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Charise Studesville was nine-years-old when she got her first job as a professional dancer as the only child in an adult dance corps. That same industriousness has driven her professional life since. She used modeling gigs to help pay her way through college, along with simultaneous internships, including working as an Assembly Page in the Wisconsin State Legislature, a local television talk show, and a Sears Congressional Intern for a Senator on Capitol Hill. She followed this up with grad school and running her own company, Cultureprints, consulting with schools and corporations on issues of cross-cultural sensitivity. Using her training as a journalist at the University of Wisconsin, Charise decided to switch gears, and put her writing to work, beginning an award-winning career as a screenwriter.

In 2007, Charise jumped into the production side of the film business firsthand, and set her sights on working with Martin Chase Productions, headed up by Debra Martin Chase. After hearing Debra speak at a Black Women Lawyers event in Chicago, and learning that Debra had helped nurture another Chicago talent by the name of Shonda Rhimes, Charise knew she had found the right place. She soon began her six-month weekly commute between Chicago and Los Angeles, working at Martin Chase during production of *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2* and *The Cheetah Girls: One World*. In 2008, Charise attended the USC/Warner Brothers Directing & Producing Summer Program at the University of Southern California, and finished up the summer by directing her first independent and award-winning film, *The Hands*.

In 2010, Charise directed and produced a feature documentary on the organization Common Threads, and the impact of "food deserts" on the health and welfare of inner-city children in American cities. She is currently working on two dramatic feature films and a television pilot.

CHARISE M. STUDESVILLE



## HONORS

- 2005 Best Screenplay, African American Women in Cinema 8th Annual Film Festival
- 2006 Feature Screenplay Gaia Award, Moondance International Film Festival
- Finalist–2006 Monterey Film Commission’s 11th Annual Screenwriting Contest (top 5%)
- Finalist–2007 Independent Black Film Festival/Final Draft Screenplay Competition
- Finalist–2007 Tribeca All-Access
- Finalist–2007 American Gem Short Script Contest

## EDUCATION

- B.A., Journalism, University of Wisconsin
- Attended Northwestern University Law School
- M.A., Writing, DePaul University
- University of Iowa Writer’s Workshop–Summer Program/Screenwriting Seminars with Elaine Holliman
- Workshops in screenwriting, producing, and directing/ various film festivals
- Warner Brothers/USC Directing/Producing Program (2008)



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