



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor
250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



October 5, 2016

On behalf of the citizens of Baltimore, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd Annual Baltimore International Black Film Festival. This week's festival features culturally significant 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" between our youth, young adults, seniors, activists, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, and it 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 actors, writers, directors and producers whose dedication and hard work will be showcased in this week's films. We are proud to celebrate the talents of those who elevate the art of filmmaking through a diverse set of voices, bringing our communities together in the spirit of "Reel Unity."

As you attend this week's festival events, I invite you to also enjoy and explore Baltimore's many outstanding cultural attractions, including the world-famous Inner Harbor, renowned museums and award-winning restaurants.

Welcome to Baltimore, and enjoy the festival!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor
City of Baltimore