

For Immediate Release
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“Mexico Is Hell for Black Migrants” and Other Films Spotlight the Triumphs and Struggles of Black Immigrant Communities at Pan African Film & Arts Festival Sat., Feb. 8

WHAT:

PAFF is proud to continue its partnership with the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) by hosting a special screening of select short films entitled **“Black Immigrants: Telling Our Stories & Visioning the Future”**. The screenings will be followed by a powerful discussion exploring the needs, challenges, and aspirations of Black immigrants. This event will also examine the deep connections between Black displacement, migration, and the systemic forces of racial capitalism and global anti-Blackness driving these issues. *This event is officially sold out, with high attendance expected. Media coverage is strongly encouraged as demand for this conversation continues to grow.*

Short films to be screened include:

Mexico is Hell for Black Migrants

In the Mexican state of Chiapas, near the Mexico/Guatemala border, thousands of Black migrants seeking asylum face anti-Blackness in the city of Tapachula, Mexico. The US has extended its borders to South and Central America by enforcing policies that trap Black Migrants from a dozen countries in horrific conditions as they attempt to journey to the US.

Boat People

Inspired by true events, a Haitian refugee fights to survive the inhumane conditions at Guantánamo Bay.

Cartes

Immigrant Aliyah wants to volunteer at the Environmental Justice Society (EJS), the organization that helped her family’s village in Mali. She finds herself an outlier within the trendy white environmental activism world juxtaposed to her coworkers’ ego-driven activism. Her dreams of giving back turn into a nightmare when her boss asks for proof of employment documents. Panicked, undocumented Aliyah tries to find a way to come up with proof of her citizenship risking her family’s safety and everything they’ve built.



WHO:

Panelists include actor and activist **Kendrick Sampson** (“Insecure”, “How to Get Away With Murder”), **Kelly Lytle Hernández**, professor of History, African American Studies, and Urban Planning and Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA, filmmaker **Tommy Franklin** (*Mexico is Hell For Black Migrants*), and BAJI Legal Director **Tsion Gurmo**. The discussion will be moderated by BAJI Executive Director **Nana Gyamfi**.

WHEN:

Sat, Feb. 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Cinemark Baldwin Hills & XD
4020 Marilton Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Media Truck Parking: Parking is available adjacent to the theater

Media wishing to attend and cover this event can RSVP to press@paff.org.

About Pan African Film & Arts Festival:

The Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF) is one of the longest-running and most respected cultural events dedicated to showcasing the artistic achievements of the Black and African diaspora. Since its inception, PAFF has provided a dynamic platform for filmmakers, artists, and performers to share their stories, celebrate their heritage, and inspire audiences through powerful and thought-provoking works. More at paff.org.

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