

## **THREE LITTLE HEARTS, with a powerful anti-racist message, has just been released by Amazon to its Prime viewers!**

***The film is a short alien fantasy story for children, which portrays three young girls who experience discrimination based on their race. This thought-provoking film attempts to raise awareness in its target audience – young viewers – of the sad realities that still exist in today's society.***

**The film was awarded...Three Little Hearts won in six categories at a prestigious IMDb Independent Shorts Award, including the 'Best Children Short' and 'Best Fantasy Short' at the Platinum Award, their highest tier category, and also "Best Director", "Best Actor", "Best Acting Ensemble", and "Best Original Story"**

**The story is set in modern day London, where two groups of alien children; one white and the other coloured, arrive on this planet.** In order to survive on Earth they each need a heart, which can only be given by the Man who has lived as a custodian for centuries. However, he is almost at the end of his mission and he can only award hearts to one of the groups. The two groups have very different experiences while on Earth. We can see how the group of Coloured girls are treated: firstly they are bullied, then shot at with a gun, then later unlike the Caucasian girls they are treated unfairly by a shop assistant, and accused of stealing, and finally run over by a car. And just before they are switched off mechanically for good, the dramatic irony is when one of the girls asks a question: "Why do you think they didn't like us on this planet?" But the tragic part is what one of the other girls thinks is the reason why they were not liked.

**The film has meaningful symbols.** The first symbol is the British post box. You might expect that the alien children jump out from a space ship, or something as mystical as a cloud perhaps, or carried in the old fashioned way by a stork. But this story offers something rather unique. They jump out of a British post box. The post box is usually where we put letters and cards to send people a message. The director Nina Kojima wants to show at the beginning of this film this short film has its own message. Another symbol is how the shop assistant who treats the Coloured girls unfairly has a French accent. This represents how people of different colour can experience racism in all parts of the world and by many cultures. The final symbol is the clothes the characters are wearing to show an oppressive system. The Man who is dressed in a Victorian costume and appears later on dressed as a policeman from the Victorian times symbolises that not much has changed since then; it was 1833 when slavery was officially abolished by the British government and yet racism still exists. The Coloured group of alien children are dressed in outfits which were once the uniform of the communist states with one party systems, while the group of Caucasian children are dressed in a school uniform which still exists today. In fact, the school uniform they are wearing belongs to the school where an incident of racist abuse and inequality took place, which inspired the director to write this story.

**The director wrote this story as a form of protest following an incident which happened in one of the Central London schools in 2018,** where two talented girls, one of African ethnicity and the other of Indian, were given the role of chimney sweepers at the *Mary Poppins Form 6 Leavers* play. This incident damaged one of the girl's confidence so badly that she did not want to return to the school, so her parents had to find an alternative school for her in another country. It was there where she spent the last term of her primary school experience, which is supposed to be exciting, memorable, and rewarding! It has been two years since the degrading incident, and there has not been any form of apology given to either girl or their families regarding this.

**Nina Kojima (both the director and writer) believes, "Films can be a strong and powerful weapon which can help fight racism.** As far as re-writing history goes, we are powerless. However, we have the power to decide what to do with it. We have the power to learn from the past, and emerge as a united society, for the good of the next future generations. Racism is not only a problem in the USA and the UK, but in many places around the world. The structure of the film goes from one accusation to another, leading to horrifying actions towards the Coloured group of the aliens. So, they can be killed by a gun, run over by a car and accused of being thieves, not in a parallel Universe but at a place we know, all in one day!"

**For more information see the director's and writer's profile IMDb and website:**

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm9536607/>

<https://ninakojima.com>

**You can click on the link below and watch *Three Little Hearts* on Laptop or Phone - If you have Prime, be sure to log in so you can watch it free:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=nina+kojima&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=nina+kojima&ref=nb_sb_noss)

**OR: You can also watch it on Amazon on your TV - just search for *Three Little Hearts*.**