario however it tries to be a bit too coy with it. There was this overarching narrative of putting people that needed to meet together because of fate, but this felt less like an integrated part of the film and more of a bookend which diluted the impact. Also from watching it, I could see how the narrative structure could work really well as a play where you have that live audience dynamic to work off, and without it, well it just does not have the same impact.

In the end, so de we recommend *Stuck*? Maybe. If you are a fan of musicals, then this setting shakes things up in a way that I think will really be interesting for you. However, for me, all the connecting stuff of the film just didn't work and that just really limits how much I would recommend it.



04.19.19

Common Sense Media

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Stuck

Movie review by [Tara McNamara](#), Common Sense Media



Common Sense says



Mature themes, swearing in kindness-and-connection musical.

PG-13 | 2019 | 90 minutes

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WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Parents need to know that *Stuck* is the film adaptation of a stage musical that implores audiences to treat strangers with kindness and compassion. It focuses on six multicultural New Yorkers trapped in a subway car who at first appear to live up to their stereotypes. But once they open up and admit their personal struggles, it eventually becomes clear they're not all that different. Mature themes include homelessness, disability, loss, sexual assault, immigration, poverty, and unwanted pregnancy; the film doesn't get political, but some heated debates feel lifted straight from cable news. Language includes "s--t," "bitch," and "f---ing" but isn't frequent, and the dialogue works around harsher terminology like "abortion" and "rape." It's the same for imagery: Enough is shown to imply the rough stuff being depicted without getting super graphic. For instance, a young woman is brutally assaulted, but viewers only see flashes of three men grabbing her, followed by her reactions in close-up, where she has a bloody nose and lip. One scene includes suggestive dancing during a song about the objectification of women. The film is earnest and clear about its positive message -- to put down our devices and our differences and engage with the world around us -- but it's unlikely to result in a single teen changing habits.

IS IT ANY GOOD?

This modern musical so earnestly sings about Americans' social issues that it's essentially *Sesame Street* for teens and adults. Every topic -- from mental illness to unwanted pregnancy -- has its own song designed to expand our understanding that each person is more than a label. The intention is fantastic, but the obviousness can feel a bit like *SNL*'s recurring "High School Theater Show" sketch, in which teens think they're pointing out society's injustices in an avant garde way.

Putting a bunch of extreme personalities into a room and forcing them to interact is a tried-and-true plot trick of the stage that's been employed to great effect in movies like *12 Angry Men* and *The Breakfast Club*. It's often used for the purpose of breaking down prejudice to show people for who they truly are, just like in *Stuck*. What's new is adding music to it, and Riley Thomas' music is exceptional -- clean, concise, and clear in its messaging. It's all very *Free to Be You and Me*, but -- unlike that hallmark soundtrack -- it probably won't change anyone's outlook.

04.19.19

Caution Spoilers

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Stuck



A musical set in a stranded New York subway car? Where three women and three men, from very different backgrounds, finally start talking?

It's not the breaking into song which seems unbelievable – I've seen that several times on the Tube in London (when I say seen, it's been through half-closed eyelids, pretending to be asleep). But strangers actually talking to each other? I know, what?

Despite covering death, racism, immigration, homelessness, sexism and more, *Stuck* is remarkably buoyant, and enjoyable (if prone to lecturing and over-simplifying complex issues).

Stuck does try to show that despite the different prejudices of many groups, and different types of privilege – issues which often leave liberals fighting among themselves while the Right sails on regardless – progress can be made.

Using an underground train to bring people together and force them to talk is a good one. Not only are we splitting into even smaller, separate communities above ground, but below the surface it's almost become a joke how much we avert our eyes to avoid contact with fellow commuters.

Now it's phone headphones we use to signal our iceberg-like qualities; it used to be Walkmans. It's always been books and feigned snoozing. So many of us in our own worlds, but not forthright enough to say that we don't want to speak to someone.

In *Stuck* they do say that though; everyone is pretty forward. Maybe it's an American thing, or maybe it's for the movie. (I've been on the New York subway and I don't remember anyone speaking to me, though I was pretending to be asleep, with headphones in, a book open on my lap and a hotel DO NOT DISTURB sign round my neck.)

Stuck begins with a cacophony of jarring, discordant city sounds, though the noises soon merge into melody. It's a taste of what is to come, as everyone in the carriage gets to shout their frustrations about society at their fellow passengers, and sing their own song (literally).

On the train in the corner is Lloyd (Giancarlo Esposito). He's black, and homeless, always with his cart of possessions, sitting alone as everyone gives him a wide berth. The looks he gets for cleaning himself up on the train are probably the same ones he'd get if he was unkempt.

His sonorous and resonant voice is perfect for train carriage Shakespeare speeches, or would be if people wanted to hear them. Eventually Caleb (Gerard Canonico) gives him 20 dollars to shut up. The 20-something Caleb is a talented graphic artist, and his song brings to life his disabled young superhero Maggie, who appears in the carriage.

But with the subway train stuck at a red light because of an emergency, soon fissures and tensions are appearing.

Caleb has followed Alicia (Arden Cho), a Korean dancer, on to the train – after also tuning up at the dance studio where she practices, and at her local coffee shop. It's not a situation the script handles well. He's basically a stalker, and while she does get to tell him what she thinks of him, the message we're given is that he's a misunderstood nice guy and she'll learn to be more accepting. Women are always told to do that, and despite what we later find out about him, his behaviour is very unnerving – an incident in Alicia's life that we see in flashback only makes it worse.

Everyone thinks they're right and everyone is attacking each other, with temporary factions dissolving and reforming in an instant. For a while the carriage is like a pay-it-forward of insults.

Alicia is assumed to be Chinese. She assumes Ramon (Omar Chaparro), an exhausted family man working several jobs to pay for his talented daughter's dance lessons, is an illegal immigrant and rants at him about how they don't pay taxes. Lloyd accuses Sue (Amy Madigan), a middle-aged white professor, of seeing him only as a homeless man. Eve (Ashanti), a young black woman, backs up Sue and calls out Alicia for racism. Sue too jumps to conclusions and assumptions. Alicia berates Caleb for his creepiness. Ramon berates Lloyd for not helping himself to improve his life.

Sue is the most obviously privileged but she's also suffered a huge loss, and she alone has no chance of making her life right. It's a good example of how privilege and terrible events can co-occur, and she's not let her off the hook for her own prejudices. Eve, kind but very candid, wants to avoid the life her mother had bringing up two children. Everyone is running to stand still, trying to make their own lives work against a system stacked against them.

At times *Stuck* is clunky, as individuals take on the mantle of their wider community (or family) and aggressively fight their corner, delivering mini lectures. It's not supposed to be realistic – the situation is by its nature contrived, sometimes reality and imagination blur, and, well, it's a musical – but it can come across as stacy and polemical.

And there's no understanding of how women feel about men invading their personal space when we're trapped, demanding attention that we don't owe them. The resolution of a pregnancy storyline also made me uneasy.

Still, in *Stuck* as in life, music and singing are conduits for oral histories and backstories, and a way to express pain, joy, heartbreak, identity and fun. The singing is exuberant and sometimes captivating, and the different styles of songs really work. Ashanti and Esposito in particular are superb at telling their stories through more than just lines and lyrics.

There are two stand-out musical numbers: Amy Madigan's *Gone*, a powerful and heartbreaking duet with Tim Young who plays her son (and also co-wrote many of the songs); and *Stuck*, an *a cappella* ensemble performance on the train when the lights go out, illuminated by phone screens, the disparate passengers finally a group who've found things in common. The songs include flashbacks across the city, from Ramon's arguments with his wife over his many jobs to Eve's unfaithful boyfriend.

Stuck shows that one to one is always better when trying to find the humanity in other people, or ways relate to them. It's too simplistic a message on which to base solving society's problems, and it avoids structural inequalities that would hold back everyone in that carriage, but it's a start.

Something *Stuck* doesn't answer though – will we get a soundtrack album for me to listen to on the tube, headphones in, eyes shut, pretending to be asleep?

Watch the trailer for *Stuck*:



04.19.19

The Movie Club

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



STUCK MOVIE REVIEW

Posted by Shari K. Green | Apr 19, 2019 | Reviews | 0 | ★★★★★



With the popularity of musical films lately, 2016 gave us 'La La Land.' 2017 was the year of 'The Greatest Showman' and 'A Star is Born' was remade, once again, in 2018, naturally, 2019 needed to release something, too. Let's keep the momentum going! Luckily, Phoenix, Arizona native Michael Berry, who has had a successful career as a director and actor on the stage and on screen, heard the call and did just that. He gave us 'Stuck,' starring 'Breaking Bad' actor Giancarlo Esposito. 'Stuck' is about six people who find themselves forced together when their New York City subway stops moving. Rather than sit there in silence, they get to know one another through, of course, song.

At the outset, it was a musical play written by Riley Thomas. When Berry heard about it, he was in right away to direct the film version. He was hooked by the fact that people everywhere are angry, especially these days, and he could definitely take that premise and make it work. Not only are people angry but through electronics, human beings are getting more and more distant. So, when these six individuals are, begrudging, made to spend time with one another, even connect, things happen that help each of them... heal, honestly. It'll remind you some of 'Rent' in a way but it's different. Maybe that doesn't make any sense, but the songs feel the same... sound the same. Don't let the fact that it isn't its equal deter you from enjoying it. Nothing can be 'Rent' but 'Rent.' It came along and blew everyone away and got everyone excited about musicals, even if they had never seen one, and 'Stuck' will simply continue to draw interest to the genre. A few things happen at the end of the film that suggests a sequel could result from this effort should they ever get the urge.



The lyrics to the songs are meaningful and reach across lines of culture and race. In fact, the entire film purposefully deals with racism, sexism, class, and grief in several different ways that reflect the current climate rather than attempt to escape it. Some passengers try and help others, but a few arguments happen and are dealt with through gorgeous melodies and verses replacing unnecessary dialogue in songs like 'Gone,' 'Make It Better' and 'Draw You.' I assure you that the ballads will simply delight your ears. The performances, the songs and the incredibly uncommon way to bring us a story such as this, one of harmony and anguish, is worth seeing on the big screen if you can. As I do with most musicals that get released, I'll be buying this soundtrack the moment I can. You might want to do the same.

*MJW Films and Eammon Films will theatrically release the film on April 19th in Phoenix **at multiple** Harkins Theatre locations.

04.19.19

Berk Reviews

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

BERKREVIEWS.COM



April 19, 2019 | Posted by Jonathan Berk | Film Reviews

Stuck (2017) is a film adapted and directed by Michael Berry as his second feature film. It takes the idea that we are all connected – like in the often reviled Oscar-winning *Crash* (2004) – placed inside a bottle-episode, which is a story where the characters are forced into one location for the majority of the story (often for some arbitrary reason), done through the guise of a musical. In other words, it's pretty fantastic, as each premise asks you to suspend your disbelief that its positive message and strong musical numbers (with an excellent cast) makes for an ambitious and terrific experience.

Stuck was a pleasant surprise that worked for me in multiple ways

Five strangers making their daily commute end up stuck on a New York subway car with Lloyd (Giancarlo Esposito), a homeless man who's taken shelter in it. As the time wears on, the tension rises, forcing the discomfort between the diverse group of individuals to become talking points, and conceived truths are brought to the surface. Through song and intercut flashbacks, the lives of those on the train are revealed to us and the other members on the subway, making everyone question their preconceived notions while finding themselves reflecting inward.

Sue (Amy Madigan), Eve (Ashanti), Alicia (Arden Cho), Ramon (Omar Chaparro), and Caleb (Gerard Canonico) comprise the rest of the characters in the film. The only two who know each other, yet are still technically strangers as they've never spoken, are Caleb and Alicia. It is implied early in the film that Caleb is following Alicia, and his intentions are not initially clear. However, the film will build its narrative with the idea that these individuals have more in common than they may think.



The themes this film tackles are familiar but well executed. A moral ideal like “Don’t judge a book by its cover” ring true, as the initial introduction of Lloyd plays out. The other passengers on the train avoid sitting across from him – and when he breaks into song, it seems to only toughen their resolve to completely ignore him. Why? He’s clearly crazy, and it’s best to not make eye contact and just keep your distance. If you’ve ever ridden on a New York subway, then you’ve probably encountered someone similar to Lloyd: a person who is clearly homeless with a cart of some kind, with what one assumes is all their worldly possessions. This movie makes us reflect on our own behaviors towards the people we meet in day-to-day life without passing judgment on us for our actions, but rather encouraging us to reach out and communicate.

Caleb at one point remarks at how poorly our society communicates, despite having so many different ways to do so. The message he is going for initially seems a little on the nose, but it does help put the movie into perspective. Most of the people on the train are going through some very tough situations. However, it seems each of them would rather carry their burdens by themselves rather than asking, trusting, or relying on someone else. It is clearly crushing each individual, and this moment where they find themselves unable to keep moving is indicative of their respective breaking points.

In fact, I think the name of this film has multiple meanings. Sure, the surface answer for the name “Stuck” is that the characters find themselves in that very situation: stuck together in a subway car. However, each character is stuck in their individual situations and must decide how to proceed from this moment, then the next, and then the next...much like we are stuck in our current situation, and we have to decide “how do we go from here?”. Of course, the hope is that we can unstuck ourselves, but it is our actions and choices that will decide our future positions, and that feeling of being helplessly locked in a room with people of whom we would probably never interact with.

There is a really ambitious sequence in the movie where Caleb gets to discuss his art with Lloyd. The scenes here rely heavily on CG superhero elements. To me, they look pretty decent, considering this is clearly a low-budget indie film. This scene plays a major part later in the narrative, and the emotional catharsis for the audience – so I’m glad Berry didn’t decide to cut this from the movie for budgetary reasons. Even if you find the effects to be subpar, the role it plays in Caleb’s arc is crucial.

Final thoughts...

I truly loved all the performances in this film. Even the scenes that got a little heavy-handed when the issues of race are brought up in a bit of melodrama were executed very well. The musical performances were strong and enjoyable, plus this kind of musical isn’t one I’d seen before. Stuck earns the Must See rating, and I encourage you to seek it out through whatever platform it is available to you.

04.19.19

Every Movie Has a Lesson

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

April 19, 2019



MOVIE REVIEW: Stuck



STUCK— 4 STARS

The simplest interpretation of this indie film's title is the setting of the characters involved. Six New Yorkers are stuck in an MTA Subway car that has stopped mid-route because of police activity ahead. The establishing views of cinematographer Luke Geissbuhler observe the transition of a sunny metropolitan day above ground into the dingiest and rattling poetic monotony of the underground's noise mixed by supervising sound editor David. F. Van Slyke. Each individual of this sextet is trying to get to their desired places and can't. Life has paused them.

Yet, like the truthful insides of any gathering of unknowns, there's more to *Stuck* than a mere interval of happenstance, and the swelling urban musical that rises from its collective lungs elevates that fact. The spoken and sung revelations of each character's plight create a clashing cross-sectional dip into America's Melting Pot. These poignant emotions fuel biting social commentary in a way few films, big or small budget and musical or otherwise, have ever succeeded. This hidden gem plays exclusively at the River East, Crestwood, Village Crossing, Rosemont, Streets of Woodfield, Woodridge, and Yorktown AMC locations in the Chicagoland area. Mine the film's title deeper with synonyms. Behind the public transportation jam, each citizen of this showcase is stuck in their own personal way. *Breaking Bad* Emmy winner Giancarlo Esposito leads this ensemble as Lloyd, a performance thespian who knows his Shakespeare while lugging all of his belongings around on a cart. He is homeless and, therefore, stranded more than stuck. Lloyd sweetly snarls his soliloquies as he fashions himself as "a measure of grace to the world." Esposito is the king of this patchwork court and brings forth a reeling performance.

The four other folks and synonyms who have found themselves in Lloyd's moving domain are Eve (recording artist and executive producer Ashanti), Ramon (Omar Chaparro, soon to be seen in *Pokemon Detective Pikachu*), Sue (80s mainstay Amy Madigan), Alicia (*Teen Wolf*'s Arden Cho), and Caleb (virtual newcomer Gerard Canonico). Ramon is a Hispanic day laborer mired by the exhausting hard work to support his family. Eve is saddled with an unwanted pregnancy on her way to an abortion clinic. Sue is a white woman of some privilege stymied by a familial loss. The final two arrived together. Alicia is a ballet dancer confounded by fears and the fixed attention of Caleb's pursuit of her as an artist.

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Stemming from Lloyd's catalyst, unspoken nods and acknowledgments turn into openings for conversation. Their asides and stories play out in song sequences that include external scenes revealing character backgrounds of how each arrived at this place. Unfortunately, not all is civil and peaceful. Our people are quick to label and get cross with each other. Huge assumptions and frustrations boil over before shared empathy, cultural acceptance, collaborative understanding can calm the vocal violence.

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Beyond this artistic commitment and creative blend of genres, the messages of *Stuck* win over. The journey of swirling discomfort, anger, sadness, and confusion that all force camaraderie within these demographic microcosms to become less judgmental people is one very much worth following with our own audience steps. When they sing to each other, they sing to us. What they sing about speaks about all of us. That's powerful stuff.



04.19.19

Yahoo.com

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ASHANTI

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ASHANTI
SINGER STARS IN NEW MUSICAL DRAMA "STUCK"

NBC NEWS

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Ashanti talks about her new movie musical, 'Stuck'

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04.19.19

Collider

Unique Monthly Users: 3,511,170

COLLIDER

Giancarlo Esposito on 'Better Call Saul', 'The Godfather of Harlem', 'Creepshow' and Spike Lee

BY STEVE 'FROSTY' WEINTRAUB ⓘ APRIL 19, 2019



With director **Michael Berry's** original pop musical film, *[Stuck](#)*, now playing in limited release around the country, I recently sat down with **Giancarlo Esposito** to talk about the film. If you aren't familiar with *Stuck*, the film was written by Berry and **Riley Thomas** and it's about six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway. Through the power of music, they learn about each other's lives and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another. *Stuck* also stars **Amy Madigan**, **Ashanti**, **Arden Cho**, **Omar Chaparro**, and **Gerard Canonico**. For more on the film, [here's my interview with Esposito](#) about the making of the film and the trailer.

After we finished talking about *Stuck*, we dove into the many other projects Esposito is working on like the Epix series [The Godfather of Harlem](#), [Better Call Saul](#) (including when he thinks the series might end), [Creepshow](#) with **Greg Nicotero**, and we even reminisced about his working with [Spike Lee](#) on *School Daze*.



Image via AMC

Check out what he had to say in the player above and below is a list of exactly what we talked about.

Giancarlo Esposito:

- Did he know when he worked with Spike Lee early in his career did he know he was going to be such a talent directed?
- Shares a great story about rewriting some of the dialogue on *School Daze* with Laurence Fishburne during a lunch break and Lee's reaction.
- What's *The Godfather of Harlem* about?
- What is it like working with Vince Gilligan on *Better Call Saul*?
- How they just started filming *Better Call Saul* season 5 and how it will air new episodes in 2020.
- How TV has changed.
- Is *Better Call Saul* season 5 the last one?
- Does he know how *Better Call Saul* will end?
- What he hopes will happen with his character over the next season or two.

- What can he say about *Creepshow* and working with Greg Nicotero?



Image via Atlas Distribution

04.19.19

ABC News Online

Unique Monthly Users: 24,135,774



5 looks we loved this week: Anne Hathaway, Keri Russell, Ashanti and more

By JACQUELINE LAUREAN YATES via GMA Apr 19, 2019, 9:57 AM ET

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Everyone from reality stars to household names made sure to bring out their most amazing ensembles this week.

Ashanti played in a sexy metallic dress that made jaws drop.

Ashanti



Executive Producer Ashanti attends the New York premiere of "Stuck" at Crosby Street Hotel, April 16, 2019, in New York City.

The singer made heads turn in her alluring Honayda metallic georgette gown at the "Stuck" musical premiere in New York City.

04.19.19

Pixx11.com

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Ashanti talks new music, movie 'Stuck'

POSTED 8:19 AM, APRIL 19, 2019, BY OJINIKA OBIKWE



Long Island native Ashanti hits the big screen with the new musical movie "Stuck."

It's a story about six people who get stuck on a New York City subway. They learn much about themselves and each other through the power of music.

The songstress also has new music coming out! She shares what to expect with Oji.

Catch "Stuck" in theaters starting Friday.

04.19.19

SFGate

Unique Monthly Users: 23,943,086

SFGATE

Film Review: 'Stuck'

Six people from radically different backgrounds sing about their experience while trapped in a NYC subway car in this scrappy indie musical.

Eddie Cockrell, provided by

VARIETY



Director: Michael Berry

With: Giancarlo Esposito, Omar Chaparro, Ashanti

Release date: Apr 19, 2019

Running time: 1 hour 24 minutes

A stalled New York City subway carriage serves as a toe-tapping musical Petri dish for six socioeconomically diverse souls in the unique stage-to-screen musical adaptation "Stuck." Sharing a stylistic template with its 2016 left-coast cousin "La La Land" (which it predated Off-Broadway by a good four years), the film's 2017 copyright suggests a missed opportunity for momentum that could be made up by the positive word-of-mouth (generated by the film's fest-circuit delay) for a modest achievement that benefits from a lot of heart and not being like anything else out there.

"I bring a measure of grace to the world," says Shakespeare-spouting homeless philosopher Lloyd (Spike Lee regular **Giancarlo Esposito**, well-known to another generation for his work on "Breaking Bad"), a dishevelled yet dignified Greek chorus who sets the stage in song: "It's a common notion that the universe will shove together people who uniquely offer what the other needs."

With that, the train on which he seems to live grinds to a halt. "A police emergency," says the conductor (Mel Johnson Jr., who played Lloyd in the stage version) before mysteriously and decisively locking the doors at either end of the car. Thus are three men and three women, each with their simmering frustrations, clichéd prejudices, and elusive dreams ... stuck.

There's the strapping Ramon (Mexican star Omar Chaparro) seen dashing from his dishwashing job to make the train on his way to another hard-labor gig, no-nonsense Eve (singer-actress **Ashanti**), and seemingly timid academic Sue (vet Amy Madigan, who also appeared in director **Michael Berry**'s fine first feature "Frontera"). Joining them are tense Korean dancer Alicia ("Teen Wolf's" Arden Cho), her geekily half-hearted stalker Caleb (Gerard Canonico, from Broadway's "Be More Chill") and, of course, their derelict enabler, the loquacious Lloyd.

This fine cast talks and sings through a timely, hot-button laundry list of issues that encompass but are not limited to immigration, health insurance, racism, parenthood, social media, and sexual assault: Ramon works three jobs to support a wife and three young daughters, Caleb's an aspiring artist, Eve's newly-pregnant, Sue's lost her son, Alicia's haunted by an attack, and so on.

Films made in close quarters and/or talk-sung in a parallel reality are nothing new: Roman Polanski excels at the former, and Jacques Demy polished the latter (there's even another movie that does both, director Reinhard Hauff's 1996 tube-set German musical "Line 1," also based on a stage show). What Berry and his troupe bring to the table is a lean focus on getting to their points in a New York minute with pithy dialogue, a broad palette of musical influences and a winning confidence.

Cinematographer Luke Geissbuhler, who has shot multiple documentary and fiction projects for Sacha Baron Cohen, Thom Zimny, and others, leads the craft charge by employing a fluid camera that at once emphasizes and expands the claustrophobic set while capturing unguarded character moments. And the much-maligned Metropolitan Transit Authority gets a well-earned shout-out for their access (and sense of humor), which lends the film an authenticity that sells the musical fantasy.

Stage musical creator Riley Thomas has a fleeting cameo as a ballet studio manager, as does co-composer and lyricist Tim Young as Sue's son. Madigan, Cho, Esposito, and Chaparro are listed as associate producers, while the film is "in memory of" production accountant Danita "Misha" Turner, "a ray of positive joy," per producers, who passed away just after filming.

"Oftentimes these connections are neglected or rejected," sings Lloyd early on to complete the couplet, "but every now and then the universe succeeds." So, in its sincere and refreshingly scrappy way, does "Stuck."

Reviewed online, Balmain, Australia, April 18, 2019. MPAA Rating: PG-13. Running time: 84 MIN.

Running Time: 1 hour 24 minutes

MPAA Rating: PG-13

Production

An Eammon Films release of an MJW Films, Little Angel production. Producers: Mike Witherill, Joe Mundo.

Crew

Director, writer: Michael Berry. Based on the musical "Stuck" by Riley Thomas, with music and lyrics by Thomas, Tim Young, Ben Maughan. Camera (color): Luke Geissbuhler. Editors: Jimmy Hill, Elisa Cohen, Lucy Donaldson. Music supervisor: Tim Young. Music Mix: Chris Arias.

With

Giancarlo Esposito, Omar Chaparro, Ashanti

04.19.19

People.com

Unique Monthly Users: 43,500,570



People EXCLUSIVE

Ashanti's Secret to Clean Eating Habits — and Why She Believes in 2 Cheat Days a Week

"Self-health and self-awareness are so important," Ashanti tells PEOPLE ahead of the release of her new film, *Stuck*

By [Alexia Fernandez](#) | April 19, 2019 11:20 AM

[Ashanti](#) works hard for her slim figure, but the singer is all about occasionally straying from her usual diet to [enjoy her favorite foods](#).

The actress, who currently stars in the [musical film *Stuck*](#), tells PEOPLE that "to have balance, you have to eat clean and you have to work out," but also, "you have to allow yourself at least two cheat days so that it doesn't become too strict."

Ashanti usually follows a [pescatarian](#) diet, something she decided to try at the encouragement of her sister, Kenashia Douglas.

"I cut out a lot of meat," she says of her lifestyle change. "I think again, self-health and self-awareness are so important. All of that stuff is so important to maintaining your body, knowing what's in your food, the GMO's and the chemicals, and I'm super aware of this stuff."

Her awareness extends to the chemicals inside of everyday products such as deodorant and toothpaste. "I'm kind of a weirdo with that stuff," she says jokingly.



It's part of her overall approach to health. "I feel like it's very necessary to just be aware of what you're eating," she continues. "I have a trainer and we try to go five days a week when I'm home and then when I get to another place, he's texting me a workout or he'll FaceTime me and say, 'Are you still in the bed?' We try to keep it going."

Ashanti's lifestyle change has definitely given her more energy, something she needs for high-profile projects like her new film, *Stuck*, in which she stars alongside Giancarlo Esposito, Arden Cho and Amy Madigan.

She's also been on tour with close friend Ja Rule and is planning a joint album.

"We have some shows together. He's definitely gonna be working on stuff and we're gonna be doing some stuff together as well," she says. "We're still on the path to dropping a joint album. I think that should be kind of cool, too."

Stuck is in theaters now.

04.19.19

The Movie Guys

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Giancarlo Esposito – The TMG Interview

📅 April 19, 2019 👤 The Movie Guys 💬 Leave a comment

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Giancarlo Esposito – The TMG Interview



Giancarlo Esposito is a busy man. While shooting the next season of *Better Call Saul*, he called in from Albuquerque to talk with Paul Preston about his new film *Stuck*, which opens in select theaters April 19th. Along the way, we get a sense of his musical background (who knew?), his take on long-time friend and collaborator Spike Lee winning his first Oscar and what the workflow is like on an indie film that's ambitious enough to be an indie musical!



04.19.19

All Hip Hop

Unique Monthly Users: 3,058,514

ALL  HIPHOP

Ashanti's New Movie Is Out And So Is The Drama Associated With It!



(AllHipHop Rumors) Ashanti's new film "Stuck" took a back seat at her movie premiere on Tuesday night, when a middle-aged white publicist targeted a black press member for her seat--simply because she was too embarrassed to admit she forgot to secure a spot for her only melanated client.

As Page Six reports, a woman refused to immediately move (in Rosa Parks fashion) after a publicist belligerently told her to get up when she realized that she didn't have a seat secured for Ashanti and her family. What Page Six failed to report is that the lone black press member wasn't actually in reserved seating, but in a row that happened to be next to it.

In fact, those actually in reserved seating on that row were all white-- most of them men—and were not immediately asked to move. It was the lone black girl on the end of the row that the publicist targeted, because let's face it folks-- P.R. Patricia is a white privileged woman who felt it was easier to ask a minority to move than the established patriarchy.

In a calm and controlled manner, the lone black girl explained to P.R. Patricia that the seat she was sitting in was not reserved and even showed it to her. Interestingly, Ashanti's mother even told P.R. Patricia that the row ahead of her is where she wanted her family to sit. But, P.R. Patricia had other plans in mind. She again raised her voice to the lone black girl, telling her to "move" and "get up now."

Those around the lone black girl, specifically, two white "spies" likely from Page Six, snickered and laughed as they sat in the reserved seating—which was only designated for cast and crew.

When the lone black girl did not immediately comply, Ashanti joked that she was okay sitting anywhere since she had already seen the film. During this time, not one person in reserved seating offered their seat, including the row of white men, who we later learned were just a friend of a friend.

Eventually, P.R. Patricia realized that the lone black girl was *right*, she wasn't in reserved seating. So she finally got up the nerve to ask three of the white men to move.

Knowing she was in the wrong, P.R. Patricia came back to the lone black girl to try to brush off the incident as a simple mistake, saying "Oh, I'm sorry, you know how it is..." The lone black girl simply said, "But the way you handled it was not okay..."

Upset that she was being addressed after she offered her official pardon on the incident, P.R. Patricia cut off the lone black girl abruptly saying she, "did not have time to argue" with her and stormed off like a mad woman.

What's amazing about the entire ordeal is that P.R. Patricia nor Page Six probably even saw or realized that the film, which touches on race, class and what connects us, follows the idea of being "stuck" but still open for change and growth.

Yet, even with the poignant message playing right in front of their eyes, history seems to have a way of repeating itself and ignorance continues to pursue.

With that being said, maybe P.R. Patricia and Page Six should watch the film again? Or take some classes on unconscious biases and macroaggressions?

Meanwhile, we'll continue to support our black excellence and save them seats.

Check out "Stuck" also starring Giancarlo Esposito, which hits theaters on April 19.



04.19.19

Extra TV

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



04.19.19

Interview Magazine

Unique Monthly Users: 61,252



MILLIE BOBBY BROWN, PETE BUTTIGIEG, AND PETE DAVIDSON'S COPY OF 'INTERVIEW' MAGAZINE: THIS WEEK'S NYC CELEB NEWS MAP

By [Sarah Nechamkin](#)

Published April 19, 2019



ASHANTI at THE CROSBY STREET HOTEL, LOWER EAST SIDE



Ashanti arrived at the screening room at the Crosby Street Hotel on Tuesday night to watch the premiere of her new film *Stuck* — only to be *stuck* without a seat. Apparently a woman was asked to move out of the reserved row, but refused and put up a fight with the usher. “I’ll sit in the back,” Ashanti [reportedly](#) said. “I’ve seen the movie!” We love a good sport.

04.19.19

Good Morning America Online

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



5 looks we loved this week: Anne Hathaway, Keri Russell, Ashanti and more

By JACQUELINE LAUREAN YATES via GMA Apr 19, 2019, 9:57 AM ET

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Ashanti played in a sexy metallic dress that made jaws drop.

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Executive Producer Ashanti attends the New York premiere of "Stuck" at Crosby Street Hotel, April 16, 2019, in New York City.

The singer made heads turn in her alluring Honayda metallic georgette gown at the "Stuck" musical premiere in New York City.

04.19.19

The Knockturnal

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

THE KNOCKTURNAL

On The Scene: 'Stuck' New York Premiere

by Nishat Baig



Earlier this week we attended the exclusive premiere screening of *Stuck* at Crosby Street Hotel in New York City.

Based off of the off-Broadway musical of the same name, *Stuck* is a musical that follows the interactions of 6 strangers stuck on a New York subway train during their daily commute. Directed by Michael Berry and co-written by Berry and Riley Thomas, *Stuck* stars Giancarlo Esposito as Lloyd, Arden Cho as Alicia, Amy Madigan as Sue, Ashanti as Eve, Omar Chaparro as Ramon and Gerard Canonico as Caleb. the film brings together 6 New Yorkers, all from distinct background who more often than not bump heads with one another on views such as racism, politics, immigration, sexism and abortion. These 6 characters share musical vignettes of their lives and daily traumas, all while trying to keep their sanity and make it to their destinations on time.



The screening was held at the Crosby Street Hotel, where most of the cast and creative/production team took to the red carpet before the screening. Following the screening an intimate Q&A was held with the cast. actors Arden Cho and Ashanti shared their experiences filming and how much they valued the project. The film's producers and writers were asked about where the inspiration for certain characters or views were drawn from and it was revealed that for the topic of abortion, a panel of women who have experienced it were brought on to give their input. Post Q&A, the cast and guests retired to the reception area where they were served complimentary drinks and Hors d'oeuvres. *Stuck* premieres April 19th, make sure to check it out!

04.19.19

The Houston Chronicle

Unique Monthly Users: 1,173,612

HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT // MOVIES

New Films: 'The Curse of La Llorona,' 'Diane,' 'High Life'

"Stuck"

It's nothing if not ambitious. Here's a contemporary musical, set in a New York City subway car, starring Giancarlo Esposito ("Breaking Bad", "Better Call Saul"), Amy Madigan ("Gone Baby Gone") and the singer Ashanti. Based on Riley Thomas' stage musical, it's written and directed by Michael Berry ("Frontera").

Rated PG-13. Playing at AMC Deerbrook 24, Houston; AMC Gulf Pointe 30, Houston; AMC Studio 30, Houston; AMC Willowbrook 24, Houston; AMC Katy Mills 20, Katy.

04.19.19

Chicago Indie Critics

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



APRIL 19, 2019 BY CIFCC

New from Every Movie Has a Lesson by Don Shanahan: MOVIE REVIEW: *Stuck*



STUCK— 4 STARS

The simplest interpretation of this indie film's title is the setting of the characters involved. Six New Yorkers are stuck in an MTA Subway car that has stopped mid-route because of police activity ahead. The establishing views of cinematographer Luke Geissbuhler observe the transition of a sunny metropolitan day above ground into the dingiest and rattling poetic monotony of the underground's noise mixed by supervising sound editor David. F. Van Slyke. Each individual of this sextet is trying to get to their desired places and can't. Life has paused them.

Yet, like the truthful insides of any gathering of unknowns, there's more to *Stuck* than a mere interval of happenstance, and the swelling urban musical that rises from its collective lungs elevates that fact. The spoken and sung revelations of each character's plight create a clashing cross-sectional dip into America's Melting Pot. These poignant emotions fuel biting social commentary in a way few films, big or small budget and musical or otherwise, have ever succeeded. This hidden gem plays exclusively at the River East, Crestwood, Village Crossing, Rosemont, Streets of Woodfield, Woodridge, and Yorktown AMC locations in the Chicagoland area.



Mine the film's title deeper with synonyms. Behind the public transportation jam, each citizen of this showcase is stuck in their own personal way. *Breaking Bad* Emmy winner Giancarlo Esposito leads this ensemble as Lloyd, a performance thespian who knows his Shakespeare while lugging all of his belongings around on a cart. He is homeless and, therefore, stranded more than stuck. Lloyd sweetly snarls his soliloquies as he fashions himself as "a measure of grace to the world." Esposito is the king of this patchwork court and brings forth a reeling performance.

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04.20.19

MTV Total Request Live

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



04.21.19

Shockya.com

Unique Monthly Users: 88,907

SHOCK YA!

MOVIES

Stuck Exclusive Clip Features Amy Madigan Sentimentally Reflecting on Relationship



By [Karen Benardello](#)

Published on April 21, 2019

Becoming emotionally trapped in a repetitive cynical cycle of pain and resentment is a gripping situation that people of all backgrounds can easily relate to throughout their lives. That's certainly the case for the six protagonists in the new musical drama, 'Stuck.' Through song, the diverse characters' thoughts and memories are explored, as they unexpectedly bond when the New York City subway they're riding gets stalled between stations.

In honor of MJW Films and Eammon Films releasing 'Stuck' in select theaters this weekend, ShockYa is premiering an exclusive clip from the movie, which is titled 'Gone.' The clip features actress Amy Madigan as her character, Sue, emotionally croons about how she used to not be discontent in her life, but has recently lost her strength because of the loss of someone special in her life.

In addition to Madigan, 'Stuck' also stars Ashanti, Giancarlo Esposito, Omar Chaparro, Arden Cho and Gerard Canonico. The drama, which was written and directed by Michael Berry, is based on the stage musical by Riley Thomas. The modern pop musical movie is set, and was shot, almost entirely on the New York City subway.

The film features original music by Riley Thomas, Tim Young and Ben Maughan. The music and songs in 'Stuck' are all original with musical styles specific to each character. The tracks are a lyrical and musical extension of their culture, thoughts, story and experience, and feature elements of rap, rock, classical and Motown.



Actress Amy Madigan stars in writer-director Michael Berry's musical drama, 'Stuck'.



04.21.19

Hollywood Life

Unique Monthly Users: 11,865,731



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

APRIL 22, 2019 5:45PM EDT

Ashanti Promises To Bring Her Old-School 'Vintage' Sound Back For Forthcoming Album



Brandy Robidoux

MUSIC WRITER



It's about to be the early 2000s all over again! HL EXCLUSIVELY chatted with Ashanti about her new film and music, & it sounds like OG fans of the singer are in for a treat.

Good news for day one **Ashanti** fans! Apparently, her new record is set to be an ode to her early days. **HollywoodLife** caught up with the singer for an EXCLUSIVE chat at the premiere of her film, *STUCK*, on April 16, and it left us more excited for her new music than ever. Even though she's been busy promoting her new film, the musician told us that music is "her first love."

I've been in studio recording, [I'm] dropping music hopefully later this summer. So, I'm looking forward to that, she told us on the red carpet. "I did an Instagram live two days ago from the studio, me and **Metro Boomin**. And, the people want vintage Ashanti R&B, so, we're gonna give them that — but a 2019 spin," she added. We're *so* ready for this!

For now, Ashanti is still riding high off of the release of her musical film, which follows the story of six commuters who cross barriers of race, culture and class to learn about one another through the power of music. For Ashanti, it was so special to see the flick finally come to fruition. "[My] favorite part was just having everything come together. You know, seeing all the characters, the dramatic moments, and feeling touched by the performances," she tells **HollywoodLife**. When asked if she's hyper-focused on one particular aspect of her career, Ashanti makes it clear she's not afraid to be a triple threat. "For me, no. I think it's really important to be a part of everything."

The **Michael Berry**-directed film is now out in select theaters, but the Grammy-Award winning artist has much more on the horizon. When she first revealed that she was working with record producer Metro Boomin, she claimed chemistry would bring something "dope" this year. Plus, she has a slew of concert dates coming up on both the east and west coast!



Courtesy of Sicily Publicity

We are loving this plunging, metallic look on Ashanti! With her co-star, **Arden Cho** (*Teen Wolf*) at her side, these two stunners hit the red carpet at *STUCK'S* opening night looking beyond flawless. After the success of her new film, we can't wait to see what Ashanti's new music will bring!

04.23.19

Diva Gals Daily

Unique Monthly Users: 13,568

DivaGalsDaily

What We Wore! Ashanti At The Stuck Premiere. Divas At Stony Brook Gala!

By Maureen Martin and Delaina Dixon | April 23, 2019 | Lifestyle



The Divas love to be out and about on the scene. We got to check out some cool events last week right here in New York City — and have the outfits to prove it!

STUCK. **STUCK**, a pop musical movie, is based on the Broadway musical of the same name. Set on the New York City subway, follow the music and performances of a motley crew of New Yorkers as they open their hearts and connect with one another while being stranded underground.

Stars **Ashanti** wore a low-cut metallic silver dress by **Escada** paired with **Lorraine Schwartz** jewelry. [Get your low cut gown here](#). **Arden Cho** wore a pink metallic dress by **Rebecca Taylor** paired with clear strap **Vince Camuto** shoes. [Get your own Rebecca Taylor look here](#). **STUCK** is currently playing in theaters.

04.21.19

Phoenix Magazine

Unique Monthly Users: 70,648

PHOENIX

THE PHIX

Friday Flicks: Stuck, Wild Nights with Emily and Avengers

M.V. MOORHEAD | April 2019

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Stuck

Six racially, ethnically and culturally diverse New Yorkers find themselves in the title state on a subway car delayed in a tunnel. They gradually reveal their lives, conflicts, resentments, heartaches and hopes to each other through song in this musical, adapted and directed by Michael Berry from a stage show by Riley Thomas. Arden Cho is a young dancer who has captured the attention of nerdy young comic book artist Gerard Canonico, possibly a stalker. Omar Chaparro is a Latino laborer struggling to support his family and in danger of losing his job if he runs late. Amy Madigan is a bereaved music professor who easily can see what's going on with Ashanti, as the composed but troubled African-American woman across from her.

Presiding over the confessions and clashes of these people is Giancarlo Esposito as Lloyd, a Shakespeare-spouting homeless man who serves as a master of the revels. It's excellent to see the criminally underutilized great actor Esposito in a lead role.

The score of *Stuck* is like those of a lot of contemporary musicals not called *Hamilton*, which is to say it's pleasant or pulse-pounding or even moving while you're hearing it but doesn't stick with you much after it ends. But the performers attack the tunes with vigor and bounce off of each other agreeably.

Berry opens up the material as much as possible; there are cutaways and flashbacks and even a big special effects sequence. It's cool, but overall I think I would like to have seen the action even more confined to singing and dancing in the claustrophobic space of the car. *Stuck* is so expansively "unstuck" that it seems almost like a cheat.

04.23.19

Greenville Herald-Banner

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



STUCK

Pop musical feature "Stuck" is based on a dramatic musical play by Riley Thomas, who cowrote the screenplay with the film's director Michael Berry.

Actress and singing star Ashanti, Mexican comedian and TV star Omar Chaparro and veteran actors Giancarlo Esposito and Amy Madigan are part of a talented cast of actors who are equally skilled in musical performance.

During their commute, a group of six New Yorkers find themselves stuck on a stalled MTA train. After a conductor locks them in, they eventually begin to talk. As sharp exchanges based on such subjects as race, class and culture occur, the seemingly homeless Lloyd (Esposito) serves as a sort of moderator.

As the complicated saga unfolds, each character has his or her own musical story to tell. While it's no surprise to hear Ashanti's powerful singing voice, who knew that Oscar nominee Amy Madigan could sing?

Flashbacks show us the characters' conflicts and struggles. Alicia (Arden Cho) accuses Caleb (Gerard Canonico) of stalking her, but he has a different reason for watching the beautiful dance teacher.

Rated PG-13 3 Stars

04.23.19

Ebony

Unique Monthly Users: 1,271,145

EBONY

EBONY EXCLUSIVE

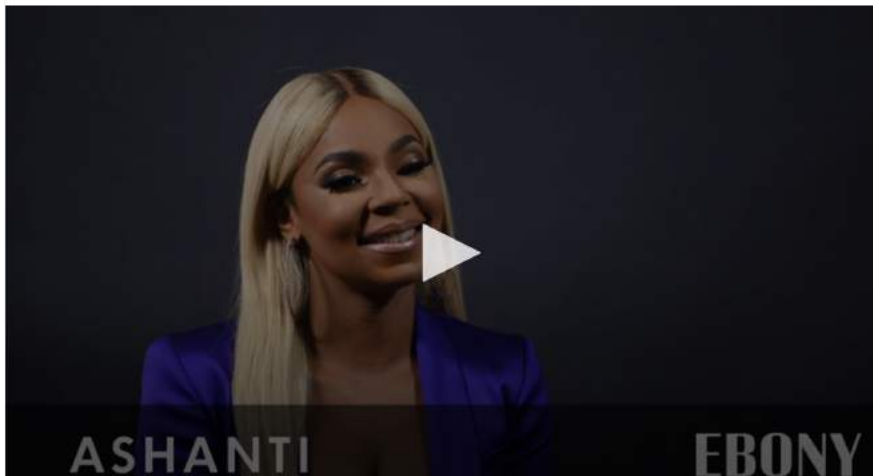
Ashanti Says New Movie 'Stuck' Is Far From a 'Corny' Musical

'Sometimes, when you think of musicals and you think of films, and you mesh them, it could come off a little corny, you know what I mean?'



By **Jessica Bennett** on April 23, 2019

R&B star Ashanti sat down with EBONY to discuss new her film, *Stuck*, of which she is also an executive producer.



The musical film was the Long Island, New York native's first, making her uneasy initially that it would look "corny."

"Honestly, sometimes, when you think of musicals and you think of films, and you mesh them, it could come off a little corny, you know what I mean? So I was a little bit nervous and wanted to make sure that it did not come off corny."

It was also important to the actress that women were able to connect to her character, Eve, who contemplates having an abortion after being abandoned by her lover.

"Her situation, I'm sure, tons of females have gone through it, just being in a position where you have to make a life decision on your own that's going to affect you for the rest of your life, whichever way you go and maybe not having the help that you need."

Check out the clip above. *Stuck* is in theaters now.

In this article: [ashanti](#), [movies](#), [musical](#)

04.23.19

Certified Pop

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

Certified
pop



ASHANTI PROMISES TO BRING HER OLD-SCHOOL 'VINTAGE' SOUND BACK FOR FORTHCOMING ALBUM

IT'S ABOUT TO BE THE EARLY 2000S ALL OVER AGAIN! HL EXCLUSIVELY CHATTED WITH ASHANTI ABOUT HER NEW FILM AND MUSIC, & IT SOUNDS LIKE OG FANS OF THE SINGER ARE IN FOR A TREAT.

Good news for day one Ashanti fans! Apparently, her new record is set to be an ode to her early days. **HollywoodLife** caught up with the singer for an EXCLUSIVE chat at the premiere of her film, *STUCK*, on April 16, and it left us more excited for her new music than ever. Even though she's been busy promoting her new film, the musician told us that music is "her first love." I've been in studio recording, [I'm] dropping music hopefully later this summer. So, I'm looking forward to that, she told us on the red carpet. "I did an Instagram live two days ago from the studio, me and **Metro Boomin**. And, the people want vintage Ashanti R&B, so, we're gonna give them that — but a 2019 spin," she added. We're so ready for this!

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04.23.19

Hip Hollywood

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



EXCLUSIVES

Ashanti Reveals The Secret To Her Bangin' Body



Published 3 weeks ago on April 23, 2019

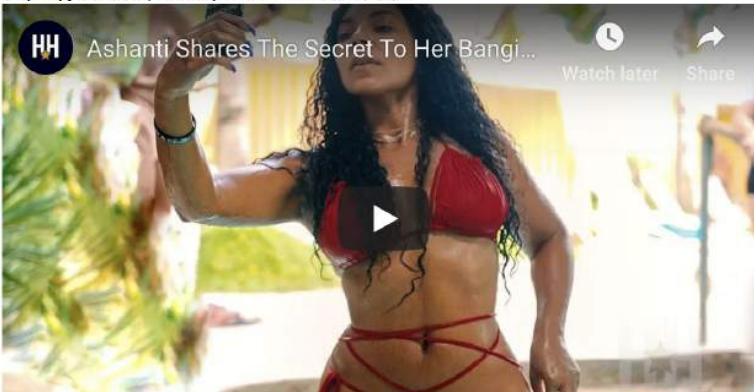
By [Jasmine Simpkins](#)



Ashanti has been flaunting her killer curves as of late and fans have taken notice crowning the gorgeous singer #BODYGOALS. So just how does she stay fit?

We caught up with the gorgeous songstress in NYC for the premiere of her new film *Stuck* where she revealed the secret to her bangin' body.

"It's a combination of eating right, trying to eat well and getting to the gym whenever I can," she explained. "I have two trainers, one on the west coast and one on the east coast, and trying to stay away from fried food."





Ashanti at the premiere of "Stuck" in New York

Of course she shut the carpet down rocking this metallic Escada gown with thigh high slit showing off her toned gams.

According to the "Foolish" singer touring with Ja Rule has also helped her stay fit and you can expect a joint project from them soon.

"We have some shows together. He's definitely gonna be working on stuff and we're gonna be doing some stuff together as well," she told PEOPLE. "We're still on the path to dropping a joint album. I think that should be kind of cool, too."

While she has also been busy working on a new album, Ashanti has been promoting *Stuck*, in which she executive produced and stars in alongside Giancarlo Esposito, Arden Cho and Amy Madigan.

"It's a musical film and i felt like the message was really important," she explained. "Being a true new Yorker and imagining being stuck on a subway could not be fun, so I felt like the message was very necessary."

04.24.19

The Entertainer Magazine

Unique Monthly Users: 9,813

**The
Entertainer!**
Magazine



| Musical Connections: 'Stuck' hits all the right notes

BY JOSEPH J. AIRDO ON APRIL 24, 2019

FILM

When one gets stuck with a group of strangers in a confined place—be it an elevator, a subway train or what have you—it is quite common to feel compelled to break out into song. Not just any song but a song that relays your life story and incredibly intimate, seemingly insurmountable obstacles that prevent you from moving forward.

That obviously could not be further from the truth but it is the essential setup of "Stuck."

"Stuck" is an original pop musical film about six commuters who get stuck together on a New York City subway. Through the power of music, they learn about each other's lives and, in turn, have a profound effect on one another. Connecting across lines of race, culture and class in a way that only situations of circumstance or happenstance can create, this will be a day that none of them will ever forget.

The music and songs in the film feature musical styles that are specific to each character—a lyrical and musical extension of their culture, thoughts, story and experience with elements of pop, rap, rock, classical and Motown. Stars include Giancarlo Esposito, Amy Madigan, Omar Chaparro, Arden Cho, Gerard Canonico and musical sensation Ashanti while the film itself was written and directed by Phoenix native Michael Berry

In addition to having made his feature directorial debut a few years ago with "Frontera," starring Ed Harris and Eva Longoria, Berry has appeared on Broadway and in national productions of "Next to Normal," "Les Miserables," "Sunset Boulevard," "The Whos," "Tommy" and "Mamma Mia." Therefore, he knows his way around the musical genre. And it shows.

Because these songs essentially tell stories, you will not likely have a desire to blast them on your car stereo during your daily commute. They are quite catchy but they are more poetic than melodic. That is not a criticism by any means and instead just an attempt to classify "Stuck" in a subgenre different than that of "The Greatest Showman" or "Moulin Rouge." If any comparison is to be made, it would be to "Rent."

You may feel compelled to yell at the characters on the screen as each of them eventually clashes with one another. After all, if they simply kept their mouths shut and waited out the delay then a lot of the "debates" (as one character calls them) would not occur and they would all be on their merry way. But that would not allow for much growth—growth that the universe is happily facilitating.

As the lyrics of the first song in the film state, "It's a common notion that the universe will shove together people who uniquely offer what the other needs. Often these connections are neglected or rejected. But every now and then the universe succeeds."

It's a beautiful thought and one that we should heed if we have any desire to escape our self-imposed prisons. People change people. "Stuck" demonstrates this concept remarkably well in the easily digestible form of a musical—a musical that does not have all the razzle-dazzle (thank you "Chicago") of its big-budget counterparts but manages to sing quite an affecting story.

04.25.19

JackieKCooper

Unique Monthly Users: 145,000



Stuck, Fast Color, The Man who killed Don Quixote | JackieKCooper Entertainment Rundown

04.27.19

Billboard Magazine

Unique Monthly Users: 18,000



05.1.19

Hallmark Home and Family

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Home&Family Weekdays 10am/9c

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST, 2019



Ashanti

Singer and actress Ashanti stops by Home & Family to talk about her new movie, "Stuck." The film is about six commuters who get stuck on a subway and begin to learn about each other's lives through the power of music. The film is currently playing in theaters and she even brings a clip from the movie for the audience to enjoy. She also talks about her recent trip to Thailand where she got to visit an elephant sanctuary.

05.10.19

Elements of Madness

Unique Monthly Users: N/A



Inconvenience turns to opportunity in the musical “Stuck”.

BY DOUGLAS DAVIDSON on MAY 10, 2019 • (0)

In 2008, writer Riley Thomas premiered his musical *Stuck* at the La Costa Theatre in Chicago, Illinois. From there, it moved to off-Broadway in 2012 before being commissioned as a film in 2016. With screenings taking place at festivals as early as April 23rd, 2017, it would be almost two more years to the day before *Stuck* would be released in mainstream theaters. With this knowledge, it's hard not to want to root for Michael Berry's cinematic rendition; however, there is the question of whether a story already seven years older than when it was first produced is still appropriate for audiences? Though there's a place in storytelling to defend *Stuck* as incredibly modern in the way it uses the perspective of the leads against themselves in order for them to grow, there is another perspective which questions whether the execution of this is appropriate. Therein lies the struggle with appreciating *Stuck*. It upholds the male perspective while feeding the notion of female weakness. This fact makes a rather charming, well-crafted film hard to bear by its encore.



Giancarlo Esposito as Lloyd in *STUCK*.

On an average day in New York, six passengers find themselves stuck when a police action requires their subway car to hold its position on the track. With the exception of busker Lloyd (Giancarlo Esposito), the other five all have places to be. With no end in sight, the strangers turn their focus on each other, instigating incredible tension as their conflicting perspectives put them at odds. Using song as their means of opening up (it is a musical after all), the six strangers begin to realize they possess more in common than initially believed.



L-R: Amy Madigan as Sue, Gerard Canonico as Caleb, Arden Cho as Alicia, Omar Chaparro as Ramon, and Ashanti as Eve in STUCK.

So many musicals opt for fantasy over reality, which *Stuck* does not. Here, the music, like the songs and lyrics by Ben Maughan, Thomas, and Tim Young, channel the reality of the world, seeking to confront it head-on instead of packing it in something sweet or radio-friendly. This means audiences are treated to Esposito as Lloyd's aggrieved "Crazy," a song about what people perceive the train-riding busker to be; Omar Chaparro singing the bittersweet "Mas Que Bastane," in which his character Ramon laments how being late for work translates to no dance class for his daughter; and Arden Cho's performance of "Look," a rage-fueled song detailing her character Alicia's complicated past. These songs are not likely to receive heavy rotation, but that doesn't mean that audiences won't connect with their joy, their sorrow, or their rage.



Omar Chaparro as Ramon in STUCK.

None of the songs would be as impactful as there are without the performances to match. In many ways, the performances are incredibly minimal. In such a confined space, the actors don't have room to walk, jump, or otherwise move, expect from one end of the car to another, so their ability to convey the journeys their respective characters undergo requires a more internalized performance. None do this better than Esposito. He's an actor whose immense talent is on display in every facet of the performance. With simple changes in his face, Esposito communicates a full range of emotion without a single word. Not to mention, as the train's resident, his role serves as both narrator for the audience and oft-aggrieved passenger, as his fellows look down on him for his appearance and perceived station. This, by the way, is a central element of *Stuck* – not Esposito, though he is important to the flow of the story – but the notion that the other five assume who Esposito's Lloyd is and what he wants. This matters because the story makes sure to do the same with each passenger at one point or another. None are fully innocent, yet none are as blameworthy for the way they treat the other. The story gives them each a human perspective: faulty, but still culpable for their comments and reactions. Take the way Amy Madigan's (*Field of Dreams*) portrays Sue, an academic whose every attempt at being helpful is undercut by multiple reductive, and clearly unintentional, backhanded comments. Even as an audience might shake their head at her clumsy assistance, referred to in the film as "white woman bullshit," Madigan ensures that the audience sees her struggle, that the audience sees the intent through sheer physicality, even as the words fail. While the cast as a whole is strong, Chaparro isn't given near enough to do, neither are Cho, Ashanti, or Esposito. Madigan's character and performance, however, create a surprising anchor for the others to revolve around.



L-R: Amy Madigan as Sue, Gerard Canonico as Caleb, Omar Chaparro as Ramon, and Ashanti as Eve in *STUCK*.

Where *Stuck* runs into trouble is the storyline involving Gerard Canonico's Caleb and Cho's Alicia. As the film opens and the audience meets the players in various situations, these two are introduced in the most off-putting way: Alicia dances in a private study, Caleb waits for her to exit and snaps a photo before following her. Once trapped on the train, he attempts to talk to Alicia through the music she's so obviously listening to and refuses to take the hint, even when outwardly stated by Alicia. Of all the plots within *Stuck*, theirs is the one that grinds the whole emotional realism to a screeching halt. Instead of being about the redemptive nature of opening ourselves up to someone else's perspective and, in doing so, finding something of yourself in others, Caleb's story is one of possession, of white male ownership, of "I found something beautiful, therefore I am owed." It's absolutely disgusting and is somehow completely accepted by

the end. The most frustrating aspect of this is that Alicia calls out Caleb when he claims what he's owed and yet she still manages to forgive him. Where the other stories felt completely natural in their conclusions, even as previously unrealized connections the passengers possessed are revealed in a cutesy, somewhat eye-rolling "we're all connected" way, the Caleb-Alicia story concludes in the most male gaze fantasy way possible. Sure, it's intended as sweet, but is wholly unearned and quite repellent.

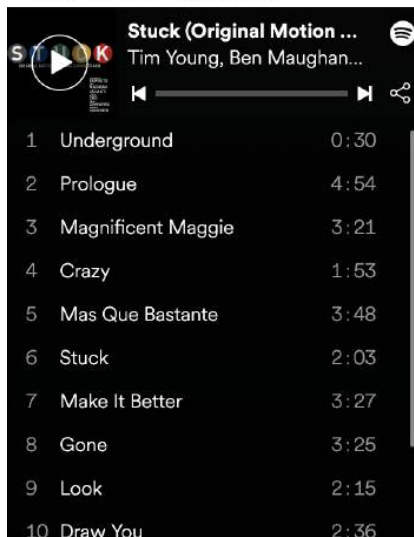


R: Gerard Canonico as Caleb, Arden Cho as Alicia, and Amy Madigan as Sue in *STUCK*.

In spite of itself, *Stuck* is an earnest, grounded tale of strangers from different worlds coming to recognize the humanness, not humanity, we all possess that connect us and make us stronger. Though one storyline does distract, it doesn't bring the film down as a whole. Michael Berry's *Stuck* feels like a stage play, possessing the kind of magic which makes the real feel elevated, even when we're all down in the muck. Gratefully, the cast lead by Esposito possesses the temerity and skill to keep the magic alive for the 90-minute runtime. Audiences may not run out to purchase the soundtrack, but maybe, just maybe, they will take a moment to ponder the perspectives of the people they meet on their way out of the theater. *Stuck* is **in select theaters** now.

Soundtrack available at various retailers.

Final Score: 3 out of 5.



05.25.19

Blasting News

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

blastingnews

NEWS & VIDEO | News United States > Lifestyle

'Stuck': Interview with director Michael Berry VIDEO

Director Michael Berry discusses his experiences working on the new major motion picture 'Stuck'.

by Meagan Meehan (article) and Parasshram Shalgar (video)

May 25, 2019 at 12:46 AM

Watch the video of the news: [Interview with 'Stuck' director Michael Berry](#)

“**Stuck**” is a new **musical** film that is set in modern-day New York City—specifically in the city’s famous subway stations—and chronicles a group of six commuters who find themselves trapped together on a broken-down train.

Although each come from different backgrounds, they share stories and [inspire](#) one another; leading to a day, none of them will either forget.

The **movie** hit theaters on April 19th, 2019, and is coming to VOD soon.

Recently director **Michael Berry** discussed his experiences working on “Stuck” via an exclusive interview.

Directing, films, and NYC subways

Meagan Meehan (MM): How did you get into **directing Movies**, and how did you get involved with “Stuck”?

Michael Berry (MB): I came to directing through acting. The majority of my training and experience is as an actor. I have been fortunate to do a few really great Broadway shows and work with some amazing directors and actors.



Director Michael Berry was proud to work on the major motion picture titled 'Stuck'. / Image via Michael Berry, used with permission.

The first film I ever directed was a short that I made with a fellow actor during a National tour of a show we were both traveling with. He knew that I had directed a number of stage-plays and suggested we try to make a short film together. We were performing the show for two weeks in Philly, which was about a two-hour drive from my house that is just outside of NYC. He and I and some of the actors from the show that had agreed to act in the film would jump in a car right after the show, drive out to my house, get up early shoot till 3pm, jump back in the car and drive back in time to do the show that night in Philly.

We cut the short while the tour was in Chicago between shows and late nights. We submitted the short to some film festivals and were surprised when the short film started winning awards.

The way I got involved with “Stuck” was when I was visiting my wife (who is also an actor) at an out of town show she was performing in. One of the other actresses in the show told me about her friend who was looking for a director for his show that was going to be produced at the New York Musical Theater Festival (NYMF) about six people who get stuck together on an NYC subway.

I was immediately interested because to me, it is a perfect storm when people/characters of different backgrounds, beliefs, cultures are forced together through event or happenstance and basically have to figure it out. She put Riley Thomas (writer/composer of the stage musical the film is based on) and I in touch, I read the script and libretto, loved it and we met up at a studio in the city where I went on a rant about how I saw the characters and what I thought the show meant and how I thought we could present it theatrically.

Fortunately, Riley liked my ideas and asked me to come onboard and direct the play. He and I had a great experience collaborating on the show and I kept thinking during rehearsal that it would make a really cool film musical.

MM: How would you describe the tone of “Stuck” and what most appealed to you about the **film**?

MB: Unexpected humanity found in a harsh and unforgiving place. “Stuck appeals” to me because it is a story of strangers who discover to their surprise, compassion and humanity in people that they have initially summed up at a glance.

People they believe they have nothing in common with and yet they connect. I guess I identified with something of myself in every character. I cared and felt compassion for every one of them, and that made me want to tell their story.

MM: How involved were you in the casting process, and what was it like to work with big stars like Ashanti?

MB: I was fortunate to be very involved with every aspect of casting and worked closely with the Producer and casting director throughout the process. Ashanti is a dream to work with. She is a pro, comes in prepared, is crazy talented and great to hang out with. Fact is, I loved working with my entire cast. I was told to keep my answers succinct so I can't really go into how truly magnificent Giancarlo Esposito is, or how Amy Madigan possesses the beauty, grace, and generosity of a woman yet has the energy of a girl. Or how Omar Chaparro is a brilliant cross between Charlie Chaplain and a bad ass action hero. Or how Gerard Canonico was cast two days before we started production and crushed his character and his song on the first day of shooting. Or how to describe the astonishing delicate beauty of Arden Cho juxtaposed with the smart, pragmatic, tough, and capable kid sister that she has become to me. Yep, I liked working with my cast. Every one of them was a gift.

MM: The film is based and set on the **NYC subway**, so did you secure filming on location and what was the trickiest segment to film?

MB: We filmed on a subway set that was built specifically for "Stuck," and we also spent several days shooting on a real MTA subway. We started on the set which was built to the exact specs of a real subway car, so we learned a lot about what we could and couldn't do, which I think prepared us well for our several days on the real subway. It was actually really fun and effective to shoot on a real subway car and platform and the crew handled all great, but those days to me were hands down the trickiest days of the shoot.

MM: What is your favorite scene and a bit of dialogue in “Stuck” and why?

MB: Hmn.... The Ramon song that Omar sings wrecks me because I am a Dad with three kids, so I relate to that struggle. But I guess if pressed I would say that my favorite moments are when Sue (Amy Madigan) and Lloyd (Giancarlo Esposito) are seated across from each other at the end and the things they say to each other before she gets off the train.

Audiences and future film projects

MM: What do you hope **audiences** get out of “Stuck” and how is this film thematically different from others you’ve directed?

MB: I hope that audiences will feel and relate to one or all of these characters. I hope they are inspired to remember to choose compassion rather than snap judgment when met with people that they believe are different from them. Although my previous film “Frontera” was a border drama set between Mexico and Arizona with horses and vast exteriors. Even though no one sings, “Frontera” is a story about people finding humanity and compassion in others who are different from them and come from a different culture. So, I suppose thematically, the two films are more consistent than they would appear at a glance...

MM: What are the most rewarding things about being a movie director and what other **film projects** are coming up for you in 2019?

MB: Most rewarding thing about being a director to me is that I get to be a storyteller. I will never take that part for granted. My current project is titled "The Shadow Of Freedom." It is based on the true story of a man named Tchicaya Missamou. Tchicaya was born in the Congo and was forced to be a child soldier but later escaped the Congo and found his way into America as an undocumented immigrant. Tchicaya joined the United States Marines and fought for America in Iraq and was then granted his US citizenship. Immediately after with new US passport in hand, Tchicaya returned to the Congo with the intent of rescuing his ill mother. He was arrested as a "traitor" as soon as he arrived, beaten and shot. He finds a way to contact his Marine squad and...You will have to hope that I get the movie made and come and see it find out what happens after that.... LOL.



Interview with 'Stuck' director Michael Berry

Director Michael Berry discusses his experiences working on the new major motion picture 'Stuck'.

06.03.19

Reel Reviews Over Brews

Unique Monthly Users: N/A

Reel Reviews Over Brews

Review: Stuck (2017)

Posted on June 3, 2019 by milzy26



"Six New Yorkers learn all about one another through the power of music, overcoming barriers of race, culture and class, while stuck together on the subway."



I know what a lot of you are thinking... a musical? Greattttt. I felt the same way. They can be very hit or miss. More often than not, they miss. However, *Stuck* breaks the trend. It has a great message of love and acceptance. It tackles a lot of hot topics and issues going on in the world today. It basically has all of the feels. I had a couple of the songs stuck in my head all weekend (no pun intended). There were a few that were just meh. Some of the actor's voices were below average, but they still got the point across. It goes without question that *Ashanti* absolutely nailed her role and of course, her voice was amazing. I also had never heard of *Arden Cho* going into this movie, but am now a HUGE fan! She was fantastic. The casting was well done and definitely put together some big names (*Giancarlo Esposito*, *Amy Madigan*, and *Ashanti*). Believe it or not, I've already recommended a few people to give *Stuck* a watch. Now, I'm recommending it to all of you. Next time you're looking for a feel good movie, this is it! You'll for sure be "stuck" to your seat (this time, pun intended).

Reel ROB Rating: 7.5 out of 10 stars

Post Credits Scene: No