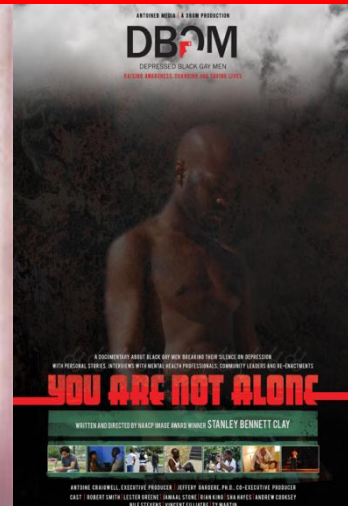
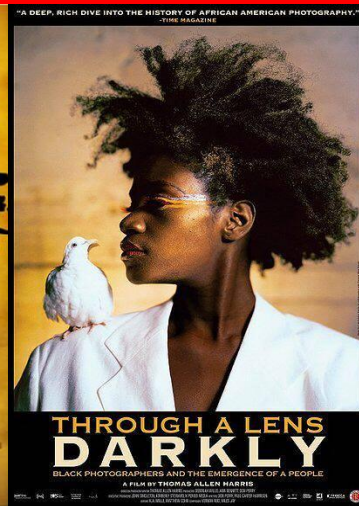
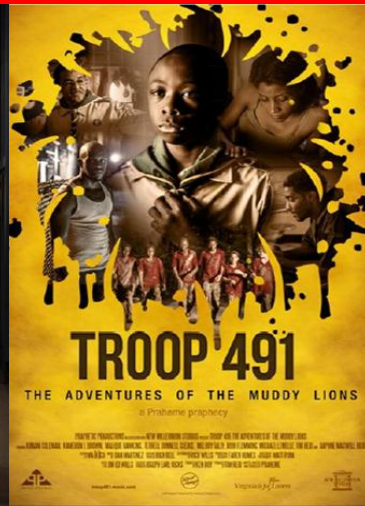


# BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL



*presented by SOGAA*

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2014

[www.BIBFF.com](http://www.BIBFF.com)

# Table of Contents

- Welcome from SOGAA Inc. & BIBFF Chairman 3.
- A Message from Mayor Rawlings-Blake 4.
- BIBFF 2014 Festival Schedule 5.
- Opening and Closing Night Films 6.
- BIBFF 2014 Shorts, Narrative & Documentaries 7 – 10.
- Spotlight on Mental Health 11.
- BIBFF 2014 Sponsors and Partners 12.
- About SOGAA Inc. 13.

## ***BIBFF 2014 – Venue Locations***

### **Charles Theatre**



1711 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Station North  
**(410) 727-3464**

### **Eubie Blake Cultural Center**



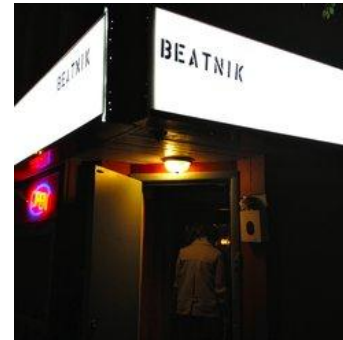
847 N. Howard Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Mt. Vernon  
**(410) 225-3130**

### **Station North Arts Café (SNAC)**



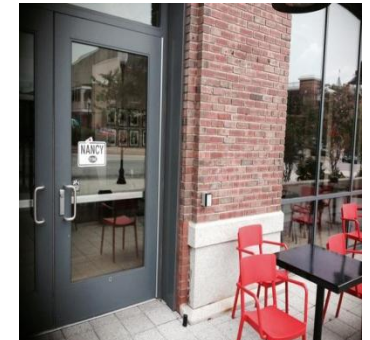
1816 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Station North  
**(410) 625-6440**

### **Beatnik Bar**



2101 Maryland Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
Charles North  
**(337) 212-6060**

### **Nancy By SNAC**



131 W. North Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21217  
Station North  
**(410) 685-0038**



# Welcome to the Inaugural BIBFF

Greetings Colleagues and Friends:

The fact that you are reading this greeting on this auspicious occasion is further proof that the seemingly impossible can be made possible. With immense gratitude and overflowing appreciation, I extend a heartfelt welcome to the Inaugural Baltimore International Black Film Festival (BIBFF) on behalf of SOGAA Inc. A few short months ago, we set a course to convene this “first of its kind” film festival in the City of Baltimore. With huge doses of enthusiasm, optimism and hustle, we were able to complete this “labor of love.”



In keeping with our founding principles of Brotherhood, Leadership, Activism, Community and Knowledge, SOGAA convenes the BIBFF this year with the theme of “Bridging the Gap.” For us, this means collaborating with the visionary film makers to provide you with a uniquely diverse cinematic experience. Prepare yourself to: explore “Choices, Chance and Consequences;” witness “Life, Love and Betrayal;” while “Raising Awareness, Changing and Saving Lives” as we continually “Emerge as a People.”

At our core, we are motivated by a sincere desire to promote unity and togetherness - irrespective of race, age, gender, faith, sexual orientation or gender expression. The official selections of the inaugural BIBFF were meticulously chosen to advance this objective. Hopefully, this experience will foster the stringing together of our individual pearls of humanity which is required to form a unified jewel.

Humbly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Moore Jr.'.

Kenneth Moore Jr.  
Founder, CEO – SOGAA Inc.  
Co-Chairman BIBFF 2014

Dear Fellow Independent Film Lovers:

It is with profound joy and excitement that I welcome you to the Inaugural Baltimore International Black Film Festival (BIBFF). Our theme this year is “Bridging the Gap”, and it is our desire to close the distance within our communities between our youth, adults, seniors and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Our film selection committee toiled diligently this year to provide you with a diverse range of subject matters to experience, which we believe will facilitate the closure of the aforementioned gap.



We chose the City of Baltimore, Maryland to host this event because of its cultural diversity and emerging communities. With the support of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, we hope this will be just the beginning of a long standing and enduring relationship with the BIBFF.

We would like to thank the contributing film makers, and we encourage you to become an active participant in every screening, discussion and open forum. We thank you, and our faithful sponsors and partners for your support, and for believing in our vision for the Baltimore International Black Film Festival.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lonnie W. Walker'.

Lonnie W. Walker  
Founder, COO – SOGAA Inc.  
Co-Chairman BIBFF 2014





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



December 3, 2014

A Message from Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake:

On behalf of the City of Baltimore, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a “Charm City” welcome as you gather for the Inaugural Baltimore International Black Film Festival (BIBFF) in the Station North Arts District. The Official Selection of films chosen for the festival explore a diverse range of subjects, which taken together, seek to “Bridge the Gap” between our youth, young adults, seniors, activists and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.

Festivals such as this contribute to the diverse cultural and entertainment tapestry of our city, and I encourage you to take full advantage of the films, panel discussions, and events which accompany the screening of the films. Congratulations to all of the talented actors, writers, directors and producers whose dedication and hard work will be showcased in the films at the festival. We are proud to celebrate the talents of those who elevate the art of filmmaking through a diverse set of voices.

I am honored to welcome you to the City of Baltimore, and I wish you a very successful and enlightening festival experience.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
*Mayor*  
*City of Baltimore*



# 2014 BIBFF Schedule

## December 3, 2014

### Opening Night Film:

Troop491: The Adventures of the Muddy Lions” 4pm  
*Charles Theatre - 2*



### Opening Reception:

Hor d'oeuvres, wine & music to celebrate festival opening 6pm  
*Eubie Blake Cultural Center*

## December 4, 2014

### Thursday Films & Events:

“Jesus”  
“Before You Know It” 11am  
*Charles Theatre - 2*



“The High Five”  
“You Are Not Alone” 1pm  
*Charles Theatre - 2*



“Proletarian French Voguers”  
“True Story” 3pm  
*Charles Theatre - 2*

**First Annual BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL**  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**The Historic Charles Theatre**  
1711 N Charles Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

## December 4, 2014

### Thursday Films & Events:

“When It All Falls Down”  
“Out In The Night” 5pm  
*Charles Theatre - 2*



### Closing Night Film:

Through A Lens Darkly: Black Photographers & the Emergence of A People” 7pm  
*Charles Theatre - 2*



### Closing Party:

Food, drinks & music to celebrate festival closing 9pm  
*Beatnik Bar*

## December 5, 2014

### Friday Events:

Filmmakers’ Awards Ceremony  
Brunch 12pm  
*Nancy By SNAC*





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OFFICIAL SELECTION

## Troop491: The Adventures of the Muddy Lions



2013 USA 105 MIN HD  Opening Film - Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 4pm

"Troop 491: The Adventures of the Muddy Lions" follows Tristian, a naive adolescent boy coping with life in the inner city. Tristian's mother enrolls him in the Boy Scouts in an effort to keep him off the streets, when he witnesses a homicide, the local thug demands his silence. Tristian learns, with the help of his new scout friends, that doing the right thing isn't always easy. Will he follow the code of the streets or will he follow the code of the scouts?

Produced by Praheme Tim Reid and Ken Roy | Written and Directed by Praheme Praphet | Cast: Kimani Coleman, Kameron J. Brown, Malique Hawkins, Terrell Donnell Sledge, Melody Tally, Michael LeMelle, Daphne Maxwell Reid and Tim Reid

## Through A Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People



2014 USA 92 MIN HD  Closing Film - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 7pm

The first documentary to explore the role of photography in shaping the identity, aspirations and social emergence of African Americans from slavery to the present, Through a Lens Darkly probes the recesses of American history by discovering images that have been suppressed, forgotten and lost.

Bringing to light the hidden and unknown photos shot by both professional and vernacular African American photographers, the film opens a window into lives, experiences and perspectives of black families that is absent from the traditional historical canon. These images show a much more complex and nuanced view of American culture and society and its founding ideals.

Produced by Thomas Allen Harris and Dr. Deb Willis and Ann Bennett | Directed by Thomas Allen Harris | Written by Thomas Allen Harris and Don Perry | Cast (Interview Subjects): Deborah Willis, Lyle Ashton Harris, Carrie Mae Weems Thomas Allen Harris, Hank Willis Thomas and Robin Kelly





OFFICIAL SELECTION  
BALTIMORE PREMIERE

## Jesus

2014 USA 14 MIN HD  Short Film - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 11am

In this riveting film we follow two friends (E Boogie and Chubb Rock) through a day in the life of their misdeeds and watch as their friendship unravels unexpectedly in dramatic fashion. Now they must face their final judgment and eternal fate. Is there redemption for those who ignore their salvation? Should there be? Are you ignoring your salvation?

Produced by Chubb Rock and Dana Dane | Directed by Joseph C. Grant Jr. | Written by Dana Dane and Joseph C. Grant Jr.  
|Cast: Karmia Berry, Nakia Dillard, Chubb Rock, and Earl "E Boogie" Thomason



OFFICIAL SELECTION

## Before You Know It

2013 USA 110 MIN HD  Documentary - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 11am

The subjects of BEFORE YOU KNOW IT are no ordinary senior citizens. They are go-go booted bar-hoppers, love struck activists, troublemaking baton twirlers, late night Internet cruisers, seasoned renegades and bold adventurers. They are also among the estimated 2.4 million lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans over the age of 55 in the United States, many of whom face heightened levels of discrimination, neglect and exclusion. But BEFORE is not a film about cold statistics and gloomy realities, it's a film about generational trailblazers who have surmounted prejudice and defied expectation to form communities of strength, renewal and camaraderie – whether these communities be affable senior living facilities, lively activist enclaves or wacky queer bars brimming with glittered trinkets and colorful drag queens.

Produced by Sara Giustini & PJ Raval | Directed by PJ Raval | Cast: Dennis "Dee", Ty "LGBT activist" and Robert "The Mouth"





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BALTIMORE PREMIERE

## The High Five

2014 USA 10 MIN HD  Short Film - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1pm

This short will explore the origins and nuances of the high five, bringing to life the unique legacy of the gesture and the story of one of its unsung originators. The filmmakers will tell the story of Glenn Burke and his origins as a baseball prodigy, his time in the majors and spontaneous "invention" of the gesture. Using this moment, the story then pivots to chronicle the simultaneous spread of the high five as both celebratory and political gesture alongside the professional and personal decline of Glenn Burke. *Written By ESPN Films*

Produced by Chris Gary, Barry Jenkins, Ryan Simon, Justin Barber and Matt Woods | Directed by Michael Jacobs | Cast (Interview Subjects): Johnnie B. "Dusty" Baker Jr., Mark Langill, Lyle Spencer, Jon Mooallem, Mark Brown, and Abdul-Jalil al-Hakim.

## You Are Not Alone



2013 USA 65 MIN HD  Documentary - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1pm  
*Raising Awareness, Changing and Saving Lives*

As a documentary, "You Are Not Alone" is a little more than a run-of-the-mill film. While containing the basic elements of its genre – interviews with subjects telling their stories and mental health professionals placing these experiences and anecdotes in perspective, and at the same time presenting relevant statistics to support their respective positions; it nudges the envelope of understanding and acceptance a little further along. Using his creativity, skill and expertise, Stanley Bennett Clay listened to the interviews, wrote a script and directed re-enactments of the stories he heard. He moved the film from being a staid production of "talking heads" into, as he says, "some Hollywood thrown in". While the film maintains the hard hitting edge of a documentary, it gently blurs the line between what is and what could be, moving into the realm of a docu-drama, and illuminating through examples, many of the underlying issues Black gay men are dealing with, but never talked about. This film breaks a taboo in the Black community; it exposes the raw truths behind the silent pain many Black gay men experience and live with.

Produced by Antoine B. Criagwell and Jeffery Gardere | Written and Directed by Stanley Bennet Clay | Cast: Robert Smith, Lester Greene, Jamaal Stone, Rian King, Sha Hayes, Andrew R. Cooksey, Jr., Nile Stevens, Vincent Michel Paul Filliatre and Ty Martin







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## Proletarian French Voguers

2014 FRANCE 14 MIN  Short Film - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 3pm

Voguing is an urban dance inspired by Vogue Magazine that grew out of New York in the 1980s, where dancers gather to compete in Voguing "battles." The movement has since grown in France, thanks to its pioneers and to the success of singers like Madonna, Lady Gaga or Beyoncé.

Lasseindra is one of the main drag queen leaders of the movement, based in Paris, who started competing in dance battles and organizing competitions at a young age. She was soon after recruited by House of Ninja, one of the most famous collectives that are skilled in Voguing.

Produced and Directed by VICE | Cast: Lasseindra Ninja and Stéphane Mizrahi



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## True Story

2014 USA 90 MIN HD  Narrative - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 3pm

Hakim Little, an ambitious African American man lives in New York City and is a great father to his daughter Imani. After being dumped by Imani's mother Tamika, he soothes a broken heart by engaging in a series of unhealthy relationships and sexual trysts. Hakim enjoys the friendship of Corey and Fred - childhood friends who, while different, offer variety to his life. Corey is a responsible adult who has been unable to find employment, and Fred is a deadbeat dad who maintains a lavish lifestyle. The men are also surrounded by the neighborhood elder, Stagga Lee, who serves as a "father figure" to the boys - even as he battles his own demons. After a series of bad dates Hakim sets out to meet the right woman. A magical love affair ensues, but when his past issues haunt him and an unexpected betrayal occurs, Hakim must decide at what cost is he willing to fight for Nia and a chance at happiness.

Produced by Josh Ansen and Lamont Akbar Wilds | Written and Directed by Rasheed Wilds | Cast: Robert L Humphrey, Damion Omar Lee, Deron Brigdon Campbell, Angela Sims, Miriam Morales, Terron Jones, and John Smooth



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
BALTIMORE PREMIERE



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
BALTIMORE PREMIERE

## When It All Falls Down....



2014 USA 18 MIN RED  Short Film - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 5pm

When the truest love seems lost, will two soul mates find it before it's too late?

Produced by Elliott "Lee" Cowart, Kalon Jackson and Terron Jones | Written and directed by Terron Jones | Cast: Branden Wellington and MaameYaa Boafo

## Out In The Night



2013 USA 75 MIN HD  Documentary - Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 5pm

OUT IN THE NIGHT (formerly titled The Fire This Time) follows the journey of a group of African American teenagers who went to a gay-friendly neighborhood in New York City for a night out. These lesbian and gender non-conforming friends, Patreese, Renata, Terrain and Venice were confronted by an older man on the street. They defended themselves. Strangers jumped in to support them and a fight ensued. Only the women were rounded up by police and charged and convicted as perpetrators of gang assault. They became known as The New Jersey 4.

OUT IN THE NIGHT follows their journey to Rikers Island, to the courtroom, and through slanderous media coverage that labeled them a "Wolfpack" and "Lesbian Gang". The film examines the events after the fight: biased media coverage likening the women to "man-hating" animals, and the unprecedentedly harsh criminal justice response to these teenagers. This story shows how four young, queer women of color were unfairly criminalized for defending themselves.

Produced by blair dorosh-walther, Giovanna Chesler, Mridu Chandra, Yoruba Richen | Directed by blair dorosh-walther | Cast: Renata, Patreese, Terrain & Venice, Angela Davis, FIERCE



### 3 Fact about African American Women and Depression



By **Jameca Falconer, Ph.D.**

Published: 2014.11.13 PsychCentral.com

Depression is a massive health concern among African-Americans — particularly women — but mental health is rarely discussed in the African American community. Since mental health is such a taboo subject in the African-American community, we are the least likely group to be treated or to seek treatment for depression. We are also less likely than other groups to even acknowledge it as a serious problem because of the shame and embarrassment that it can cause.

#### Statistics report that:

- Adult blacks are 20 percent more likely to report serious psychological distress than adult whites.
- Adult blacks living below poverty are two to three times more likely to report serious psychological distress than those living above poverty.
- Adult blacks are more likely to have feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and worthlessness than are adult whites.
- And while blacks are less likely than whites to die from suicide as teenagers, black teenagers are more likely to attempt suicide than are white teenagers (8.2 percent v. 6.3 percent)

In 2010, African American women reported feeling sad more than 1.6 times more than Non-Hispanic White women. Two of the criteria for major depression are a loss of interest or pleasure in things that used to be enjoyable and loss of energy. As a result, African American women are 1.7 times more likely than White women to report that everything is an effort all of the time. So, African American women are more sad, experience less pleasure and expend great energy just to get thru the day. What a horrible way to live! The quality of life has to improve for African American women.

**Fact: Depression is treatable.**

**Fact: You do not have to live with it.**

**Fact: There are African American mental health professionals and physicians that can assist you in your community.**

### The Stigma of Black Suicide is Killing Us

*Excerpts from Article – By REV. IRENE Published: 2014.11.04 Curve Magazine*

I can identify at least five factors contributing to suicide in communities of African descent which, for the most part, go unaddressed: untreated mental illness, homophobic bullying, religion, “Cop-Assisted Suicide”, and the “Strong Black Woman Syndrome”.

#### Untreated Mental Illness

The leading cause of suicide in African diasporic communities are not only the cultural stigma about mental illness, but also the barriers to mental health treatment. According to the 2010 data from the American Association of Suicidology, “Just 4 percent of the nation's psychiatrists, 3 percent of the psychologists and 7 percent of social workers, are black.”

#### Homophobic Bullying

LGBTIQ African Americans residing in black communities are frequently the subjects of bullying, which often times lead to their death by suicide or gang violence. In 2009 Ms. Walker found her son, Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, hanging by an extension cord on the second floor of their home after he endured endless anti-gay and homophobic taunts by schoolmates, although Carl never identified as gay.

#### Religion

Our very religious life can also contribute to a cult suicide as Sikivu Hutchinson points out in her article Jonestown Massacre: How Religion Kills Black Women. And because suicide is such a taboo subject and kept on the “down low” in the community very little research among African American religion scholars and theologians have probed into just how conservative Christianity not only harms our LGBTIQ brothers and sisters but also our grandmothers, mothers, and sisters.

#### “Cop-Assisted Suicide”

Most black males in America feel they reside in a police state. The hopelessness it engenders among this demographic group has created a cop-assisted suicide culture. Social stressors such as police profiling, constant images of unarmed black males being shot by police, high unemployment, incarceration and dropout rates, and family and community violence, to name enough, contribute to black male suicide.

#### “Strong Black Woman Syndrome”

In July 2010 a groundbreaking study titled “Black Lesbians Matter” examined the unique experiences, perspectives, and priorities of Black LBT communities. And sadly little was known about it. The report revealed that LBT women of African descent are among the most vulnerable in our society and need advocacy in the areas of financial security, healthcare, access to education, and marriage equality. One key finding of the survey revealed there is a pattern of higher suicide rates among us. Scholars have primarily associated these higher suicide rates with one’s inability to deal with “coming-out” to their faith communities.

It is time to acknowledge that the stigma of suicide is killing us.

**NEED HELP? TEXT “CTL” TO 741741.**

or call National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

24/7 at **1-800-273-8255**



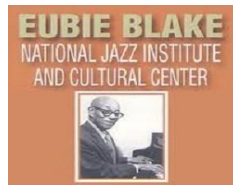
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*We are grateful for the generous organizations, corporations and individuals who have contributed to the BIBFF 2014*

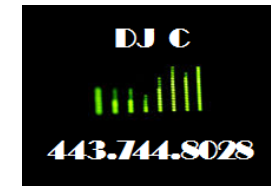
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Founded on the principles of brotherhood, leadership, activism, community and knowledge – SOGAA is committed to collaborating with fun-loving and forward thinking individuals and organizations regionally and globally.



**"True Brotherly Love!"**

**Follow us on social media at:**

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**SOGAA Inc.**

1826 Pennsylvania Avenue #12526  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

email: [sogaa2014@gmail.com](mailto:sogaa2014@gmail.com)

Call or Text us at:  
Tel: (443) 447-3642

**Background**

SOGAA is a non-profit social / service organization *for Black men who love men* founded in Baltimore, Maryland. SOGAA is dedicated to enhancing the social, economic, physical and mental wellness of both its members and the entire community.



**Mission**

SOGAA's motto is: Kweli upendo wa kindugu "true brotherly love" Our name is derived from the *Spanish word soga "meaning rope"* which denotes unity. SOGAA's mission is to facilitate the coming together of individuals (represented as fibers) to strengthen our collective utility (represented as the rope).

**"True Brotherly Love!"**



**SOGAA Inc.**

**1826 Pennsylvania Avenue #12526  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217**

**[www.SOGAA.org](http://www.SOGAA.org)**