

Acclaimed filmmaker Dana Verde examines the life and times of Sarah Baartman.

Award-winning filmmaker, Dana Verde, writer of hit rom-com, *The Perfect Match*, brings us a new story that encapsulates the isolation of black womanhood with her latest project *Saartjie*, based on the true story of Sarah Baartman.

Verde's theatrically released film, *The Perfect Match*, produced by Queen Latifah and starring Terrence J and Paula Patton, told a compelling story about a black man experiencing vulnerability after he falls in love. Now, Verde is telling a story about a black woman experiencing the vulnerability of being a black woman.

Her new short film, *Saartjie*, based on the true story of Sarah Baartman (Venus Hottentot), is about a black South African woman who because of her voluptuous body was exhibited in a freak show in London and Paris in the early 1800s.

Women like Kim Kardashian and other celebrities have become famous because of their 'voluptuous' derrieres, but 200 years ago Sarah was infamous for having the same figure. In making a film about Sarah Baartman, Verde hopes it will soften the harsh gaze in which society views black women and black women's bodies.

From colonial times to the present, black women find themselves the constant target of negativity, ridicule and assault. Jada Pinkett-Smith recently touched on this during her 'Red Table Talk' interview with Jordyn Woods. Pinkett-Smith noted, "...black women can be the most disregarded and disrespected creatures on the Earth".

Verde wants to expose this truth by shifting the narrative away from the 'strong black woman' stereotype and showing the susceptibility of black women.

You can become a part of this cinematic journey by donating to the crowdfunding campaign, SAARTJIE, on seed & spark <https://www.seedandspark.com/fund/saartjie> starting on March 21st, 2019, or by attending the highly anticipated event '*Venus Rising: A Black Herstory Month Celebration*' hosted at the proclaimed *Image Nation's Raw Space* in Harlem, NY, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/venus-rising-a-black-herstory-month-celebration-w-filmmaker-dana-verde-tickets-57951386156> [\[eventbrite.com\]](https://www.eventbrite.com), featuring Verde and other dynamic filmmakers as they explore the objectification and empowerment of black women through the ages.

Follow @DanaVerde (Instagram, FB, and Twitter) and sign up on www.danaverde.com [\[danaverde.com\]](http://danaverde.com) to stay up-to-date on *Saartjie*.

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