



THE 33RD ANNUAL

PAN AFRICAN

FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

PAFF 2025

DREAM
BEYOND

Screening Schedule and Festival Guidebook

THE
CULVER
THEATER

February 4 - 17, 2025



/PAFFNOW #DREAMBEYOND www.paff.org

TICKET PRICES *and* GENERAL INFORMATION

Screening Tickets (Regular)	Prices
Adult General Admission	\$16.00
Adult Matinee (First screening of day)	\$13.00
Seniors (62+)	\$12.50
Students (w/ID)	\$12.50
Children (12 years or under)	\$7.50

Special Event Tickets	Prices
Opening Night (Includes Red Carpet Screening & after-party)	\$220.00
Closing Night (Includes Red Carpet Screening & after-party)	\$65.00
SpokenWordFest	\$25.00 (Advance) \$30.00 (Door)
PAFF Love To Laugh Comedy Show	\$30.00 (Advance) \$40.00 (Door) Advance tickets at paff2025.eventive.org/schedule
PAFF Institute Panels & Workshops	Free; RSVP at paff2025.eventive.org/schedule
Filmmaker Award Brunch	\$30.00 (Advance) \$40.00 (Door)

FESTIVAL LOCATIONS:

STUDENTFEST AND SENIOR CONNECTIONS

- **Cinemark Baldwin Hills Crenshaw**
4020 Marlon Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90008

PAFF LOL

- **The Kookaburra Lounge**
6801 Hollywood Blvd #407
Hollywood CA 90028

ALL PAFF SCREENINGS

- **The Culver Theater**
9500 Culver Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232

FREE PAFF PROGRAMS:

SATURDAY CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL **FREE**

February 15 FREE Children's Films at Culver Theater @11:00am

February 15 FREE Interactive Workshops @12:30pm - 2:00pm
Interactive arts & crafts workshops.

SENIOR CONNECTIONS **FREE**

Space available; first come, first served. Must RSVP at paff2025.eventive.org/schedule

PASS INFORMATION:

ALL FEST PASS* **\$625.00**

Enjoy entire PAFF. Access to all PAFF sponsored events, all screenings and PAFF sponsored after-parties and Receptions, panels and workshops, one 2025 PAFF T-shirt, souvenir book. Guaranteed seating up to 15 minutes before movie and panel start time.

FILM LOVERS/CINEMA ONLY PASS* **\$350.00**

Access only to all General Admission screenings. Does not include access to Special screenings, Spotlight Screenings or Special Events.

PAFF Six-Tix PAFFport* **\$78.00**

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

Diplomatic Visa* **\$90.00**

Six General Admission Tickets; only one ticket per screening, guaranteed seat.

**Passes can be purchased online or in person at the PAFF Information Table in the Culver Theater during PAFF screening hours.*

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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

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

OPENING NIGHT



Tuesday February 4, 2025

Magazine Dreams

Directed by Elijah Bynum
2023/US/124m

MAGAZINE DREAMS is about a man gripped by ambition, toxic masculinity and violence. He tries to make it in professional bodybuilding while looking after his ailing grandfather.

Cast: *Jonathan Majors, Taylour Paige, Haley Bennett, Mike O'Hearn*

Location: The Culver Theater
9500 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

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

Tickets: \$220.00



CLOSING NIGHT



Sunday, February 16, 2025

My Dead Friend Zoe

Directed by Kyle Hausmann-Stokes
World Premiere
2025/US/98m

A dark dramedy that follows the journey of Merit, a U.S. Army Afghanistan veteran who is at odds with her family thanks to the presence of Zoe, her dead best friend from the Army. Despite the persistence of her VA group counselor, the tough love of her mother and the levity of an unexpected love interest, Merit's cozy-dysfunctional friendship with Zoe keeps the duo insulated from the world. That is until Merit's estranged grandfather -- holed up at the family's ancestral lake house -- begins to lose his way and needs the one thing he refuses... help. At its core, this is a buddy film about a complicated friendship, a divided family, and the complex ways in which we process grief.

Cast: Sonequa Martin-Green, Natalie Morales, Ed Harris, Morgan Freeman, Gloria Reuben, Utkarsh Ambudkar

Location: The Culver Theater
9500 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

Time: 5:15 pm Red Carpet
6:45 pm Screening Followed by After Party

Tickets: \$65.00

AWARDS SEASON SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Mon, Feb 17 @ 6:35p

NAWI: Dear Future Me

Directed by: Toby Schmutzler,
Kevin Schmutzler, Apuu Mourine,
Vallentine Chelluget
2024/Kenya, Germany/104 minutes



Based on the winning story of a nationwide writing contest, *NAWI* follows a determined girl in rural Kenya fighting against an arranged child marriage. *Nawi's* dreams of attending high school are crushed when her father plans to marry her off in exchange for livestock. With her brother Joel as her only ally, *Nawi* defies her family and flees on her wedding night, seeking a brighter future. But when her newborn sister faces the same fate, *Nawi* returns to challenge tradition and rewrite the destiny of child brides.

*Best International Feature Film, Official Submission of Kenya
The 97th Academy Awards - 2025*

Fri, Feb 14 @ 8:50p

Soundtrack To A Coup D'etat

Directed by Johan Grimonprez
2024/Belgium, France
Netherlands/150 minutes



United Nations, 1960. A CIA-backed coup in Congo ignites a political earthquake in the Global South. Jazz musicians Abbey Lincoln and Max Roach crash the Security Council, Nikita Khrushchev bangs his shoe, and the U.S. State Department sends jazz ambassador Louis Armstrong to Congo to deflect attention. Capturing the moment African politics and American jazz collided, this essay illuminates the political machinations behind the 1961 assassination of Patrice Lumumba, Congo's first president, and the use of African American classical music. Richly illustrated by eyewitness accounts, government memos, mercenary testimonies, and jazz icons, *Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat* interrogates colonial history, telling a timely story resonating in today's geopolitical climate. Magnificent and riveting.

Shortlisted, Best Documentary Feature - 97th Academy Awards - 2025

Tickets: \$20.00

SPOTLIGHT FILMS

Sat, Feb 15 @ 7:05p

Fighting to Be Me: The Dwen Curry Story

Directed by Joe Carroll
2024/US/117m



Having moved from Detroit to Oakland, CA in the early 90s, celebrity stylist/fashion icon Dwen Curry overcame depression, suicidal thoughts and drug addiction to find success as a salon owner and celebrity stylist to LisaRaye McCoy, Mariah Carey, YoYo, Missy Elliot, DMX, and more. But fueled by his desire for a lavish lifestyle and a drive to take care of those around him, Dwen also leads a secret life as the criminal mastermind of an underground organization known as the Gay Gangsters, making millions of dollars from fraud. Dwen's life is even more complicated by his sexuality, identity, and struggles with self-acceptance as Dwen journeys from being a gay man to fully accepting herself as transgender. This coming-of-age tale, based on a true story, is filled with glitz, glamour, and gangster moves as we witness Dwen's trials and eventual triumphs to not only survive but to stand strong in her authentic truth. Note: pronouns used align with Dwen's preferences at different times of her life. Stars D.B. Woodside, A.J. Johnson, Dyllon Burnside.

Presented by  GILEAD

Sat, Feb 15 @ 9:45p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 9:15p

We Want The Funk!

Work-in-Progress
Directed by Stanley Nelson & Nicole London
2025/US/120m



"We Want the Funk" traces funk music's African and gospel roots, from James Brown to Parliament Funkadelic and beyond. Born in the heat of post-Civil Rights energy, Funk exploded on the scene in the 1960s and was an integral part of the revolutionary zeitgeist of the era. James Brown took the Funk back to Africa, where it transformed anew and returned in an ongoing cross-cultural exchange.

"We Want the Funk" explores how the rhythms and grooves of funk music can put us in a trance, taking us higher and reminding us that it's a joy to be in the world. Delving into Funk music's influence on contemporary music, fashion, and freedom of expression as well as its role in the rise of Hip-Hop, the heart of the film consists of the stories and experiences of the people who created and lived Funk: George Clinton of Parliament-Funkadelic; Fred Wesley of The J.B.'s; Robert 'Kool' Bell from Kool & The Gang; Marcus Miller; Nona Hendryx of Labelle; Kirk Franklin; David Byrne of the Talking Heads; Prince Paul, DJ and Producer for De La Soul. "We Want the Funk!" outlines the impact of Funk music getting people off their feet and dancing into a frenzy of freedom. As George Clinton says, "Free your mind and your ass will follow."

*All PAFF Institute Programs are Free by registering at www.paff.org (Limited Seating)
All panels are located in the PAFF Institute Lounge @ Culver Theater

Sat, Feb 8 @ 3:00p

Young Hollywood: How Social Media Inspires Gen Z to Dream Beyond

Social media has revolutionized how Gen Z sees the world and themselves. From DIY film projects to viral moments that lead to major deals, this panel will explore how platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube empower Gen Z to craft their own narratives, pursue unconventional careers, and dream beyond traditional Hollywood.

Moderator: Noah Abbott

Presented by: Word Onna Street

Sat, Feb 15 @ 11:00a

Reel Strategies: Marketing and Distribution Tactics for Indie Filmmakers

Indie filmmakers face unique challenges in getting their films seen. This panel explores effective DIY marketing tactics and distribution channels to help filmmakers succeed with or without a major studio.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 1:00p

Building Our Production Legacy

How to build wealth by doing production and owning our own content and our work.

Panelists: Samir Hernandez, Omar Benson Miller, Terry Miller, Tyson Chandler, Michael Hammon

Sat, Feb 15 @ 2:00p

Storytellers Pushing Black Commonality to the Forefront

These storytellers will share their poignant perspectives, provide invaluable words of wisdom, and share their thoughts on the state of Hollywood today. They are breaking down barriers and pushing our commonality to the forefront.

Moderator: Jasmine Simpkins

Panelists: Malcolm Washington, Ken Whittingham, Rza, Kelvin Harrison Jr.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:00p

Building The Brand: Acting, Fitness & Producing for Longevity in Hollywood

Success in the entertainment industry requires more than talent. This panel discusses how actors, fitness professionals, and producers stay relevant, healthy, and in control of their careers.

Moderator: Kareem Grimes (All American)

Panelists: Corey Calliet, Sean Riggs, Mike Merrill, Patrick Cage

Sat, Feb 15 @ 6:00p

Behind The Music: Mastering Algorithms for Stream + Sync Success

The SheRise Enterprise and industry experts reveal how algorithms impact music streaming and sync licensing in TV and film. Discover strategies to boost visibility, increase engagement, and drive revenue while optimizing your digital presence.

Moderator: SheRise Ford, The Six Foot Publicist

Panelists: Aaron Hunter (UnitedMasters), Archie Davis (DefJam), Natalie Prospere (Disney), Matt Barnes

Presented by: 

Sun, Feb 16 @ 10:00a

Frame to Frame: Black Editors

Join The Motion Picture Editors Guild for a deep dive into how Black editors are influencing the storytelling process. From innovative editing techniques to championing diverse perspectives, this panel will discuss the pivotal role of Black editors in crafting films and TV shows that resonate with audiences.

Moderator: Lillian Benson

Presented by: African American Steering Committee of the Motion Picture Editors Guild



PAFF INSTITUTE*

*All PAFF Institute Programs are Free by registering at www.paff.org (Limited Seating)
All panels are located in the PAFF Institute Lounge @ Culver Theater

Sun, Feb 16 @ 12:00p

Diverse Representation: How to Find and Keep the Right Team

The right team isn't just about representation—it's about elevation. From entertainment attorneys to agents, managers, and publicists, this panel will explore how strategic representation helps creatives navigate the industry, protect their interests, and achieve their goals.

Sun, Feb 16 @ 2:00p

Fireside Chat with Jonathan Majors

Jonathan Majors roles is known for Magazine Dreams, Lovecraft Country, The Last Black Man in San Francisco, Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania and Creed III. His approach to acting, the preparation for roles, and the evolving landscape of cinema.

Sun, Feb 16 @ 4:00p

Everything in Entertainment: The Journey of Black Women in Hollywood

Trace the career paths of these accomplished actresses and dive into the impact these women are making both on and off camera, amplifying authentic stories and experiences.

Moderator: J'Tasha St. Cyr (Miss Everything)

Panelists: Novi Brown (Sistas), Kyla Pratt (Proud Family), Tiffany M. Abney (Mea Culpa), Renelle Nicole (Chicago Med)



Mon, Feb 17 @ 3:30p

Up Close & Personal: Real Estate Seminar

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.

Moderators: Linda Bronson-Abbott & Sherri S. Reese

Mon. Feb 17 @ 5:00p

Black Queer & Shaking Things Up

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.

Moderator: Jasmyne Cannick

Presented by :  GILEAD



STOCKER STREET
CREATIVE

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Sat, Feb 8 @ 2:00p

Black Immigrants: Telling Our Stories & Visioning the Future

2:00p Screening and Panel Discussion
Cinemark Baldwin Hills XD (Screen #10)

Films:

- Cartes
- Boat People
- Mexico is Hell for Black People

Moderator: Nana Gyamfi

Panelists: Prof. Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Tsion Gurmu, Kendrick Sampson, Tommy Franklin



4:00p Reception to Follow
Museum of African American Art
Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall
2nd Level /Suite #283

Sponsored by



STUDENTFEST

Mon-Fri, Feb 10-14 @ 10:00a
Screenings at Cinemark Baldwin Hills XD

Selected screenings for students. Attendance by reservation only. See PAFF website for synopses and to make reservations.

Films:

- 3 Blind Mice
- As You Are
- B is For Bachata
- Barely A Percentage
- Behold A Lady
- Big Nate
- Birthright Afrika
- Black Table
- Can't Retire From This
- Finding JaMia's Spirit
- Finding Musana
- Guided
- Jazzy Bells
- Knuckles
- Mosaics Symphony
- Rob Peace
- Run Like We
- San Juan Hill: Manhattan's Lost Neighborhood
- Sole Sista
- Stride
- The Fisherman
- The Gift and the Curse
- The Pad Hustle
- Traveling Mercies
- Ugly Sweater
- Unexpected Ties
- Ways to Fly
- Who is Tommy the Clown
- Win or Lose



Sponsored by

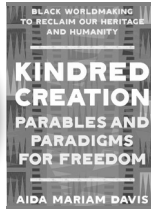


SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

PAFF BOOK SIGNINGS

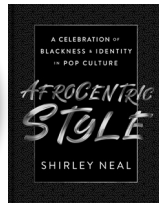
Join the Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF) at **Malik Books** as we celebrate Black voices, stories, and history with exclusive author signings, insightful discussions, and powerful storytelling.

Meet Acclaimed Authors:



AIDA MARIAM DAVIS
"Kindred Creation:
Parables and Paradigms
for Freedom"

Wed, Feb 5 @ 7:00p



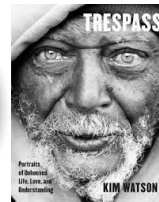
SHIRLEY NEAL
"AfroCentric Style: A
Celebration of Blackness &
Identity in Pop Culture"

Sat, Feb 8 @ 4:00p



DERRICK BARNES
"Like Lava in
My Veins"

Mon, Feb 10 @ 7:00p



KIM WATSON
"Trespass: Portraits of
Unhoused Life, Love,
and Understanding"

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:00p



MALIK BOOKS
(2nd floor, near See's Candy)
Westfield Culver City
6000 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver
City, CA 90230



SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

SATURDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

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

SATURDAY CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL FREE

February 15 FREE Children's Films at Culver Theater
@11:00am

February 15 FREE Interactive Workshops
@12:30pm - 2:00pm

Film: Win or Lose

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Coordinators: Sherrese Moise & Linda Bronson

Sponsored by



PAFF LOVE TO LAUGH COMEDY SHOW

Thu, Feb 13 @ 9:00p

Location: The Kookaburra Lounge
6801 Hollywood Boulevard #407
Hollywood, CA, 90028

Tickets: \$30.00 (Advance at www.paff.eventive.org/schedule)
\$40.00 (at door)

Featuring:

- Joncea - Host
- Sharelle
- Alycia Cooper
- Nika King
- Broady
- Malik S.
- James Davis

Presented by  

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

PAFF SPOKENWORD

in Collaboration with Diverse Verses LA

Sat, Feb 7 @ 6:30p

Location: **Cinemark Baldwin Hills Crenshaw and XD**
3650 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Tickets: Advance: \$25.00 (on sale @ www.paff.org)
Day of: \$30.00

Get ready for an electrifying night featuring the hottest spoken word artists from across the nation! This extraordinary show brings together local talent and renowned performers, showcasing seasoned poets and emerging voices as they deliver their most powerful pieces. Bring the whole family to this high-energy, interactive experience that will captivate and inspire. Dress to impress and prepare to be blown away by the phenomenal artistry of spoken word. Don't miss this unforgettable celebration of poetry and performance!

LOCAL POETS INCLUDE:

- st. dill
- Blu
- Future Star
- El Rivera
- Malachi Maisha
- Selah Blak Sol
- Bloomlike Flowers
- Durmerrick
- Queen Quannie
- Ms. Drea_the poet
- Carlton The Messenger
- Larry Love

SPECIAL GUEST POETS:

- **Marcus Omari**
Accomplished poet and screenwriter.
- **Soul STUF!**
Second generation Filipino-American spoken word poet.

FEATURED POETS:



Theresa tha SONGBIRD

Our featured poet is Grammy Nominated Spoken Word Artist, Author and Actress.



Malik Yusef

2025 Honorees include 8X GRAMMY Award Winner + Song Writer and current Grammy Nominee for best Spoken Word Poetry Album.



V. Kali

Legendary poet, writer, vegan chef and bedrock of The Anansi Writer's Workshop at The World Stage Performance Gallery.

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



SENIOR CONNECTIONS

Selected Screenings for Seniors (62+ years)

FILMS:

- **Memories of Love Returned**
Mon, Feb 10 @ 11:30a
- **He Looked Like A Postcard**
Tue, Feb 11 @ 11:30a
- **Nawi: Dear Future Me**
Wed, Feb 12 @ 11:30a
- **What's Black About It?**
Burrell: Advertising Revolution
w/ As the Day Goes By
Thu, Feb 13 @ 11:30a
- **On Becoming a Guinea Fowl**
Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:30a

Location: Cinemark Baldwin Hills XD

Tickets: Free Must RSVP at <https://paff2025.eventive.org/schedule>



PAFF FILMMAKERS' AWARDS BRUNCH

Mon, Feb 17 @ 11:00am

Come celebrate with our Filmmakers and be the first to know all the winners of PAFF 2025!

Location: TBA

Tickets: \$40.00 (Advance)

\$55.00 (Door)

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY, Feb 4

7:00p OPENING NIGHT:
Magazine Dreams

MONDAY, Feb 10

Screen 1

11:00a Shorts Series 11
1:30p Young King*
4:00p The Madman
6:30p Shorts Series 13
9:00p He Looked Like a Postcard

Screen 3

11:15a Bam Bam: The Sister
Nancy Story
1:50p Shorts Series 1
4:10p Garvey's Ghost
6:30p Shorts Series 18
9:15p Different With Me*

Screen 6

11:25a Shorts Series 6
2:00p A King Like Me
4:30p Finding Musana
7:05p The Bucket Wish
9:35p Drip Like Coffee

TUESDAY, Feb 11

Screen 1

11:00a Grassland
1:30p Shorts Series 5
4:00p Shorts Series 8
6:30p Sarah
8:55p Mount Mutombo

Screen 3

11:20a Shorts Series 22
2:00p The (M) Factor
w/ Ishak & The Pad Hustle
4:20p Who in the Hell is
Regina Jones?
7:05p Phels Hi
9:30p Shorts Series 2

Screen 6

12:30p Across the Tracks
3:30p Black Table
6:00p South Haven
8:30p Fanon

WEDNESDAY, Feb 12

Screen 1

11:10a Shorts Series 7
1:50p Ugly Sweater w/Ways to Fly
4:25p What's Black About It?
w/As the Day Goes By
7:00p CENTERPIECE – TBD
10:05p Shorts Series 23

Screen 3

11:00a Unheard
2:00p Shorts Series 16
4:35p Black Cats
7:15p The Dog (Kadzo)*
9:55p Snake*

Screen 6

11:15a Teofilo
1:40p Everybody's Work
4:00p Shorts Series 22
6:35p Shorts Series 17
9:20p The Man Died

THURSDAY, Feb 13

Screen 1

11:25a Shorts Series 19
1:55p Shorts Series 12
4:25p Shorts Series 17
6:55p Shorts Series 11
9:30p Soul of a Sister

Screen 3

11:05a Legacy
1:55p Color Book
4:40p Shorts Series 21
7:00p Birth of the Black Under-
world
10:00p Shorts Series 20

Screen 6

11:35a Mário
2:45p Everybody's Work
4:50p Searching for Amani
7:10p The Weekend
9:55p The Anchorage of Time

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, Feb 14

Screen 1

- 11:10a Shorts Series 9
- 1:40p Shorts Series 14
- 4:10p Sebata (The Beast)
- 6:35p Memories of Love Returned
- 8:50p Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat

Screen 3

- 11:30a Shorts Series 10
- 2:00p Shorts Series 3
- 4:30p San Juan Hill
w/Dying to Vote
- 7:10p Freight w/Run Like We
- 9:55p Young King*

Screen 6

- 11:00a Sarah
- 1:20p Teofilo
- 3:45p Shorts Series 7
- 6:20p Til Death...Do You
- 9:00p The Man Died

SATURDAY, Feb 15

Screen 1

- 11:15a A King Like Me
- 1:45p Shorts Series 6
- 4:25p Shorts Series 4
- 7:05p Fighting to Be Me
w/A Westside Love Story
- 9:45p We Want the Funk!

Screen 3

- 11:20a Garvey's Ghost
- 1:40p Ugly Sweater w/Ways to Fly
- 4:15p The Fisherman
- 7:00p Welcome
- 9:50p Shorts Series 9

Screen 6

- 11:00a Childrens Fest: Win or Lose
- 1:00p The Anchorage of Time
- 3:40p Shorts Series 21
- 6:00p Bam Bam:
The Sister Nancy Story
- 8:40p On Becoming a Guinea Fowl

SUNDAY, Feb 16

Screen 1

- 11:05a The Fisherman
- 1:50p Shorts Series 20
- 4:15p The (M) Factor
w/ Ishak & The Pad Hustle
- 6:45p CLOSING NIGHT:
My Dead Friend Zoe
Snake*
- 9:45p

Screen 3

- 11:15a Finding Musana
- 1:50p Color Book
- 4:35p Different With Me*
- 7:10p Memories of Love Returned
- 9:25p Unheard

Screen 6

- 11:00a Everybody's Work
w/Traveling Mercies
- 1:20p Shorts Series 5
- 3:50p Shorts Series 15
- 6:20p What's Black About It?
w/As the Day Goes By
- 8:40p Fanon

MONDAY, Feb 17

Screen 1

- 11:00a Shorts Series 1
- 1:20p Grassland
- 3:50p He Looked Like a Postcard
- 6:25p Shorts Series 8
- 9:15p We Want the Funk!

Screen 3

- 11:10a Legacy
- 1:40p Shorts Series 10
- 4:10p Shorts Series 12
- 6:35p Nawi: Dear Future Me
- 9:10p Shorts Series 3

Screen 6

- 11:15a Sebata (The Beast)
- 1:05p Mount Mutombo
- 4:00p Freight w/Run Like We
- 6:40p South Haven
- 9:10p The Weekend

SHORTS SERIES

Shorts Series 1

Ausgang, Sofie / Behold a Lady / 3 Blind Mice / The Thoughts of the Ancestors

Shorts Series 2

Encrypted / Happy Songs About Unhappy Things

Shorts Series 3

Who is Tommie the Clown / Barakah / Advent / Beutset

Shorts Series 4

Just One / Jules / Boy No Fear / Finding Ja'Mia's Spirit / Betty & Blue / Zoe's Possession

Shorts Series 5

A Movie Named Sucka / I Don't Care If the World Collapses / Meal Ticket (I) / We Got Ours / Sweet Santa Barbara Brown / Sugar Dumplin

Shorts Series 6

Camorim / Bela LX-404* / Echoes of the Drum: Rhythm of Columbia's Maroon Towns

Shorts Series 7

Caribbean Queen / Brooklyn Reverie / Crown / Way Back Home / Last Hoorah at G-Baby's

Shorts Series 8

The Making of a Classic / For Sale / Stride / X: The Interview / Ownership

Shorts Series 9

The Other Partners* / Demons* / Honest Fluff* / Sukari* / Kelly*

Shorts Series 10

Baptized By Fire / Chikha (Queen) / Children of God / Fighting Giants / The Therapist

Shorts Series 11

Sins of a Father / Dear Future Wife / Mosaics Symphony

Shorts Series 12

Post Atlanta / Born in the Struggle

Shorts Series 13

Bodega / Guided / Happy Birthday / Mildred 4 A Million / If They Took Us Back

Shorts Series 14

The Order / Viki323 / Nany / To End All Spells / The Devil Ain't Pius / The Newlyweds: Blood at the Altar

Shorts Series 15

Cartes / The Gift and the Curse / Sole Sista / As You Are/ Unexpected Ties / IntelliGent

Shorts Series 16

Uncaged / I (Un Do) / B Is For Bachata / Homecoming / The Evolution of Adire

Shorts Series 17

Meal Ticket (II) / Jazzy Bells / Bleachers / Can't Retire from This

Shorts Series 18

Dying to Vote / Masked for Battle: Mardi Gras Indian Culture Confronts Covid

Shorts Series 19

The Cave Synagogue / Days Between Rest / Shepherd's Calling / Shepherding

Shorts Series 20

How I Learned What I Learned from August / Felix de Rooy: Nomad in No Man's Land

Shorts Series 21

The Devil Is Busy / The Ebony Canal

Shorts Series 22

Barely a Percentage / Silent Killer / The Afro Mexpats / Seeds of Kivu

Shorts Series 23

Boat People / ARP-African Rhythms Power / Turn the Mics On



PAN AFRICAN
FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

FILM SYNOPSES

3 Blind Mice

(US/Webseries Narr/2023/25m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Letia Solomon

Naeemah, a young Black woman raised by White adoptive parents, transfers to an HBCU in Baltimore in pursuit of her Black identity and follows in the footsteps of her biological parents.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 1:50p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 11:00a

A King Like Me

(US/Feature Doc/2024/90m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Matthew Henderson

"A King Like Me" follows members of the Zulu Club, New Orleans' 100-year-old (and first ever) Black Mardi Gras krewe, as they work to bring Zulu back to the streets for Mardi Gras 2022.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 2:00p; Sat, Feb 15 @ 11:15a

A Movie Named Sucka

(US/Short Narr/2024/10m)

World Premiere

Dir: Brandon Ruiz

Amidst the turmoil of a low budget western blaxploitation film set plagued by a toxic work environment, the replacement actor must find the shooter who shot his predecessor on set before they become the next victim.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:20p

A Westside Love Story

Work-in-Progress

(US/Short Narr/2024/17m)

Dir: Kerri Garrett

When two queer HBCU sophomores lose track of the cafeteria's weekend hours, their hunger leads them on a surreal journey through Atlanta's historic West End that doubles as an unforgettable, impromptu first date.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 7:05p

Across the Tracks: A Las Vegas

Westside Story

(US/Feature Doc/2024/114m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Emmett Gates

Delving into the rich and untold stories of the historic Westside of Las Vegas, this defining documentary traces the predominantly African American neighborhood commencing with its origins over 118 years ago when it served as a safe haven.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 12:30p

Advent

(US/Short Narr/2024/34m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Rachel Danae Bass

Inspired by true events, the story of a man who has a vision three days before Christmas that foreshadows his death. He prepares for his funeral while his wife prepares for Christmas.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 2:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 9:10p

ARP - African Rhythms Power

(Belgium/Short Doc/2023/30m)

Dir: Nelson Shongo Leoni

During a trip to East Congo, a European beatmaker of African-descent has a striking encounter with guitarist Mababu, a guardian of Congolese oral traditions. Mababu's words: "Music heals! It is Rhythm that gives Power..." echo in his mind and awakening in him a desire to explore African rhythms through out modern African Diasporic music.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 10:05p

As the Day Goes By

(US/Short Narr/2023/21m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Moses Lawi

A young cook, desperate and fresh out of incarceration, looks for redemption and a pathway to a second chance.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 4:25p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 6:20p

FILM SYNOPSES

As You Are

(US/Short Narr/2024/7m)

Dir: Daria Strachan

A young Black lesbian is forced to learn the true meaning of self-acceptance and self-love after an unfortunate event at her church.

Sun, Feb 16 @ 3:50p

Ausgang, Sofie

(US/Short Narr/2023/7m)

Dir: Zoé Munlyn

1936 Germany. A mixed-race Afro-German girl gets rejected from the League of German Girls or BDM, which sends her on a forced quest for identity and belonging in the Nazi propaganda film industry.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 1:50p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 11:00a

B is For Bachata

(US/Short Narr/2024/13m)

Dir: Ricky Rosairo

A young Dominican-American learns to dance Bachata at a family BBQ, where he discovers a long-lost family secret.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 2:00p

Bam Bam: The Sister Nancy Story

(Canada, France, Jamaica, UK, US/Feature Doc/2023/98m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Alison Duke

Sister Nancy's iconic dancehall recording "Bam Bam" has been part of our collective consciousness for over 40 years. Nancy's impact has shaped Dancehall, yet her legacy is often overlooked. It's Sister Nancy's time to be celebrated and given her rightful place in music history.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 11:15a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 6:00p

Baptized by Fire

(Nigeria/Short Narr/2024/15m)

World Premiere

Dir: Kach Offor

A seemingly regular visit to a dealer in the slums of Lagos takes an unexpected turn and forces this anxious stoner on a different kind of trip.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:30a; Mon, Feb 17 @ 1:40p

Barakah

(US/Short Narr/2024/15m)

World Premiere

Dir: Biniyam Abreha

Faced with a dire request from a mysterious woman, a distraught young man embarks on a transformative journey that unearths mystical forces that reach into a long forgotten past.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 2:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 9:10p

Barely A Percentage

(US/Short Doc/2024/11m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Nola Busansky, Joel Pau, Ronald Ceesay

Inspired by faith, his wife, and hip hop, Azeem Blessings Kareem defies his city-upbringing in Hartford to become a leader in the young BIPOC farming community.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 11:20a; Wed, Feb 12 @ 4:00p

Behold A Lady

(US/Short Narr/2023/16m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Britt Williams

When a studious tomboy's boyfriend dumps her before her Latin Quiz Bowl tryouts, she struggles to balance her heartbreak and studies as she transforms her appearance to win him back.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 1:50p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 11:00a

Bela LX-404*

(Brazil/Short Narr/2024/20m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Luiza Botelho

Grumpy old Mr. William orders a sexy wife robot but gets BELA LX-404, an 80-something robot with more sass than expected. His plan for romance quickly turns into a hilarious clash of wills in this unexpected sci-fi twist!

Mon, Feb 10 @ 11:25a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 1:45p

Betty & Blue

(US/Short Narr/2023/14m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Cole Swanson

A Black musician, now in the later stages of his life, harks back to the magical moments in his childhood, career, and his relationship with his father who introduced him to his first true love: his trumpet named Betty.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:25p

FILM SYNOPSES

Beutset (L'auore)

(Senegal/Short Narr/2023/30m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Alice Mendy

When a parasite contaminates the drinking water of Dakar, pills are created to neutralize it. Alioune, a young man, can no longer afford them and is exposed to the symptoms of the parasite: madness and dementia. As the days go by, he realizes that he has never been so lucid, and he begins a journey of political and spiritual awakening.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 2:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 9:10p

Birth of the Black Underworld

(US/Feature Narr/2024/120m)

World Premiere

Dir: Matty Rich

Set in 1930s Brooklyn, New York City., this is the story of a Black organized crime family who fought against racism and used their power to help feed, provide clothing and give shelter to poverty stricken people in their community.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 7:00p

Birthright Afrika

(US/Short Doc/2024/47m)

Dir: Michael Rayshard Bennett

Inspired by his grandfather's wisdom and his Kenyan heritage, Joseph transforms lives by guiding inner-city Black and Brown youth on a journey of self-discovery—bridging continents, building legacies, and inspiring generational wealth and empowerment.

StudentFest

Black Cats

(US/Feature Narr/2024/90m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Mark Harris

A superhero movie set in Chicago, this reality-based film follows a group of determined locals, who unite to take on corruption at every level with the mission to restore justice, promote peace, and protect the future of their community, embodying the ideals of unity, liberty, and collective action.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 4:35p

Black Table

(France, Saint Lucia, US/Feature

Doc/2023/91m)

Dir: John Antonio James, Bill Mack

A timely documentary bringing out the story of how one of the largest classes of Black students entering Yale in the mid-1990s embraced a dining hall table while struggling against the tide of history.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 3:30p

Bleachers

(US/Short Narr/2024/19m)

Dir: Marc Conel Thevenin

When a basketball phenom is forced to live with her estranged father, their clashing worlds threaten to jeopardize her future prospects and their fragile bond.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 6:35p; Thu, Feb 13 @ 4:25p

Boat People

(US/Short Narr/2024/10m)

Dir: Al'kens Plancher

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

Wed, Feb 12 @ 10:05p

Bodega

(US/Short Narr/2024/10m)

World Premiere

Dir: Sharik Geneve Atkinson

When two queer girls connect at a deli, the line blurs between innocent attraction and unsettling obsession.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 6:30p

Born in the Struggle

(US/Short Doc/2024/59m)

World Premiere

Dir: Kamasi Hill

Children of Black Power activists reflect on their upbringing, exploring how their parents' revolutionary spirit shaped their lives, identities, and enduring fight against injustice.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 1:55p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 4:10p

FILM SYNOPSES

Boy No Fear

(Uganda/Short Narr/2024/15m)

World Premiere

Dir: Jonathan Curtiss

When a boy cursed with fearlessness learns that his condition is causing his father's impending death, he sets on a journey to a haunted land to denounce the ritual and reverse the curse.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:25p

Brooklyn Reverie

(US/Short Narr/2024/19m)

World Premiere

Dir: Ricardo Sean Thompson

An Oscar-winning Black actor returns to his hometown of Brooklyn to receive an unexpectedly cold welcome by his father.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 11:10a; Fri, Feb 14 @ 3:45p

Camorim

(Brazil/Short Doc/2023/17m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Renan Barbosa Brandão

Camorim is an urban quilombo located near an upper middle-class neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro. Four quilombolas (residents) reveal their desires, memories, and important discoveries about the place where they live and resist gentrification.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 11:25a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 1:45p

Can't Retire From This

(US/Short Doc/2023/34m)

Dir: Melanie Page

A basketball love story that tells the back-story on the creation of the WNBA. In the DMV (D.C., Maryland and Virginia) area, many girls have cultivated their lives within the sport of basketball or because of the sport of basketball, creating a lifelong connection that's engrained in them forever.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 6:35p; Thu, Feb 13 @ 4:25p

Caribbean Queen

(US/Short Narr/2024/22m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Sekiya Dorsett

Q, a young Caribbean boy, must overcome prejudice and cultural expectations with help from his best friend Joe to fulfill his dream of becoming Queen of the West Indian Day Parade.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 11:10a; Fri, Feb 14 @ 3:45p

Cartes

(US/Short Narr/2024/13m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Rhym Guissé

After her boss at an environmental nonprofit asks for a standard background check, a young Malian goes to great lengths to keep her and her family's immigration status a secret.

Sun, Feb 16 @ 3:50p

Chikha (Queen)

(Morocco/Short Narr/2024/24m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Ayoub Layoussifi, Zahoua Raji

Fatine, 17, has to choose between perpetuating her family's artistic heritage or leading a settled life with her boyfriend Youssef, who is opposed to her cultural heritage.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:30a; Mon, Feb 17 @ 1:40p

Children Of God (Nyame Mma)

(Ghana/Short Narr/2024/30m)

Dir: Joewackle J. Kusi

Following his father's sudden death, Kwamena returns home for the funeral and closure as his father journeys to the afterworld. Nyame Mma explores how lack of space for queer men.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:30a; Mon, Feb 17 @ 1:40p

Color Book

(US/Feature Narr/2024/105m)

Dir: David Fortune

Recently widowed, Lucky finds himself navigating the challenges of raising his Down syndrome son Mason. Seeking solace, the duo embark on a journey to attend their first baseball game together. Encountering several setbacks, they're determined to reach the game. In their journey, they learn that healing



FILM SYNOPSES

doesn't await at the mountaintop, but can be found with every step on the path.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 1:55p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:50p

Crown

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Dash Kolos

A sommelier reenters the world of wine after taking a break. When he is offered a prestigious job at NYC's most impressive wine bar provided he change his hair style, he must decide whether losing a crucial part of his identity is worth it.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 11:10a; Fri, Feb 14 @ 3:45p

Days Between Rest

(Uganda/Short Doc/2024/12m)

World Premiere

Dir: Peter Decherney

Grammy-nominated Ugandan Jewish singer Rachel Namadosi reflects on growing up Jewish in Uganda as she goes about her busy day and looks forward to her day of rest, Shabbat.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 11:25a

Dear Future Wife

(South Africa/Short Narr/2024/40m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Obett Motaung

Mam, a 55-year-old mother, devises a plan to finance her daughter's chef school education by winning a surfing contest with a 300,000 rand prize. But first she needs to learn to surf. She seeks lessons with instructor Bab Khumalo, a womanizing swimming instructor.

A endearing rom-com.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 11:00a; Thu, Feb 13 @ 6:55p

Demons*

(Nigeria, UK/Short Narr/2024/20m)

World Premiere

Dir: Emmanuel Imani

Risking everything, London cop Sargent Bola returns to Lagos to avenge his lover's murder.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:10a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 9:50p

Different With Me*

(US/Feature Narr/2023/94m)

World Premiere

Dir: Kennedy "ScribeCash" Storay

Story of a successful young woman who has to make a choice between her just-returned former boyfriend who now has lots of money and her new man with not so much money but lots of ambition and truly loves her?

Mon, Feb 10 @ 9:15p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 4:35p

Drip Like Coffee

(US/Feature Narr/2024/91m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Anais Cisco

An intimate connection between two Brooklyn baristas brews a journey of mutual empowerment and sensual transformation.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 9:35p

Dying to Vote

(US/Short Doc/2024/32m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Loki Mulholland

A long view commentary recalling the history of voting in the United States and how during Reconstruction, Black people were able to achieve high office in the U.S. government through the exercise of their voting rights. But due to intimidation, voter suppression and even murder, Black people became disenfranchised, thus depriving them of representation until the mid-20th Century.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 6:30p; Fri, Feb 14 @ 4:30p

Echoes of the Drum: Rhythms of Colombia's Caribbean Maroon Towns

(Colombia/Short Doc/2022/59m)

World Premiere

Dir: Janer Luis Amaris Orozco

An audiovisual project bringing visibility to the masters and the cultural richness found in the various rhythmic foundations around the Canal del Dique region and some areas in the lower Montes de María in Columbia regions of some the greatest legacies of Afro-Caribbean Colombian culture. Sponsored by International Society of Black Latinos.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 11:25a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 1:45p

FILM SYNOPSES

Encrypted

(US/Short Narr/2024/52m)

Dir: Miyoni Nelson

A stubborn young girl's buried troubles from the past catch up to her present when she is placed in eerie-like therapy.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 9:30p

Everybody's Work:

Healing What Hurts Us All

(US/Feature Doc/2024/66m)

World Premiere

Dir: Chad Tingle

A deep dive into the hidden disease plaguing healthcare in the United States: systemic racism. Through the lens of fearless nurses, this exposé uncovers the biases that dictate disparate healthcare outcomes based on skin color and the negative impact it has on both patients and the nurses who provide care.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 1:40p; Thu, Feb 13 @ 2:45p;

Sun, Feb 16 @ 11:00a

Fanon

(Guadeloupe, Luxembourg, Tunisia/Feature Narr/2024/133m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Jean-Claude Barny

A feature reenactment of the life of the influential Marxist psychiatrist and intellectual Franz Fanon during his service as the chief medical officer at the psychiatric hospital in Algeria where he employed innovative and humanistic treatment for Algerian patients, attracting the wrath of his French colleagues. It is during this period that Fanon came into contact with the FLN and wrote "The Wretched of the Earth."

Tue, Feb 11 @ 8:30p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 8:40p

Felix de Rooy: Nomad in No Man's Land

(Curaçao, Netherlands/Short Doc/2024/58m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Hester Jonkhout

Born in Curaçao, Caribbean poet, writer, dramatist, filmmaker, director, artist and curator Felix de Rooy is queer and 'of color' and is seen as a pioneer; the first in the Dutch Kingdom to speak freely through his art about what it means

to be queer and Caribbean. Through his work he challenges the establishment to look at itself in the mirror.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 10:00p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:50p

Fighting Giants

(Sierra Leone/Short Narr/2024/9m)

World Premiere

Dir: Oluwaseun Babalola

A mother and daughter confront their relationship with grief during a surreal visit back to Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:30a; Mon, Feb 17 @ 1:40p

Finding JaMia's Spirit

(US/Short Narr/2024/15m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Candace Patrick

After an inquisitive young girl is told that her recently deceased father is now an ancestor spirit that she can feel whenever she needs him, she tries to find his spirit before her first day of kindergarten.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:25p

Finding Musana

(Uganda/Feature Doc/2024/95m)

Dir: Jim W Hanon

A local Ugandan and a Colorado intern discover first-hand how charity models in Africa can create exploitation and dependence. Together with unexpected partners, they develop a model of local-ownership and micro-enterprise that could forever shift how the West views poverty relief.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 4:30p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 11:15a

For Sale

(US/Short Narr/2022/20m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Nika King

A couple confronts the deep-seated stigma surrounding grief and mental health, embarking on a journey of healing that transforms the pain of loss into a powerful testament of hope and resilience.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 4:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 6:25p

FILM SYNOPSIS

Freight: The Five Incarnations of Abel Green

(US/Feature Narr/2023/85m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: J. Alphonse Nicholson

J. Alphonse Nicholson, who also directs, provides a powerful performance in this absorbing one-man play telling the five stories of Abel Green, a soul destined to keep coming back to the world because there is something his soul needs to learn.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 7:10p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 4:00p

Garvey's Ghost

(Canada/Webseries/2024/81m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Frances-Anne Solomon

"Garvey's Ghost" follows the hilarious adventures of Marcus Garvey, a gleeful ghost who returns to frigid 1950s Toronto with the goal of re-igniting African pride in his followers.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 4:10p; Sat, Feb 15 @ 11:20a

Grassland

(US/Feature Narr/2023/90m)

Dir: William Bermudez, Sam Friedman

Set in 2008 the story follows Leo, an inquisitive and sensitive boy who puts his single mother's illegal marijuana business at risk when he befriends the new neighbors, a young white boy and his police officer grandfather. Stars Mía Maestro, Quincy Isaiah, Jeff Kober and Ravi Cabot-Conyers. Executive produced by Common.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 11:00a; Mon, Feb 17 @ 1:20p

Guided

(US/Short Narr/2024/11m)

World Premiere

Dir: Kara Saun

When a young girl's tragic loss prevents her from letting go, she must learn how to cope with the present and move on from the past.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 6:30p

Happy Birthday

(US/Short Narr/2024/17m)

Dir: Jammal Lemy

A red backpack keeps reappearing in Craig Smith's life. A greasy salesman on his TV offers him a solution.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 6:30p

Happy Songs About Unhappy Things*

(US/Short Doc/2024/30m)

Dir: Nikki Lynette, Roger Ellis

By blending documentary footage, digital art, and testimonials by mental health experts with sensational performances, a groundbreaking new project aims to disrupt the harmful narratives around mental health.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 9:30p

He Looked Like A Postcard

(US/Feature Narr/2024/96m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Qasim Basir

A self-love story about the power of using your imagination to create the life you want. Accomplished Poet and newly single mom Serendipity returns home to Detroit with her young son to find peace and meets a popular muralist who happens to look like a postcard given to her by a close friend.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 9:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 3:50p

Homecoming

(US/Short Narr/2024/15m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Oscar Rudecindo

When their eldest son returns home from college after years apart, a family must confront the estrangement caused by his sexuality, unaware that their window for reconciliation may be closing.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 2:00p

Honest/Fluff*

(US/Short Narr/2024/15m)

Dir: Sherean Jones

Inspired by true events, a perpetual people-pleaser must come to terms with the fine line between tactless bosses, freeloading fuck buddies and the honest truth of taking action and getting the life you deserve.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:10a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 9:50p



PAN AFRICAN
FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

FILM SYNOPSES

How I Learned What I Learned From August

(US/Short Doc/2024/25m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Ka'miya Clark

This docu-drama is an ode to August Wilson, birthed during a BIPOC youth outing to see the play "How I Learned What I Learned" at the Seattle Repertory Theater.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 10:00p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:50p

I (Un)Do

(US/Webseries/2024/19m)

World Premiere

Dir: Dwayne Barnes, Todd A. Jackson

When an unhappily married millennial couple finally agrees to separate, they turn to a questionable source of income once they find out they can't afford the divorce.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 2:00p

I Don't Care If the World Collapses

(Egypt/Short Narr/2024/20m)

Dir: Karim Shaaban Morsy

Trying to save the one-day commercial shoot from collapsing, a dilemma ensues when a career-driven line Producer finds herself in a position where she has to choose between the job responsibility and being a human being.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:20p

If They Took Us Back

(US/Short Narr/2024/30m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Holly Charles-Pearson

In "If They Took Us Back" the U.S. government returned all formerly enslaved people to Africa in 1863. Today, a descendant breaks the exile in exchange for overdue reparations.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 6:30p

IntelliGent

(US/Short Narr/2024/28m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Kinnik Sky

Regent, an autistic genius in fourth grade, is lured by a bully's promise of popularity, setting off a race against time to unveil the truth and avoid a year of humiliation and disaster.

Sun, Feb 16 @ 3:50p

Ishak

(US/Short Doc/2024/12m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Maaliyah Papillion

Denied government tribal recognition because of their mixed-race ancestry, the Atakapa-Ishak Nation struggles to acquire the resources they need as an at-risk community due to climate related disasters in the Gulf South. As the second woman to lead the tribe since 1771, filmmaker Maaliyah Papillion uses her creative skills to share the needs of her community and bring awareness to the racist systems still in place within and against Indigenous communities.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 2:00p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 4:15p

Jazzy Bells

(US/Short Narr/2024/22m)

World Premiere

Dir: Dara Frazier

Christmas magic reunites a traveling jazz musician with his grandchildren.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 6:35p; Thu, Feb 13 @ 4:25p

Jules

(US/Short Narr/2024/20m)

World Premiere

Dir: Tiffany Abney

Determined to reclaim her identity, Jules defies her boyfriend's ban on motocross, igniting a fierce battle between love and ambition as she races against the ghosts of his past.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:25p

Just One

(US/Short Narr/2024/12m)

World Premiere

Dir: Yeajoon Cho

Struggling musician Amaru meets mischievous ball of energy Shai while performing a low-end gig at his local community center. When Shai's parents don't pick him up, Amaru becomes tasked with the job of taking him home. The only problem- Shai doesn't remember where he lives.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:25p

FILM SYNOPSES

Kelly*

(US/Webseries/2024/30m)

Dir: Derek Daniel

Kelly is a gorgeous, confident, fiercely independent woman, whose life revolves around her sophisticated urban lifestyle. Kelly's world is vibrant and fulfilling, with no need for uninvited romance. However, when Kelly's path collides with the charismatic horticulturist William, her carefully constructed walls gradually open.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:10a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 9:50p

Last Hoorah at G-Baby's

(US/Short Narr/2024/15m)

World Premiere

Dir: DeeDee Casimir

After her grandmother dies, an aimless and apathetic art school grad blows through her cash inheritance and has five days to come up with five months of back rent - or she risks eviction from her rent-controlled apartment.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 11:10a; Fri, Feb 14 @ 3:45p

Legacy: The De-Colonized History of South Africa

(South Africa/Feature Doc/2024/109m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Tara Moore

An critical exploration into South Africa, featuring the grandson of the "Architect of Apartheid," who takes an honest look into his ancestry, exposing the systemic and psychological remnants of Apartheid today.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 11:05a; Mon, Feb 17 @ 11:10a

Mário

(France, Portugal/Feature Doc/2024/120m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Billy Woodberry

A robust weave of the life of Mário de Andrade, the Pan-African intellectual, activist, diplomat, poet and founder of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). Believing that independence from colonialism marked the beginning, not the end of the struggle, he dedicated his entire life to the cause of building African nations.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 11:35a

Masked For Battle: Mardi Gras Indian Culture Confronts Covid

(US/Short Doc/2024/58m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Mike Yearling

"Masked for Battle: Mardi Gras Indian Culture Confronts Covid" captures the stories of New Orleans Black masking Indians, devastated by the covid-19 pandemic but determined to persevere.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 6:30p

Meal Ticket (I)

(US/Short Narr/2024/13m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Wes Andre Goodrich

Twelve minutes before showtime, a young music manager is forced to decide what to do with life-changing news about his client, a hot-headed hip-hop star on the rise.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:20p

Meal Ticket (II)

(US/Short Narr/2024/10m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Adrian B. Herrera

A tough loving father with hoop dreams for his daughter, is hit with the harsh reality of their environment.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 6:35p; Thu, Feb 13 @ 4:25p

Memories of Love Returned

(Uganda, US/Feature Doc/2024/77m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine

In 2002, while waiting for his car to be repaired in a small Ugandan town, actor/filmmaker Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine stumbled upon a photo studio and met photographer Kibaate Aloysius Ssalongo, whose work spanned from the late 1950s until he died 2006. This chance encounter took Ntare on a life changing journey urging him to create a masterful documentary offering at its focus the transformative power of photography on an entire community. Named one of the Ten Best African Documentaries of 2024.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 6:35p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 7:10p

FILM SYNOPSES

Mildred 4 A Million

(US/Short Narr/2024/21m)

Dir: Kimmie P Callaway

A gregarious 93-year-old who desperately wants to connect with her tablet-obsessed great-granddaughter sets out to get a million followers on TikTok.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 6:30p

Mosaics Symphony

(US/Short Narr/2024/44m)

Dir: JA Williams

Genesis's passion for the violin has been evident from a young age. But now as he enters manhood and wants to establish his own identity, he secretly decides to abandon his interest as well as his instrument causing an impact on his entire family.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 11:00a; Thu, Feb 13 @ 6:55p

Mount Mutombo

(UAE, US/Feature Doc/2024/103m)

World Premiere

Dir: Dina Khreino

An enriching chronicle of the extraordinary life of NBA legend Dikembe Mutombo. Beyond his success in the NBA, this inspirational documentary highlights his far-reaching humanitarian efforts, portraying him as a beacon of hope and change.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 8:55p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 1:05p

Nany

(US/Short Narr/2023/13m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Bervick J. Deculus II

A Sister from the university is invited to stay with her white classmate's family over a holiday. But when she enters their home, she quickly realizes that he and his mother are up to no good. A horror story rooted in the lessons of history.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 1:40p

On Becoming a Guinea Fowl

(Zambia, Ireland, US, UK/Feature Narr/2024/99m)

Dir: Rungano Nyoni

On an empty road in the middle of the night,

Shula stumbles across the body of her uncle. As funeral proceedings begin, she and her cousins bring to light the buried secrets of their middle-class Zambian family. A surreal and vibrant reckoning with the lies we tell ourselves.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 8:40p

Ownership

(US/Short Narr/2024/30m)

Dir: Yvonne Huff Lee

When an invitation to an antiques reality show unearths shameful skeletons between two families --one black, one white -- three generations of women are forced to take painful ownership of their present reality.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 4:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 6:25p

Phels High

(US/Feature Narr/2022/86m)

Dir: Kevin J. Nelson

Loyalty amongst friends is put to the ultimate test when survival becomes a deadly game.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 7:05p

Post Atlantic

(US/Short Doc/2024/29m)

World Premiere

Dir: Alan Snitow & Deborah Kaufman

POST ATLANTIC explores the visionary world of Bay Area painter Dewey Crumpler - his creative process and visual art, and the music, passion and politics of his times.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 1:55p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 4:10p

Run Like We

(UK/Short Narr/2024/13m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Rhys Aaron Lewis

An awkward teenager finds himself caught between the expectations of his classmates and his ex-athlete Jamaican father when he is forced to compete at the school sports day.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 7:10p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 4:00p

San Juan Hill: Manhattan's Lost Neighborhood

(US/Feature Doc/2024/60m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Stanley Nelson

FILM SYNOPSES

Never-before-accessed records, historical footage, and first-person interviews trace the rise and fall of an influential neighborhood whose cultural legacy still resonates today.
Fri, Feb 14 @ 4:30p

Sarah

(Kenya/Feature Narr/2024/82m)

World Premiere

Dir: Nick Reding

Sarah loves her school and wants to be a nurse. But traditional Maasai culture and the pressures of a long drought are about to change her life. A generous dowry offer means her family must decide whether to conduct traditional circumcision (FGM/C) and accept this offer, or miss a rare chance to rebuild their wealth.
Tue, Feb 11 @ 6:30p; Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:00a

Searching for Amani

(Kenya/Feature Doc/2024/80m)

Dir: Nicole Gormley & Debra Aroko

A young aspiring journalist investigates his father's mysterious murder within the boundaries of one of Kenya's largest wildlife conservancies. As a ravaging drought encroaches, his quest to find the killer shifts as the collateral damage of a warming world is revealed.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 4:50p

Sebata: The Beast

(South Africa/Feature Narr/2024/81m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Norman Maake

A mystery drama about what happens when fear gets the better of faith and at the same time questions the point at which one would kill another to save the life of a loved one. A detective on the brink of solving a series of ritual child murders is forced to choose between his faith in the material world and his fear of the uncanny.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 4:10p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 11:15a

Seeds from Kivu

(DRC/Short Doc/2024/29m)

World Premiere

Dir: Néstor López, Carlos Valle

In Kivu (Democratic Republic of Congo), one

of the most violent regions in the world, a group of women arrives at Panzi Hospital after being gang-raped by the guerrillas in the area who control the mineral resources. Their psychological treatment before reintegration confronts them with the dilemma of accepting the babies they have given birth to as a result of the rapes, finding in the question of motherhood a way to resist.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 11:20a; Wed, Feb 12 @ 4:00p

Shepherding

(Ethiopia/Short Doc/2024/47m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Biruk Mola

A peek at thousands of years of traditional shepherd culture among some indigenous people in Ethiopia, where in order to get married, young men must jumb over 28 oxen and available brides are beaten on their backs with dry whips as a symbolic act of thanking the shepherd for protecting and feeding them in the future.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 11:25a

Shepherd's Calling

(Ethiopia, US/Short Doc/2024/22m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Wubetu Shimelash

SHEPHERD'S CALLING follows an Ethiopian shepherd's remarkable journey from the rugged caves of Ethiopia to Hollywood, overcoming obstacles to achieve his dream of becoming a filmmaker in America.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 11:25a

Silent Killer

(US/Short Doc/2024/34m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Kalia Love Jones

An illumination of the shortage of mental health resources for Black men and the devastating and sometimes fatal consequences when police are called to intervene. It is argued that there is an urgent need for systemic change.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 11:20a; Wed, Feb 12 @ 4:00p



PAN AFRICAN
FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

FILM SYNOPSES

Sins of a Father

(US/Short Narr/2024/14m)

Dir: Nuekellar Hardy

Amidst echoes of his past, Bryan embarks on a heartfelt quest to rewrite his future, confronting his father to break the chains of generational trauma and carve out his own legacy of love and growth.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 11:00a; Thu, Feb 13 @ 6:55p

Snake*

(South Africa/Feature Narr/2024/109m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Megan Rickards

When a luminous stranger arrives on the farm, young Stella's father stays sober and her mother begins to laugh again. But the man with the silver cross has not come to save them. As Jerry slithers his way into their hearts, his own dark wounds begin to show. A beautifully realized thriller with a surprise ending.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 9:55p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 9:45p

Sole Sista

(US/Short Narr/2024/6m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Emerie Elise Boone

As the sole Black girl in her high school, Chelsea struggles with feeling embraced by her friend circle and loses control in her search to find acceptance.

Sun, Feb 16 @ 3:50p

Soul of A Sister

(US/Feature /2024/98m)

Dir: Dale Resteghini

A singer with a once bright future falls victim to the music business at a young age. A decade later, despite an addiction and depression she rises up one more time with the help of a special friend and her God given gift of voice.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 9:30p

South Haven

(US/Feature Narr/2024/90m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Mark Harris

A famous actress returns to her small home town of South Haven to help heal the broken marriage of the first and only man she ever loved.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 6:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 6:40p

Stride

(US/Short Narr/2023/12m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Alazar Aklilu

A high school varsity runner must reconsider his professional aspirations when a hereditary medical condition creates complications.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 4:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 6:25p

Sugar Dumplin

(Canada/Short Narr/2024/19m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Tristan Barrocks

Attempts to forge a deeper connection with her estranged father, who is grappling with dementia, a young woman prepares foods that evoke memories of his Jamaican childhood.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:20p

Sukari*

(Kenya/Short Narr/2024/16m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Omar Hamza

A conservative Muslim man's life is turned upside down when his wife demands an orgasm.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:10a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 9:50p

Sweet Santa Barbara Brown

(US/Short Narr/2024/13m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Eric Dyson

Inspired by actual events, four teammates of the Harlem Globbtratters confront the violent consequences of being Black in white America.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:20p

Teofilo: Boxing's Most Revolutionary Champion

(Cuba, Russian Federation, US/Feature Doc/2024/86m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Ethan Higbee

A definitive documentary about Cuban heavy weight boxer Teofilo Stevenson, who many say was the greatest boxer ever. Born in 1952 he was a product of the Cuban revolution. Starting in 1972, he won the Olympic gold medal and dominated amateur heavyweight boxing for 14 straight years, winning 3 successive Olympic gold medals, 3 World Championships

FILM SYNOPSES

and established Cuba as the most successful boxing nation on earth. Refusing to turn pro, he stayed loyal to the revolution and its principles and remained in Cuba where he was the second most popular man on the island behind his friend Fidel Castro. He died in 2012, a hero to his people and an admired world figure. Commentaries from Alberto Guerra, Mike Tyson, Nadia Comaneci and George Foreman.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 11:15a; Fri, Feb 14 @ 1:20p

The (M) Factor: Shredding the Silence of Menopause

(US/Feature Doc/2024/60m)

Dir: Jacoba Atlas

A silent epidemic affects millions of American women, resulting in billions in lost wages, upended careers, family disruptions, and emotional chaos. This frank look at menopause confronts the neglected menopause crisis, challenging societal and medical shortcomings, and advocating for a revolutionary approach to women's health in America.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 2:00p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 4:15p

The Afro Mexpats

(Mexico/Short Doc/2024/17m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Ebony Marie Bailey

The pandemic has fueled a "Blaxit" - Black Americans fed up with US racism and rising housing costs. Leaving the American dream behind, many are seeking refuge in Mexico. Through the stories of three Black women transplants, we get a glimpse into the nuances of the Afro "Mexpat" community.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 11:20a; Wed, Feb 12 @ 4:00p

The Anchorage of Time

(Mozambique/Feature Narr/2023/105m)

World Premiere

Dir: Sol de Carvalho

This beautifully photographed "whodunit" tale finds Detective Izidine called to investigate a murder in a home for the elderly set in a former colonial slave fort on a beautiful but remote island. A cinematic adaptation of Mia Couto's allegorical novel, "Under the Frangipani."

Thu, Feb 13 @ 9:55p; Sat, Feb 15 @ 1:00p

The Bucket Wish

(US/Feature Doc/2024/90m)

World Premiere

Dir: Ericka Nicole Malone

A documentary about changing your mindset, breaking out from your familiar and trying something new and unexpected. Award winning Writer and Producer Ericka Nicole Malone explores and encourages a new journey in self-discovery.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 7:05p

The Cave Synagogue

(Uganda/Short Doc/2024/8m)

World Premiere

Dir: Peter Decherney

Uganda Abayudaya (Jewish) elder J.J. Keki and his sons hike and sing their way to the cave synagogue where Jews prayed secretly during dictator Idi Amin's reign. Keki's father was part of the first generation of Ugandans who converted to Judaism in the 1910/20s and grew to over 8000 members before Idi Amin outlawed it in 1972.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 11:25a

The Devil Ain't Pius

(US/Short Narr/2024/28m)

Dir: Keena Ferguson

It ain't all fun and games for the Montgomery family when the Devil comes to collect on an old debt.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 1:40p



FILM SYNOPSES

The Devil Is Busy

(US/Short Doc/2024/31m)

World Premiere

Dir: Geeta Gandbhir & Christalyn Hampton
As the director of operations and security of an abortion clinic in Atlanta, Tracy doesn't take any chances when it comes to the safety of both patients and staff.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 4:40p; Sat, Feb 15 @ 3:40p

The Dog (Kadzo)*

(Kenya/Feature Narr/2024/107m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Baker Karim

A small-time drug dealer in Mombasa falls for the young escort he has been hired to drive, plunging him into a dangerous spiral of escalating troubles.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 7:15p

The Ebony Canal: A Story of Black Infant Mortality

(US/Short Doc/2024/50m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Emma Alaquiva

Narrated by Viola Davis, *The Ebony Canal* is a documentary that delves into the disparities of infant mortality among Black women, weaving together powerful stories of healing, and the hope of solution-driven practices.

Thu, Feb 13 @ 4:40p; Sat, Feb 15 @ 3:40p

The Evoluton of Adire

(Nigeria/Short Doc/2024/40m)

Dir: Babatunde "Director KAY" Kolawole
"The Evolution of Adire" explores the history, artistry, and global impact of Yoruba textiles, highlighting its cultural significance, evolving methods, and relevance in modern fashion.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 2:00p

The Fisherman

(Ghana/Feature Narr/2024/105m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Zoey Martinson

A traditional Ghanaian fisherman forced into retirement teams up with a bougie talking fish and his quirky associates on a whimsical adventure to Accra, chasing their dream of

owning a boat while learning to navigate the modern world. Filled with laughter, magic, and the vibrant culture of Ghana, this is a delightful tale of family, dreams, and the enduring spirit of a true fisherman.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:15p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 11:05a

The Gift and The Curse

(US/Short Narr/2024/7m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Alexandra Catherine Bonner

A Black teenager has to confront isolation and discrimination when she suddenly receives the ability to hear the thoughts of her white peers.

Sun, Feb 16 @ 3:50p

The Madman (Le Fou)

(Canada/Feature Narr/2024/90m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Akram Adouani

An idealistic hippie, broken by injustice and corruption, decides to take revenge on the 1%.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 4:00p

The Making of a Classic

(US/Short Narr/2023/11m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Stephen Robinson

A tumultuous day on set of one of the most successful Race films of all time: *The Blood of Jesus* by filmmaker Spencer Williams.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 4:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 6:25p

The Man Died

(Nigeria/Feature Narr/2024/105m)

Dir: Awam Amkpa

Based on the harrowing prison memoir by Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, this is a powerful tale of resistance, courage, and the unyielding human spirit. Set against the backdrop of Nigeria's civil war, the film chronicles Soyinka's imprisonment without trial by a brutal military regime determined to silence his voice. Stars Wale Ojo and Sam Dede.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 9:20p; Fri, Feb 14 @ 9:00p

FILM SYNOPSES

The Newlyweds: Blood at the Altar

(US/Short Narr/2024/14m)

Dir: Lucien Christian Adderley,
Richard 'Byrd' Wilson

A couple no one believed in is forced to confront a zombie apocalypse on their wedding day. Using their unbreakable bond, they fight to escape and vindicate their love.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 1:40p

The Order

(US/Short Narr/2024/8m)

Dir: Jonathon Jacobs, Najah Ellessie
Orphans Amari & Aissa are taken in by a secret society known as the Order and trained to become highly skilled ninja assassins. When the head of their organization tasks them with an assignment to take out the violent human trafficker, the story takes a twist when they unearth a dark secret about their matriarch. Things will change forever.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 1:40p

The Other Partners*

(US/Short Narr/2023/9m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Destinee Stewart

Rowyn's unabashed love for self-care is discovered when her boyfriend, Raj, innocently stumbles upon her dildo in a kitchen drawer. What ensues is a comedic battle of the sexes as Raj expresses his discomfort and Rowyn stands up for her rights.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:10a; Sat, Feb 15 @ 9:50p

The Pad Hustle

(US/Short Narr/2024/6m)

Dir: Kyla Holmes

After unexpectedly getting her period during class, a headstrong high-schooler embarks on a side hustle to help her classmates get the menstrual products they desperately need.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 2:00p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 4:15p

The Therapist

(UK/Short Narr/2024/12m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Akwasi Poku

In every neighborhood of every city, there's a safe haven for Black Men.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 11:30a; Mon, Feb 17 @ 1:40p

The Thoughts of Our Ancestors

(Germany, Tanzania/Short Doc/2024/30m)

World Premiere

Dir: Kokutekeleza Musebeni

In this afrofuturistic documentary, Arazay lives in a fictional future in the year 2230, free of wars, hierarchies and scarcity of resources. Earth's last few inhabitants use a machine to download the memories of their ancestors, so they don't completely forget them and all they have gone through.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 1:50p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 11:00a

The Weekend

(Nigeria/Feature Narr/2024/117m)

Dir: Daniel Emeke Oriahi

Orphaned Nikiya yearning for family, insists on visiting her fiancé Luc's estranged family. Nikiya soon uncovers the truth that drove Luc away, realizing that the price to belong may be more than she bargained for. A taunt horror thriller!

Thu, Feb 13 @ 7:10p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 9:10p

Til Death...Do You

(US/Feature Narr/2024/110m)

Dir: Andra Fuller

In an attempt to salvage their crumbling relationships, three couples attend a healing retreat on a remote island. The tranquil setting soon takes a dark and twisted turn as unsettling events unfold.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 6:20p

To End All Spells

(US/Short Narr/2024/16m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Nana Kwabena, Zak Cedarholm

Amidst her village nearing the brink of extinction, an unforgiving desert warrior fights to protect the legacy of Palve, a sacred psychedelic fruit that connects its indigenous to the spiritual realm.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 1:40p



PAN AFRICAN
FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

FILM SYNOPSES

Traveling Mercies

(US/Short Narr/2024/14m)

World Premiere

Dir: Niva Dorell

Two Black high school students have different attitudes about the daily micro-aggressions they experience in an ultra-wealthy neighborhood of Houston, TX. When one of them encounters a shocking outburst at their private prep school, they're both forced to reexamine their viewpoints.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 1:40p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 11:00a

Turn the Mics On

(US/Short Doc/2024/43m)

Dir: Matt Ritvo

To record the jazz album he wants to make, Composer Matt Ritvo hires six veteran jazz musicians from Horace Tapscott's Pan-African Peoples Arkestra, considered some of the best jazz musicians in Los Angeles. A must see for all lovers of jazz.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 10:05p

Ugly Sweater

(US/Feature Narr/2024/80m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Lauren Musgrove

Determined to study astrophysics at an Ivy League college, high school senior Ruby uses an ugly Christmas sweater to overcome her anxiety and navigate the challenges of growing up. A uplifting coming-of-age story.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 1:50p; Sat, Feb 15 @ 1:40p

Uncaged

(US/Short Narr/2024/5m)

Dir: Jay "Jvy" Richardson

A young NIL athlete confronts anxiety, identity, and survivor's guilt in a symbolic therapy session, exposing the hidden costs of success and the mental toll of balancing pressure with opportunity.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 2:00p

Unexpected Ties

(US/Short Narr/2024/28m)

World Premiere

Dir: Grant Housley

A determined young basketball player faces a tough decision as he strives to acquire new playing shoes to impress a college coach.

Sun, Feb 16 @ 3:50p

Unheard

(Uganda/Feature Narr/2023/120m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Joseph Kenneth Ssebaggala

In Uganda's Bakiga culture, fishing is strictly forbidden to women. But after her husband's death, Grace, a young mother, defies tradition to claim his boat, shocking her community and becoming an outcast. But her bold move might just be the hope her village needs.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 11:00a; Sun, Feb 16 @ 9:25p

Viki323

(US/Short Narr/2024/10m)

World Premiere

Dir: Tracy "Twinkie" Byrd

Suffering from writer's block, a filmmaker struggles to meet a deadline. Convinced by her husband to use an AI source, they unearthed more than they bargain for.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 1:40p

Way Back Home

(US/Short Narr/2024/20m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Chad Hamilton

Estranged siblings inherit their grandmother's dilapidated home. The siblings have opposing views on what to do with the house until a surprise offer forces one to make arrangements behind the other's back.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 11:10a; Fri, Feb 14 @ 3:45p

Ways to Fly

(US/Short Narr/2024/15m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Kirby Marshall-Collins

When her barrettes mess up her pirouettes, an excitable, hyper-focused Black girl must power through the distractions — and her mother's expectations — to fly like the ballerinas do.

Wed, Feb 12 @ 1:50p; Sat, Feb 15 @ 1:40p

FILM SYNOPSES

We Got Ours

(US/Short Narr/2024/13m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Alycia Lynette Cooper

In order to ensure that they don't get stiffed again by the same promoter, three comics make a pact to not perform unless they all get paid up front.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 1:20p

Welcome

(Canada/Feature Narr/2023/102m)

U.S. Premiere

Dir: Jevon Boreland

Learning they are about to become parents, a young couple celebrates with a weekend in the country. When they need assistance with the property, the all-too-helpful landlord arrives to fix the problem, deliberately overstaying his welcome.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 7:00p

What's Black About It? Burrell: Advertising Revolution

(US/Feature Doc/2024/60m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Denise Pendleton, Phil Lee & Darryl Manuel

In the aftermath of Chicago's 1960s civil rights riots, as the Black Panthers were starting a revolution in the streets of Chicago, Tom Burrell's pioneering advertising agency was the first to feature Blacks in national network television commercials, ignites a Madison Avenue revolution - Madison Avenue finally Got Soul!!

Wed, Feb 12 @ 4:25p; Sun, Feb 16 @ 6:20p

Who in the Hell is Regina Jones?

(US/Feature Doc/2023/102m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Soraya Selene, Billy Miossi

The extraordinary life of Regina Jones is one not only shaped by history, but also one that made history. From pregnant and married at

15, through the middle of the Watts Rebellion of 1965, to emerging as a groundbreaking newspaper publisher, Regina is a testament to the American experience.

Tue, Feb 11 @ 4:20p

Who is Tommy the Clown

(US/Short Doc/2024/11m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Jalen Christopher

Thomas "Tommy the Clown" has had an undeniable influence on both the streets and dance culture, with his true impact rooted in the powerful movement he's created, inspiring and transforming lives.

Fri, Feb 14 @ 2:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 9:10p

X: The Interview

(US/Short Narr/2023/19m)

Dir: RJ Barnes, Anthony Rose

A canceled superhero facing eviction turns to his side hustle for survival. As he embarks on his journey, he discovers dark powers are conspiring against him...

Tue, Feb 11 @ 4:00p; Mon, Feb 17 @ 6:25p

Young King*

(US/Feature Narr/2024/93m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Bryant T Griffin

As Diondre Howell re-adjusts to civilian life and struggles to cope with the scars of the Iraq war, he increasingly becomes a threat to those he cares about the most - his family.

Mon, Feb 10 @ 1:30p; Fri, Feb 14 @ 9:55p

Zoe's Possession

(US/Short Narr/2024/15m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Terica Lomnick

Zoe and her cousin inherit their grandmother's family home, only to discover restless spirits and unsettling phenomena that force them to confront their family's legacy.

Sat, Feb 15 @ 4:25p

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