

Lanaa Dantzler



Lanaa Dantzler is an extremely talented individual who is pursuing a career in the Film and Television Production Industry. She is a 2026 graduating senior of West Philadelphia High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society, the inaugural vocal music program and graduating as Salutatorian of her class with a 4.1 GPA. She will be attending **Chapman University** in the fall, a four-year accredited university renowned for its Dodge College of Film and Media Arts curriculum. The RW Sorrell Scholarship Fund has awarded Lanaa a four-year scholarship at \$5,000 annually to support her educational goals and pursuit of her dream of helping others through the art of storytelling and filmmaking.

Lanaa is an award-winning teen filmmaker, writer and activist best known for her debut short film, *“Five Angry Black Girls,”* a film she wrote, directed and starred. She presents as an engaging visionary with a contagious personality and unlimited potential. Her references describe her as a selfless advocate on behalf of others and a powerful blend of vision and effective execution. She is also described as a person with a deep sense of equity and compassion for others. Over the course of her high school career, Lanaa has served in several leadership positions with community-based objectives and advocacy on behalf of others. During her three-year tenure as Co-President of the Black Student Alliance at CAPA, she organized several community events engaging hundreds of students and raising thousands of dollars annually, created the first ever awards ceremony for the junior class, allowing them to gain institutional awards that would help with college applications. She spearheaded the committee, created a voting system, designed a website and ran social media for the event. These events demonstrated her ability to mobilize students, but also showcased her ability for large-scale project management. Lanaa has worked on several short film projects, with her dictatorial debut, *“Five Angry Black Girls”* (2023) being an official selection at the *Essence* Film Festival and distributed by Magic Johnson’s Aspire TV streaming network. She has received recognition and awards for other short films and screenplays through programs like the Black Girl Film Camp, an organization she appreciates and serves as an inaugural Executive Director, fellow and alum. Her work has screened in over 35 locations, including Harvard University and MIT. Her most recent film, *“At The End of the World”* was accepted into the prestigious YoungArts nationwide competition. She is currently a semi-finalist in ADISA & The Kellogg Foundation’s Short Film Lab, which was announced on the Jennifer Hudson Show and in *Essence*. The finalist will receive mentorship from industry professionals on film making.

We look forward to supporting Lanaa’s educational journey over the next four years and to her contribution to the world through filmmaking. ■