

Screening Schedule and Festival Guidebook



Get Inspired!

February 7 - February 19, 2024

Baldwin Hills Crenshaw • Cinemark BHC

TICKET PRICES *and* GENERAL INFORMATION

Screening Tickets (Regular)	Prices
Adult General Admission	\$13.50
Adult Matinee (First weekday screening)	\$11.00
Seniors (62+)	\$11.00
Students (w/ID)	\$11.00
Children (12 years or under)	\$6.00

Special Event Tickets	Prices
Opening Night (Includes Red Carpet Screening & after-party)	\$250.00
Centerpiece (Includes Red Carpet Screening & after-party)	\$50.00
Closing Night (Includes Red Carpet Screening & after-party)	\$50.00
LOL Comedy Night	\$40.00 (Advance) \$50.00 (Door)
PAFF Institute Panels & Workshops	Free; RSVP on www.paff.org
Filmmaker Award Brunch	\$30.00 (Advance) \$40.00 (Door)
SpokenWordFest	\$20.00

PAFF VIRTUAL

Selected PAFF'24 films will be screened online from **February 20-March 31, 2024**. Films will be streamed VOD. Film must be opened during its scheduled period. Once film is opened, ticket purchaser will have 24-hours to watch film. Some films will have limited availability. See www.paff.org for additional information regarding PAFF Virtual.

Virtual Screening	Prices
Individual Tickets	\$10.00
Virtual Pass (Good for up to 25 screenings)	\$100.00

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Visit us online for daily updates:
www.PAFF.org, [Facebook.com/PAFFnow](https://www.facebook.com/PAFFnow)
 Email: info@paff.org

SATURDAY CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

FREE

(February 10 & 17)

Children's Films at Cinemark Baldwin Hills
 Crenshaw & XD @ 10:00am

Interactive Workshops at the Bridge
 2nd Floor BHC @ 12:00pm

SENIOR CONNECTIONS

FREE

Space available; first come, first served (62+)

ALL FEST PASS*

\$615.00

Enjoy entire PAFF. Access to all PAFF sponsored events, all screenings and PAFF sponsored after-parties and Receptions, panels and workshops, space-available access to filmmakers' lounge; one 2024 PAFF T-shirt, souvenir book. Guaranteed seating up to 15 minutes before movie and panel start time.

"FILM LOVERS" CINEMA ONLY PASS* \$325.00

Access only to all physical general admission screenings. Does not include access to Special screenings, Spotlight Screenings or Special Events.

PAFF Six-Tix PAFFport*

\$65.00

Six Adult Evening Tickets:
 Restrictions: space available only; only two tickets per screening

**Passes can be purchased online beginning December 1 or in person February 8-19 (11am-7pm) at the PAFF office in BHC or at the PAFF Information Table in the theater during PAFF screening hours.*

LOCATIONS:

All PAFF Screenings and Panels

Cinemark Baldwin Hills Crenshaw & XD
 (on the grounds of BHCP)

ArtFest, PAFF Institute Panels & Workshops, Fashion Show, and SpokenWord Fest

Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza
 3650 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
 Los Angeles, CA 90008
 (At the corner of Crenshaw and King)

PAFF LOL check www.paff.org for location

PARKING - Ample free parking.

PRESENTATION INFORMATION

Short films are screened either grouped together or with a feature. All foreign language films are presented with English subtitles. Films are not rated. Starred (*) titles may contain adult subject matter, nudity, or harsh language. Parental discretion advised for all films.

ABOUT PAFF

The Pan African Film Festival is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the advancement of cultural diversity and education through the exhibition of positive and realistic media images.

* All Ticket Sales are final and non-refundable unless screening or event is cancelled and there is no substitution.

OPENING NIGHT



Thursday, February 7, 2024

A HIP HOP STORY

Directed by Damaine Radcliff
World Premiere
2024/US/90m

Hip Hop culture is in a crisis! A pioneer of the culture joins forces with a few of rap music's elite performers to attempt to save Hip Hop. Exciting and hilarious, the film also offers relevant social commentary on the state of Hip Hop culture.

Stars Affion Crockett, Damaine Radcliff, Jevin Smith, Johnollie Nelson, Cedric The Entertainer, Damien Dante Wayans, Lil Rel Howery, Wayne Brady, Lil Mama, Norm Nixon, Jr.

Location: Writers Guild Theater

Time: 5:30 pm Red Carpet
7:00 pm Screening Followed by Reception
(Location TBA)

Tickets: \$250.00





Thursday, February 15, 2024

For the Love of the Mother Land

Directed by Theodros "Teddy" Teshome

World Premiere

2023/Ethiopia/145m

Hayelom from the Tigray region in Ethiopia is deeply in love with Lielt from Ethiopia's Amhara region. When Tigray militants invade the Amhara region, he joins the militants and she joins the Ethiopian defense force, causing their love to face an expected turn. An epic film of love and war.

Cast: Debebe Eshetu, Getahun Hailu, Tsigereda Bekele

Location: Directors Guild of America, DGA Theater Complex
7920 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90047

Time: 5:30 pm Red Carpet
7:00 pm Screening
Followed by Reception

Tickets: \$ 50

Presented by: **TEDDY STUDIOS**

CLOSING NIGHT



Sunday, February 18, 2024

Outlaw Posse

Directed by Mario Van Peebles

World Premiere

2023/US/109m

1908. Chief returns from years of hiding in Mexico to claim stolen gold hidden in the hills of Montana. In his quest, he reunites an ensemble of fresh and familiar faces - together they fight off Angel, whose rationale to the gold leaves a trail of deception and dead bodies.

Stars Mario Van Peebles, Whoopi Goldberg, Cedric The Entertainer, D.C. Young Fly, James Edward Olmos, Allen Payne, Mandela Van Peebles, William Mapother, John Carroll Lynch, Jake Manley, Amber Reign Smith, Neil McDonough, William McDonough.

Location: Cinemark BHC & XD

Time: 5:30 pm Red Carpet

7:00 pm Screening Followed by Afterparty

Tickets: \$ 60.00

Presented by:



SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Fri, Feb 9 @ 7:30p

Sense and Sensibility

(US/Feature Narr/90m)

Directed by Roger Bobb

A period adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. After a change in circumstances, Marianne is torn between two men, while Elinor longs for a man beyond reach. Stars Deborah Ayorinde, Bethany Antonia and Dan Jeannotte.

Tickets: \$15.00

(includes talkback w/ director, cast and crew)



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MAHOGANY
Original Movies

Sat, Feb 10 @ 3:00p

Sacred Soil: The Piney Woods School Story

(US/Feature Doc/2024/105m)

World Premiere

Directed by JJ Anderson

Set against the culturally historical backdrop of one of America's oldest Black boarding schools, this film amplifies the journeys of several Piney Woods School students and staff members, providing a never-before-seen window into the ever-evolving, complex layers of the school and its students. Vividly yet beautifully captures the emotional, physical, and mental tolls required to be young, Black, and educated in America by honoring the students' perspectives of themselves and their school.

Tickets: \$13.50



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ANDSCAPE

SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Mon, Feb 12 @ 8:00p

::: SNEAK PEEK :::

Bob Marley: One Love

(Jamaica, US/Feature Narr/107m)

Dir: Reinaldo Marcus Green

BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE celebrates the life and music of an icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity. On the big screen for the first time, discover Bob's powerful story of overcoming adversity and the journey behind his revolutionary music. Stars Kingsley Ben-Adir as the legendary musician and Lashana Lynch as his wife Rita.

Tickets: \$15.00



Sponsored by



Tue, Feb 13 @ 7:00p

Kemba

(US/Feature Narr/108m)

Directed by Kelley Kali

Based on the true story of Kemba Smith, a sheltered college student who falls in love with a man, only to learn he is a drug kingpin who leads her down a path of abuse and manipulation, placing her in the middle of the government's "war on drugs," and ultimately landing her in federal prison. Stars Nesta Cooper, Siddiq Saunderson, Sean Patrick Thomas, Michelle Hurd.

Tickets: \$15.00

(includes talkback w/ director, cast and crew)



Sponsored by



SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Tue, Feb 13 @ 7:30p

We Grown Now

(US/Feature Narr/93m)

Directed by Minhal Baig

Set in 1992, two young legends in their own right, best friends Malik and Eric traverse Chicago, looking to escape the mundaneness of school and the hardships of growing up in public housing. Their unbreakable bond is challenged when tragedy shakes their community just as they are learning to fly. Stars Jurnee Smollett, S. Epatha Merkerson and Lil Rel Howery.

Tickets: \$13.50



Sat, Feb 17 @ 7:00p

Being BeBe: The BeBe Zahara Benet Documentary

(US/Feature Doc/93m)

Directed by Emily Branham

Immigrating from Cameroon, a country where Queerness is criminalized, Marshall Ngwa (a.k.a. BeBe Zahara Benet) finds his purpose through performance, eventually becoming the first winner of now-iconic reality show RuPaul's Drag Race and emerging as one of the leading artists in the movement to celebrate and advance Black Queer Excellence.

Tickets: \$15.00

(includes talkback w/ director, cast and crew)



Sponsored by



SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:00p

Iwájú

(US/Feature Narr/106m)

Directed by Olufikayo Ziki Adeola, Hamid Ibrahim, Toluwalakin Olowofoyeku

Set in futuristic Lagos, Nigeria, this original animated series tells the exciting coming of age story of Tola, a young girl from the wealthy island, and her tech-savvy best friend, Kole as they discover the secrets and dangers of their different worlds.

Tickets: \$13.50



Sponsored by



Mon, Feb 19 @ 7:00p

Genius: MLK/X

(US/Feature Narr/49m)

TV series centers on the formative years, accomplishments, dueling philosophies and key personal relationships of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Stars Aaron Pierre, Kelvin Harrison Jr., Jayme Lawson, Weruche Opia.

Tickets: \$15.00 (includes talkback w/ director, cast and crew)



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AWARDS SEASON SPOTLIGHTS



Fri, Feb 9 @ 8:30p
Sat, Feb 10 @ 8:15p

Io Capitano

(Senegal, Italy/Feature
Narr/122m)
Academy Award
Nominee

Directed by Matteo
Garrone

An epic immigration
Odyssey through the
dangers of the Sahara
desert, the horrors of
the detention centers
in Libya, and the perils
of the sea, as well as,
unexpected joys, as two
teenagers travel from
Dakar to Europe. Stars
Seydou Sarr, Moustapha
Fall. *Best International
Film Nomination for 2024
Oscar®.*

Tickets: \$15.00

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Sun, Feb 11 @ 6:30p
Sun, Feb 18 @ 8:35p

Goodbye Julia

(Sudan / Feature
Narr/2023/120m)
Academy Award
Submission

Dir: Mohamed Kordofani

Tensions between
Northern and Southern
Sudanese communities
erupt into violence, forever
changing two families in
this moving story of an
unlikely bond between two
women as they confront
issues of class, gender
and race. *Official film
submission for Oscar -
Best International Film
2024 - Sudan.*

Tickets: \$13.50



Tue, Feb 13 @ 8:35p
Fri, Feb 16 @ 8:30p
Sun, Feb 18 @ 5:05p

Sira

(Burkina Faso/Feature
Narr/122m)
Academy Award
Submission

Directed by Apolline
Traoré

In the sprawling desert of
the Sahel, young Sira and
her family are traveling
to her wedding when
ambushed and abducted
by Islamist terrorists,
forcing her to fight for her
life in this stunning tale of
survival, female courage,
resilience, and revenge.
*Official film submission for
Oscar - Best International
Film 2024 - Burkina Faso*

Tickets: \$13.50

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:30p

Sat, Feb 17 @ 4:00p

The Orchestra Chuck Built

(US/Short Doc/ 2023/24m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Christopher Stoudt

Former lawyer Chuck Dickerson orchestrates a remarkable change in inner-city Los Angeles, founding the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA) to address the shocking underrepresentation of Black musicians in American orchestras. The film will be followed by a concert performed by ICYOLA.

Tickets: Feb 9 by invitation only.
(includes Concert + Reception)

Feb 17 Tickets: \$13.50
(includes Screening + Concert)



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ICYOLA

Sat, Feb 10 @5:45p

Respect My Crown: The Rise of African American Women in California Politics

(US/Feature Doc/ 2023/88m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Directed by Pamela Bright-Moon

With who's who interviews from the worlds of politics, community activism, organized labor, and the judicial system, this is a 170-year herstory chronicling the struggles and sacrifices of Black women seeking equity while battling race and gender barriers in pursuit of equality and political power in the State of California.

Tickets: \$15.00
(includes Panel + Reception)



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ALL Artists HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:00p

Art reflects the soul. PAFF inspired six Black artists to transform raw IKEA furniture into unique masterpieces, showcasing the profound connection between creativity and inspiration. Opening remarks by Kevin S. Matthews (Country Area Marketing Manager, IKEA North America)

Moderator: Sol Aponte
(Art Melanated)

Presented by **IKEA**

Women in Film: Stocker Street Panel

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:00p

A conversation on creating, supporting, and expanding stories for-and-by Black women in film.

Moderator: Sherri G. Sneed (EP of John Singleton Competition)

Panelists: Jessica Sarowitz, Dana Gills, Shea Chapman, Kimrie Lewis, Landi Maduro

Sponsor:



Black Queer & Shaking Things Up Panel

Fri, Feb 9 @ 3:00p

LGBT(Q)IA?+ Folks in Hollywood discuss the daunting tasks and double standards sometimes placed upon them to make it in Hollywood and share success stories of perseverance.

Presented By:  **GILEAD**

Glam Squad

Fri, Feb 9 @ 5:00p

Black Hair and Make-Up Stylists and Costume Designers discuss picking projects and then going from concept to actually creating the hair styles and make-up patterns/designs whether it be for a period piece or modern film or series.

Panelists: Sherleena Allen, Anthony Cherry, Stephaine Riley, Queen Boone, Derica Cole Washington

Black Writers: Mentorships, Fellowships, & Writing for TV

Sat, Feb 10 @ 12:30p

Television writers will discuss their experiences writing hit shows such as Insecure (Max), Power (CW), and The Chi (Showtime). They'll also discuss the importance of mentorship and programs aspiring writers should apply to.

Moderator: Mike Gauyo

Panelists: Andre Ferguson, James Rogers III, Cynthia Adarkwa, Lizz Bangura

Black Showrunners

Sat, Feb 10 @ 1:30p

Black TV Showrunners discuss their writing rooms and what it's like to be the boss of the show. Challenges with Crew, Talent & Executives on set.

Moderator: Mike Gauyo

Panelists: Bentley Evans, Charles Murray

Young Hollywood: Teens & Tweens

Sat, Feb 10 @ 3:00p

Learn how these well-known young actors navigate Hollywood with casting, auditions and managing homework and friends.

Moderator: Noah Abbott

Presented By: Word Onna Street

Everything Entertainment: Movies, Music & More!

Sat, Feb 10 @ 4:30p

Uncover the amazing talents shaping Hollywood. Gain insights into landing auditions, creating a standout image, and mastering the art of multitasking in the industry.

Moderator: J'Tasha St.Cyr

Panelists: Page Kennedy, Novi Brown, Kareem Grimes, Johnell Young, Brandon T Jackson

Presented By: 

Black Representation: How to Secure an Entertainment Team

Sat, Feb 10 @ 5:30p

A Roundtable Discussion with Black Agents, Managers, Attorneys, & Publicists
Presented by: Diverse Representation, Color Creative Management

*All PAFF Institute Programs are Free by Registering for a free ticket at www.paff.org
All are located in the Museum of African American Art, BHC 2nd Level unless otherwise noted.

Black Entrepreneurs: Closing The Economic Divide

Fri, Feb 16 @ 2:00p

Get expert advice from established successful entrepreneurs.

Moderator: SheRise Ford "The Six Foot Publicist"

Panelists: Elaine Proby, Tashiba Jones-Wilson, Eurika Pratts

The Art of Distribution and Marketing a Film

Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:00p

Learn how to distribute and market a film from beginning to end.

Moderator: J'Tasha St. Cyr

Panelists: Deon Taylor, Roxanne Taylor, Omar Jackson

Presented By:  Miss EVERYTHING ENTERTAINMENT

Our Images, Our Voices

Fri, Feb 16 @ 4:00p

Black Filmmakers (Writers, Directors, Producers) discuss making movies while Black in Hollywood. Challenges. Triumphs. Inspirations, Motivations.

Moderator: Shay Franklin

Panelists: Deon Taylor, Sallie Richardson-Whitfield, Tendo Nagenda, James Lopez

Behind The Music: The Score

Fri, Feb 16 @ 6:00p

Elevate your music game! Score big in the business of music synchronization with our seasoned pros who've mastered the art of getting tunes on the screen! Discover insider tips, tricks, and the juiciest secrets for making your sound a blockbuster hit!

Moderator: SheRise Ford "The Six Foot Publicist"

Panelists: Allen Maldonado, Kendra Ellis, Philippe Pierre

Presented By:  The SheRise ENTERPRISE


Frame to Frame: Black Editors Guild

Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:00p

Great mentors and editors of film, television, and streaming entertainment will discuss the art and craft of storytelling through picture and sound editing.

Moderator: Leander Sales

Panelists: Ken Johnson, RiKarlo Handy, Kat McAuley

Presented by: 

Color Our Sets in Style

Sat, Feb 17 @ 1:00p

Various crafts within the Art Department will discuss and share knowledge on crafting and making sets come alive. These designers will explain and share how they translate directing vision and the vision of the writer's words and worlds into moving images.

They will share their processes to pick and breakdown scripts to finalize sets.

Moderator: LAMOH

Presented By: ADG Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee



Ballers to Showbiz

Sat, Feb 17 @ 2:30p

A discussion with ex-Ballers who have successfully established themselves as Hollywood Elite from acting to being creatives.

Panelists: John Salley, Thomas Q. Jones, Matthew A. Cherry

Main Men Making Moves

Sat, Feb 17 @ 4:00p

Discussion with Black leading men in Hollywood about challenges, triumphs and responsibilities of being the Number One Top Billed Talent on the Call Sheet.

Moderator: Amin Joseph

Leading Ladies in Film & TV

Sat, Feb 17 @ 6:00p

Discussion with Black leading ladies in Hollywood about challenges, triumphs and responsibilities of being the Number One Top Billed Talent on the Call Sheet.

Up Close & Personal: Real Estate Seminar

Mon, Feb 19 @ 3:30p

Interest rates are up, but there are programs that can help you purchase a home. Get the information you need to get your financial life in order: Home Buying & Selling/Probate/Estate Planning/Trusts/Taxes/Retirement/Life Insurance. Meet the experts.

Hosted by: Linda Bronson Abbott & Sherri Reese



*All PAFF Institute Programs are Free by Registering for a free ticket at www.paff.org
All are located in the Museum of African American Art, BHC 2nd Level unless otherwise noted.

ARTFEST

An eclectic mix of original art to suit a range of personal tastes. The exhibition and sale includes Paintings, Sculpture, Ceramics, Fashion, Jewelry, Home Décor and African Artifacts.

Allohn Agbenya - ARTFest Director/Curator

Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10:00a - 8:00p
Sunday, 11:00a - 7:00p

Location: Baldwin Hills Crenshaw



PARTIAL LIST:

- AdireByDesu | Batik
- Akofa's Designs | Fashion
- Akouavi Fashions Hats/Jewelry
- A little More Creations | Fashion
- African Art Market Place | Crafts/Jewelry
- Amatula's Designs | Fashion/Jewelry
- Another Phase | Jewelry
- Art Jewelry by Sistaphyre | Jewelry
- Arts Africains | Crafts
- Aziz Fashion | Wearable Art
- Aziz Diagne | Fine Art
- Benin Imports | Jewelry/African Clothing
- Bimbo Adenugba | Fine Art
- Bintu | African Textiles
- Bogolani Shaka Designs | Leather/Crafts
- Bunaama Diagne | Fashion
- Damola Adepoju | Fine Art
- Designs by Ardena | Photo Restoration & Art
- Designs By DHB | Jewelry
- Elegant Elephant | Fashion
- Everything Body LLC
- Fidelis Eze Odogwu | Metal Sculpture
- Freshgenet | Jewelry/Fashion
- Foofoo Fashions | Fashion
- Hustle U Inc | Crafts
- Kenneth Vaughn Arts & Graphics | Fine Art
- Legacy Empire Gallery | Fine Art
- Lush Hills Candle Co | Candle Artistry
- From the Core of Africa | African Artifacts
- Maxx Moses | Fine Art
- Jazzy Knits | Fashion
- Latalove | Fashion
- Lips Hats | Hats
- John Onobrakpeya | Fine Art
- MOA | Fine Art
- Musu Masiri | Jewelry
- Nu Lyfe | Crafts/Artifacts
- One of A Kind Denim | Fashion
- Porter Ajayi | Fine Art
- TNT Worldwide | Wearable
- Veronique Designs | Jewelry
- Village Treasures | Artifacts
- Third Generation | Jewelry
- West Love | Fashion
- Yayi's Hats | knitted Hats
- Yendi Collections | Fine Art
- Yvonne Exclusive Designs | Fashion
- Zebi | Ceramics

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MEDIA PARTNERS



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

STUDENTFEST

Fri, Feb 9 and Mon-Fri, Feb 12-16 @ 10:00a

Selected screenings for students.

Attendance by reservation only.

See PAFF website for titles and to make reservations.

Coordinator: Sherrese Moise

Sponsored by  



SATURDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Films and activities for children age 4+ and their parents.

All films in the Cinemark BHC & XD. All activities on BHC Bridge (BHC 2nd Level).

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

SAT, FEB 10

10:30A-12:00P FILMS
• See PAFF Website for film information

12:30P-2:30P ACTIVITIES

SAT, FEB 17

10:30A-12:00P FILMS
• See PAFF Website for film information

12:30P-2:30P ACTIVITIES



YOUNG BLACK TRENDSETTERS

In Collaboration with WORD ONNA STREET

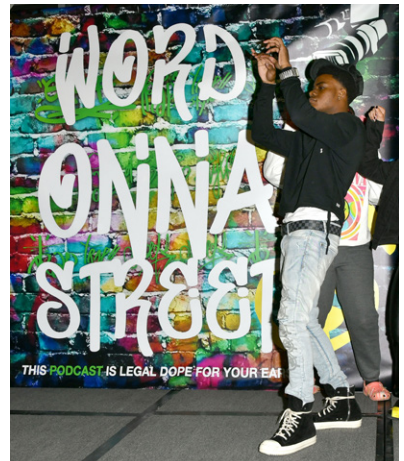
Experience the ultimate fusion of style and culture with young back trendsetters. 18-25 yrs. Live Performance, Fashion Pop Ups, Dj and an Epic Fashion Show.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 9:00p

Location: BHC Bridge (BHC 2nd Level)

Tickets: FREE with RSVP @ www.paff.org

Hosted by: **NOAH ABBOTT**



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



PAFF SPOKENWORD **in Collaboration with Diverse Verses LA**

Sat, Feb 17 @ 6:00p

Location: BHC Bridge (2nd level)

Tickets: \$20.00 (Advance: on sale @ www.paff.org)

A Special Evening of the Hottest, Hippest Spoken Word Artists ANYWHERE!

We are excited to bring you an amazing show complete with local and renowned spoken word artists from all over California! Seasoned and emerging poets will be sharing their best poems! Bring the entire family to this HIGH ENERGY, INTERACTIVE SHOW!

Featured poets are longtime actress and director Iona Morris Jackson, writer, sociologist and womanist Nikki Blak and Grammy Nominated artist and 2x National Poetry Slam Champion Sekou Andrews! This year we are honoring legendary poets Tuesday Conner and Tony Award winning poet Poetri!

Dress to impress and experience phenomenal Spoken Word!

Co-Produced and Hosted by Diverse Verses LA.
Paul Mabon, Kooki, Philosophy, Dj S.O.U.L.- O,
Marcheta and Quan the Poet.



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



PAFF LOL – COMEDY NIGHT

Wed, Feb 14 @ 8:00p

Catch some of America's Funniest Comedians.

Please check www.paff.org for comedy line-up.

Location: BHC Bridge (2nd floor BHC)

Tickets: \$40.00 (No Drinks)
\$50.00 (Includes 2 Drinks)
(Advance on sale @ www.paff.org)

Sponsored by Chocolate Sundays

SENIOR CONNECTIONS

Selected Screenings for Seniors (62+ years)

- **Port-au-Prince** Thu, Feb 8 @ 2:00p
- **Bike Vessel** Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:15p
- **Music Pictures: New Orleans** Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:30p
- **Real Estate Sisters** Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:30p
- **Golden Hearted** Wed, Feb 14 @ 1:00p
- **Mojisola** Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:10p
- **District of Second Chances** Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:15p

Location: Cinemark BHC & XD
Tickets: FREE for Seniors (62+)



PAFF FASHION SHOW

Sun, Feb 18 @ 4:00p

Wearable Art on the Move! Join the PAFF wearable art artists for a "tour de force" in high fashion with an Afro-touch.

Location: BHC Bridge (2nd level)
Tickets: FREE

PAFF FILMMAKERS' AWARDS BRUNCH

Mon, Feb 19 @ 11:00am

Come celebrate with our Filmmakers and be the first to know all the winners of PAFF 2024!

Location: BHC Bridge (2nd level)
Tickets: \$30.00 (Advance on sale @ www.paff.org)
\$40.00 (Door)

Catered by Chef Marilyn's,
Queen of Down Home Southern Goodies



SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, Feb 7

7:30p OPENING NIGHT: A Hip Hop Story

THURSDAY, Feb 8

Screen 8

1:00p Mussum
4:00p Brief Tender Light
6:30p Game Night
9:00p Shorts Series 11

Screen 9

1:30p Shorts Series 10
4:05p Masinga: The Calling
6:35p Gloria Gaynor: I Will Survive
9:20p Shorts Series 6

Screen 13

1:15p Shorts Series 12
3:40p Anecdotal
6:05p Becoming Black
8:40p Bull Street

Screen 14

1:20p Chocolate Milk
3:50p Shorts Series 15
6:20p Locked Out
8:50p Sway

Screen 15

2:00p Port-au-Prince
4:30p Man Up
6:40p Shorts Series 20
9:00p Gaining Ground

FRIDAY, Feb 9

Screen 8

1:30p "We're" Pregnant and Other Lies
w/A Divine Journey
w/Kingdom on the Coast
4:00p Game Night
6:30p ICOYLA The Orchestra that Chuck
Built w/Concert
9:00p Shorts Series 4

Screen 9

1:15p Bike Vessel
3:45p Shorts Series 3
6:20p Shorts Series 9
8:55p No Knock-No Charge?

Screen 13

1:10p Shorts Series 1
3:45p All I've Got & Then Some
6:05p ImPossible
8:30p Io Capitano

Screen 14

1:20p Shorts Series 20
3:45p The Woman in Me
w/Reclaim: Finding the Heart of the
Circular Economy
6:05p After the Long Rains
8:40p Rise

Screen 15

1:25p Eternal
4:00p The Hidden Children of Colonization
w/ A Wish Granted
7:30p Sense and Sensibility
10:15p Shorts Series 7

SATURDAY, Feb 10

Screen 8

10:00a ChildrenFest (FREE)
1:00p New Media Series
3:50p After the Long Rains
6:20p Shorts Series 14
9:20p Orah

Screen 9

12:25p Brief Tender Light
3:00p Sacred Soil
5:45p Respect My Crown
8:15p Io Capitano

Screen 13

1:30p Totem
4:00p Shorts Series 2
6:30p Kipkemboi
9:00p A Wu-Tang Experience

Screen 14

1:10p Rediet's Coming Home
3:30p Bike Vessel
6:00p One Person, One Vote?
8:35p A Double Life

Screen 15

12:45p "We're" Pregnant and Other Lies
w/A Divine Journey
w/Kingdom on the Coast
3:05p Sway
5:45p Power Alley
8:25p Doka

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

SUNDAY, Feb 11

Screen 8

1:00p Man Up
3:15p One Person, One Vote?
5:40p ToxiCITY
8:15p Nome

Screen 9

1:10p Port-au-Prince
3:40p This World is Not My Own
6:15p TBA
8:55p Shorts Series 13

Screen 13

1:15p Shorts Series 2
3:50p A Double Life
6:10p Masinga: The Calling
8:40p Orah

Screen 14

12:50p Shorts Series 3
3:25p Mountains
6:00p The Hidden Children of Colonization
w/ A Wish Granted
8:30p Becoming Black

Screen 15

11:00a TBA
6:30p Goodbye Julia
9:30p TBA

MONDAY, Feb 12

Screen 8

1:15p Locked Out
3:45p Shorts Series 18
6:10p Mountains
8:45p Bronx BandA

Screen 9

2:25p Shorts Series 7
5:00p Summer of Violence
8:00p Bob Marley: One Love (Sneak Peek)

Screen 13

1:30p Music Pictures: New Orleans
3:50p Anecdotal
6:15p Diamond (Ngoda)
8:50p Shorts Series 17

Screen 14

1:05p Shorts Series 19
3:35p Who I Am Not
6:20p LaTasha Harlins
9:10p Shorts Series 9

Screen 15

1:20p TBA
3:50p Deep Blue
6:25p Finding Tony
9:15p Shorts Series 21

TUESDAY, Feb 13

Screen 8

1:05p Eternal
3:45p Gaining Ground
6:20p Music Pictures: New Orleans
8:35p Sira

Screen 9

1:25p Shorts Series 11
4:00p Once Again
7:00p Kemba
9:50p Shorts Series 18

Screen 13

1:55p Mussum
5:00p LaTasha Harlins
8:00p Racist Trees

Screen 14

1:30p Real Estate Sisters
4:00p Shorts Series 12
6:30p Lost Soulz
9:05p Summer of Violence

Screen 15

1:00p TBA
5:00p Colette and Justin
7:30p We Grown Now

WEDNESDAY, Feb 14

Screen 8

1:00p Golden Hearted
4:00p Force of Blue
6:25p Eternal
9:05p The Rhythm & The Blues
w/ Own the 8 Count

Screen 9

1:05p Rediet's Coming Home
3:25p Chocolate Milk
6:00p Shorts Series 8
8:45p Finding Tony

Screen 13

1:10p ToxiCITY
3:50p Colette and Justin
6:20p Kipkemboi
8:50p Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Screen 14

1:00p TBA
3:00p Love is Not Enough
5:30p Doka
8:25p Shaping Us

Screen 15

1:00p TBA
5:00p Once Again
7:50p Self Road (Yeras Menged)

THURSDAY, Feb 15

Screen 8

1:30p ImPossible
3:55p This World Is Not My Own
6:30p Diamond (Ngoda)
9:00p Shorts Series 16

Screen 9

1:15p Shorts Series 4
3:50p District of Second Chances
6:10p Respect My Crown
8:40p A Wu-Tang Experience

Screen 13

1:10p Mojisola
4:00p Shorts Series 17
6:30p Lost Soulz
9:05p Shorts Series 5

Screen 14

2:30p HumaniTree
5:30p Golden Hearted
8:30p Nome

Screen 15

1:00p TBA
8:10p Death of a Whistleblower

FRIDAY, Feb 16

Screen 8

1:00p HumaniTree
3:30p African Reasons
6:20p Sing! Fight! Sing! Fight
8:50p No Knock-No Charge?

Screen 9

1:10p Shorts Series 22
3:40p New Media Series
7:00p A Hip Hop Story
9:30p This is Lagos

Screen 13

1:00p For the Love of the Mother Land
4:35p Who I Am Not
7:45p Sistahs Getting Well
10:30p BronX BandA

Screen 14

1:05p Shorts Series 5
3:35p Shorts Series 14
6:10p Bar Daddy
8:30p Sira

Screen 15

1:15p District of Second Chances
3:40p African Giants
6:20p Force of Blue
8:50p Shorts Series 13

SATURDAY, Feb 17

Screen 8

10:00a ChildrenFest (FREE)
1:00p Mojisola
4:00p ICOYLA The Orchestra that Chuck Built w/Concert
7:00p Being Bebe
10:00p Shorts Series 6

Screen 9

12:15p Shorts Series 8
3:10p Shorts Series 22
5:50p Sing! Fight! Sing! Fight!
8:30p For the Love of the Mother Land

Screen 13

1:00p Totem
3:30p Power Alley
6:10p Rise
8:45p Bull Street

Screen 14

12:30p African Glory w/Father's Day
3:00p The Woman in Me
w/Reclaim: Finding the Heart of the Circular Economy
5:20p The Rhythm & The Blues
w/ Own the 8 Count
7:45p Life or Death: The Arthur "Silky Slim" Story
10:50p Shorts Series 16

Screen 15

12:15p Shorts Series 23
2:50p Bar Daddy
5:10p Deep Blue
7:45p We Grown Now
10:20p Shorts Series 1

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

SUNDAY, Feb 18

Screen 8

12:30p District of Second Chances
3:00p Iwaju
5:05p Sira
8:10p- HumaniTTree
10:40p TBA

Screen 9

12:20p All I've Got and Then Some
3:00p Life or Death: The Arthur
"Silky Slim" Story
7:00p CLOSING NIGHT: Outlaw Posse
10:10p Shorts Series 21

Screen 13

12:15p Love is Not Enough
2:45p This is Lagos
5:15p Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes
7:40p Outlaw Posse
10:30p Shorts Series 19

Screen 14

12:40p Shorts Series 10
3:10p African Reasons
6:00p Real Estate Sisters
8:25p For the Love of the Mother Land

Screen 15

12:45p Shaping Us
3:30p Kids in the Spotlight Series
6:00p Shorts Series 15
8:35p Goodbye Julia

MONDAY, Feb 19

Screen 8

1:15p Justice USA
4:15p One Person, One Vote?
6:30p Shorts Series 14
9:00p Being Bebe

Screen 9

1:15p Shorts Series 15
3:50p Outlaw Posse
7:00p Genius: MLK/X
9:40p Shorts Series 7

Screen 13

1:00p African Glory w/Father's Day
3:30p Death of a Whistle Blower
6:40p For the Love of the Mother Land
10:00p BronX BandA

Screen 14

1:30p Finding Tony
4:15p Brief Tender Light
6:55p Sway
9:30p TBA

Screen 15

1:10p African Reasons
4:00p Man Up w/ J.Anthony Brown Animation
6:15p African Giants
9:15p TBA



SHORTS SERIES

Shorts Series 1

As the Cookie Crumbles / Flower / Village Treasures / Speak Up Brotha!

Shorts Series 2

Law & Justice Series

Animals / NUMB / How to Sue the Klan / Judging Juries

Shorts Series 3

Unconditional / Chidera / NEGRITA

Shorts Series 4

Fantasy, Suspense,

SciFi & Horror A

Tossou / Gold Sphere / One Date / Gugu naGogo/ Supa Hair / Jellyfish and Lobster / Cairn

Shorts Series 5

Fantasy, Suspense,

SciFi & Horror B

ExpoZure / The Burden / Rocky Road On Channel Three / Some Kind of Heavenly Fire / Inner Demons / The Garden of Edette

Shorts Series 6

Fantasy, Suspense,

SciFi & Horror C

Go to Bed Raymond / Pause/Play / Clones / Gods of the Universe: Rise of the Star Child / The Origin / Untitled

Shorts Series 7

Fantasy, Suspense,

SciFi & Horror D

The New Girl / In the Matchbox / Yaye / Trinidad Remains / Rites of Passage / The Future Above Us

Shorts Series 8

Black Love

Your Love Is King / A Plus / Unicorn Training* / Chasing the Night / A Stranger's Waltz / Exit Interview / Lucille / Love in Brooklyn

Shorts Series 9

African Shorts

Where My Memory Began / On Freedom of Movement / Beads Build Bridges: The People Behind the Craft / Bamako Chic: Threads of Power, Color and Culture / Ativio, Pieces of Wood

Shorts Series 10

Short Docs

Voices from the Frontlines / The Route to Emancipation / Birthing a Nation: The Resistance of Mary Gaffney / Roads of Lava

Shorts Series 11

Pan African Shorts

Gita Boy / Hope /The Envoy of God /Thaba Ye / The Last Ranger / Hair No Hair

Shorts Series 12

Terminally Ill / Burnt Milk / Hairitage /Asema / The Magic Ticket

Shorts Series 13

Jahleel & Star / Love Taps / The Therapist / Harlem Fragments / In Sickness And...

Shorts Series 14

Morning Steep / Take the Lead / Saturday / Choices / 13 / Neighborhood Alert

Shorts Series 15

No Walk Ins / Definitely Not a Monster / Pandemic Bread / Speak / Keepers of the Flame

Shorts Series 16

Breakthrough / South Sudan Basketball Federation / Kingdome / Ngarannam: The Homecoming / Mamba's Murals

Shorts Series 17

UK Shorts

Festival of Slaps / Chairs / So Long, Farewell / Good Intentions / Essex Girls / The Perfect Knight

Shorts Series 18

Self / Marque Dos (Second Chance) / Breathe / Blue Hour / Camping / Ebezina / Demo-Lition

Shorts Series 19

Fake It Till You Make It / Flesh & Spirit / Forgive Me Jaanu / Agua de tu Madre / In This House / Superman Doesn't Steal

Shorts Series 20

LGBTQ+ Shorts

Bumped / Private Flowers / Becoming / He They / Flour Girl

Shorts Series 21

African American Shorts

Rainy Days / The Good Life / The Last Days of Chocolate / Unkind Cut / Wolf and Cub / Gaps

Shorts Series 22

Pan African Short Docs

I Am More Dangerous Dead / Preschool To Prison / Ralph & Bug / Taking Back the Groove

Shorts Series 23

"We're" Pregnant and Other Lies / Talk to Me / Sistahs Getting Well

New Media

Moments / The Maharlika Warrior / Revenge of the Black Best Friend/

SHORT PROGRAMS

The Rhythm & The Blues w/ Own the 8 Count

The Woman In Me w/Reclaim: Finding the Heart of the Circular Economy

The Hidden Children of Colonization w/ A Wish Granted

We're Pregnant and Other Lies w/A Divine Journey and Kingdom On The Coast

African Glory w/Father's Day

Man Up w/ J. Anthony Brown short

FILM SYNOPSES

13

(US/Short Narr/2023/13m)

Dir: Danielle Nicolet

A woman seeking closure by confronting her childhood abuser discovers that forgiveness is overrated.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 6:20p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:35p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:30p

A Divine Journey

(Kenya, Malawi/Short Doc/2023/25m)

World Premiere

Dir: Annette M. King, Ivanovitch Ingabire

A determined young woman living at a refugee camp for 19 years defies the odds and leads a cause to serve people living at the camp.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:30p; Sat, Feb 10 @ 12:45p

A Double Life

(France, United States/Feature Doc/2023/84m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Catherine Masud

The true story of Stephen Bingham, a lawyer accused of passing a gun to prisoners' rights leader George Jackson in 1971. Forced into a life on the run, Bingham spends 13 years underground, eluding capture while fiercely determined to clear his name. Through a mesmerizing blend of firsthand accounts, rare archival materials, and poignant interviews, the story traces Bingham's astonishing odyssey.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 8:35p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 3:50p

A Hip Hop Story

(US/Feature Narr/2024/90m) World Premiere

Dir: Damaine Radcliff

See Opening Night for description

Fri, Feb 16 @ 7:00p

A Plus

(UK/Short Narr/2023/8m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Michael P. Spencer

A couple try their best to right a wrong over a romantic evening but their opposing opinions and personalities clash despite having their daughter's future and best interests at heart.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

A Stranger's Waltz

(US/Short Narr/2024/12m)

World Premiere

Dir: Oluseyi Olatujoye

Two young Nigerian Americans meet by chance in NYC, setting the stage for a connection that transcends time, weaving a heartfelt tale of love, growth, and destiny.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

A Wish Granted

(US/Short Doc/2023/34m) West Coast Premiere

Dir: Akil DuPont

NaTonya Spear has been looking for her father for 48 years. What happens when a DNA test gives her only one match to a 1st cousin she doesn't know.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 4:00p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 6:00p

A Wu-Tang Experience: Live at Red Rocks Amphitheatre

(US/Feature Doc/2023/88m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: The RZA, Gerald Barclay

In August, 2021, the Wu-Tang Clan, backed by the 60-piece Colorado Symphony Orchestra, performed at the famed Red Rocks Amphitheater. Roughly 10,000 fans witnessed one of the most extraordinary concerts in Hip-Hop music history. Welcome to A Wu-Tang Experience. Appearances by: Rza, Method Man, Wu-tang Clan, Christopher Dragon, Oliver Grant.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 9:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 8:40p

African Giants

(US/Feature Narr/2023/107m)

World Premiere

Dir: Omar S. Kamara

Over a weekend visit in Los Angeles, two first-generation Sierra Leonean American brothers navigate the changing dynamics of brotherhood after a surprise announcement.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:40p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:15p

FILM SYNOPSES

African Glory

(France, Mali, Mexico, Spain/Feature

Doc/2023/64m)

World Premiere

Dir: Thierry Siegried Bugaud

Anthropologist and historian Jean-Yves Loude shares the results of his in-depth investigation into Mandinka Emperor Abu Bakr II, who set off from the Senegalese coast at the head of a fleet of two thousand boats in 1311, according to a written account recorded in an official 14th-century encyclopedia. In parallel, the voice of Cheick Tidiane Seck is our guide on a journey to the heart of the Mali Empire: where the great Battle of Kirina took place, leading to the advent of an empire that would keep growing until Emperor Abu Bakr II set off on his exploration. *Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:30p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:00p*

African Reasons (Razões Africanas)

(Angola, Brazil, DRC, Cuba, Mali, United States/Feature Doc/2023/108m)

World Premiere

Dir: Jefferson Mello

An exploration of the influence of the African diaspora in the formation of three important musical rhythms: blues, rumba and jongo. The film follows the journey of three characters in six countries, revealing the African origins common to these musical styles that have spread around the world. *Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:10p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:10p*

After the Long Rains

(Kenya/Feature Narr/2023/91m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Damien Hauser

Ten-year-old Aisha wants to become a fisher, but her mother thinks that fishing should be left to men. However, one day Aisha meets a fisherman named Hassan, who decides to teach her how to fish. *Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:05p; Sat, Feb 10 @ 3:50p*

Agua de tu Madre

(US/Short Narr/2023/13m) West Coast Premiere

Dir: Naiyah Ambros

Aided by goddess Yemayá, an Afro-Cuban woman helps her son flee revolutionary Cuba.

Fifty years later, her pregnant granddaughter must face the past in this tale of diaspora, generational inheritance, and resilience.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:05p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:30p

All I've Got & Then Some

(US/Feature Narr/2023/80m)

Dir: Rasheed Stephens, Tehben Dean

After moving to L.A. to pursue his dream of becoming a stand-up comic, Rasheed finds himself driving an Uber and homeless. With the support of his oddball friends, Rasheed is certain his dreams are about to manifest.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 3:45p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 12:20p

Anecdotal

(US/Feature Doc/2022/83m)

Dir: Jennifer Sharp

Apparently many people, including this filmmaker, took the experimental Pfizer COVID-19 shot and experienced unexpected reactions. But those whose lives were changed drastically by taking the vaccine are censored and told it's unethical to talk about their stories - they are just anecdotes. This is the filmmaker's investigation in an attempt to be recognized and more importantly to receive help for resulting medical issues.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 3:40p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:50p

Animals

(Virgin Islands, US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

Dir: Jordan K. Paul

In LA, a young US Virgin Islander, navigates a racist LAPD encounter triggered by his white roommate, leading to a transformative journey exposing the flaws in the American policing system.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 4:00p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 1:15p

As the Cookie Crumbles

(US/Short Narr/2022/37m)

Dir: Aimiende Negbenebor Sela

Jaylin, mercilessly dumped by his long-term girlfriend, finds himself arguing with a widow over whose loss is worse. Through their shared grief, they find grace and a silver lining.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:20p

FILM SYNOPSES

Asema

(Suriname/Short Narr/2023/35m)

Dir: Loelle Monsanto

During the summer at grandma's, Deon encounters a mysterious old woman who warns about a creature called "asema." He and his friend Jimmy embark on a quest to find out if it is real or just a tale.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:15p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 4:00p

Ativio, Pieces of Wood

(Togo/Short Narr/2022/27m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Juliette Boucheny

Eleven-year-old Guénolé lives in a small village two hours from Lomé, Togo. He dreams of playing the piano. With the help of a Kapok Tree, he will manage to practice despite not having a piano.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:20p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:10p

Bamako Chic: Threads of Power, Color and Culture

(France, Germany, Mali, US/Short Doc/2023/27m) U.S. Premiere

Dir: Maureen Gosling, Maxine Downs

Helping to alleviate poverty and nourishing African cultural identity, Malian women sparked a revolution by transforming the cloth dyeing tradition using colorful powdered dyes and creative design in the 1960s.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:20p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:10p

Bar Daddy

(US/Feature Doc/2023/79m)

Dir: Jay Gerren

Alfred "Al" Jenkins has dedicated his life to helping Black people pass the State Bar exam, especially those who have attempted the exam more than once. Providing free lessons on a table in his home, over 3,000 Black law grads, including numerous accomplished judges, lawyers and business owners all owe their careers to Al.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 6:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 2:50p

Beads Build Bridges: The People Behind the Craft

(Ghana/Short Doc/2024/16m)

World Premiere

Dir: Moreau Halliburton

A behind-the-scenes look into the process of Krobo bead production, looking in on Mr. Cedi and his family, who are dedicated to keeping the tradition of handmade recycled glass beads alive. Each bead is eco-friendly, wearable art.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:20p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:10p

Becoming

(US/Short Narr/2023/26m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Tramaine Raphael Gray

Shawn, an imaginative queer teen who weaves in and out of his own fantasy world struggles to connect with his older brother Rashad, after Rashad, a man of action rather than words, saves him from being jumped in the park.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:40p; Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:20p

Becoming Black

(Benin, Germany, Togo/Feature Doc/2020/91m)

Dir: Ines Johnson-Spain

A white couple in East-Berlin (GDR) in the 1960s tells their daughter that her dark skin color is pure coincidence and has no meaning. This is also what the girl prefers to believe, until she accidentally discovers the truth as a teenager. It will take many more years before she decides to embark on a journey to Togo to look for her African family.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:05p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 8:30p

Bike Vessel (US/Feature Doc/2023/92m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Eric D Seals

After many years of drinking, smoking and eating fried southern foods, Donnie Seals Sr. almost died before age 50. Following 3 quadruple bypass surgeries and living on more than 20 daily medications, Donnie found his road back to heart-health through cycling. Now at 70 and on only one medication, Donnie, with his 35-year-old filmmaker son, embark on an amusing and inspirational bicycle journey from St. Louis to Chicago.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:15p; Sat, Feb 10 @ 3:30p

FILM SYNOPSES

Birthing a Nation: The Resistance of Mary Gaffney

(US/Short Doc/2023/19m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Nazenet Habtezghi

The story of forced reproduction in the antebellum South, revealing the agency of Mary Gaffney, an enslaved woman who takes control of her body and fertility.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 12:40p

Blue Hour

(US/Short Narr/2023/16m)

Dir: J.D Shields

Rene gets far more than she expected she when accepts a last minute photography gig taking portraits for a young woman. Upon meeting her client, Jaz, the true nature of Rene's job comes into focus.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:45p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 9:50p

Breakthrough

(US/Short Doc/2023/12m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: JaMar Jones

The pressure to succeed and identity crisis often plague athletes when removed from their sport. Surrounded by former athletes, D'joun Smith tells his story of survival in his lowest moments in group therapy.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:50p

Breathe

(US/Short Narr/2023/17m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Jamie Burton-Oare

When Eric and his friend Rams set out to get a quick bite, a stop at the corner store changes Eric's world...forever.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:45p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 9:50p

Brief Tender Light

(Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, US, Ghana, Zimbabwe/Feature Doc/2023/93m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Arthur Musah

A Ghanaian MIT alum follows four African students also at MIT as they strive to become agents of change for their home countries

Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Over a nearly decade-long journey spanning two continents, all must decide how much of America to absorb, how much of Africa to hold on to, and how to reconcile teenage ideals with the truths they discover about America and themselves.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 4:00p; Sat, Feb 10 @ 12:25p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 4:15p

BronX BandA: Arturo O'Farrill & The Bronx

(US/Feature Doc/2023/81m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Taylor Krauss

Paying homage to the history of the Afro-Latinx music that was born in the Bronx, 6-time Grammy Award-winning pianist Arturo O'Farrill brings to life a 9-piece hip-hop-jazz-funk ensemble converting stories of South Bronx life into music resounding in the streets.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 8:45p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 10:30p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 10:00p

Bull Street

(US/Feature Narr/2022/118m)

World Premiere

Dir: Lynn Dow

After the death of her estranged father, Attorney LouEster faces the battle of her life when his family tries to evict her and her grandmother from the only home she has ever known. LouEster must gather all her courage and skill as a lawyer to demand the justice that is her birthright. Stars Loretta Devine, Amy Madigan, Malynda Hale, Arielle Prepetit, Chantal Maurice, Mathew Greer.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 8:40p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 8:45p

Bumped

(UK/Short Narr/2023/15m)

Dir: Mahaneela Choudhury-Reed

After an unforeseen tremor sends despair through their foundation, a queer couple asks questions about themselves and what they want as a unit. Is there hope within the layers of mess and betrayal?

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:40p; Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:20p

FILM SYNOPSES

Burnt Milk

(Jamaica/Short Narr/2023/10m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Joseph Douglas Elmhirst

Una, an isolated Jamaican woman living in 1985 suburban London, works as a nurse on a maternity ward. As Una takes a moment of solace to make her traditional condensed milk pudding, Burnt Milk, she is flooded with spiritual imagery taking her back to Jamaica.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:15p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 4:00p

Cairn

(US/Short Narr/2023/20m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Gia-Rayne Harris, Joshua Nathan

When college friends come to visit a cabin in rural Georgia and one of the women in the group goes missing, Ada, the property groundskeeper, becomes increasingly concerned for her own safety.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 9:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:15p

Camping

(US/Short Narr/2023/9m)

World Premiere

Dir: Derek Quick

A homeless single mother, living in her van with her daughter, struggles to survive as her life spirals further during a troubled night working as a ride-share driver.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:45p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 9:50p

Chairs

(UK/Short Narr/2023/20m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: James Hughes

Joel, a man obsessed with chairs, seeks help and becomes the last patient of the day for psychiatrist Seraphina Brooks. As Joel regales his peculiar condition, Seraphina is drawn into a situation she never expected.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 8:50p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 4:00p

Chasing the Night

(UK/Short Narr/2023/16m)

Dir: Abraham Adeyemi

When an amicable drink becomes a spontaneous night out, Fatimah and Leon, two former lovers, must face the important conversation that awaits as the night draws to its inevitable end.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

Chidera

(US/Short Narr/2023/18m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Sope Aluko, Adaora Nwandu-Earl

As her traditional induction ceremony looms, a teenage girl bound from birth to a lifelong oath to a higher calling, struggles to choose between her destiny and the freedom she craves.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 3:45p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 12:50p

Chocolate Milk

(US/Feature Doc/2023/94m)

World Premiere

Dir: Elizabeth Bayne

There is a little discussed racial divide in breastfeeding. Spotlighting three African American women: a new mother, a WIC lactation educator, and a homebirth midwife, the question of why more African American women are not breastfeeding and indeed how communities can better support Black birthing families is pondered.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:20p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 3:25p

Choices

(US/Short Narr/2022/13m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Kameishia D Wooten

Hidden away under the school bleachers, three very different friends find renewed connection as they await a pregnancy test results, and celebrate their choices.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 6:20p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:35p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:30p

Clones

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

Dir: Letia Solomon

An off-key couple finds out they're in over their heads after participating in a new cloning experiment to relieve their student loans.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:20p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:00p

FILM SYNOPSES

Colette and Justin

(Belgium, DRC, France/Feature Doc/2022/89m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Alain Kassanda

Out of place in both Belgium and the Congo and determined to understand the experience of Belgian colonialism and the fight for Congolese independence, a filmmaker interviews his grandparents—Colette and Justin. Together, we all watch old news footage, remember a visit from the Belgian king, and recall the lives of the nascent Black bourgeoisie who served the colonial administration. What ultimately emerges is an evocative, poetic and thoughtful meditation on the intersection of political and family history, and the multi-generational destructive reach of colonialism.

Tue, Feb 13 @ 5:00p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 3:50p

Death of a Whistleblower

(South Africa/Feature Narr/127m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Ian Gabriel

When a colleague is murdered in front of her, it falls to investigative reporter Luyanda Masinda to continue his work. Left in possession of her dead colleague's laptop and the information it contains, Luyanda is thrown headfirst into a web of government corruption and a dangerous search for those responsible. A high-energy political thriller highlighting the devastating risks faced by South African whistleblowers.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 8:10p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 3:30p

Deep Blue

(Antigua and Barbuda/Feature Narr/2023/92m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Howard L.D. Allen

When the architect behind a proposed luxury beach resort on a small Caribbean island falls in love with a Canadian marine biologist who is hell bent on stopping the project, the stage is set for a showdown between the developer and the small fishing community who stand to lose their way of life and their very fragile marine environment.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:50p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 5:10p

Definitely Not a Monster

(US/Short Narr/2023/127m)

World Premiere

Dir: Brea Cola Angelo

Months after his death, but still dealing with the fallout of rape allegations against her famous-actor husband, a widow arranges a televised interview with a famed journalist to set the record straight. But things don't go according to plan.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 3:50p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 6:00p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:15p

Demo-Lition

(US/Short Narr/2023/9m)

World Premiere

Dir: Alesia 'Z' Glidewell

The fate of Darren, an aspiring rapper with unbreakable resolve, and Enora, his supportive wife for over a decade, hangs in the balance of an all-too-important phone call from a record label.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:45p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 9:50p

Diamond (Ngoda)

(Zimbabwe/Feature Narr/2023/90m)

World Premiere

Dir: Joe Njagu, Eddie Sandifolo

In 2006, a diamond mining rush started in Zimbabwe, giving rise to a cruel illegal mining trade. Three brothers wanting to earn money to buy their ancestral land back take jobs as illegal miners. When one finds a large diamond, a fatal course is set. Inspired by true events.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 6:15p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 6:30p

District of Second Chances

(US/Feature Doc/2023/78m)

Dir: Wynette Yao, Travis Allan Edwards

In the U.S. Capital, after involving themselves in transformative community service, three men who were sentenced in their youth to life in prison have the chance to plead for release, thanks to forward-looking "Second Chance" legislation.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 3:50p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:15p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 12:30p

FILM SYNOPSIS

Doka

(Ethiopia/Feature Narr/2023/112m)

World Premiere

Dir: Kidist Yilma

Set in present-day Ethiopia, a young nurse's life is upended when a violent regional conflict erupts shortly after she arrives in a rural town to start a new job. Thrust into the chaos, she cares for the wounded on both sides while leading the charge for unity. A gripping human drama set against the backdrop of a multi-generational civil war. Stars: Mahder Assefa, Girum Zenebe, Dirbwork Seyifu, Wongel Tilahun, Antenah Berecha, Fikreyesus Zewdu, Tesfaye Yemam.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 8:25p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 5:30p

Ebezina

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

Dir: Ifeanyi Ezieme

Embarking on a transformative journey through his dreams and a spiritual encounter with a mystery man, a piano-playing boy learns a song in hopes of consoling his grieving father.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:45p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 9:50p

Essex Girls

(UK/Short Narr/2022/15m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Yero Timi-Biu

Navigating adolescence in Essex isn't easy for British-Nigerian Bisola... no one there looks like her, she has no luck with the local boys and she weathers daily microaggressions, until an incident involving the only other Black girl in her class sends her on a journey of self-discovery.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 8:50p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 4:00p

Eternal

(Côte d'Ivoire/Feature Narr/2023/97m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Abdouhad Wone

ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST. Sara, a single nurse with a small daughter is trying to make ends meet. Yann is a young handsome, wealthy real estate tycoon who seems to have the perfect life until tests taken on a routine visit to his doctor show he has terminal liver cancer. Yann hires Sara as his in-home nurse not knowing that she will change his life... forever.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:25p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:05p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:25p

Exit Interview

(US/Short Narr/2024/16m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Victorious De Costa

Months after breaking off their two-year relationship, Makeba and Che's post-breakup dinner brings waves of emotions as they navigate their unresolved feelings.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

ExpoZure

(US/Short Narr/2023/8m)

Dir: Kimson Albert

After global atmospheric collapse forces non-melanated peoples to live underground, a Black female scientist fights to find a cure to unite a divided society.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:05p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:05p

Fake It Til You Make It

(US/Short Narr/2023/9m)

Dir: Kimrie Lewis

After her mom's death, her agent dropping her, and constant eviction threats, Kira, a Black actress, decides to get opportunities by putting her acting skills to work and taking on the role of a white man. Based on a true story.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:05p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:30p

Father's Day

(South Africa/Short Narr/2023/27m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Tumelo Lekena

Class nerd 12-year-old Alakhe has been raised by his mother. Selected to give a speech for Father's Day at a school event, he sets out to find the father he's never met, opening a can of worms.

Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:30p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:00p

Festival of Slaps

(UK/Short Narr/2023/12m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Abdou Cissé

At a celebratory dinner an enraged Nigerian Mum serves her son a set of slaps so powerful that his life flashes before his eyes.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 8:50p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 4:00p

FILM SYNOPSES

Finding Tony

(US/Feature Narr/2024/107m)

World Premiere

Dir: Raven Magwood Goodson

Eighteen years after his wife's murder, former NBA star Tony Greene is a depressed alcoholic. When he gets a DUI, he is urged to coach a women's college basketball team where he meets Destiny, a 17-year-old basketball phenom with an incredible jump shot and a bad attitude. Though their personalities clash, Tony sees her potential not knowing she will change his life forever. Stars Stephen Bishop, Raquel Justice, Josh Ventura, Jock McKissic, Columbus Short, David Banner, Brook Sill, Rayven Symone Ferrell.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 6:25p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 8:45p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:30p

Flesh & Spirit

(US/Short Narr/2022/13m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Tiffany Lupien

A young graffiti artist is preyed upon by another "emerging" artist.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:05p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:30p

Flour Girl

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

World Premiere

Dir: Jada Bethea

Jonah, a closeted lesbian, finds herself in court-ordered anger management but has no intention of baring her heart and spilling her secrets. But when she meets a love interest, she must decide what's more important: keeping her queer identity a secret or gaining the freedom to love and be loved.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:40p; Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:20p

Flower

(US/Short Narr/2023/28m)

Dir: Lauren Finerman

Rose struggles to get by as her mother's caretaker while experiencing housing insecurity before finding a source of hope in an unexpected place—her community. Stars Misty Copeland, Babatunji Johnson, Christina Johnson.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:20p

For the Love of the Mother Land

(Ethiopia/Feature Narr/2023/135m)

World Premiere

Dir: Theodros "Teddy" Teshome

See Centerpiece for description.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 8:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 8:25p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:40p

Force of Blue

(US/Feature Doc/2023/85m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Jeffrey Williams

In 2020 the Minneapolis North High School football team battled to win a championship amid school closures due to the Led by a group of dedicated police officers, the 2020 Minneapolis North High football team put aside the turmoil of the times and came together to battle for a championship.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 4:00p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 6:20p

Forgive Me Jaanu

(US/Short Narr/2023/19m)

Dir: Samori Jaali Jackson

Graduate students Shilpa and Hakim, a Black man, have been in a loving relationship for 4 years and are currently living together in harmony despite cultural differences. That is until Shilpa's parents come to visit from India.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:05p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:30p

Gaining Ground: The Fight for Black Land

(US/Feature Doc/2023/96m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Eternal Polk

In the post-enslavement era, Black Americans acquired millions of acres of farmland, 90% of which is no longer in Black hands due to violence, eminent domain, and discrimination. But a lesser-known issue, "Heirs' Property," has had a devastating effect on Black land ownership. This film spotlights the legacy of Black farming in America, the devastating impact of heirs' property, and how landowners are now reclaiming their agricultural rights and forging paths to generational wealth.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 3:45p

FILM SYNOPSES

Game Nite

(US/Feature Narr/2023/89m)

World Premiere

Dir: Tonya Pinkins

A suspenseful thriller about a tight-knit group of friends who band together to outsmart a kidnapper who takes their party hostage.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:30p; Fri, Feb 9 @ 4:00p

Gaps

(US/Short Narr/2023/12m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Jenn Shaw

Struggling with self-esteem and obsessing over her gapped front teeth, a family trait, 12-year-old Sydney has to decide whether to keep her gap or risk it all for the "perfect" smile.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:15p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:10p

Gita Boy

(Nigeria/Short Narr/2023/12m)

World Premiere

Dir: Toye Aru

In the 1960s, 13-year-old Obafemi must decide whether to follow in his family's carpentry business or pursue his dream of becoming a musician.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:25p

Gloria Gaynor: I Will Survive

(US/Feature Doc/2023/99m)

Dir: Betsy Schechter

The story of a Disco legend who, for five decades, has inspired millions with her words I WILL SURVIVE, but only understood the lyrics when she hit rock bottom at age 65. The film follows Gloria as she embarks on a long and unexpectedly difficult journey to write and record a gospel album. The film is about reinvention, the power of faith, a magnificent second act... and two Grammys forty years apart.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:35p

Go To Bed Raymond

(US/Short Narr/2022/7m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Nikki Taylor-Roberts

A father discovers the surprising truth about why his son won't go to bed.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:20p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:00p

Gods of the Universe: Rise of the Star Child

(Trinidad and Tobago/Short Narr/2024/23m)

World Premiere

Dir: Cathy SitaRam

Two god-like entities must train star children to guide humanity to the next stage of evolution before a catastrophic event destroys Earth, but their methods differ and time is running out.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:20p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:00p

Gold Sphere (US/Short Narr/2023/11m)

World Premiere

Dir: Jade Charon Robertson

Gold hoop earrings are a cultural and ancestral thread tying Blackness together globally. When a girl drops her hoop earrings, she is transported to an alternate universe of dance, freedom, and belonging.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 9:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:15p

Golden Hearted

(US/Feature Doc/2023/118m)

Dir: Millena Gay

Narrated by Actor Danny Glover, this is the story of the life and legacy of former Congresswoman Diane E. Watson, who after growing up in South Central LA in a Jim Crow society during WW2, became one of the country's most influential voices. Commentaries by Howard Hewett, Jayne Kennedy, Lawrence-Hilton Jacobs, Kathleen Bradley and Tico Wells.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 1:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 5:30p

Good Intentions

(UK/Short Narr/2023/17m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Yasen Zates Atour

Londoners Sef and Rahima are in love and from very different cultures. After 5 years, Rahima hasn't told her father about their relationship, but today she has arranged for him to meet Sef.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 8:50p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 4:00p

Gugu naGogo

(Australia/Short Narr/2022/20m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Taku Mbudzi

When a lunar eclipse stops their late-night letter exchanges, 12-year-old stargazer

FILM SYNOPSES

Gugu, who lives in Australia with her overly-superstitious mother, must find a way to reconnect with her Gogo (grandmother) who lives in Zimbabwe
Fri, Feb 9 @ 9:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:15p

Hair or No Hair

(Canada/Short Narr/2023/15m)

Dir: Janessa St. Pierre

A former model has been hiding behind wigs for years until her Alopecia is exposed. She uses this experience to break free of the shame she feels towards her baldness.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:25p

Hairitage

(US/Short Narr/2023/13m)

World Premiere

Dir: Philicia Saunders, Roger Q. Mason

A Black actress embarks upon her first exciting acting gig. But her experience in the hair and make-up room shatters this reverie. With halted self-confidence, she looks within herself and history for strength.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:15p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 4:00p

Harlem Fragments

(US/Short Narr/2024/18m)

World Premiere

Dir: Cameron Tyler Carr

Siblings Mya and TJ navigate the divorce of their parents - the perfect Black power couple and American Black family. An Afro-futurist Sci-Fi drama.

Sun, Feb 11 @ 8:55p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 8:50p

He They

(US/Short Doc/2023/15m)

Dir: Ronnie Braithwaite

Exploring the relationships between masculinity, self-perception and self-actualization, Ronnie confronts his upbringing, reinterpreting the influences that shaped their perception of boyhood. A gender coming-of-age story.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:40p; Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:20p

Hope (France/Short Narr/2023/8m)

Dir: Kanto Randresy, Oualid Laouer, Lucie Jean, Henry Mbouem Mbeck, Maxime Pitrou

Iba, a young central African boy, has his life shattered by a terrible war that will change him forever.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:25p

How to Sue the Klan

(US/Short Doc/2024/35m) World Premiere

Dir: John Beder

In a historic 1982 civil case using the 1871 KKK Enforcement Act, five women took on the Klu Klux Klan, winning a victory exposing the Klan to financial vulnerability and leaving a lasting impact on legal battles against the Klan and all hate groups. Commentary by Attorney Ben Crump.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 4:00p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 1:15p

HumaniTree: A Story of Us Humans

(UK/Feature Doc/2023/94m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Nuakai Aru

Focusing on the collective story on earth, this engaging documentary propounds evidence of human origins in Africa, and how Black people spread across the globe, seeding civilizations before we became so many different ethnicities. Learn the story of how cultures evolved, survived, thrived, clashed, mixed, learned and innovated.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 2:30p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:00p; un, Feb 18 @ 8:10p

I Am More Dangerous Dead

(Nigeria, US/Short Doc/2022/24m)

Dir: Majije Uchibeke

A poetic tribute to Ken Saro-Wiwa, a prolific writer and environmental activist who led Ogoni People's to protest the devastating effects of oil exploitation in Nigeria.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 3:10p

ImPossible

(US/Feature Narr/2024/84m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Seckeita Lewis

After too many Biggy Boy Burgers and being diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, a morbidly obese man befriends a widowed fast-food worker who inspires him to do the impossible - transform his life and pursue a

FILM SYNOPSIS

lifelong dream. Stars: JoMarie Payton, Sherri Shepherd, Gregg Daniel and Brandon Lewis.
Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:05p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:30p

In Sickness And...

(US/Short Narr/2022/24m)

Dir: Reigna Wren

A young couple, Nina and Grayson, move in together to launch the next step in their relationship. However, they are forced to adjust their goals when Grayson becomes ill.

Sun, Feb 11 @ 8:55p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 8:50p

In The Matchbox

(US/Short Narr/2023/11m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Mike Rae Anderson

Uncle Wendell shares a centuries old family secret with his great nephews. If the secret gets out, it can effect and infect the entire world.

Literally. Stars Hawthorne James.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 10:15p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 2:25p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 9:40p

In This House

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

Dir: Julia Verdin

A young boy is caught in the crossfire between his dad and a vengeful employee.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:05p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:30p;

Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:30p

Inner Demons

(US/Short Narr/2023/11m)

World Premiere

Dir: Jasmine J Johnson

Mya's world takes a harrowing twist when anti-depression pills unwittingly unleash a nightmarish entity that embodies her inner turmoil, entangling her in a life or death battle against her own psyche.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:05p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:05p

Jahleel & Star

(US/Short Narr/2022/12m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Monique Wilhoit

When two siblings take a morning journey to visit their father in prison, they move through their feelings as they're confronted with their father's choices.

Sun, Feb 11 @ 8:55p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 8:50p

Jellyfish and Lobster

(UK/Short Narr/2023/20m)

Dir: Yasmin Afifi

Brought together serendipitously in a moment of mischief, two elderly care home residents form an unlikely relationship when they make an enchanted discovery.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 9:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:15p

Judging Juries

(US/Short Doc/2023/24m)

World Premiere

Dir: Abby Ginzberg

Many criminal defendants are forced to stand trial without a true cross section of the community on a jury. Alameda County Public Defender Brendon Woods teaches and advocates for more inclusive juries across the state and the country.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 4:00p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 1:15p

Justice USA

(US/Short Doc/2023/55m)

"New Levels, New Devils" Teresa, John, Caleb, Tra'Meisha, Tristan and Keith face new obstacles.

Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:15p

Keepers of the Flame

(US/Short Narr/2023/18m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Shari Lynette Carpenter

In 1913, Mary Church Terrell and leaders from Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta sororities challenge Alice Paul over racist practices, urging inclusion for Black suffragettes in the Women's Suffrage parade.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 3:50p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 6:00p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:15p

Kingdom on the Coast

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

World Premiere

Dir: Maya B.

During the height of a Southern summer, an encounter with an old flame gives raise to new emotions that cause Immani to reconsider her thoughts on virginity and womanhood.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:30p; Sat, Feb 10 @ 12:45p;

Fri, Feb 16 @ 7:45p

FILM SYNOPSES

Kingdome

(US/Short Doc/2023/21m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Shawn Antoine II

Combining archival footage and intimate interviews, the highs, lows and unbreakable spirit that defines the iconic Kingdome are explored from its humble beginnings to becoming one of the most revered street basketball tournaments in New York City.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:50p

Kipkemboi

(Canada, Kenya/Feature Narr/2024/90m)

World Premiere

Dir: Charles Uwagbai

With his life in jeopardy and jail almost a certainty, one question remains, how could a farm boy bring down the global financial system and how far is the international world order willing to go to silence his story?

Sat, Feb 10 @ 6:30p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:20p

Latasha Harlins

(US/Feature Narr/2023/109m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Shannon Dion

After the tragic death of her mother, 15-year-old Latasha Harlins becomes a beacon of light to all those she encounters but growing up in South Central LA will come at a heavy price.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 6:20p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 5:00p

Life or Death: The Arthur "Silky Slim" Story

(US/Feature Doc/2023/118m)

World Premiere

Dir: Gerald Barclay, Arthur Silky Slim Reed

After escaping death several times, former gang leader Arthur "Silk Slim" Reed becomes a civil rights activist when he teams up with Attorney Benjamin Crump. A heartwarming tale of survival and redemption with commentaries by Benjamin Crump, Jonathan Majors, Megan Goode and Rev. Al Sharpton.

Sat, Feb 17 @ 7:45p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:00p

Locked Out

(US/Feature Doc/2023/87m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Kate Davis, Luchina Fisher

Owning a home—the cornerstone of generational wealth—is increasingly out of reach for people of color. In Detroit, a group of Black women fight against scammers, evictions, and traditional banks to help make The American Dream a reality for all.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:20p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:15p

Lost Souz

(US/Feature Narr/2023/98m)

Dir: Katherine Propper

Sol, an aspiring rapper, leaves everything behind and embarks on an odyssey of self-discovery, music, and friendship when he joins a touring group of hip-hop artists crisscrossing Texas in a van creating and playing local gigs.

Tue, Feb 13 @ 6:30p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 6:30p

Love in Brooklyn

(US/Short Narr/2023/9m)

Dir: Eric Yang

A single woman finds herself entangled in a forbidden romance with a married man, but their passionate affair takes an unexpected twist.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

Love is Not Enough

(US/Feature Doc/2023/85m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Valerie Ann Goodloe

Institutionalized racism and poverty are inexorably bound along with its accessory--the gun. Gun violence breeds insurmountable grief within Chicago's Black community. This is a story of the road to change, showing how a few strong community-based leaders can release the bonds of entrenched poverty and racism to light the way to equal education that allows the children to compete.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 3:00p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 12:15p

Love Taps

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

Dir: Derrick Woodyard

Thinking it's only temporary and hoping his mother will come back soon, CJ doesn't

FILM SYNOPSES

understand why his parents, who seemed so happy together, have separated.

Sun, Feb 11 @ 8:55p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 8:50p

Lucille

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

World Premiere

Dir: Warren Burke

A man's overly talkative wife, disrupts her elderly husband's day of peace. Stars Loretta Devine & Frankie Faison.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

Mamba's Murals

(US/Short Doc/2023/15m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Farah X

The exploration of the extraordinary relationship between Kobe Bryant and Los Angeles. His inspiration lives on through the murals created by his fans worldwide.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:50p

Man Up

(Barbados/Feature Narr/2023/72m)

World Premiere

Dir: Kwame Lestrade

An anthropological exploration of six relationships, poking a sharp stick at the fragility of masculinity. Jerry is accused of stalking. Deon hits his teacher. Shawn is caught in the act by his uncle Ryan. Playboy Kyle discovers his authentic voice. Antoinette dates cat-caller Tevin. Richard and Rawle trick their partners into having more sex. Through this series vignettes the filmmaker positions men & women in situations that challenge their thinking & level of care.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 4:30p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 1:00p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 4:00p

Marque Dos (Second Chance)

(US/Short Narr/2023/11m)

World Premiere

Dir: Asha Chai-Chang

An aspiring tour manager moves up the ranks in the marketing industry where discovering herself and her place in the world faces off with the demands of her dream job.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:45p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 9:50p

Masinga-The Calling

(South Africa, UK/Feature Narr/2023/78m)

World Premiere

Dir: Mark Anthony Engels

An African-born detective, now living in the U.K., Masinga returns to his homeland to investigate a Russian child trafficking operation, only to be confronted by the demons of his youth, including the ritual murder of his Albino brother, whose re-incarnated spirit guides his destiny. Stars Hakeem Kae Kazim.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 4:05p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 6:10p

Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes

(US/Feature Doc/2023/82m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Ben Shapiro, Sam Pollard

The story of musician Max Roach, whose far-reaching ambitions were inspired and challenged by the inequities of the society around him. His stunningly diverse seven-decade career marked him as one of the great musical artists of the 20th century—and a pioneering cultural activist—at times when the nation was steeped in racism. Viewers follow Roach across a rich and complicated life, days of now-legendary achievement and also deep personal struggle, and the price he paid for his outspoken views. Commentary by Max Roach, Quincy Jones, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, Sonny Rollins.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 8:50p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 5:15p

Mojisola

(Nigeria/Feature Narr/2023/105m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Kenneth Gyang

Although classmates have always been baffled by Mojisola's unquenchable thirst and oddness, Oyeyemi professes his love for her and she her love for him. After their first kiss, Opeyemi comes down with an unexplainable life-threatening illness. With information from a bestselling paranormal scientist, Mojisola must go on a quest to save him. A modern Nigerian paranormal love story rooted in urban myth and folklore.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 1:00p

FILM SYNOPSES

Moments

(US/New Media Narr/2023/24m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Malachi Rivers, Aaron Lewis

At a weekly therapy group, hidden traumas unravel as a mind-reading therapist guides participants to confront their pasts. Amid revelations of abuse, lost dreams, reshaping their paths toward healing and self-discovery.
Sat, Feb 10 @ 1:00p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:40p

Morning Steep

(US/Short Narr/2023/8m)

World Premiere

Dir: Landis Stokes

After reading a news article about a murdered Black man, a mother decides to have the conversation with her son about the history of slavery and racism in the U.S. over a cup of tea.
Sat, Feb 10 @ 6:20p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:35p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:30p

Mountains

(US/Feature Narr/2023/95m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Monica Sorelle

While looking for a new home for his family, a Haitian demolition worker is faced with the realities of redevelopment as he is tasked with dismantling his rapidly gentrifying Miami neighborhood.
Sun, Feb 11 @ 3:25p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 6:10p

Music Pictures: New Orleans

(US/Feature Doc/2022/72m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Ben Chace

Celebrating the rich history of New Orleans music along with rare backstage footage and personal insights into the lives and artistry of four New Orleans music icons: Irma Thomas, Little Freddie King, Ellis Marsalis, and The Tremé Brass Band, this Mardi Gras feast follows these local legends, all in their 80s, as they continue to navigate their musical journeys in the city that shaped them.
Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:30p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 6:20p

Mussum

(Brazil/Feature Narr/2023/123m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Silvio Guindane

Antônio Carlos Bernardes Gomes was one of Brazil's best known and most important comedians. Yet because he was Black, his life and career embodied the continuing struggle of Black Brazilians' against structural racism using the power of humor and entertainment.
Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:55p

NEGRITA

(US/Short Doc/2023/51m)

Dir: Magdalena Albizu

Exploring the ideology of Blackness, diverse Afro-Latinas explore and confront culture and racism while defining their own identity in the U.S. - Racially Black Ethnically Latina.
Fri, Feb 9 @ 3:45p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 12:50p

Neighborhood Alert

(US/Short Narr/2024/31m)

World Premiere

Dir: Ngozi Onwurah

A Black mother who takes a job as a live-in nurse for an elderly woman in an affluent white neighborhood is forced to take extraordinary action to ensure the safety of her teenage son. Stars Constance Ejuma, Noah Abbott, Jessica Tuck, Katherine Ross, Gavin Houston.
Sat, Feb 10 @ 6:20p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:35p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:30p

Ngarannam: The Homecoming

(Nigeria/Short Doc/2023/30m)

World Premiere

Dir: Joel 'Kachi Benson

After being attacked by Boko Haram and losing everything, members of Ngarannam in Northeast Nigeria navigate life in a camp for internally displaced people and prepare to finally return home to a brand new village.
Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:50p

FILM SYNOPSES

No Knock - No Charge?

The Amir Locke Story

(US/Feature Doc/2022/124m)

Dir: Andrew Niccademous Tyler

On 2/2/22 a NO-KNOCK-WARRANT turned deadly when a S.W.A.T team entered a Bolero Flats apartment in Minneapolis, executing Amir R. Locke in less than 9 seconds. When Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison decided not to bring charges, the family takes matters into their own hands, getting legislation passed, and creating a blueprint for justice that shows Amir R. Locke's death is a modern-day Emmett Till lynching.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 8:55p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 8:50p

No Walk Ins

(US/Short Narr/2023/12m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Tony Yancey, Alex Ford

When a loyal customer ventures into a new barbershop against the wishes of his jealous longtime barber, a battle of loyalty ensues.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 3:50p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 6:00p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:15p

Nome

(Guinea-Bissau/Feature Narr/2023/118m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Sana Na N'Hada

In 1969 Guinea-Bissau, Nome leaves his village to join the guerrillas in the war for independence from Portugal. After years of struggle, he returns to his village a victorious hero. However, the initial joy soon gives way to bitterness, cynicism, and corruption.

Sun, Feb 11 @ 8:15p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 8:30p

NUMB

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

World Premiere

Dir: Ivan Mbakop

When an unspeakable trauma strikes a woman, her husband takes their 12-year-old son out for a late night drive to teach him about freedom, to demand justice and to explain what exactly the world is... to a Black man! Stars Ivan Mbakop, Navi Mbakop.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 4:00p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 1:15p

On Freedom of Movement (wi de mov)

(Sierra Leone/Short Doc/2022/11m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Julianknxx

An introspective cinematic poem that decries the migration of the youth to Europe which comes with certain danger. But hopefully the desire to migrate will be overcome through the institution of various creative initiatives that spark entrepreneurship and provide jobs.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:20p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:10p

Once Again (for the very first time)

(US/Feature Narr/2023/107m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Boaz Yakin

Legendary street dancer DeRay falls through the sky until he lands in the hallway outside the door of Naima, a spokenword poet and the love of his life. Exploring key moments in their lives, they try to decide if they are going to give their relationship one last chance.

Tue, Feb 13 @ 4:00p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 5:00p

One Date

(US/Short Narr/2023/6m)

Dir: Andrew 'King Bach' Bachelor

Bach takes a bet from two friends, ending up on a blind date, not knowing this bet may be his final game.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 9:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:15p

One Person, One Vote?

(US/Feature Doc/2024/78m)

World Premiere

Dir: Maximina Juson

An absolute must-see for anyone who can vote for president in the United States, this eye-opening exposé of the origins and contentious history of the Electoral College gives context to current events recalling the often-forgotten role of slavery in its creation and how throughout American history, it has dramatically impacted American politics and society particularly with respect to voter suppression and the devaluation of the minority vote. Commentary by scholars Jelani Cobb, Carol Anderson, cameo performances by Kelly McCreary, Boise Holmes, Tyee Tilghman, Veralyn Jones, Peter Jerrod Macon and stunning animation by Pierre Benuu.

FILM SYNOPSES

Sat, Feb 10 @ 6:00p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 3:15p;
Mon, Feb 19 @ 4:15p

Orah

(Canada, Nigeria/Feature Narr/2023/96m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Lonzo Nzekwe

Orah, a Nigerian immigrant taxi driver now living in Toronto, agrees to launder dirty money for her boss in exchange for bringing her son over from Nigeria. When the plan goes horribly wrong, Orah takes matters into her own hands to settle the score. Stars Oyin Oladejo, Lucky Ejim, Tina Mba, O.C. Ukeje.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 9:20p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 8:40p

Outlaw Posse

(US/Feature Narr/2023/109m)

World Premiere

Dir: Mario Van Peebles

See Closing Night for description.

Sun, Feb 18 @ 7:00; Sun, Feb 18 @ 7:40p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 3:50p

Own the 8 Count

(US/Short Doc/2022/25m)

Dir: child.

In the digital world where credit is given based on followers and not necessarily authenticity, JaQuel Knight recounts his inspirational fight to copyright and own the choreography for Single Ladies. Also includes the voices of legendary choreographers: Debbie Allen, Galen Hooks, Brian Friedman.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 9:05p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 5:20p

Pandemic Bread

(US/Short Narr/2023/23m)

Dir: Zeinabu irene Davis

Along with an immigrant African doctor, a Filipina interpreter takes an end-of-life call for an elderly Filipina woman during the early days of COVID-19 and bakes bread to relieve stress. A story of resilience, agency and hope.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 3:50p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 6:00p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:15p

Pause/Play

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

Dir: Kaitlyn Ali

At his estate sale, Gamer Hannah stumbles into an alternate realm and helps her jaded, recently deceased idol, An00bis, pass on into the Afterlife. A sci-fi comedy.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:20p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:00p

Port-au-Prince

(Brazil/Feature Narr/2023/91m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Maria Emilia de Azevedo

Widowed Bertha lives alone on an isolated farm outside of Santa Catarina, a German immigrant enclave. Facing difficulties in keeping up the property, she is pressured by her son to sell and move in with him. Bertha offers Bastide, a Haitian immigrant to Santa Catarina, a place to live and work-- beginning the story of a sincere friendship between two people from different cultures.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 2:00p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 1:10p

Power Alley

(Brazil, France, Uruguay/Feature

Doc/2023/99m)

Dir: Lillah Halla

On the eve of a future-defining championship, promising volleyball player Sofia is faced with an unwanted pregnancy. Seeking an illegal termination, she becomes the target of a fundamentalist group determined to stop her at any cost.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 5:45p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 3:30p

Preschool to Prison

(US/Short Doc/2023/17m)

Dir: Dr. Karen Baptiste

Black and Brown students are being physically manhandled, suspended, and even arrested for minor school offenses such as throwing candy on a school bus. Zero-tolerance policies are used to justify such penalties that set up a pipeline to send our children from school to prison. Meanwhile, investors are cashing in on this new form of slavery.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 3:10p

FILM SYNOPSES

Private Flowers

(Canada/Short Narr/2023/7m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: HAUJ

In 1832 Canada, an infantryman seeks solace in the arms of another man amidst the chaos of war. Their poignant love story shines a vivid light on the bonds of queer love tragically cut short by criminal charges.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 6:40p; Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:20p

Racist Trees

(US/Feature Doc/2022/84m)

Dir: Sara Newens, Mina T Son

In the city of Palm Springs, cut off from the glitz and glamor and eclipsed by towering Tamarisk trees, lies a historically Black neighborhood known as Crossley Tract. Planted in the late 1950s along the 14th fairway of a city-owned public golf course, these trees have become a symbol of segregation, sparking frustration among locals, reigniting racial tension and devaluating property values. For decades, residents have been forced to put up with the tangled overgrowth of a species so invasive, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has officially categorized them as pests. Until now.

Tue, Feb 13 @ 8:00p

Rainy Days

(US/Short Narr/2023/12m)

Dir: Mo McRae

Abandoned as a baby, Percy'Q traverses through life attempting to overcome the traumas of his past.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:15p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:10p

Ralph & Bug

(US/Short Doc/2023/18m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Christine Thomas Yoon

A former drug dealer turned "Urban Dad" group leader navigates unjust housing conditions with his eleven-year-old daughter in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 3:10p

Real Estate Sisters

(South Africa/Feature Narr/2023/84m)

World Premiere

Dir: Reabetswe Moeti-Vogt, Zoe Ramushu (writer)

It's a wild comedy ride when two feisty real estate agent sisters down on their luck aspire to go from renting shabby apartments in Pretoria to high-end real estate. When an exclusive mansion falls into their hands and it seems like their big break has finally arrived, life takes an unexpected turn.

Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 6:00p

Reclaim: Finding the heart of the circular economy

(Guinea, Rwanda/Short Doc/2023/16m)

World Premiere

Dir: Olivia Rempel

Soumaro and Pauline have very different livelihoods and live over 6,000 kilometres apart, but they're both integral players in Africa's changes in waste management practices, both driving and impacted by the shift towards a circular economy.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 3:45p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 3:00p

Rediet's Coming Home

(Ethiopia/Feature Doc/2024/77m)

World Premiere

Dir: Rosalind C. Patton

Adopted when she was 5, now 18-year-old Rediet goes home to Ethiopia for the first time on an emotionally riveting journey. Having lost everything, including her birth parents and native language, she hopes to reconnect with her long-lost family, culture, and roots.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 1:10p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 1:05p

Revenge of the Black Best Friend

(Canada/New Media Narr/2022/22m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Thyrone Tommy, Jerome Kruijn

Whether it is through her award-winning daytime talk show or her best-selling books, her sold out retreats or her keynote speeches, Dr. Toni Shakur has a consistent message for the film and television industry: the time for creating one-dimensional, stereotyped Black characters has come and gone.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 1:00p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:40p

Rise

(Ghana, US/Feature Narr/2022/92m)
Los Angeles Premiere
Dir: Maritte Lee Go
While away at college, Princess Aisa's family is murdered, and her sister kidnapped by terrorists' intent on enslaving women. Returning home, when she finds out that the government refuses to take action, she knows she must find a way to rescue her sister. Stars Jimmy Jean-Louis, Sasha Morfaw, Peter Mensah, Sufi Bradshaw, Jimmy Akingbola
Fri, Feb 9 @ 8:40p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 6:10p

Rites of Passage

(US/Short Narr/2023/17m)
Dir: Grant Housley
Two brothers in the middle of an argument get trapped in a mysterious elevator that reveals to them blood has nothing to do with family.
Fri, Feb 9 @ 10:15p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 2:25p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:30p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 9:40p

Roads of Lava

(Cuba/Short Doc/2023/28m)
U.S. Premiere
Dir: Gretel Marin
Afibola is an Afrofeminist and queer activist, trying to teach their son Olorun how to grow up to be a free Black man, despite the obstacles around them.
Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 12:40p

Rocky Road on Channel Three

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)
West Coast Premiere
Dir: James Rogers III
Malik is consumed by his obsession with productivity, perfection, and fitting in. Cut off from his emotions or sense of identity, he is offered a chance at redemption and freedom in a magical story told across time. Stars Luke James, Camden Coley, Justin Sams, James L. Nichols II, Dom Chanel.
Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:05p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:05p

Saturday

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)
World Premiere
Dir: Razzaaq Boykin
An introverted teenager, navigating his repressed anger about his parent's divorce, spends the day with his father until an impromptu visit to his estranged grandfather gives him life-changing insight.
Sat, Feb 10 @ 6:20p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:35p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:30p

Self

(US/Short Narr/2023/7m)
U.S. Premiere
Dir: Searit Kahsay Huluf
A wooden doll who desperately wants to fit in makes an ill-fated wish upon a star, sparking a journey of self-discovery. A lovely animation.
Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:45p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 9:50p

Self Road (Yeras Menged)

(Ethiopia/Feature Narr/2023/107m)
U.S. Premiere
Dir: Solomon Bogale
Loved and pampered by her family and friend, Mahder's perfect marriage is threatened when she meets an arrogant young man with intentions to woo her away from her loving husband.
Wed, Feb 14 @ 7:50p

Shaping Us

(Nigeria/Feature Narr/2023/101m)
World Premiere
Dir: Kambili Ofili
After years of trying, Ara & Biodun are finally pregnant. On the night the couple hosts their closest friends for a celebratory dinner, guilt-ridden Ara gets the results of the paternity test she ordered, setting up an explosion of drama as the celebration becomes a night of revelations that may cause the unraveling of each couple for better or worse.
Wed, Feb 14 @ 8:25p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 12:45p

FILM SYNOPSES

Sing! Fight! Sing! Fight! From Leroi to Amiri (US/Feature Doc/2023/88m)

World Premiere

Dir: Colin Still

A first-person account of the life & work of revolutionary poet, playwright, jazz critic and intellectual Amiri Baraka, co-founder of the Black Arts Movement which changed and affects the concepts and boundaries of Black art to this day. Appearances by Amiri Baraka, Coyt Leroy Jones, Asha Bandele, Allen Ginsberg, Hettie Jones, Sekou Sundiata, Quincy Troupe, Marvin X.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 6:20p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 5:50p

Sistahs Getting Well

(US/Short Doc/2023/35m) World Premiere

Dir: Devon Curry

Two African American women from separate worlds find each other while battling deadly diagnoses of chronic disease—rampant among 50% of Black women. Along their healing journey deep friendship develops revealing lifegiving wisdom and the truth of the root causes of this epidemic: Injustice in a toxic culture.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 7:45p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

So Long, Farewell

(UK/Short Narr/2023/13m) U.S. Premiere

Dir: Rehan Mudannayake

A British-Sri Lankan man is forced to choose between pursuing his dream job abroad and taking care of his elderly grandmother who raised him.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 8:50p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 4:00p

Some Kind of Heavenly Fire

(US/Short Narr/2023/21m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Eric Vincent Riley

In the summer of 2003, on the east side of Detroit, a Grandfather tries to hide his daughter's incarceration from his young grandson in the midst of a city wide blackout and alien invasion.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:05p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:05p

South Sudan Basketball Federation

(South Sudan/Short Doc/2023/7m)

World Premiere

Dir: Elmo Kebour

Retired NBA 2 time All Star and Chicago Bulls legend Luol Deng leads the obscure South Sudan basketball team to make history by qualifying for the 2023 FIBA World Cup while also rewriting the negative narratives and restoring hope.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:50p

Speak

(US/Short Narr/2023/12m)

Dir: Camille Brown

Faced with a crippling anxiety, with the help of a dear friend and the spirit of her mother, a woman overcomes her fear by confronting her greatest enemy.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 3:50p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 6:00p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 1:15p

Speak Up Brotha!

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

Dir: Wes Andre Goodrich

After a brief connection with an enigmatic woman in his car, a rideshare driver must learn to communicate in ways beyond his understanding to win her heart.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:20p

Summer of Violence

(US/Feature Narr/2023/110m)

Dir: Nicki Micheaux

In 1993, a student feels her father's wrath when she decides to forego law school to focus on her poetry. Cut off from income, she heads to Denver and uses her creativity to try and rally support to unite those against the gang violence all around her. When people close to her begin to die in front of her eyes she finds herself in too deep and spiraling out of control.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 5:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 9:05p

Supa Hair

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Glenis Hunter

After her mother's passing, Luna, a young

FILM SYNOPSES

Dominican girl, and her sister move to Arizona where she discovers the hair she so deeply despises actually holds an ancient power.
Fri, Feb 9 @ 9:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:15p

Superman Doesn't Steal

(US/Short Narr/2023/20m)

World Premiere

Dir: Tamika Lamison

Based on true events, in this coming-of-age story a brother & sister, fascinated with superheroes, must redefine their definition of Superman after a troubling event.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 1:05p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:30p

Sway

(Canada/Feature Narr/2024/99m)

World Premiere

Dir: Charlie Hamilton, Zach Ramelan

A Black community leader, who has it all, sees his life spiral out of control within hours after his brother goes missing, he's blackmailed by a strange woman, and a murder tests how far he will go to protect the ones he loves.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 8:50p; Sat, Feb 10 @ 3:05p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:55p

Take the Lead

(US/Short Narr/2022/8m)

World Premiere

Dir: Terry Gingles, Chezik Tsunoda

A young boy sees the harsh realities of homelessness and does his best to bring love and kindness into the world after his dog runs away. Narrated by Hill Harper.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 6:20p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:35p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 6:30p

Taking Back the Groove

(US/Short Doc/2023/34m)

World Premiere

Dir: Celia Aniskovich

1980s disco superstar Richie Weeks, like many Black artists, was robbed of his music rights to the enrichment of white-owned record labels. This is the story of how Weeks clawed back those rights in the wake of the BLM Movement and his ongoing fight to restore his legacy.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 3:10p

Talk to Me

(US/ Narr/2024/7m)

World Premiere

Dir: Paris Nicole

A young mother goes on a ride down memory lane, which might be the last one.

Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

Terminally III

(US/Short Narr/2023/9m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Chris Cole

When a rapper is summoned to his grandmother's deathbed, he engages in a madcap freestyle in a desperate attempt to prevent her from dying.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:15p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 4:00p

Thaba Ye

(France/Short Narr/2022/7m)

Dir: Leroy Le Roux, Merel Hamers, Hannah Judd, Mogau Kekana, Daria Batuevakekana, Preetam Dhar

In the shadow of a mysterious mountain in a remote part of South Africa, to save her sick brother, Thato has to face her fears of local legends that say those who go to the mountain never come back.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:25p

The Burden

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

World Premiere

Dir: Tish Arana

Black people create a colony on a new planet called New World Sankofa. When culture vultures apply for citizenship on the new planet, three judges must decide how to deal with folks who want everything but the burden.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:05p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:05p

The Envoy of God

(Burkina Faso, Niger, Rwanda/Short Narr/2023/23m) U.S. Premiere

Dir: Amina A. Mamani

Fatima, a suicide bomber, is dropped off in a market, wearing an explosive belt marked at 10 minutes. She realizes that it is the market where her mother sells. With only one minute left on the timer, she comes face-to-face with her mother.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:25p

FILM SYNOPSES

The Future Above Us

(Canada/Short Narr/2023/17m)

World Premiere

Dir: Vanessa Magic

After a cosmic disaster leaves Earth virtually empty, a hopeful yet sombre woman yearns to find connection. What lengths will she go to for companionship?

Fri, Feb 9 @ 10:15p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 2:25p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 9:40p

The Garden of Edette

(US/Short Narr/2023/20m)

Dir: Guinevere Fey Thomas

Edette's soul is bound to her flesh-eating garden. But when she unexpectedly befriends a young girl, Edette must decide whether to kill her friend or die alongside her beloved garden.

Thu, Feb 15 @ 9:05p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 1:05p

The Good Life

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

Dir: David Mahmoudieh

Following a tragic accident, an aspiring musician loses his sight and lusts for the "good life" he always dreamed of. Now he must find his way back through the music.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:15p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:30p;

Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:10p

The Hidden Children of Colonization

(Belgium, Burundi, Rwanda/Short

Doc/2022/58m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Dominique Regueme

During the Belgian colonization of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, several thousand mixed-race children were taken from their families and placed in boarding schools, then exiled to Belgium on the eve of independence--their identities obscured and hidden. Sixty years later, they continue the search for their identity.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 4:00p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 6:00p

The Last Days of Chocolate

(US/Short Narr/2023/20m)

World Premiere

Dir: L. M. Davis

In a near future, where chocolate has disappeared but the global hunger for it has

not, people search for a new way to satisfy their desires. Stars Nikki LaShae.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:15p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:10p

The Last Ranger

(South Africa/Short Narr/2023/28m)

Dir: Cindy Lee

When young Litha is introduced to the magic of a game reserve by the last remaining ranger, they are ambushed by poachers.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:00p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 1:25p

The Magic Ticket

(US/Short Narr/2023/16m)

World Premiere

Dir: Yelena Krivosheeva

After trying to have a meal in a fancy restaurant, a homeless female vet finds her voice for the first time in many years.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:15p; Tue, Feb 13 @ 4:00p

The Maharlika Warrior

(US/New Media Narr/2023/54m)

World Premiere

Dir: Hilarion Banks

When her bestfriend gets dragged into a sex-trafficking ring by the very man she'd defended in court, a law-abiding attorney is forced to question the law and embarks on a journey to become an ancient, spiritual, vigilante warrior.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 1:00p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 3:40p

The New Girl

(UK/Short Narr/2023/12m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Savannah Ayoade-Greaves

On her first day at a new school, Angel gets more than she bargained for when she attracts the attention of 'it' girl Grace and her group of friends, who invite her to join their mysterious after-school club.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 10:15p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 2:25p;

Mon, Feb 19 @ 9:40p

The Orchestra Chuck Built

(US/Short Doc/2023/24m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Christopher Stoudt

See Special Screenings for description.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:30p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 4:00p

FILM SYNOPSES

The Origin

(US/Short Narr/2023/28m)

World Premiere

Dir: Jorge Sanchez

Tep, one of the only legitimate heirs of an ancient extraterrestrial power, is forced to join forces with a wise sage and his tribal brother to fight off alien mercenaries sent to eliminate them. Stars J. Chris Rouse, Morris Chestnut, Alimi Ballard, Keaira T. Schroeder, Page Kennedy, Lanre Idewu, Mike Hill.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:20p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:00p

The Perfect Knight

(UK/Short Narr/2023/12m)

Dir: Stephané Alexandre

Alie is a hopeless romantic, with much emphasis on hopelessness. Her friend sets her up on a blind date in what turns out to be a surprisingly perfect night.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 8:50p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 4:00p

The Rhythm & The Blues

(US/Featurette Narr/2021/57m)

World Premiere

Dir: Darryl Pitts

Guitar blues legend Eddie Taylor is challenged by a corrupt industry, family drama, and British rockers' appropriation of his music while continuing to fight to prove his genius. Stars Leon Robinson, Toni Belafonte, Guy Davis, Alex Henderson.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 9:05p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 5:20p

The Route To Emancipation

(US/Short Doc/2023/18m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Talib Abdullahi, Riley Engemoen

Three friends embark on a 350 mile cycling route from the Texas Capitol in Austin to the site in Galveston where Juneteenth began in 1865. As they travel, they explore centuries of untold Black history in Texas through interviews with historians and community leaders.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 12:40p

The Therapist

(US/Short Narr/2023/20m)

World Premiere

Dir: Fedleine Jerome

A therapist gets more than she bargained for when she becomes entangled in her clients' messy love lives.

Sun, Feb 11 @ 8:55p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 8:50p

The Woman In Me

(Rwanda/Short Doc/2023/58m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Eric Kabera

Some men are confused. Some men are "Woke." Reaching for peaceful solutions to the battle of the sexes, the filmmaker takes a deep plunge into exploring the patriarchal influences that create adversity for women and the matriarchal influences that challenge men, ignite feminist movements and set the stage for a more global balance. A "good trouble" film that examines the journey of women's liberation in Rwanda, a phenomenon that has taken root shaking the social and cultural fabric of that society.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 3:45p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 3:00p

This is Lagos

(Nigeria/Feature Narr/2023/90m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Kenneth Gyang

Needing quick cash for studio time, aspiring rapper Stevo works for the psychotic Kojack and his 'shoot-rob-run' gang. When the escape from a heist goes bad, Stevo is separated from the gang. Luckily, he's the one carrying the loot.

Fri, Feb 16 @ 9:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 2:45p

This World is Not My Own

(Kuwait, Sweden, US/Feature Doc/2023/97m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Petter Ringbom, Marquise Stillwell

A delightfully inventive, historically rich, multi-media documentary reimagining the world and life of Georgia-raised, self-taught folk artist Nellie Mae Rowe, whose life spanned the 20th century and whose unconventional, magical creations were championed by an unlikely, wealthy, eccentric Atlanta Jewish gallery owner who opened the world's eyes to Rowe's visual genius. Cast: Uzo Aduba and Amy Warren.

Sun, Feb 11 @ 3:40p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 3:55p

FILM SYNOPSES

Tossou

(US/Short Narr/2023/3m)

World Premiere

Dir: Melisande Brie McLaughlin, Sika Afi Stanton

An aging woman is visited by an anthropomorphic bird (Azétor).

Fri, Feb 9 @ 9:00p; Thu, Feb 15 @ 1:15p

Totem

(Netherlands/Feature Narr/2023/93m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Sander Burger

Ama, a determined Dutch swimmer of Senegalese descent, faces deportation with her family. Immersed in her mother's fantastical tales and the magical porcupine that serves as her family's totem animal, Ama discovers her heritage's magic, empowering her to stand up for her family and her culture.

Sat, Feb 10 @ 1:30p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 1:00p

ToxiCITY

(US/Feature Narr/2023/97m)

World Premiere

Dir: Felix Wayne Jordan

Cory, an up-and-coming app developer with a troubled past, struggles to break free from childhood trauma as he attempts to balance work, family, and a chaotic love life.

Sun, Feb 11 @ 5:40p; Wed, Feb 14 @ 1:10p

Trinidad Remains

(Trinidad and Tobago/Short Narr/2023/15m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Karen Martinez

Nikki and Jade go on a journey across the island of Trinidad in Jade's unreliable old car, Goldie, to scatter a grandmother's ashes but their trip is jeopardised when they are held-up by a bump in the road.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 10:15p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 2:25p; Mon, Feb 19 @ 9:40p

Unconditional

(US/Short Narr/2023/19m)

Dir: Grant Housley

A man makes the decision to get out of "the game." But when he's pulled back for one last come-up and deserted by his friends, it's his mom's unconditional love that gives him hope.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 3:45p; Sun, Feb 11 @ 12:50p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 3:30p

Unicorn Training*

(US/Short Narr/2023/20m) World Premiere

Dir: Craig Alan

A dejected man on the verge of divorce meets a bodacious woman dolled in fur at a bar... arousing a whimsical night of eroticism.

Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p

Unkind Cut

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

Dir: Marc G Pitre

A vasectomy consultation goes awry as an unsure patient faces a quirky doctor and an aggressive medical staff who don't want him to remain intact.

Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:15p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:10p

Untitled

(US/Short Narr/2023/11m)

World Premiere

Dir: Sly Swift

Sly, a children's writer and animator, has been unsuccessful in selling any of his projects. The constant rejections send him drifting from reality into a world where his creations take on a life of their own.

Thu, Feb 8 @ 9:20p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:00p

Village Treasures

(US/Short Narr/2024/9m) World Premiere

Dir: Keita Don Azu, David Geathers, Devan Renea

Absorbed with her phone's digital media while on a shopping trip with her aunt, teenager Stevi finds a magic kalimba. One pluck of its keys brings to life the enchanting world of African culture.

Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 10:20p

Voices from the Frontlines

(Ethiopia, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda/
Short Doc/2023/18m) U.S. Premiere
Dir: Maarten Koets, Kamal Amakrane
African people affected by Climate Change
show us their everyday lives and describe how
the climate crisis is reshaping their world and
effecting their decisions.
Thu, Feb 8 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 12:40p

We Grown Now

(US/Feature Narr/2023/93m)
Dir: Minhal Baig
Set in 1992, two young legends in their own
right, best friends Malik and Eric traverse
Chicago, looking to escape the mundaneness
of school and the hardships of growing up
in public housing. Their unbreakable bond
is challenged when tragedy shakes their
community just as they are learning to fly.
Stars Junee Smollett, S. Epatha Merkerson
and Lil Rel Howery.
Tue, Feb 13 @ 7:30p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 7:45p

"We're" Pregnant and Other Lies

(US/Short Doc/2023/43m)
West Coast Premiere
Dir: Amber Wallin
Expecting their first baby, a couple who
found love on the Internet explore all the
misconceptions of conception.
Fri, Feb 9 @ 1:30p; Sat, Feb 10 @ 12:45p; Fri,

Where My Memory Began

(Sierra Leone/Short Doc/2024/9m)
World Premiere
Dir: Priscillia Kounkou Hoveyda
In Freetown, Elder Ballu arrives at the Cotton
Tree after hearing the news that the 400-year-
old majestic tree has fallen. Standing at the
foot of what's left, he remembers the histories
of the ancestors who crossed the Atlantic
waters back to Africa to find freedom.
Fri, Feb 9 @ 6:20p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:10p

Who I Am Not

(South Africa, Romania/Feature
Doc/2023/103m)
Dir: Tunde Skovran
Sharon-Rose Khumalo, a South African beauty
queen, finds out she is intersex. In her quest
to deal with her gender dysphoria, she seeks
the help of Dimakatso Sebidi, a masculine
presenting intersex activist who turns out to
be her complete opposite. The two parallel
but divergent stories offer an intimate look at
the struggle of living in a binary male-female
world, when you are born in-between.
Mon, Feb 12 @ 3:35p; Fri, Feb 16 @ 4:35p

Wolf and Cub

(US/Short Narr/2022/9m)
Dir: Marvin Bynoe
A father and son cross a world of imagination
in order to return a forgotten lunch.
Mon, Feb 12 @ 9:15p; Sun, Feb 18 @ 10:10p

Yaye

(Canada/Short Narr/2023/16m)
World Premiere
Dir: Mariam Barry
A young girl calls on her ancestors in the spirit
realm as she faces her upcoming abortion to
make peace with her right to choose.
*Fri, Feb 9 @ 10:15p; Mon, Feb 12 @ 2:25p;
Mon, Feb 19 @ 9:40p*

Your Love Is King

(US/Short Narr/2023/3m)
U.S. Premiere
Dir: Nasir Kenneth Ferebee
After a year of dating, a couple has their first
major disagreement.
Wed, Feb 14 @ 6:00p; Sat, Feb 17 @ 12:15p



32ND PAN AFRICAN FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL



ARTFEST

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Paintings, Sculptures, Ceramics
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Bimbo Adenugba

FEB 8-19, 2024

MON-SAT : 10 AM- 8 PM

SUNDAY : 11 AM-7 PM

PAFF ArtFEST features over 100 established and emerging fine artists and quality craftspeople from all over the world. With a cultural aesthetic that is rooted in Africa and its diaspora, featured artists present their creative works using oil on canvas, watercolor and pastels, acrylic paper, glass, ceramics, metal, cloth, plastic, wax, wire, leather and stone.



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