

# Soon Come

By Jahvel Hall

Drama Comedy

6x30 minutes

**London, 2021.** The night looms over a frail figure as it hobbles through a dimly lit courtyard dragging an ASDA bag for life. A cackle of light brightens the opaque sky before a sizzling lit flame is heard. The empty 'Riverside Living' for the elderly goes up in spectacular flames as a petrol bomb smashes into the building. With one last gush of might the ASDA bag filled with prescription drugs is flung into the burning flames... *"that'll teach the pussy 'oles ta-rassclart!"*

Meet widowed Anthea Dixon aged 79, grandmother, retired cleaner, accidental drug dealer, activist, come arsonist. Anthea's arthritis ridden joints drag her to meet tentative grandson Aidan (aged 23) who's waiting in his Vauxhall Corsa, praying the engine doesn't stall *again*. Anthea promises *"that's me dun', I'm out. home me soon come"* ... *"Gran was that really necessary?"* ... *"shut up and drive nuh!"*.

**Soon Come** follows the story of Anthea who moved to London from Jamaica aged 18. Living a fairly simple and obedient lifestyle, she worked and reared a family. However once her children have all grown and her partner of thirty years (Winston) suddenly passes, Anthea winds up alone and financially destitute. To her thankless family Anthea's a loving, caring generous woman. To others, she often described as a cantankerous wretch, spited by the world. With the mounting debts and impending sense of death (mostly via boredom) Anthea realises she could sell on Winston's medication. *"chu'pid doctor filled in the form wrong, him been getting sent 3x more than him need every week...but is why I keep seeing Dr. Ganash for years"*. One thing leads to another and suddenly Anthea has emotionally blackmailed her bookish grandson Aidan into helping her transport a drug racket through London's care homes.

Out of Anthea's four children, nine grandchildren and three great children, Aidan is the least compatible with Anthea's personality. *"You too stiff"*, what works in Aidan's favour is his trustworthiness and desire to please...also his car for the drop offs. Unbeknownst to Anthea, Aidan has his own secret and may not be as unassuming as initially thought. The antagonist of the story and also her most loyal companion, Aidan grows in strong opposition to his ever opportunistic gran.

As the unlikely duo live their best Pablo Escobar lives, the bustlings of extended family come knocking, threatening the blow open the whole operation. The story develops further as Anthea is tragically diagnosed with Alzheimer's. After this and upon finding the painkillers Anthea has *'mistakenly'* hoarded, her adult children plan to cart Anthea off to 'Riverside Living' a sheltered housing complex. But Anthea has other ideas, especially once she's hears how Riverside Living treats their residents...

Told through the lens of an absurdist drama with comedic undertones, **Soon Come** has a real dramatic heart examining the loneliness older generations experience especially once they've lost a loved one, coupled with the financial vulnerability of disabling conditions. The choice between turning on the heating or affording dinner, is something that could affect any of us. The story was inspired by an aunt who received an accidental bucketload of paracetamol from her GP and subsequently decided to ship them out around the family. The act of survival, mixed with 'can't choose your family' dynamics really interests me. There is a lack of strong West Indian matriarchs on TV, and Anthea is sure as hell gonna change that.

**Soon Come** is a mix of **Breaking Bad** meets **Grace and Frankie** dashed with the British sensibilities of **Shameless**.