

# FROM ANTHONY W JOHNSON

The film, “Alexis Colette” is an obscure, alluring tale of secrecy and cover-ups sewn together with many twists and misconceptions that revolve around deception, and perception involving the surreptitious era of the 1940’s and the mysterious happenings surrounding Eloise Home for the Mentally Insane. All the while, this clandestine tale delves intensely into the intriguing perception of ghosts. However, this saga is much more intricate than a mere ghost story. It holds a secret filled with a dark disturbing past. It is also a profound, frightening, fusion of vacillating styles of film noir.

The conception of possession, alongside silent, intuitive speculations, said and unsaid that unnerve the intertwining emotions, involving death and anomalies, then combined with a great emotional mystery, can become an entertaining work of art. Telling this story from various perspectives, such as in a magic trick, song or simply the mystic art of illusion, we create a sense of intrigue. What one thinks he or she knows, quickly forces one to realize that we all have our beliefs. Those beliefs quickly become bait for both the characters and the audience. A rollercoaster of deceit, betrayal and overtones of desperation, a Guide takes Eric, a documentarian, through the haunted Eloise Mental Asylum today. Both play vital roles that can ensnare the sharpest minds, as we all know, both murder and death need resolve.

Furthermore, the nineteen forties, was a time when everyone, in some way, masked themselves. The mere notion of being transgender went unspoken, androgyny was even more taboo. You could inadvertently, according to various churches, be considered possessed, then immediately drawn into an exorcism ceremony. And for the others? Many doctors deemed patients mentally ill, locked them in chambers, and abused them with severe electro-shocks at high voltages. For some, lobotomies became innovative antidotes. For women, worse, suppressed feelings, attached to the stigma of femininity, colorful dresses and the commitment to marriage enacted guilt, fear, and dangerous consequences. Of which, then shaped valuable roles between men and women that could not and would not be violated, until this generation.

Alexis and Colette face their desires, and needs, but eventually they must make a choice. The magnitude of that choice, especially during a time when women, let alone, have the right to vote, to express themselves, in any way, other than lady like, had dire costs. In the end, Eric, just like the showgirls, must also make a choice. But for Eric there becomes only two options that lie and are layered between truth and consequence-- the choice to live or to die.

“Alexis Colette” is a frightening movie with slick music, and great dance sequences that break up the monotony of the typical thriller. Moreover, this film is a poetic paranormal suspense saga that has a fantastic sense of humor, and with, which makes for great movie going. But above all this, it is an emotional docudrama of the lives, whose stories could not be told until now. We feel confident that this film will not only sell, but also allow for incredible performances by gifted, multi-talented actors, as the actors take on multiple roles in the script.

We unequivocally believe that it will also have a cult following for many years to come.