



KENNETH MOORE JR  
*Founder / Director*  
1826 Pennsylvania Avenue #12526  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217



October 4, 2017

Welcome back, let's roll!

Grab your popcorn, turn off your electronic devices; just sit back and enjoy - the 4th Annual Baltimore International Black Film Festival (BIBFF) is underway. We've done it again! Together. Through your input at the year round "*Reel Unity Film Series*" and the culling of hundreds of films, we present to you a magnanimous collection of independent films from all over the world.

Over the next six days you'll experience a broad range of subjects in the over eighty five films from fifteen countries highlighting individuals of all ages, nationalities, abilities and sexual orientations. The BIBFF's reach extends beyond our borders as we work to bring us together in the spirit of "Reel Unity!"

We're so excited to partner with the Center for Black Equity, GLCCB Wombwork Productions, Black Men's Xchange, Baltimore Black Pride, and Baltimore Filmmakers Collective on the social events, workshops, health exhibits and seminars designed to augment your film festival experience.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors, supporters, partners and volunteers who make the festival possible each year. My hope is that whether a film makes you laugh, cry, upset or determined; you'll see yourself in someone else's experience and have that powerful "Reel Unity" moment at the 2017 BIBFF.

True Brotherly Love,

Kenneth Moore Jr.  
Founder & CEO, SOGAA Inc.  
Founder / Director  
Baltimore International Black Film Festival



# 2017 BIBFF SCHEDULE

## Wednesday October 4, 2017

### Opening Reception:

Hor d'oeuvres & Wine  
*In Collaboration with the Center for Black Equity*  
*Nancy by SNAC* 4:30 pm

### Opening Night Film:

Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall  
*Charles Theatre* 7:00 pm

### Opening Night Mixer:

Lite Fare & Cocktails  
*Pen & Quill* 9:30 pm



## Thursday October 5, 2017

Shorts: Can I Get A Witness?  
*Charles Theatre* 11:00 am

Gloria  
Segregation is Back  
*Charles Theatre* 12:15 pm

*Dr. Race: Practicing Medicine While Black*  
Action Commandant  
*Charles Theatre* 1:30 pm

*I Promise to Remember*  
Tchindas  
*Charles Theatre* 3:05 pm

### Youth Film Festival Night:

*In Partnership with Wombwork*  
Shorts: Save The Children  
*Charles Theatre* 5:05 pm

## Thursday October 5, 2017

*We Love Moses*  
For Ahkeem  
*Charles Theatre* 7:05 pm

*Mommy Heist*  
White Colour Black  
*Charles Theatre* 9:05 pm



## Friday October 6, 2017

Shorts: Chained  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 10:00 am

*The First Stone*  
Speak it Real  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 11:15 am

*Why Not Now: Vivian Stancel*  
Wilmington on Fire  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 12:45 pm

*Dana's Story*  
Blaxploitation  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 2:45 pm

*Knockout Game*  
Back To Natural: A Doc Film  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 4:45 pm

Shorts: Come Get to This  
*GLCCB Presents Giovanni's Room*  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 6:45 pm



# 2017 BIBFF SCHEDULE

## Friday October 6, 2017

*Mantra*  
The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 9:45 pm



## Saturday October 7, 2017

Shorts: How Can I Forget  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 10:00 am

*Underneath The Grey*  
Sauti (Voice)  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 11:45 am

Shorts: Inner City Blues  
*Conversation with Dr. Cleo Manago*  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 1:45 pm

*90 Days*  
Dispatches From Cleveland  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 4:00 pm

*The Love Within*  
Fight Hate With Love  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 6:05 pm

*Mosquito: The Bite of Passage*  
Jewel's Catch One  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 8:00 pm

**Filmmakers Networking Event:**  
*Baltimore Filmmakers Collective*  
*Terra Café* 8:30 pm

*Behind Closed Doors*  
Potato POTHATO  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 9:55 pm

## Sunday October 8, 2017

Shorts: 'Til Tomorrow  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 10:00 am

*C'est Moi*  
Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 11:30 am

Shorts: Pride and Joy  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 1:05 pm



*Trouble Man*  
Making SkyBreak  
*Reginald F. Lewis Museum* 2:00 pm



*Ori Inu: In Search of Self*  
Dancing in the Dark  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 3:15 pm

*Primary Colors*  
La Vie Magnifique De Charlie  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 5:15 pm

**Closing Night Film:**  
Quest  
*Murphy Fine Arts Center* 7:30 pm

**Awards Ceremony & Reception:**  
*Ida B's Table* 9:45 pm



## Monday October 9, 2017

**Filmmakers Brunch:**  
*Kora Lee's Gourmet Café* 12:00 pm



# 2017 BIBFF – SHORTS PROGRAMS

## CAN I GET A WITNESS

Julian Bond: Reflections  
Majesty Girls  
Niofar  
The Art of the Journey



## SAVE THE CHILDREN

Agent Hollywood  
Bus Nut  
No Bullying Zone  
Safe Spaces  
Strange Fruit  
The Letter Carrier  
The Lowrider Tradition  
The Uprising: Bmore Music Culture  
To Serve and Protect?  
Wake Up



## CHAINED

El Peso de la Manta  
The Suit



## COME GET TO THIS

El Flaco  
Lost in the World  
Pronouns  
Shock Nation  
Missed Connections  
Mixed Tape: Stay Black Baby  
MONOGAMISH.

## HOW CAN I FORGET

IMPUNITY  
Macho  
Olde E  
Our Skin



## INNER CITY BLUES

Black and Blue  
Black Christmas  
Jake  
Lawman  
Little Elizabeth  
Rolling in the Deep  
Plane  
Padlock Men  
Super Predator: Preludes of the BlackFish



## 'TIL TOMORROW

Arnold  
Dance With Your Heart  
From Noya  
Full Circle  
Willology



## PRIDE AND JOY

Bayard & Me  
B.E. Cre8ive Shorts  
Free Weekend  
My First Drag Show  
Proclamation Punctuation  
Revenge Club  
The Birthday  
Marz



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## A Focused Look at HIV

While the growing promise of HIV prevention, care, and treatment is remarkable, not all people are benefiting from the standard of care. For instance, in Baltimore, **Black MSM are significantly less likely than other MSM to have heard of PrEP**, an effective HIV prevention tool.<sup>14</sup> If the diagnosis rate remains the same, 1 in 2 Black men who have sex with men (MSM) in the country will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetimes.<sup>15</sup>

### » Maryland



**3rd highest rate**  
of people living with HIV  
in the nation (2014)<sup>16</sup>



**1 in 5 Black MSM**  
in Maryland are living with HIV  
(2007)<sup>17</sup>

### » Baltimore



**10th highest rate**  
of new diagnoses of HIV  
in the nation (2015)<sup>16</sup>



**82%**  
of new diagnoses  
are among non-Hispanic  
Black people (2014)<sup>18</sup>

### » Black Gay and Bisexual Men



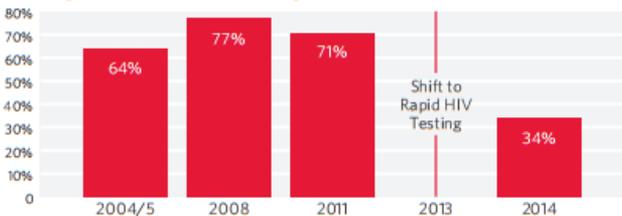
**41%**  
of Black MSM  
in Baltimore are living with HIV—



**1 in 3 of these men**  
did not previously know they  
were living with HIV (2014)<sup>19</sup>

Although HIV prevalence remains high, Baltimore has made pronounced achievements in helping men identify their HIV status and get linked to care.

#### Unrecognized HIV Infections among Black MSM<sup>17</sup>



Research has found this increased vulnerability to HIV is not explained by behavioral factors alone—Black gay men do not engage in more “risky” sexual behaviors than other groups.<sup>20</sup> Men care about their health. Environment factors, such as undiagnosed HIV, access to care and treatment services, and use of HIV medication, create a situation where HIV flourishes.<sup>21</sup>

## Medical and Social Service Landscape

Baltimore houses some of the leading health research universities and service centers, offering a vast medical and social service landscape to navigate. Despite the wide availability of services, men describe difficulty in finding care that fit their needs. Men tend to hop from clinic to clinic until they are satisfied, leaving space for a gap in receiving medical care.<sup>13</sup>

Source: <https://us.viivhealthcare.com>





CATHERINE E. PUGH  
*Mayor*  
250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



October 4, 2017

On behalf of the citizens of Baltimore, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 4th Annual Baltimore International Black Film Festival (BIBFF), featuring independent films directed, produced and starring African Americans and members of the African Diaspora.

The Festival was launched in 2014 with the aim of “bridging the gap” to promote unity between our youth, young adults, seniors, activist and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, and has grown steadily each year. I want to thank the Baltimore International Black Film Festival's members, volunteers, and sponsors for creating and sustaining an outstanding film festival in the city of Baltimore.

Congratulations to all of the talented individuals whose dedication and hard work will culminate in the screening of your films at the festival. We are proud to join in the celebration of your artistry and storytelling through filmmaking which amplify diverse sets of voices to bring our communities together.

Welcome to Baltimore, and enjoy the festival!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine E. Pugh".

Catherine E. Pugh  
*Mayor*  
*Baltimore City*



# **BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL**

## **"OFFICIAL SELECTIONS"**

Documentary & Narrative Features

# **2017**



## 2017 SPOTLIGHT FILM – OPENING NIGHT FEATURE



### Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall

2017 USA 100 MIN  Wed Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm – Charles Theatre

Todrick Hall launches his most ambitious project yet: the full-scale original musical, *Straight Outta Oz*. From a small town in Texas to big-time show business, comes an inspiring documentary of grit, perseverance and the redemptive power of art. We watch him struggle to write songs about growing up gay and black in small-town Texas, his difficult relationship with his mom, and the harsh realities of trying to make it in show business. With limited time and budget the odds are against him, but Todrick's passion and his team of talented performers overcome all obstacles to bring this story to the world.

*Todrick Hall is a singer, songwriter, dancer, actor, choreographer, playwright, costume designer and Broadway performer. He reached the semifinals on Fox's "American Idol" season 9, and his self-titled show "Todrick" debuted in the summer of 2015 on MTV. Broadway credits include: Oprah Winfrey's "The Color Purple", Tony-winning musicals "Memphis!" and a box office record breaking run as Lola in "Kinky Boots."*

*Executive Producer: Brett Bouttier, Paula Kaplan & Robyn Marshall | Directed and Edited by Katherine Fairfax Wright | Music: Todrick Hall, WiiDOPE & Jeeve | Featuring: Todrick Hall, Teresa Stanley, Wayne Brady, Chester Lockhart, Jesse Pattison, Brenda Cornish, Vonzell Solomon, Jenni Thomasson and Jazlyn Nicole Miller.*



## 2017 SPOTLIGHT FILM – CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE



### Quest

2017 USA 90 MIN  Sun Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

Filmed with vérité intimacy for over a decade, QUEST is the moving portrait of a family in North Philadelphia. Christopher “Quest” Rainey, along with his wife Christine’a, aka “Ma Quest,” open the door to their home music studio, which serves as a creative sanctuary from the strife that grips their neighborhood. Over the years, the family evolves as everyday life brings a mix of joy and unexpected crisis. Set against the backdrop of a country now in turmoil, QUEST is a tender depiction of an American family whose journey is a profound testament to love, perseverance, healing and hope.

*“Recalls Steve James’ Hoop Dreams in both the way it captures people over a long period of a time and in how it finds the profound in the everyday, the universal in the specific.” - Brian Tallerico, RogerEbert.com*

*“[A] living, breathing, stunning documentary study of an African-American family in North Philadelphia weathering a tumultuous decade.” - Guy Lodge, Variety*

*Produced by Sabrina Schmidt Gordon and Hayden Porter | Directed by Jonathan Olshefski | Editor: Lindsay Utz | Featuring: Christopher “Quest” Rainey, Christine’a, “Ma Quest” Rainey and Patricia “PJ” Rainey.*



## 2017 SPECIAL SCREENING: Documentary Feature



### Making SkyBreak

2017 USA 57 MIN  Sun Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm – Reginald F. Lewis Museum

Zo!, a multi-instrumentalist producer has his most ambitious and personal album to date with *SkyBreak*. *‘Making SkyBreak’* takes you behind the scenes with Zo! and the crew of talented songwriters, producers, and vocalists who helped create the amazing album. Through the documentary, explore his hometown of Detroit to learn about Zo!’s humble beginnings, tour his home studio in Washington D.C., and travel to a host of cities from Los Angeles to Raleigh, NC.

*‘Making SkyBreak’* is a behind the scenes look at the creation of Zo!’s latest soul album all in the cloak of his hometown of Detroit City. In this documentary we not only travel the country talking to the artists behind the music, but we delve deep into the beginnings of Zo!’s music career.

*Produced by & Eric D. Seals, Donnie Seals Jr., Zo!, Raphael Nash & Gene Hogsett | Directed by Donnie Seals Jr. | Featuring: Zo!, Phonte, Carmen Rodgers, Waajeed, Sy Smith, Joi, Shana Tucker, Collective Peace, Nicolay & Tamisha Waden.*





## Action Commandant

2016 ZAF 90 MIN  Thurs Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm – Charles Theatre

'*Action Kommandant*' is the untold story of slain South African liberation fighter, Ashley Kriel. During the oppressive apartheid era Ashley was known as the Ché Guevara of Cape Town's notorious 'Cape Flats'. He was born into a single-mother, working class family in Bonteheuwel and grew to become the symbol of 1980s youth resistance.

Ashley's story is told through pockets of memory opened by those who were closest to him. The film traces this guerrilla soldier's development from being a member of the progressive BYM through his addressing huge crowds on public platforms. Ashley's popularity grew to such an extent that it became increasingly riskier for him to be an underground operative of the ANC in the Western Cape.

In his first address on his release from prison Nelson Mandela saluted Ashley Kriel who, amongst others, paid the ultimate price for freedom for all South Africans. '*Action Kommandant*' is an intimate portrayal of this son, brother and revolutionary.

*Produced by Ma'engere Film Productions | Directed by Nadine Cloete | Writers: Zulfah Otto-Sallies, Muneera Sallies, Jarryn Katia & Nadine Angel Cloete.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Back To Natural: A Documentary Film

2017 USA 69 MIN  Fri Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 4:45 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

‘*Back to Natural*’ is a documentary film that reveals the emotional and shocking truth about hair, politics and racial identity in Black communities in the United States and Beyond. Directed by New York City based Clinical Psychologist Gillian Scott-Ward, this film is a call for healing that takes a grassroots approach to exploring the globalized policing of natural Black hair. Filmed in New York City, Philadelphia, Paris and Cape Town, this documentary explores universal aspects of the Black journey of discovery and enlightenment while celebrating our history and natural styles that are taking the world by storm.

The psychological damage of needing to undergo dangerous, painful measures to be accepted into society is unfathomable and largely hidden. The only way to heal is to widely acknowledge this is happening, it's improper, and identify ways to recover. Many women in major cities make up the "Natural Hair Movement," which the film reflects.

*Produced by Marquis Smalls & Dominic Ward | Directed by Gillian Scott-Ward | Featuring: Salamishah Tillet, Carl Hart, Natasha Gaspard, Jenell B. Stewart, Noliwe Rooks, Lurie Daniel Favor, Brian Favors and Okema T. Moore.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### **Blaxploitalian: 100 Years of Blackness in Italian Cinema**

2016 USA/ITA 60 MIN  Fri Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 2:45 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

‘*Blaxploitalian*’ is a diasporic, hybrid, critical, and cosmopolitan dimension documentary that uncovers the careers of a population of entertainers seldom heard from before: Black actors in Italian cinema. ‘*BlaxploItalian*’ cleverly discloses the personal struggles classic Afro-Italian and African diasporic actors faced, correlating it with the contemporary actors who work diligently to find respectable and significant roles. More than an unveiling of history, it is a call-to-action for increased diversity and esteem in international cinema.

The popularity of African-American performers in Italian genre films, such as Harold Bradley in sword-and-sandal movies or the 1980s low-budget action fare starring blaxploitation icon Fred Williamson, is covered, as is the impact of Spike Lee’s *Miracle at St. Anna* (2008), about the segregated Buffalo Soldiers who served in Italy during World War II. Lee hired and inspired black Italian actors, including Kuwornu, whose first documentary focused on those African-American troops.

*Produced by Kalon Jackson, Elliott Lee Cowart, Curtis John & Fred Kuwornu | Written & Directed by Fred Kuwornu | Featuring: Fred Williamson.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Dancing in the Dark

2016 USA 56 MIN  Sun Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 3:15 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

For decades, one of the only safe spaces for same gender loving Black and Latino people have been shrouded in the night, humid with the sweat of gyrating bodies, and booming with sounds celebrating the sex from which we came. In the aftermath of the Pulse shooting in Orlando, reclaiming and celebrating these havens is part of the work of furthering the struggle. Filmmaker Adomako Aman has documented club life in New York for gay Black and Latino people as a means to illustrate how important these spaces can be. In the documentary ‘*Dancing In The Dark,*’ he hopes to develop a conversation about a community who remain marginalized by multiple intersecting power structures. In his own words, Aman feels, "it's important to showcase some of the examples of our community to show where we come from and for people to feel inspired to add on to this narrative that was created."

‘*Dancing in the Dark*’ explores the Black and Latino American gay experience and how it goes hand and hand with nightlife culture.

*Produced by Sofija Maria K | Written, Directed & Edited by Adomako Aman | Featuring: Julius Ferreira, Rey Peña, Pedro Maria, Chris Menendez, Marvin Inabinet, Christopher Waldorf, Sal Xclusive, Dante Holmes, Tony Kaufman & Andre Henry.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Dispatches From Cleveland

2017 USA 70 MIN  Sat Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

‘*Dispatches From Cleveland*’ is a 5 chapter documentary focused on ordinary Clevelanders who have been long shaken by police misconduct, social discrimination and poverty.

Depicting intersecting movements in Cleveland, the series examines how residents’ love for their hometown pushes them to work together despite differences in race, gender, politics or sexual orientation - to bring about real change in one of the most racially divided cities in America.

‘*Dispatches From Cleveland*’ uses direct cinema, music, newsreel, historical footage, and moments of emotional reflection to engage in the momentum that builds when everyday people in a unique, distressed and grand city demonstrate that Black lives do matter.

*Produced by Daresha Kyl | Directed by Catherine Gund | Featuring: Samaria Rice, Marvin Cross, Fred Ward, Elle Hearn, Zoe Renee Lapin Sal & Angela Shute Woodson.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Fight Hate With Love

2017 USA 79 MIN  Sat Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 6:05 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

As a young man, Michael Ta’Bon’s ex-con father taught him about drugs and crime, and those lessons landed him in prison for 15 years. During his incarceration, Michael promised himself that he would one day start a movement to prevent young people from getting caught in the same cycle of incarceration. Seven years after being released from prison, now married with a pregnant wife and a young son, Michael is a dedicated public servant in his North Philadelphia neighborhood, but those years of incarceration have left him with invisible scars, and his fierce commitment to community work may ultimately cost him his family.

‘*Fight Hate With Love*,’ brings a unique perspective to the dialogue around race and incarceration. It focuses both on unique community based solutions to a national social epidemic, while also focusing on the fractured psyche of one man who has been directly impacted.

*Produced by Tim McLaughlin, Brian Storm & Samia Khan | Directed by Andrew Michael Ellis | Edited by: Tim McLaughlin | Featuring: Michael “OG Law” Ta’Bon, Gwen Jackson, Sir Rahn Jackson, Malik Tabon, Demarious McPhaul & Mama Styles.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### For Ahkeem

2017 USA 90 MIN  Thurs Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 7:05 pm – Charles Theatre

After a school fight lands 17-year old Daje Shelton in a court-supervised alternative high school, she's determined to turn things around and make a better future for herself in her rough St. Louis neighborhood. But focusing on school is tough as she loses multiple friends to gun violence, falls in love for the first time, and becomes pregnant with a boy, Ahkeem, just as Ferguson erupts a few miles down the road. Through Daje's intimate coming-of-age story, For Ahkeem illuminates challenges that many Black teenagers face in America today, and witnesses the strength, resilience, and determination it takes to survive.

*"A quietly impactful documentary with the texture of a narrative feature."* – *The Hollywood Reporter*

*"For Ahkeem is THE millennial documentary on Black girlhood."* – *Jet*

*"Masterful..shows us the undeniable power of cinema"*– *Huffington Post*

*Produced by Nicholas Weissman, Jeff Truesdell, Iyabo Boyd and Brad Rayford | Directed by Jeremy S. Levine & Landon Van Soest | Featuring: Daje "Boonie" Shelton.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Jewel's Catch One

2016 USA 85 MIN  Sat Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

'*Jewel's Catch One*' documents the oldest Black owned disco in America and establishes the legacy of businesswoman, activist, and healer, Jewel Thais-Williams, who stood up against hate and discrimination for 42 years. The story of Jewel and "The Catch" celebrates four decades of music, fashion, celebrity, and activism that helped change the course of our country by breaking down racial, social, and cultural barriers. One of the original safe spaces for both the SGL/LGBT and Black communities, "The Catch" also served as a refuge for many during the AIDS crisis. As her club grew to become known as the "unofficial Studio 54 of the West Coast," Jewel became a national model for how to fight discrimination and serve the less fortunate.

The film is a lush visual and musical journey highlighted by exclusive interviews with Sharon Stone, Thelma Houston, Evelyn "Champagne" King, Madonna, Sandra Bernhard, Thea Austin, Jenifer Lewis, Representative Maxine Waters and Bonnie Pointer.

*Produced by Jewel Thias Williams, C. Fitz, Tracey Mercer, Stephanie Lincoln & Carmen Quiros | Directed by C. Fitz | Written by C. Fitz, Tracey Mercer & Pat Branch | Featuring: Jewel Thais-Williams, Gene LaPietra, Al Von & Dr. CCH Pounder.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Sauti (Voice)

2017 UGA 73 MIN  Sat Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 11:45 am – Murphy Fine Arts Center

The refugee crisis in Uganda’s Kyangwali Refugee Settlement isn’t new. For the people of this camp, being a refugee is a protracted circumstance endured for decades. ‘*Sauti*’ (“Voice” in Swahili) follows the efforts of five young women who were brought to the Settlement as children and who, as they approach adulthood, strive to pursue their dreams for a future beyond the constraints of a protracted refugee situation in an underdeveloped host country. Though safer than they were before, little else has changed since fleeing war and persecution years ago in their home countries of Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan. Transcending the label ‘refugee’ has been especially challenging for the women of Kyangwali.

‘*Sauti*’ poses hard questions and rejects easy answers. As the girls mature into women, we discover they are little different, in their most essential hopes and dreams, from us. Only the vastness of their challenges, and the simple resolve of their responses, sets them apart.

*Produced and Directed by Gayle Nosal & Beret E. Strong | Edited by John Tweedy | Featuring: Napona, Favourite, Peniah, Beatrice & Betty.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Segregation is Back

2016 USA/FRA 53 MIN  Thurs Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 12:15 pm – Charles Theatre

In the eyes of the world, the election of Barack Obama as US president was the ultimate proof of a successful integration. But segregation, though prohibited by law, makes its return in the USA, especially in the public schools. In Selma, Alabama, a pivotal city during the civil rights movement, the racial situation is worrying: high schools illustrate the division of the city into two colors.

How do those who once militated for the rights of blacks react to this apartheid that does not say its name?

*Produced by Patricia Boutinard Rouelle | Written & Directed by Romain Icard | Featuring: Sarah Crumb, Angela Mangum, Nirmala Erevelles, James Perkins Jr., Tylisa Black, Jessica Hope, Marta Morgan, Nancy Sewell and Councilwoman Terri Sewell.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Tchindas

2015 ESP 94 MIN  Thurs Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 3:05 pm – Charles Theatre

Tchinda is one of most beloved women in Cape Verde, especially after she came out as a transgender person in the local newspaper in 1998. Since then, her name has become the term used by locals to name Same Gender Loving Bisexual and Transgender Cape Verdeans. Despite her great reputation, Tchinda remains humble and every afternoon she happily tours the neighborhood to sell her best "coxinhas", a classic Brazilian treat: delicious fried balls of chicken. But every February all changes. It's the month leading up to their Carnival, when the slow-paced atmosphere of the island transforms into a frenzied hustle and bustle as thousands flock to the streets. The days before the Carnival are hectic. Locals join forces to create something beautiful out of nothing. It becomes a «Little Brazil» as their most acclaimed singer, Cesária Évora (1941-2011), defined in one of her most famous "mornas".

This documentary is as trip to an unknown side of Africa that very few may have ever imagined.

*Produced by Yolanda Olmos & Marc Serena | Written & Directed by Pablo García Pérez de Lara & Marc Serena | Edited by Pablo García | Featuring: Tchinda Andrade, Elvis Tolentino, Edinha Pitanga and Anita Faijfer.*





## The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson

2017 USA 104 MIN  Fri Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 9:45 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

Featuring never-before-seen footage and rediscovered interviews, Academy Award nominee David France's (How to Survive a Plague) *'The Death And Life Of Marsha P. Johnson'* follows a new investigation into the mysterious death - and lasting political legacy - of self-described "street queen" Marsha P. Johnson, the courageous black transgender activists who spearheaded the modern gay civil rights movement.

Marsha P. Johnson's name is not widely known, but she along with Sylvia Rivera were the landmark pioneers of the trans-rights movement. Having been central figures at the fateful Stonewall Riots, they went on to found the world's first trans-rights organization, called STAR or Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries, a group dedicated to helping homeless young drag queens and transgender women of color.

Now, a quarter century later, at a time of unprecedented visibility and escalating violence in the transgender community - Victoria Cruz, a dynamic activist, has taken it upon herself to reexamine what happened at the end of Marsha's Life.

*Produced by Joy A. Tomchin, L.A. Teodosio, Kimberley Reed & David France | Directed by David France | Written & by David France and Mark Blane | Featuring: Marsh P. Johnson, Sylvia River, Michael Baden and Victoria Cruz.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Feature



### Wilmington on Fire

2015 USA 90 MIN  Fri Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 12:45 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

"*Wilmington on Fire*" chronicles the bloody attack on the African-American community by a heavily armed white mob with the support of the North Carolina Democratic Party on November 10, 1898 in the port city of Wilmington, North Carolina. It is considered one of the only successful examples of a coup d'état in the United States that left countless numbers of African-American citizens dead and exiled from the city. It was perpetrated by a gang of white-supremacist Democrats in Wilmington, North Carolina, who were intent on reclaiming power from the recently elected, biracial Republican government, even if, as one of the leaders vowed, "We have to choke the Cape Fear River with carcasses."

This event was the springboard for the white supremacy movement and Jim Crow segregation throughout the state of North Carolina and the American South.

*Produced by Christopher Everett, Blackhouse Publishing & Pete Chatmon | Written & Directed by Christopher Everett | Edited by Don Stafford | Featuring: Dr. Umar Johnson, Kent Chatfield, Larry Reni Thomas, Queen Quet, LeRae Umfleet, William Darity, Faye Chaplin, Dr. Lewin Manly, Inez Eason, Sonya Patrick and Daawud Muhammad.*





**Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil**

2015 BRA 52 MIN  Sun Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am – Murphy Fine Arts Center

‘*Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil*’ is an award-winning film about a little known history of Africa in the Americas. A story of the Afro-Brazilian spiritual tradition of Candomblé, with a distinctly ecological worldview. Told through the voices of women leaders, we learn of Candomblé’s social struggles and triumphs in Bahia, Brazil home of the largest former slave port in the Americas.

Narrated by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, ‘*Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil*,’ explores a little known piece of African history in the Americas. In the documentary, four extraordinary elder women leaders weave a tale of the Candomblé Afro-indigenous culture with a spiritual essence. The eldest storyteller is a 109-years-old daughter of a slave. ‘*Yemanjá*’ is a story of resistance, resilience and the power of community, faith, holistic, ecological knowledge and inspiring women's leadership.

*Produced by Donna Carole Roberts | Written & Directed By Donna Carole Roberts & Donna Read | Featuring: Alice Walker (Narrator), Narcisa Cândido da Conceição, Maria Stella de Azevedo Santos, Valdina Oliveira Pinto, Gersonice Azevedo Brandão, Deniz de Almeida Ribeiro, José Pereira de Brito Neto and Georgina Santos.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Feature



### La Vie Magnifique De Charlie

2017 USA 83 MIN  Sun Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 5:15 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

After her sister Brandy's untimely death, everyone is taken aback by Charlie's unorthodox (and seemingly quirky) approach to her grieving process. Follow Charlie and her friends Kayla and Keturah as they go along for a wild, hilariously exhilarating and bittersweet ride – which will surely be the craziest day of Charlie's life.

"*La Vie Magnifique De Charlie*" was created in response to how Black Women were portrayed in media. In this film, although serious in nature, writer/director Bobby Huntley endeavors to show women in a fun and quirky light. Recognizing that women are different and definable from each other, but can also be loving and supportive of one other. This is a film about women that doesn't center on men. Nevertheless, the filmmakers hope that it touches the hearts of all audiences.

*Produced by Bobby Huntley, Nikki Wade & Chet A. Brewster | Written and Directed by Bobby Huntley | Director of Photography: Lakisha Laashae | Key Cast: Kortnee Price, Nikki Lashae, Lailaa Brookings and Ashley S. Evans.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Feature



### Potato POTAHTO

2017 GHA 70 MIN  Sat Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 9:55 pm – Murphy Fine Arts Center

‘Potato POTHATO’ tells the story of a divorced couple who decide to share equal space in their ex-matrimonial home soon realize that the ingenious idea is easier said than done. Bent on flexing their egos and scoring points, the two implore various hilarious tactics that soon inflame emotions and turn an already complicated situation into a helter-skelter roller coaster ride.

Featuring some of Nollywood and Africa’s leading actors, ‘Potato POTHATO’ has broken new ground with its Ghanaian, Nigerian, British, French and Swedish co-production aimed at making African-made cinema more accessible for global markets. The film is a fantastic showcase of how international co-operation, talent and creativity can combine to give a wonderful and universally attractive film experience.

*Produced by Georges Williams, Sarah Inya Lawal, Ken Attoh | Written & Directed by Shirley Frimpong Manso | Edited by Edem Tengue & Shirley Frimpong Manso | Cast: OC Ukeje, Joselyn Dumas, Joke Silva, Chris Attoh, Nikki Samonas, Blossom Chukwujekwu, Adjetey Anang, Lala Akindoju, Victoria Michaels.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Feature



### Speak It Real

2017 USA 64 MIN  Fri Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 11:15 am – Murphy Fine Arts Center

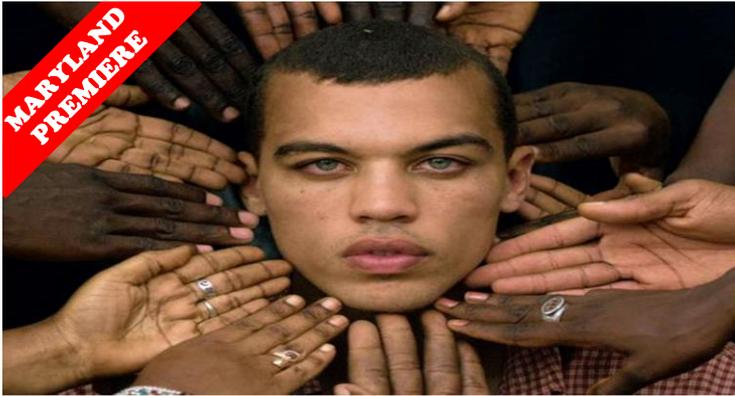
Introducing the Speaks family of the upcoming weekly dramedy series “Speak It Real” as they come together to celebrate the family and are confronted with tragedy. Meet brothers Isaiah and Nate Speaks - one more serious and sort of straight laced than the other. Both of the Speaks brothers are professional who love their immediate families and celebrate their connection to their family in Barbados. Something is amidst, however, as the youngest brother Malik Speaks is hiding some extremely important information from the family. Otherwise, the beautiful children in the family will simply melt your hearts.

Buckle up, take this journey and witness how the family experiences triumph, family conflict, family bonding, resolution, love, laughter and joy. This multi-generational story chronicles the Speaks Family....where everybody Speaks It Real.

*Produced by Carltaise Ransom and Kenneth Moore Jr. | Written & Directed by Carltaise Ransom | Cinematography by Ras Tre Subira | Key Cast: Carltaise Ransom, Tee Forest, Terena McLorn, Calil Davis, Jonathan Gibbs, Lanae Gray, Alisa Briggs, Marc Stevens, Erika Jones, Michael Wilson, Michal “Roxie” Johnson, Infinity Bushby, Christian Alexander, Courtney Harris, Linda Howard, Ty’ris Lee & Charles Lee.*



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Feature



### White Colour Black

2017 GBR 87 MIN  Thurs Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 9:05 pm – Charles Theatre

Starring Dudley O’Shaughnessy - who previously appeared in Rihanna’s “We Found Love” music video - playing the lead role of Leke, a young successful photographer living a hedonistic lifestyle in London, ‘*White Colour Black*’ chronicles Leke's journey to Senegal to bury his estranged father, after he becomes ill and suddenly dies. Alienated and disoriented from the country of his childhood, the story ultimately puts Leke on a path of self-discovery and cultural transformation.

This British film which marks the feature film debut of British-Nigerian director Joseph A. Adesunloye, had its USA premiere at the 25th Pan African Film & Arts Festival in Los Angeles, CA earlier this year. According to the director, the film is an intensely personal story because it's loosely based on the death of his own father. However, as he says, "I wanted to make this film because I don't see many films like this emerging from the British Cinema space."

*Produced by Joseph A. Adesunloye & Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor | Written & Directed by Joseph A. Adesunloye | Cast: Dudley O'Shaughnessy, Sy Alassane, Wale Ojo, Yrsa Daley-Ward, Damola Adelaja, Jamey May, Daniel Eghan and Lily Dodsworth-Evans.*



# BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

## "OFFICIAL SELECTIONS"

Documentary Shorts – Narrative Shorts – Youth Shorts  
New Media Shorts & Web Series

# 2017



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Shorts



### Arnold

**Directed by** Riley Hooper & Mo Scarpelli **Featuring:** Arnold Drake World (2017) USA Digital – 2 min. **Synopsis:** Meet artist and craftsman Arnold as he spends his days crafting his art and spreading joy at Powell's Book in Portland, OR.



### Bayard & Me

**Directed by** Matt Wolf (2017) USA RED – 16 min. **Synopsis:** Bayard Rustin was a civil rights leader and organizer of the 1968 March on Washington. In the 1980s he adopted his younger boyfriend to obtain the legal protections of marriage. In this intimate love story, Walter remembers Bayard and a time when gay marriage was inconceivable.



### C'est Moi

**Directed by** Howard J. Davis (2016) USA CAN – 9 min. **Synopsis:** "C'est Moi" explores the collision of the past as it meets the present in the forgotten story of Marie-Josèphe Angélique, an Afro-Canadian and her efforts to fight against slavery in 18th Century New France.



### Dance With Your Heart

(Tengo Talento Cuba)

**Directed by** Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi (2016) USA/CUB Digital – 10 min. **Synopsis:** Jennyselt is a dancer of Afro Cuban Folklore, with great prestige within Cuba and internationally and currently dances with the group Yoruba Andabo. She seeks her successor to keep the legacy of Afro-Cuban culture, dance and religion alive.



## Dallas doctor 'burns' to do more

ori Sharn  
TODAY

Three days a week, physician Dralves Edwards hits the road to see his patients. He logs 4,000 miles a month. Jeep Cherokee, making about house calls to home-bound people in the Dallas area and beyond. year ago Edwards made, at 15 house calls a month. But was before he went to the Milan March. here is a quiet burning that con- to say, "they, you can do more or need to do more," says Ed-



### Dr. Race: Practicing Medicine While Black



**Directed by** Micah Autry (2016) USA  
Digital – 7 min. **Synopsis:** "Dr. Race" chronicles the 20 year fight for justice by African-American physician Dr. Dralves Edwards. The film showcases how Dr. Edwards' private practice was unjustly run out of business due to denial of claims by the Medicare program.



### El Peso de la Manta (The Weight of the Blanket)

**Directed by** George Brereton (2016) ESP  
Digital – 35 min **Synopsis:** On the streets of Barcelona, the most visible yet invisible immigrants of all struggle to survive through illegal street selling. Victims of relentless racism, persecuted by the police, and silent for many years, they have finally found a voice and created a union.



### El Flaco

**Directed by** Krisstian de Lara (2015)  
MEX HD – 5 min. **Synopsis:** 'El Flaco' is a male prostitute that pays for police protection to be able work in the harsh downtown streets of Juarez, Mexico.



### Full Circle

**Directed by** Raymond Knudsen  
**Featuring:** Anquan Boldin (2017) USA  
HD – 7 min. **Synopsis:** An accomplished NFL wide receiver looks beyond the football field in hopes to change the lives of the people from his poor hometown of Pahokee, Florida.



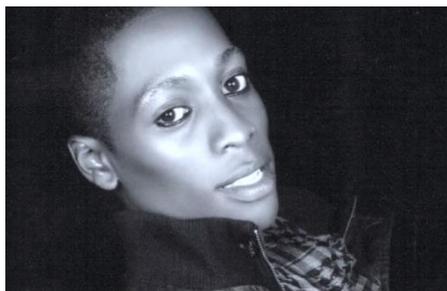
## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Shorts



### I Promise to Remember



**Directed by** Jimmy Castor, Jr. (2017) USA Digital – 15 min. **Synopsis:** Jimmy Castor was a funk, R&B, and soul musician. He is best known for songs such as "It's Just Begun", "Bertha Butt Boogie" and the hit single, "Troglodyte (Cave Man)" This film is an entertaining musical journey full of life lessons and colorful characters.



### IMPUNITY

**Directed by** Isaac Matovu (2017) UGA HD – 26 min. **Synopsis:** Uganda endeavors to disfranchise the LGBTI community with laws as the masses decide to take the law in their own hands with "IMPUNITY." Hear stories of resistance to conditions of living with inadequate food, housing, and health care and sometimes losing their lives at the hands of the angry mobs.



### Julian Bond: Reflections from the Frontlines of the Civil Rights Movement



**Directed by** Eduardo Montes-Bradley (2014) USA Digital - 30 min. **Synopsis:** Julian Bond traces his roots to slavery; thus providing us with a unique chance to observe the 20th century through the eyes of one of its key witnesses. The veteran Civil Rights leader recounts his days as a child in the segregated South, growing up in a home frequently visited by intellectuals.



### My First Drag Show

**Directed by** Brian Graves (2016) USA HD – 5 min. **Synopsis:** 'My First Drag Show' is a short documentary that captures first time drag performers' experiences as they take the stage at the FSU Pride Student Union Amateur Drag Show.

## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Documentary Shorts



### Niofar

**Directed by** Hugo Lemant (2016) FRA / SEN Digital – 7 min. **Synopsis:** ‘Niofar’ tells the story of a young French girl who goes to meet the people of Senegal in the hope of becoming integrated. In the Wolof language, Niofiar means "to be together." It’s an ode to sharing and cultural exchanges.



### Our Skin

**Directed by** João Queiroga (2016) USA HD – 17 min. **Synopsis:** A late night call during an online encounter between an African-American transwoman and a veteran takes an unexpected turn when the two strangers gain the courage to be intimate with one another.



### The Art of the Journey (The Ben Jones Story)

**Directed by** William Michael Barbee (2017) USA 35mm - 30 min. **Synopsis:** Professor, Activist, Artist Ben Jones has used his art to bring awareness to the plight of people throughout the world. Over the years, his artwork began to broaden, bringing awareness to human caused disasters as in the BP Oil Spill to the revolutionary struggles of the people of Cuba.



### Why Not Now: Vivian Stancil

**Directed by** Riley Hooper **Featuring:** Vivian Stancil (2017) USA Digital - 5 min. **Synopsis:** When Vivian Stancil was 49 years old, her doctor told her that she needed to immediately improve her health. Despite being afraid of the water and legally blind - she was determined to learn how to swim for exercise.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### 90 Days

**Directed by** Nathan Hale Williams & Jennia Fredrique Aponte (2016) USA RED - 20 min. **Synopsis:** After ninety days of dating, Jessica tells her would-be fiancé that she is HIV positive, which forces the couple to confront the realities surrounding living and loving with HIV.



### Behind Closed Doors

**Directed by** Max Cole (2016) USA Digital HD – 10min. **Synopsis:** Two parents, with two very different opinions, have a raw and honest conversation about their son coming out of the closet.



### Black and Blue

**Directed by** Michael Paulucci (2016) USA Digital – 5 min. **Synopsis:** A teenager unknowingly hides in the yard of a police officer who is drinking before a funeral.



### Dana's Story

**Directed by** Huey Rawls (2016) USA RED – 27min. **Synopsis:** After the imprisonment of her father, a young girl is forced into human trafficking... her mother brokers the deal. Based on a true story, the film is an adaptation of A.L. Smith's critically acclaimed novel "Behind Closed Doors." The film depicts the harsh realities of the sex trafficking industry.

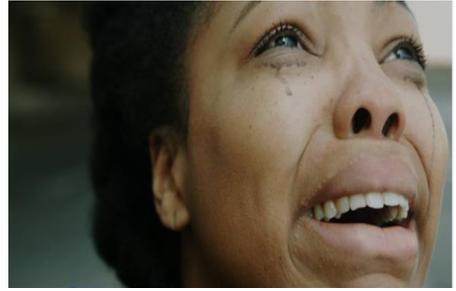


## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### Free Weekend

**Directed by** Victor Jones (2016) USA  
Digital – 14 min. **Synopsis:** A frustrated father decides that his family is going to spend an entire weekend off the grid. No cell phones, no laptops, no video games, no nothing?



### From Noya

**Directed by** Michael Paulucci (2016) GBR  
Digital – 15 min. **Synopsis:** Noya suffers from depression and has been battling feelings of hatred towards her younger foster sister for a very long time. 'From Noya' is a chilling and powerful tale about a troubled soul whose fight to overcome her mental health issues becomes a matter of life or death.



### Jake

**Directed by** Michael Tyner (2017) USA  
Digital – 8 min. **Synopsis:** The aftermath of a violent interaction forces a Brooklyn cop to question the motives of a fellow police officer. "Jake" provides insight into police brutality in America from the perspective of a Black New York City cop who must face his fears and somehow find courage.



### Knockout Game

**Directed by** Jamal Hodge (2016) USA  
HD – 24 min. **Synopsis:** The Knockout Game: A disturbing and Brutal game amongst teens, targeting whites and immigrants in Inner city communities. Gregory wants to play. His actions open up a Pandora's box of violence that will touch every innocent in his life.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### Lawman

**Directed by** Matthew Gentile (2017) USA Digital – 13 min. **Synopsis:** 1875, Indian Territory. Bass Reeves, is the first African American to be deputized by the U.S. Marshal service. His wife Nellie tries to persuade Bass not to leave for his own safety, but Bass argues that it's the best job to keep a roof over his family's head.



### Little Elizabeth

**Directed by** Elizabeth Ayiku (2017) USA Digital 5 min. – **Synopsis:** A woman with childhood trauma takes a compassionate journey in order to heal herself. This highly personal and intimate film was made for anyone who has ever struggled with mental illness or is currently dealing with the effects of childhood trauma.



### Lost in the World

**Directed by** Xolelwa Nhlabatsi (2015) ZFA Digital 15 min. – **Synopsis:** Whitney is a police officer whose long-term girlfriend Palesa, is violently raped and murdered. Whitney goes on a manhunt to find the perpetrators responsible for her partners' death. The goal of the film is to motivate and/or inspire all women who have suffered loss or endured tough situations.



### Macho

**Directed by** Faren Humes (2017) USA RED – 17 min. **Synopsis:** The killing of a transgender woman causes a rift within the small town of Sanderson, Florida testing the tenuous bond between a conservative uncle and his effeminate nephew.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### Mantra

**Directed by** Mike Berge (2017) USA Digital – 9 min. **Synopsis:** Kerra is a manic woman with an intense adherence to time. She lives firmly by her staunch punctuality. When circumstances get beyond her control, she has to improvise...



### Missed Connections

**Directed by** Michelle Sam (2017) USA RED – 16 min. **Synopsis:** This is a Black transgender love story. Two twenty somethings meet at Burning Man, but forget to exchange contact info. They both post to a "missed connections" type board to find one another. As they search, they navigate their careers, lives, and society's expectations of them.



### Marz

**Directed by** Bobby Yan (2017) USA RED – 12 min. **Synopsis:** A young rapper on the brink of success must come to terms with himself after a one night encounter with his best friend, stirring up emotions and feelings he never knew he had. Childhood memories collide with the present as he faces either following his heart or running away from it instead.



### Mommy Heist

**Directed by** Anna Gutto (2016) USA HD – 13 min. **Synopsis:** 'Mommy Heist' tells the story of three New York single moms who rob a jewelry store to save their families from financial ruin. Their only super powers: a gun... and a baby!



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### MONOGAMISH.

**Directed by** Carlton Daniel (2017) USA Digital – 14 min. **Synopsis:** Cooper is eager to take his relationship to the next level, but when his boyfriend floats the idea of an open relationship, he has to rethink his previous expectations of what "love" really looks like.



### Mosquito: The Bite of Passage

**Directed by** Brian Rhodes & Eric Cheng (2016) USA HD – 7 min. **Synopsis:** When renowned warrior mosquito Soma and her adolescent daughter Aliye, go out hunting together for the first time in the slumbering slob George's apartment, Aliye realizes she does not want to follow their families' ageless tradition of hunting for blood.



### Olde E

**Directed by** Xavier L. Neal-Burgin (2016) USA Digital – 15 min. **Synopsis:** A young basketball star from South Central, Los Angeles, Demarkus Jackson, puts his life at risk when he comes home for revenge against his abusive father. Will latent generational strife allow so much talent and potential to be lost in an avoidable moment?



### Ori Inu: In Search of Self

**Directed by** Chelsea Odufu (2016) USA / TTO Alexia – 29 min. **Synopsis:** "Ori Inu: In Search of Self" is a coming of age story about a young immigrant woman who must choose between conforming her identity and spirituality to the cultural norms of America or revisiting her roots in the Afro-Brazilian religion called Candomble.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### Padlock Men

**Directed by** Lewis T. Powell (2016) USA  
Digital Arri Alexa – 14 min. **Synopsis:** 86 yr. old Walter “Posey” Fodrell shares a memoir of a secret pact between Martin Luther King, Malcolm X & John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The Civil Rights movement will never be viewed the same. A History Never Spoke A Bond Never Broken.



### Primary Colours

**Directed by** Derek Price – **Written and Performed by** Roua Aljied (2016) CAN  
Digital – 3 min. **Synopsis:** A cinempoem by Sudanese-Canadian artist Roua Aljied, aka Philosi-fire, about the realities of domestic violence and how each step a woman takes is a new colour to paint on the canvass of her life.



### Plane

**Directed by** Jonas Dinal (2016) FRA  
Digital – 19 min **Synopsis:** Absent for several months; William, the eldest of his family, decides to return to his father’s house in order to visit Jimmy, his young autistic brother. But this decision could have serious consequences...



### Proclamation Punctuation

**Directed by** Sewra G Kidane (2017) USA  
RED – 5 min **Synopsis:** “*Proclamation Punctuation*” is an enthralling fashion film centered on a fabulously fascinating woman reciting a short soliloquy paying homage to her love for using exclamation points in her missives.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### Pronouns

**Directed by** Michael Paulucci (2015) USA RED – 9 min. **Synopsis:** A teenager from the South Side of Chicago decides to reveal their true identity during a spoken word performance only to be interrupted by an uninvited guest.



### Revenge Club

**Directed by** Khoran J. Lee (2017) USA HD 12 min. – **Synopsis:** A group of married women meet weekly to do battle in the basement of an undisclosed location. The rules are simple: don't discuss the club, no complaining, no crying, no side bets, no shirts, no shoes and winner takers all!



### Rolling in the Deep

**Directed by** Marcellus Cox (2017) USA HD 12 min. – **Synopsis:** A young African American male travels home to South Carolina looking to achieve a goal for his late father by having a meal at a locally famous whites only diner.



### Super Predator: Preludes of the Black Fish

**Directed by** Kelechi Agwuncha (2016) USA – 6 min. **Synopsis:** A contemporary black ethnocentric about the parallels between the predator-prey relationships of a black man facing the prejudicial bounds of society. The embodiment of the black fish takes the shape of the black man who is vulnerable to being fed on by society.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### The Birthday

**Directed by** Marishka S. Phillips (2017) USA Digital – 10 min. **Synopsis:** – The mask of civility splinters as a family celebrates their daughter's 13th birthday.



### The First Stone

**Directed by** Kaisan Rei (2016) USA Arri Alexa – 15 min. **Synopsis:** Reigh returns home to find her family is torn apart at the seams, and it's up to her to put it back together.



### The Letter Carrier

**Directed by** Jesse L Martin & Rick Cosnett (2016) CAN HD – 18 min. **Synopsis:** Set in 1860. A dark fairytale folklore in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The story of a boy and his family hidden from slavery and a parent's will to protect their freedom at all costs...



### The Love Within

**Directed by** Eric Cotten (2017) USA Digital – 10 min. **Synopsis:** Lessa, a professional grafter, has finally achieved her goal of a high end lifestyle thanks to her new girlfriend Jade. Her perfect world starts to unravel when her long discarded husband and terminally ill child show up on her doorstep. She has moments to make life altering decisions that will affect everyone's future.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Narrative Shorts



### The Suit

**Directed by** Jarryd Coetsee (2016) ZAF  
Arri Alexa – 30 min. **Synopsis:** Filmed at historic locations in Sophiatown and featuring Tony Award-winner John Kani; "The Suit" is a powerful metaphor for the impact of oppression on personal relationships, and a warning that the oppressed can become the oppressor.



### Trouble Man

**Directed by** Jackson Young (2016) USA  
Digital – 30 min. **Synopsis:** – A 17 year old high school senior on probation has ambitions of getting into college. One night while walking home he defends a young lady from an attacker. Will he go to great lengths to save a stranger, or choose not to put his life in jeopardy?



### Underneath the Grey

**Directed by** Patrick Chen (2015) USA  
Digital – 15 min. **Synopsis:** When an inspiring singer Jessica is romantically interested in a blind man, Ethan, they'll soon discover the spirit of their new found relationship. 'Underneath The Grey' involves the discovery of one's inner beauty through self-acceptance.



### We Love Moses

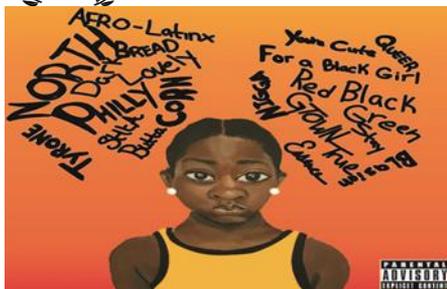
**Directed by** Dionne Edwards (2016) GRB  
Arri Alexa – 15 min. **Synopsis:** When Ella was twelve, she had her first fight. And when she was twelve, she also discovered sex. Now eighteen, Ella reflects on how her obsession with her older brother Michael's best friend Moses left her with a secret she still carries.

## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – New Media Shorts / Web Series



### B.E.Cre8ive Shorts

**Directed by** Brandon Hairston (2017)  
USA HD – 8 min. **Synopsis:** B.E. Cre8ive Shorts is a collection of short skits: such as "Working From Home" "Black People on Chopped", "Driving With Moms", "Women Be Like", and more. Includes a trailer for the new web series "Bad Web Series" premiering in October 2017!



### The Mixtape: Stay Black, Baby!

**Directed by** Jasmine Lynea (2017) USA Digital – 20 min. **Synopsis:** Capturing an exhilarating reflection on Black America, "The Mixtape: Stay Black, Baby!" is a complex portrait of black youth, black art, black voices, black struggle and black empowerment. Elaborating on issues in the black community such as transphobia violence, poverty, education and the division between genders; "Stay Black, Baby!" is a loud cry for positive change.



### Shock Nation

**Directed by** Kimia' Workman (2017)  
USA Digital – 9 min. **Synopsis:** A Baltimore teenage girl is looking to find her way. She has lost her inspiration for dance and hope due neighborhood issues and family conflict. Will joining a dance team "Shock Nation," rekindle her love for dance and help restore her hope and inspiration?



### Willogy

**Directed by** William Caldwell (2017) USA Digital – 37 min. **Synopsis:** Willology is about 3 college roommates named Will...One is straight, one is gay, and the other is bisexual. They attend Richardton University - the good ole DICK U! Enjoy William, Wilson, and Willawn's crazy adventures and escapades as they maneuver their way through life while trying to keep their grades intact.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Youth Shorts



### Agent Hollywood

**Directed by** Anthony Michael Hobbs & Michael Forstner (2017) USA Digital – 13 min. **Synopsis:** “Agent Hollywood” is a film about a kid actor who is also a secret agent. His days are filled with Hollywood, homework, and henchmen.



### No Bullying Zone

**Directed by** Strong City Baltimore (2017) USA Digital – 5 min. **Synopsis:** Bandage Your Heart is an anti-bullying program founded by teenager DJ Onna to counter the bullying she faced for having two moms. Through rallies, dance routines and building self-esteem, she has created a dynamic program to prevent bullying.



### Safe Spaces

**Directed by** Wide Angle Youth Media (2017) USA Digital – 2 min. **Synopsis:** Students from the Baltimore Speaks Out Program at Patterson Park Public Charter School share things that they find funny, things that they like, and things that they worry about when it comes to being a young person in Baltimore.



### Strange Fruit

**Directed by** Griot’s Eye Youth Film (2017) USA Digital - 6 min. **Synopsis:** “Strange Fruit” is short documentary made in response to police brutality. This is a film project of Afrikan Youth Alchemy (AYA Inc.) which was done in partnership with the Renaissance Academy High School.



## 2017 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS – Youth Shorts



### The Lowrider Tradition

**Directed by** Dante Kirkman (2016) USA Digital - 9 min. **Synopsis:** *'The Lowrider Tradition'* is a short documentary about the history of the lowrider tradition in the Hispanic and Black communities in California.



### To Serve and Protect?

**Directed by** Gandhi Brigade Youth Media (2017) USA Digital - 7 min. **Synopsis:** We see it all over the media, but excessive use of force by police isn't new. We have known about the killings of unarmed men, women, and children of color to many times over the last few decades as a result of interactions involving law enforcement. The only thing that is new is the video camera.



### The Uprising: B-more Music Culture

**Directed by** Wide Angle Youth Media (2017) USA HD - 5 min. **Synopsis:** Fall of 2016, middle school students created a digital story for radio and the internet, focused on the topic of storytelling through music in Baltimore City. This digital story features photographs taken by students and staff that document their media production experience.



### Wake Up

**Directed by** Strong City Baltimore (2017) USA Digital - 10 min. **Synopsis:** Through interviews with local artist/activist such as, Magik and the first ever Police Youth Advisory Board leader, LaMontre Randall, violence in Baltimore City is explored. In the aftermath of the police killing of Freddie Gray in 2015, whether we have made process in changing the community is assessed in 'Wake Up.'



## 2017 Shorts Programs Selections



### Black Christmas

**Directed by** Susan Davis (2016) USA Digital – 6 min. **Synopsis:** A man is accused of attacking a woman and must convince an angry mob of his innocence.



### Bus Nut

**Directed by** Akosua Adoma Owusu (2014) USA Super-8 – 7 min. **Synopsis:** 'Bus Nut' re-articulates the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, a political and social protest against US racial segregation on the public transit system of Montgomery Alabama and its relationship to an educational video on school bus safety.



### Gloria

**Directed by** Edward Hicks (2016) GBR Digital – 12 min. **Synopsis:** Keen to put all the bad things she's done behind her, Reena sets out to persuade her brother and his wife that she's changed. But can Reena change or will she be tempted back to her old life?



### Majesty Girls

**Directed by** Veronica Robinson & David Lizz (2015) USA RED, 12 min – **Synopsis:** Chanel is an older trans woman, who's the wise and mature age of 59. She began her transition at the age of 16. 'Majesty Girls' is an intimate look into her struggles growing up in one of the roughest projects in Miami. Chanel is a voice to many of the experiences of trans women.



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James Gaynor	Ras Tre Subira	NAACP Baltimore City
Nate Sweeney	Dale Alston	MSU Women & Gender Program
Randi Vega	Donnie Manuel	Baltimore Filmmakers Collective
Adam Moore	Isaiah Matthew Morris	Anthony Jordan Photography
Jane Love	Phoenix Tremayne	Wombwork Productions
Becky Curran	Troy-Anthony Jenkins	Center for Black Equity
Kevin Brown	Mary Taylor	Meet 4 A Cause
William "Bill" Maughlin	Antonio L. Cox	Brandon Breon
Renee Pitts	Barbara Cox	Eric Cotton
Carlton Smith	Michael A. Hunt	Teresa Dangerfield
Louis Williams	June Davis	Kairo Brown
Uni Q. Mical	William Charles Wilkins	Lamont "Akbar" Wilds
Tony Chandler	Linda Dorsey-Walker	Tiffany E. Dixon
J. Lynn Robinson	Francis Vidal	Wendell "Supreme" Shannon
Derrick Chase	John Harris	Tame'ra Anderson-Shannon
Troy Burton	W C Harvey	Dana Owens

