

THE 21ST ANNUAL



AMERICAN
BLACK
FILM
FESTIVAL®

THE NATION'S
LARGEST
GATHERING
OF BLACK
FILM AND
TELEVISION
ENTHUSIASTS

JUNE 14-18, 2017 | ABFF.COM

FOUNDING



HOST



“My art falls in the space where beauty meets strength.”

– MAYA FREELON ASANTE, ARTIST



Deftly combining colors, textures and themes to create something more powerful than the sum of its parts – this is artist Maya Freelon Asante’s mission. Cadillac was driven by a similar calling when it created the 2017 Cadillac Escalade. Built on a timeless legacy, the Escalade is the perfect balance of strength and beauty that exceeds your every expectation. This is *The Art of Daring*. DAREGREATLY.COM/ARTOFDARING



Cadillac

DARE GREATLY

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Founder’s Welcome	3
Black Enterprise Welcome	5
HBO® Welcome	7
GMCVB Welcome	9
Event Schedule	10-14
Screening Schedule	16-17

OFFICIAL FILM SELECTIONS

Opening Night Film	19
Closing Night Film	21
Spotlight Screenings	22-30
Narrative Features	32-34
World Showcase	36-40
HBO Short Film Competition	42-43
Documentaries	44
Web Originals	46-47
ABFF Community Day	48

Talent Discovery Programs	50-52
The Business of Entertainment Talk Series	54-55
Master Classes	56
Panels & Special Events	58-60
Careers in Entertainment Center	62-63
Industry Expo	64
ABFF Filmmaker Awards Presentation	66
Festival Venues (Map) & Registration	68-69
ABFF Staff Credits	70-76
Special Thanks to Deco Passholders	78
Entertainment Technology: The Virtual Reality Experience	84

The American Black Film Festival (ABFF)

is an annual event dedicated to showcasing quality film and television content by and about people of African descent. It supports emerging artists to foster a wider range of images, stories and storytellers represented in the entertainment industry. The festival is committed to the belief that Black artists and content creators deserve the same opportunities as their mainstream counterparts. ABFF founder Jeff Friday conceived the festival in 1997 as a vehicle to promote diversity in the motion picture industry, and strengthen the Black filmmaking community through resource sharing, education, artistic collaboration and career development. Today, the ABFF is recognized as the preeminent pipeline to new Black talent, both in front of and behind the camera, and is regarded as one of the leading film festivals in the world.

The ABFF is a property of ABFF Ventures, a multifaceted entertainment company specializing in the production of live events, television and digital content targeted to upscale African American audiences. ABFF Ventures, LLC, is a partnership between Film Life, Inc., and Black Enterprise.

Much has happened since we launched the American Black Film Festival 21 years ago. During those years, African American film professionals have experienced countless highs and lows, marked in turns by daunting barriers to diversity in the industry, as well as breakthroughs by auteurs of color who encourage and inspire us to redouble our commitment to the ABFF mission. We have never wavered from our conviction that, given the opportunity, black talent and creative content could be both universally appealing and commercially viable. This passionate belief, the driving force behind the festival from Day One, is now bearing fruit in the form of a true renaissance of African American talent in film and television.

The past 12 months has been a watershed year for black film creators, actors and other industry pros. Six black actors, including Viola Davis (who won Best Actress for her role in *Fences*) and her co-star and 2017 ABFF Honors recipient Denzel Washington earned Oscar recognition. African Americans also made history with Oscar nominations in other categories including producing, directing, cinematography and documentary. *Moonlight*, featuring supporting actor Oscar nominee Mahershala Ali, earned the award for Best Picture. Shows including *Black-ish*, *Scandal* and *Power* have changed the narrative of small-screen viewing.

This breakthrough year didn't just happen. As we often say in show business: It took two decades to bring about this "overnight" success. Over time, the ABFF has played a critical role in this evolution (or revolution) providing a platform for unique voices to project a range of images, stories, lifestyles and viewpoints. We have continued to demonstrate the undeniable fact that black people in America are not a monolith, but a population with an infinite variety of backgrounds, cultures, experiences and points of view.

What began as an untested format two decades ago with a mere 90 people in Acapulco, Mexico, is today America's largest gathering of black film and television enthusiasts and influencers, bringing together more than 10,000 attendees annually. ABFF is now one of the nation's most powerful networking platforms, enabling legions of filmmakers to expand contacts, deepen relationships and conduct business with one another.

I have always been extremely proud of and thoroughly impressed with the trailblazers and luminaries who have graced our festival. But what has given me the greatest sense of exhilaration has been our discovery of and connection with industry disruptors who employ audacity, resilience and revolutionary ideas.

Today, these brilliant talents are reshaping the industry and our perception of what's possible. I celebrate and salute their achievements and eagerly anticipate the future, as the sowing of talent, nurtured by passion and opportunity, continues to bear amazing fruit.

ABFF will persist as a catalyst for the advancement of black independent filmmaking, and a wellspring of industry-wide excellence for generations to come.



JEFF FRIDAY
Founder & CEO
ABFF Ventures



A CELEBRATION OF THE BEST OF WHO WE ARE

WHAT IS BMX...

BLACK MEN XCEL represents a quantum leap forward for a mission and message born of necessity and driven by excellence.

This inaugural multi-day celebration of enlightenment, empowerment, and excellence will be held at the **PGA NATIONAL RESORT & SPA IN PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUG. 30-SEPT. 2ND, 2017.**

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- How to be a Mogul: Build Your Empire
- Fatherhood: We are the Solution
- Leading and Succeeding in Corporate America
- BE Modern Man Luncheon: Black Men in Hollywood
- Young Men and Sports
- BMX Barbershop Hip-Hop Debate

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Summer Send-off Concert/Party
- Hospitality and Networking Functions
- Comedy Hour
- Relax, Release, Rejuvenate at the Spa
- Paint and Sip
- Mars vs. Venus Challenge
- Golf+Tennis+Entertainment



REGISTER NOW
WWW.BLACKENTERPRISE.COM/BMX

Dear ABFF Attendees,

One of my most valued partnerships, professionally and personally, has been teaming up with Jeff Friday and James Kelly III to form ABFF Ventures. As such, I am so proud of my and Black Enterprise's association with the first-class flagship event of that union: The American Black Film Festival.

The mission of ABFF continues to be transformational, providing a platform for diversity and inclusion within the entertainment industry by enabling African American talent—in front of the camera and behind the scenes—to gain training from seasoned veterans, develop career-building networks, and expose their artistic potential and cinematic vision. Entering its 21st year, ABFF not only celebrates our achievements but serves as a consistent, powerful voice to promote opportunities to share our stories and expand the pipeline for the next generation.

This year's event builds upon that thrust. As the largest event for enthusiasts of African American film and television, it features a range of productions offering diverse images and viewpoints. We have also designed a series of sessions on the business of entertainment to bolster the sustainability, longevity, and impact of independent filmmakers of color and, in turn, ensuring they become an indispensable part of the entertainment mainstream.

So please take this time to view our incredible lineup of films and television programs, connect with Hollywood's best and brightest, and join the conversation. Get ready for a truly unforgettable experience!



EARL G. GRAVES JR.
President & CEO
Black Enterprise

TITLE SPONSOR



PRESENTING SPONSORS



CORPORATE SPONSORS



INSPIRATION. IN FOCUS.

HBO + ABFF



PROUD SPONSOR FOR 20 YEARS



Dear ABFF Guest,

HBO welcomes you to Miami for the 21st American Black Film Festival! As a founding sponsor, HBO has shared ABFF's mission to elevate the world of black film and to introduce and connect talented newcomers to the industry. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our very special 20th anniversary with the festival!

Our partnership with ABFF shows our commitment to elevating unique, defiant, and emerging voices. We encourage you to participate actively through networking opportunities, workshops, panels and competitions. HBO executives from across the company will be present providing expertise, advice, and support.

Among these opportunities is the 20th Annual HBO® Short Film Award competition where we recognize the next generation of diverse artistic and creative talent. From many extraordinary filmmakers competing, five finalists will vie for the Short Film Award and a cash prize of \$10,000. The final round of competition is on June 15, 2017 at the Colony Theatre with a winner chosen during the closing night ceremonies.

The 5th Annual ABFF Comedy Wings Competition Finals will take place on June 16, 2017 at the New World Center. Currently in its 5th consecutive year of HBO sponsorship, this competition discovers and showcases fresh comedic voices.

On June 16 at the Colony Theatre, HBO will also present a powerful spotlight screening of the new groundbreaking documentary series *THE DEFIANT ONES*, which tells the stories of Jimmy Iovine and Dr. Dre – one the son of a Brooklyn longshoreman, the other straight out of Compton – and their improbable partnership and surprising leading roles in a series of transformative events in contemporary culture. In addition, an exclusive screening of the highly anticipated second season of the Golden Globe-nominated series *INSECURE*, starring and created by Issa Rae, will screen on June 17 at the Colony Theatre. Both will be followed by Q&A with special series guests.

We extend our most heartfelt congratulations to our partner Jeff Friday and to his incredible staff for 20 years of commitment and empowerment of the black film and media community.

We look forward to seeing you at the festival!



DENNIS WILLIAMS

SVP, Corporate Social Responsibility
& Corporate Affairs

HBO



**EMBRACE, ENGAGE AND REDISCOVER
MIAMI'S MULTICULTURAL JEWELS**

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau Congratulates
The American Black Film Festival on its 21st Anniversary
June 14 - 18, 2017



MiamiandBeaches.com

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The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is excited to partner once again with the 21st Annual American Black Film Festival (ABFF)!

The American Black Film Festival is highly regarded as the premier film and entertainment conference in the country dedicated to helping elevate persons of color in the industry and is definitely one of Miami's premier events!

The theme for GMCVB's multicultural initiatives is Engage, Embrace and Rediscover Miami's Multicultural Jewels as it is important that all of Miami is showcased to our visitors and convention delegates. We are excited about the festivities on Miami Beach and super excited about the Community Day of activities scheduled at the Little Haiti Cultural Center & Marketplace which will be open to the general community to participate.

Thanks to all of the visitors who decided to attend ABFF in Miami this week!! It is our hope that the hospitality shown while here in the city of Sun, Fun and Culture will exceed your expectations! In addition to the ABFF hashtags of #ABFF2017 #WeAreABFF, please also tag Miami in your social media post by using #FoundinMiami #MulticulturalMiami #MiamiFilmMonth



CONNIE W. KINNARD
VP, Multicultural Tourism & Development
Greater Miami Convention
& Visitors Bureau

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

ELISE NEAL'S BODY BOOTCAMP

Loews Hotel Exhale Spa

Kick start your festival experience with #ABFF alumni and LOGAN actress Elise Neal who's bringing her #EliseBodyBootCamp to Miami *Separate ticket required via Eventbrite.com

11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

REGISTRATION WELCOME CENTER

Loews Hotel

Festival Pass pick-up, information & ticket sales

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

WELCOME TO MIAMI MIXER

courtesy of Peter Lik Miami Lik Galleries

A networking mixer for festival passholders

6:00 PM

SHUTTLE BUS PICK-UP TO OPENING NIGHT FILM

Loews Hotel Driveway

Sobe & Deco passholders only

8:00 PM

OPENING NIGHT REMARKS

presented by Hilton Olympia Theater

8:30 PM

GIRLS TRIP (Opening Night Film)

presented by the Motion Picture

Association of America (MPAA)

Olympia Theater

Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Directed by Malcolm D. Lee

10:30 PM – 3:00 AM

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

River Yacht Club

Presented by Comcast Spotlight

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

7:30 AM – 8:00 PM

REGISTRATION WELCOME CENTER

Loews Hotel Americana 2

Festival Pass pick-up, information & ticket sales

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MASTER CLASS IN ACTING

led by actress Tasha Smith

presented by Prudential

The Gallery @ the Betsy

("Conservatory" Entrance)

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

INDUSTRY EXPO

Loews Hotel Rotunda

Stop by to meet ABFF partners, on-hand to share information about their companies' initiatives and available opportunities.

• **TV One**• **Atlanta Mayor's Office of Film & Entertainment**

(See Industry Expo page for details)

10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

FILM SCREENINGS

Colony Theatre, MB Cinematheque

& Loews Hotel

Features, Shorts, Docs & Web Series Screenings

11:00 AM

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING: STEP

followed by Q & A with the film's stars

courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures

MB Cinematheque

11:00 AM

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING: TALES

followed by Q & A with Irv Gotti

courtesy of BET

Colony Theatre

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

POWER LOUNGE

hosted by Cadillac (Deco passholders only)

Daily refreshments and celebrity

discussion at 3:00 pm

12 NOON

ABFF FIRST LOOK PANEL: "GIRLS TRIP – THE ANATOMY OF A SCENE"

presented by the MPAA in association with

Universal Pictures

New World Center Performance Hall

A discussion about the making of *Girls Trip*

with star Regina Hall, producer Will Packer

and director Malcolm D. Lee

12 NOON – 4:30 PM

AMERICAN AIRLINES PASSHOLDER LOUNGE

New World Center Sun Trust Pavillion

Network with fellow attendees, and meet

the official 2017 ABFF feature filmmakers at

2:00 pm, followed by complimentary Happy Hour!

1:30 PM

SPOTLIGHT ON CLASSIC CINEMA

presented by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture

MB Cinematheque

A presentation of two films by award-winning filmmaker Madeline Madeline Anderson, the first African American woman to executive produce a nationally aired television series.

CAREERS IN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

The Gallery @ the Betsy (Conservatory" Entrance)

ABFF partners with leading media companies, organizations, unions and guilds, to host targeted workshops and tech talks to foster career development

• **1:30 PM****TECHNOLOGY & THE FUTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT**

presented by Aspire

• **3:30 PM****DECODING TECH: THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEAM PROFESSIONALS**

presented by Google

2:45 PM

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING:**WHEN LOVE KILLS: THE FALICIA BLAKELY STORY**

followed by Q & A with director Tasha Smith

courtesy of TV ONE

Colony Theatre

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

INDUSTRY EXPO

Loews Hotel Rotunda

A daily expo where ABFF partners share information about their companies' initiatives and available opportunities

• **Motion Picture Editors Guild**• **UMC-Urban Movie Channel**• **Black Enterprise**

(See Industry Expo page for details)

5:00 PM

THE BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT

with Mona Scott-Young

presented by Verizon

New World Center Performance Hall

Hear from Mona Scott-Young (Executive Producer, *Love & Hip Hop*) and learn how she has driven her career to the heights of success

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

COCKTAILS, CONVERSATION & FINANCIAL FACTS with PRUDENTIAL

The Conservatory @ the Betsy

Join us to discuss how to manage the finances that impact your daily life and your future!

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

LINCOLN ROAD DINE AROUND

Lincoln Road

Enjoy special discounts for ABFF passholders at participating restaurants on Miami Beaches iconic retail strip Lincoln Road.

Visit abff.com or festival app for list of restaurants and discount info.

8:00 PM

20TH ANNUAL HBO SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Colony Theatre

An exciting night, hosted by Bevy Smith, where five short films screen in competition for the HBO Short Film Award and a \$10,000 cash prize

10:30 PM – 3:00 AM

ABFF WHITE PARTY

Nikki Beach

Attire: White, Miami Chic

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

7:30 AM – 5:30 PM

REGISTRATION WELCOME CENTER

Loews Hotel Americana 2

Festival pass pick-up, information & ticket sales

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MASTER CLASS IN PACKAGING YOUR TV SHOW IDEA

led by Karen Horne, NBC Entertainment & Universal Television

presented by **Prudential**The Gallery @ the Betsy
("Conservatory" Entrance)10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
INDUSTRY EXPO

Loews Hotel Rotunda

Stop by to meet ABFF partners, on-hand to share information about their companies' initiatives and available opportunities.

- Turner
- Jaro Media Services

(See Industry Expo page for details)

10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

FILM SCREENINGS

Colony Theatre, MB Cinematheque, & Loews Hotel

Features, Shorts, Docs & Web Series Screenings

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

ABFF STYLE LOUNGE

presented by **SheaMoisture**

Loews Hotel Cowrie 2

Stop by for pampering, touch-ups and grooming before your next event

11:00 AM

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING: SNOWFALL

followed by Q & A with John Singleton

courtesy of **FX**

Colony Theatre

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

POWER LOUNGE

hosted by **Cadillac** (Deco passholders only)Daily refreshments and discussion with actors Jessie T. Usher and Erica Ash from *Survivor's Remorse* at 3:00 pm

12 NOON

CELEBRITY SCENE STEALERS

presented by **TV ONE**

New World Center

A dynamic event where Boris Kodjoe, Nicole Ari Parker, Lil Mama, Lance Gross, Tami Roman and Lisa Wu perform scenes from TV One's annual screenplay competition, where one talented writer wins the opportunity to have their movie made by TV One

12 NOON – 4:30 PM

AMERICAN AIRLINES PASSHOLDER LOUNGE

New World Center Sun Trust Pavillion

Network with fellow attendees, and meet the official 2017 ABFF documentary filmmakers at 2:00 pm, followed by complimentary Happy Hour!

1:45 PM

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING: LA 92

followed by Q & A with producer Jonathan Chinn and ABFF Founder Jeff Friday

courtesy of **Lightbox & National Geographic**

MB Cinematheque

CAREERS IN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

The Gallery @ the Betsy
("Conservatory" Entrance)

ABFF partners with leading media companies, organizations, unions and guilds, to host targeted workshops and tech talks to foster career development

- 2:00 PM

Turner presents...

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

followed by

TALENT RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT AT CNN

3:00 PM

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING: DOWNSIZED

(World Premiere)

followed by Q & A with cast members

Boris Kodjoe and Nicole Ari Parker

courtesy of **TV ONE**

Colony Theatre

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

INDUSTRY EXPO

Loews Hotel Rotunda

A daily expo where ABFF partners share information about their companies' initiatives and available opportunities

- HBO
- Comcast NBCUniversal

(See Industry Expo page for details)

5:00 PM

THE BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT WITH TERENCE HOWARD

presented by **Verizon**

New World Center

Learn things about this multi-talented artist (*Empire*, *Ray*, *Hustle & Flow*) that you never knew, as he provides insight into his journey and the business

6:00 PM

HBO presents...

THE DEFIANT ONES

followed by Q & A with Lucinda Martinez, SVP, Multicultural & International Marketing, HBO Colony Theatre

The first of a four-part documentary series that tells the true story of the unlikely and wildly successful partnership of Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine. Premieres July 9 on HBO.

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

COCKTAILS, CONVERSATION & FINANCIAL FACTS WITH PRUDENTIAL

The Conservatory @ the Betsy

Join us to discuss how to manage the finances that impact your daily life and your future!

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

LINCOLN ROAD DINE AROUND

Lincoln Road

Enjoy special discounts for ABFF passholders at participating restaurants on Miami Beaches iconic retail strip Lincoln Road. Visit abff.com or festival app for list of restaurants and discount info.

8:45 PM

HBO SHORT FILMS — ENCORE SCREENING

Colony Theatre

9:00 PM

ABFF COMEDY WINGS COMPETITION

presented by **HBO**

New World Center

A hilarious night of comedy hosted by Yvonne Orji (*Insecure*). Five of the funniest new comics battle it out to take home the 2017 Comedy Wings "Winner" title.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

7:30 AM – 5:30 PM

REGISTRATION WELCOME CENTER

Loews Hotel Americana 2

Passholder pick-up, information and ticket sales

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MASTER CLASS IN PRODUCING

presented by **Prudential**led by Stephanie Allain (*Dear White People*, *Beyond the Lights*, *Hustle & Flow*, *Muppets from Space*)The Gallery @ the Betsy
("Conservatory" Entrance)

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

ABFF STYLE LOUNGE

presented by **SheaMoisture**

Loews Hotel Cowrie 2

Stop by for pampering, touch-ups and grooming before your next event

10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

FILM SCREENINGS

Colony Theatre, MB Cinematheque, & Loews Hotel Features, Shorts, Docs & Web Series Screenings

10:30 AM

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING:

BIGGIE: THE LIFE OF NOTORIOUS B.I.G.

followed by Q & A with Faith Evans

courtesy of **A+E Networks**

Colony Theatre

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

POWER LOUNGE

hosted by **Cadillac** (Deco passholders only)

Daily refreshments and celebrity discussion at 3:00 pm

11:30 AM

THE VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

MB Cinematheque

A 75-min curated presentation of immersive VR/360 films followed by a talkback with filmmakers and VR experts on the convergence of technology, media and entertainment. The event will be produced in association with award winning alum Alton Glass (Glassrock Entertainment).

12 NOON

PANEL DISCUSSION "THE NEW FACES OF TV"

Moderated by Dondre Whitfield

presented by **American Airlines**

New World Center Performance Hall

Meet the stars of some of TV's most successful shows featuring Dawn Lyen-Gardner (*Queen Sugar*), Merle Dandridge (*Greenleaf*), DeWanda Wise (*She's Got a Hate It*), Jessie T. Usher (*Survivor's Remorse*) and more

12 NOON – 4:30 PM**AMERICAN AIRLINES PASSHOLDER LOUNGE**

New World Center Sun Trust Pavillion
Network with fellow attendees and meet the official 2017 ABFF web creators, short and emerging filmmakers at 2:00 pm, followed by complimentary Happy Hour!

CAREERS IN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**The Gallery @ the Betsy (Conservatory) Entrance**

ABFF partners with leading media companies, organizations, unions and guilds to host informational workshops and tech talks to foster career development and educate festivalgoers within the entertainment industry

• 1:30 PM**PRODUCING NETWORK SPECIALS & ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING**

featuring Jesse Collins, Founder & CEO, Jesse Collins Entertainment presented by **BET**

• 3:30 PM**COMPOSING MUSIC FOR FILM & TV WORKSHOP**

presented by **ASCAP**

2:30 PM**SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN CINEMA**

Sponsored by **Facebook** in association with **Daughters of Eve Media** MB Cinematheque

Meet filmmaker Tracy Heather Strain and learn about her latest project on Lorraine Hansberry

2:30 PM**SPOTLIGHT SCREENING: CLAWS**

followed by a Q & A with Karrueche Tran, Judy Reyes, and Janine Sherman-Barrois courtesy of **Turner** Colony Theatre

4:00 PM**THE BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT with JOHN SINGLETON**

presented by **Verizon** New World Center
John Singleton discusses Hollywood and his upcoming project *Snowfall*

5:30 PM**SPOTLIGHT SCREENING: QUEEN SUGAR**

(Season 2 Premiere)
followed by a Q & A with cast members Dawn Lyen-Gardner, Kofi Siriboe, Rutina Wesley, Omar Dorsey, Tina Lifford and Dondre Whitfield courtesy of **OWN** Colony Theatre

6:30PM – 8:30 PM**LINCOLN ROAD DINE AROUND**

Lincoln Road
Enjoy special discounts for ABFF passholders at participating restaurants on Miami Beaches iconic retail strip Lincoln Road. Visit abff.com or festival app for list of restaurants and discount info.

8:00 PM**SPOTLIGHT SCREENING: INSECURE**

(Season 2 Premiere)
followed by a Q & A with Issa Rae and Yvonne Orji courtesy of **HBO** Colony Theatre

9:15 PM**ALL EYEZ ON ME (Closing Night Film)**

Courtesy of **Lionsgate**, **Codeblack Films** and **Morgan Creek Productions** Regal Cinemas

11:00 PM – 3:00 AM**CLOSING NIGHT PARTY**

The Paris Theater

SUNDAY, JUNE 18**10:00 AM – 11:30 AM****ABFF FILMMAKER AWARDS PRESENTATION**

hosted by **Chris Spencer** New World Center
The final moment to celebrate the 2017 filmmakers: the highly anticipated film and talent competition winners are announced, within a relaxed and celebratory setting.

3:00 PM – 10:00 PM**ABFF COMMUNITY DAY**

Little Haiti Cultural Complex
ABFF, in partnership with Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau presents a selection of dynamic films including *Downsized*, *Step* and youth films *Prodigal Son*, *Full Circle*, *Rumors* & *Regrets*, all for the local community to enjoy!

American Airlines 

As nonstop as you are.

As the world's largest airline, we're taking you to the destinations that matter most. And with our **oneworld**® partners, that's more than 1,000 cities across the globe. So, where's your next stop?



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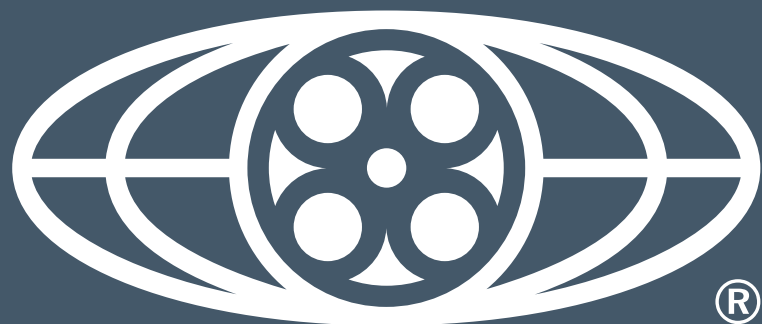


LOEWS HOTEL			COLONY THEATRE			MB CINEMATHEQUE			COMMUNITY SCREENINGS LITTLE HAITI
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WORLD SHOWCASE SECTION 1 10:00 am 87 min	TELL THEM WE ARE RISING 10:00 am 95 min	WEB ORIGINALS 10:00 am 65 min							
			TALES 11:00 am 90 min	SNOWFALL 11:00 am 90 min	BIGGIE: THE NOTORIOUS LIFE OF B.I.G. 10:30 am 126 min	STEP 11:00 am 83 min		VR EXPERIENCE 11:30 am 90 min	
A HUNDRED BLOCKS 1:15 pm 86 min	MILWAUKEE 53206 1:00 pm 54 min	A HUNDRED BLOCKS 1:00 pm 86 min				SPOTLIGHT ON CLASSIC CINEMA 1:30 pm 90 min			
							LA 92 1:45 pm 114 min		
	BEHIND THE CURTAIN: ECLIPSED 3:20 pm 74 min		WHEN LOVE KILLS: THE FALICIA BLAKELY STORY 2:45 pm 84 min	DOWNSIZE 3:00 pm 84 min	CLAWS 2:30 pm 60 min			WOMEN IN CINEMA 2:30 pm 90 min	FLORIDA FILM HOUSE STUDENT SHOWCASE 3:00 pm 27 min
WORLD SHOWCASE SECTION 2 4:00 pm 74 min		BRUCE!!! 4:00 pm 102 min				CREATED EQUAL 4:00 pm 91 min			
							90 DAYS 5:00 pm 20 min	NOEM MY SKOLLIE: CALL ME THIEF 5:15 pm 94 min	DOWNSIZE 5:00 pm 84 min
	AMBITION'S DEBT 6:00 pm 100 min			THE DEFIANT ONES 6:00 pm 60 min	QUEEN SUGAR 5:30 pm 60 min				
EXECUTOR 6:45 pm 96 min		AMBITION'S DEBT 7:00 pm 100 min					GOOK 7:00 pm 94 min		
			HBO SHORT FILM COMPETITION 8:00 pm 84 min	HBO SHORT FILM COMPETITION 8:45 pm 84 min	INSECURE 8:00 pm 30 min			LOVE BY CHANCE 8:15 pm 106 min	STEP 8:00 pm 83 min
	MR. CHIBBS 8:45 pm 86 min								
BRUCE!!! 9:40 pm 102 min		EXECUTOR 10:00 pm 96 min							

10:00 AM
11:00 AM
12:00 PM
1:00 PM
2:00 PM
3:00 PM
4:00 PM
5:00 PM
6:00 PM
7:00 PM
8:00 PM
9:00 PM
10:00 PM
11:00 PM

OPENING NIGHT FILM: **GIRLS TRIP** WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14 | 8:00 pm | 122 min OLYMPIA THEATER

CLOSING NIGHT FILM: **ALL EYEZ ON ME** SATURDAY, JUNE 17 | 9:15 PM | 137 MIN REGAL CINEMAS



MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.



We are the voice of one of the country's strongest and most vibrant industries—the American motion picture, home video and television industry. We aspire to advance the business and the art of filmmaking and celebrate its enjoyment around the world. Our members include: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios L.L.C.; and Warner Brothers Entertainment Inc.

Senator Christopher J. Dodd
Chairman & CEO

John C. Gibson
Advisor for Inclusion and Multicultural Outreach
ABFF Advisor Board Member



**WORLD
PREMIERE**

GIRLS TRIP

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 PM

122 min.

OLYMPIA THEATER

Presented by Motion Picture
Association of America
Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Director/Producer:

Malcolm D. Lee

Writers:

Kenya Barris, Tracy Oliver,
Erica Rivinoia

Producers:

Will Packer, James Lopez,
Preston Holmes

Cast:

Regina Hall, Tiffany Haddish,
Jada Pinkett Smith, Queen Latifah,
Larenz Tate, Kate Walsh,
Mike Colter and Kofi Siriboe

When four lifelong friends — Regina Hall (*Think Like a Man*, *The Best Man Holiday*), Tiffany Haddish (*Keanu*, *A Christmas Wedding*), with Jada Pinkett Smith (*Gotham*, *Bad Moms*) and Queen Latifah (*Star*, *Bessie*) — travel to New Orleans for the annual Essence Festival, sisterhoods are rekindled, wild sides are rediscovered, and there's enough dancing, drinking, brawling and romancing to make the Big Easy blush.

He might play in the stadium or he might engineer it.

We need more kids to see the world of possibilities waiting for them. That's why Verizon is giving free tech, free access and hands-on learning to students in need. Join us at weneedmore.com.

And today, join us as we salute the innovation and excellence in the African-American film and television community.

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weneedmore.com



ALL EYEZ ON ME

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

9:15 PM

RT: 137 min.

REGAL CINEMAS

Courtesy of Lionsgate,
Codeblack Films and
Morgan Creek Productions

Director/Producer:

Benny Boom

Writers:

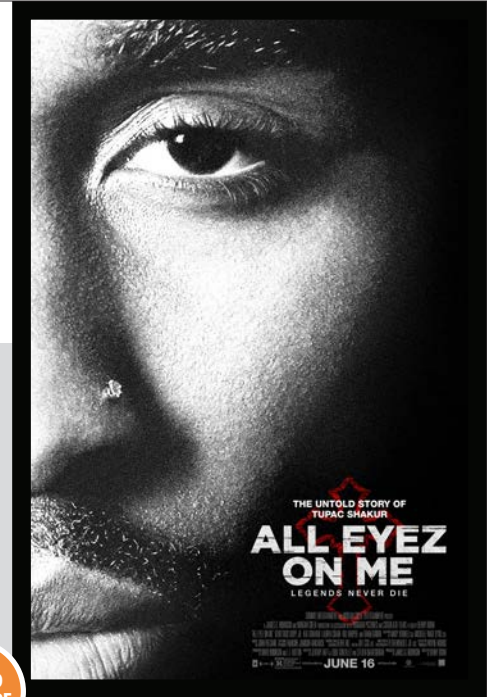
Jeremy Haft, Eddie Gonzalez,
Steven Bagatourian

Producers:

LT Hutton, David Robinson,
James G. Robinson

Cast:

Kat Graham, Lauren Cohan,
Hill Harper, Jamal Woolard, Danai
Gurira, Jamie Hector, Cory Hardrict,
Demetrius Shipp, Jr.



WORLD
PREMIERE

All Eyez On Me tells the true and untold story of prolific rapper, actor, poet and activist Tupac Shakur. The film follows Shakur from his early days in New York City to his evolution into being one of the world's most recognized and influential voices, before his untimely death at the age of 25. Against all odds, Shakur's raw talent, powerful lyrics and revolutionary mindset propelled him into becoming a cultural icon whose legacy continues to grow long after his passing.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

The following screenings are brought to you courtesy of ABFF sponsors and partners. Spotlight screenings are each followed by a Q & A with leading filmmakers, show runners and cast members. See schedule for details.



THURSDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 11:00 AM

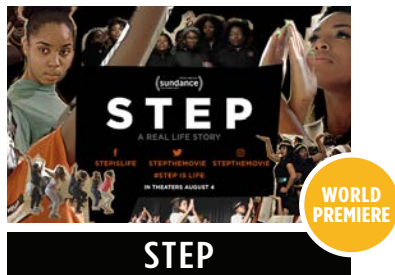
Courtesy of **BET**

90 Min. | **Directors:** Jessy Terrero, Benny Boom, Irv Gotti, Erik White
Writer: Joy Kecken

Executive Producer: Irv "Gotti" Lorenzo
CoProducer: Ron Robinson

Cast: Boris Kodjoe, Clifton Powell, Woody McClain, Jennifer Freeman, Keith Powers, Lance Gross

A one-hour anthology series that distills classic hip-hop records down to their thematic essence and builds inspired cautionary tales for each hit song.



THURSDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 11:00 AM

SUNDAY | COMMUNITY DAY | 8:00 PM

Courtesy of **Fox Searchlight**

83 Min. | **Director:** Amanda Lipitz
Producers: Steven Cantor, Amanda Lipitz
Cast: Blessin Giraldo, Cori Grainger, Tayla Solomon, Gari McIntyre, Paula Dofat

STEP is the true-life story of a girls' high-school step dance team against the background of the heart of Baltimore. These young women learn to laugh, love and thrive – on and off the stage – even when the world seems to work against them. Empowered by their teachers, teammates, counselors, coaches and families, they chase their ultimate dreams: to win a step championship and to be accepted into college.



THURSDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 1:30 PM

Courtesy of the **Smithsonian**

National Museum of African American History and Culture

90 Min. | **Director:** Madeline Anderson

Producer: Madeline Anderson

Films: *Integration Report 1* and *I Am Somebody*

Two films by pioneer filmmaker Madeline Anderson presented by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture followed by Madeline Anderson in conversation with Rhea L. Combs, Ph.D., Curator of Photography & Film and Head of the Earl W. and Amanda Stafford Center for African American Media Arts (CAAMA).

YES TO BET★

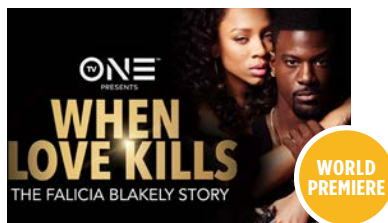
YES TO **BET AWARDS 2017**

YES TO **TALES**

YES TO **BEING MARY JANE**

YES TO **BLACK GIRLS ROCK!**

**BET NETWORKS IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL**



WHEN LOVE KILLS: THE FALICIA BLAKELY STORY

THURSDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 2:45 PM

Courtesy of **TV One**

84 Min. | **Director:** Tasha Smith

Writer: Cas Sigers

Producers: Eric Tomosunas,
James Seppelfrick, Cas Sigers Beedles

Cast: Lance Gross, Lil Mama, Tami Roman

Becoming an exotic dancer seemed like a harmless way for Falicia to make and save money, but it doesn't take long for her to get swept up in the glamour of quick cash. However, after meeting Dino, everything in her life changes. He is the only man who ever said "I love you," to her, and for this she would do whatever he asks. Falicia becomes Dino's puppet, and it was kill or be killed.



SNOWFALL

FRIDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 11:00 AM

Courtesy of **FX**

90 Min. | **Directors:** Adil El Arbi
& Bilal Fallah

Writers: John Singleton,
Dave Andron, Eric Amadio

Executive Producers: John Singleton,
Dave Andron, Thomas Schlamme, Eric
Amadio, Michael London, Trevor Engelson
Cast: Damson Idris, Carter Hudson, Sergio
Peris Mencheta, Emily Rios, Juan Javier
Cardenas, Michael Hyatt, Amin Joseph,
Angela Lewis, Alon Aboutboul, Malcolm
Mays, Isaiah John, Filipe Valle Costa

Snowfall is a one-hour drama set against the infancy of the crack cocaine epidemic and its ultimate radical impact on the culture as we know it.



FRIDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 1:45 PM

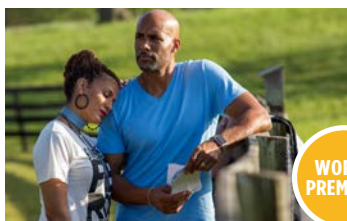
Courtesy of **Lightbox & National Geographic**

114 Min. | **Directors:** Dan Lindsay & TJ Martin

Producers: Jonathan Chinn, Simon Chinn
& Sarah Gibson

Twenty-five years after the verdict in the Rodney King trial sparked several days of protests, violence and looting in Los Angeles, *LA 92*, a new feature documentary from National Geographic Documentary Films, immerses viewers in that tumultuous period through stunning and rarely seen archival footage. Produced by two-time Oscar winner Simon Chinn (*Man on Wire*) and Emmy winner Jonathan Chinn (*American High*) and directed by Oscar winners Dan Lindsay and TJ Martin (*Undefeated*), the film looks at the events of 1992 from a multitude of vantage points, bringing a fresh perspective to a pivotal moment that reverberates to this day.





WORLD PREMIERE

DOWNSIZED

FRIDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 3:00 PM
 SUNDAY | COMMUNITY DAY | 5:00 PM
 Courtesy of **TV One**
84 Min. | **Director:** Rhonda Baraka
Writer: Michelle McKissic
Producers: Eric Tomosunas,
 James Seppelrick
Cast: Boris Kodjoe, Nicole Ari Parker

Michael and Ebony Nelson's middle-American suburban lifestyle is disrupted when they become teenage parents. Forced into a modern-day "shotgun" wedding, they must put their personal goals on hold in order to do what is best for their new family. Amazingly, the two high school sweethearts manage to overcome the odds, and even establish an ideal life. However, life isn't as perfect as it seems. The success that initially was meant to strengthen their family becomes the very thing that drives them apart. As a result, Michael desperately tries to hold onto everything he's worked for his entire life. This leads the family on an unconventional adventure to restore their faith, hope, and trust.



90 DAYS

FRIDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 5:00 PM
 Courtesy of **AIDS Healthcare Foundation**
20 Min. | **Directors:** Nathan Hale Williams
 & Jennia Fredrique Aponte
Writer: Nathan Hale Williams
Producer: Sol Aponte
Cast: Teyonah Parris, Nic Few, Pauletta
 Washington, Rodney Chester, Emmett Short

Jessica (Teyonah Parris) & her would-be fiancé, (Taylor) have been dating for ninety days when one of them reveals he or she is HIV positive and the couple must contemplate the realities surround living and loving with HIV.



WORLD PREMIERE

THE DEFIANT ONES

FRIDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 6:00 PM
 Courtesy of **HBO**
60 Min. | **Director:** Allen Hughes
Writer: Allen Hughes
Producers: Allen Hughes, Doug Pray,
 Andrew Kosove, Broderick Johnson, Laura Lancaster,
 Jerry Longarzo, Michael Lombardo and
 Gene Kirkwood
Subjects: Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine
The Defiant Ones is the true story of the unlikely and wildly successful partnership of Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine. Premieres July 9th on HBO.

AHF AIDS HEALTHCARE
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90 DAYS

A FILM BY NATHAN HALE WILLIAMS
 & JENNIA FREDRIQUE APONTE



IS LOVE GREATER THAN OUR SECRETS?

STARRING: TEYONAH PARRIS, NIC FEW, PAULETTA WASHINGTON
 PRODUCER: SOL APONTE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JUSSIE SMOLLETT, NHW & RICHARD E. PELZER, II

90DAYSTHEFILM.COM

FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH | 5PM | MB CINEMATHEQUE



MR. CHIBBS

FRIDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 8:45 PM
 Courtesy of the **Miami International Film Festival**
86 Min. | **Director:** Jill Campbell
Writer: Jill Campbell
Executive Producer: Barry Greenstein
Producers: Jill Campbell, Barry Greenstein, Gregory Gerhard
Cast: Kenny Anderson

Reeling from his mother's death and a subsequent DUI, NYC basketball prodigy and retired NBA All-Star Kenny Anderson looks to discover himself in the midst of a mid-life crisis. Anderson traces past footsteps to confront haunting memories and find solace in becoming the father he never had time to be. Combining unseen footage with raw moments of reflection, *Mr. Chibbs* explores what happens when the talent fades and a sports legend searches for a meaningful future. Directed by Jill Campbell.



BIGGIE: THE NOTORIOUS LIFE OF B.I.G.

SATURDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 10:30 AM
 Courtesy of **A&E**
126 Min. | **Director:** Mark Ford
Producers: Mark Ford, Kevin Lopez, John Moryaniss, Tara Long, Voletta Wallace, Faith Evans, Elaine Frontain Bryant, Shelly Tatro, Brad Abramson
Cast: Christopher Wallace, Faith Evans, Voletta Wallace, Lil Cease, Junior Mafia, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Shawn "Jay Z" Carter and Nas

Biggie: The Life of Notorious B.I.G. premiering Wednesday, June 28 at 9PM ET/PT on A&E is the first biography to be authorized by his estate and will allow the late Christopher Wallace to narrate his own life story through exclusive archival footage and audio recordings and new interviews by those who loved him most.



CLAWS

SATURDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 2:30 PM
 Courtesy of **Turner**
60 Min. | **Director:** Howard Deutch
Writer: Eliot Laurence
Executive Producers: Janine Sherman Barrois, Will McCormack, Rashida Jones
Cast: Niecy Nash, Karrueche Tran, Judy Reyes

Claws is a midnight-dark, wickedly funny meditation on female badness set in a South Florida nail salon. It follows the rise of five diverse and treacherous manicurists working at the Nail Artisan of Manatee County salon, where there is a lot more going on than silk wraps and pedicures. *Claws* is about good women caught in bad places with worse men. It's the story of hardworking women trying to get by in this economy, set against the surreal, bright, gritty landscape of Florida and the luscious, absurd, extreme excesses of the crime world.



Diversity fuels our stories.

Turner





WOMEN IN CINEMA

SATURDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 2:30 PM

Presented by **Facebook**,
in association with
Daughters of Eve Media
Director: Tracy Heather Strain

This year we shine a light on award-winning filmmaker Tracy Heather Strain and her journey as a feature documentarian over the past 28 years. Strain will share her career path and a look into her latest documentary, *Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart* – the first feature biography documentary about Lorraine Hansberry, the artist and activist best known for writing *A Raisin in the Sun* – which debuts on PBS as a part of the Emmy-winning American Masters series in 2018.



WORLD
PREMIERE

QUEEN SUGAR

SATURDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 5:30 PM

Courtesy of **OWN**

60 Min. | **Director:** Kat Candler
Writer: Monica Macer

Executive Producers: Ava DuVernay,
Oprah Winfrey, Monica Macer

Cast: Dawn Lyen-Gardner, Kofi Siriboe,
Rutina Wesley, Tina Lifford, Omar Dorsey,
Dondre Whitfield

Charley and Davis remain entangled, Ralph Angel tries to find his footing on the family farm, and Aunt Violet confronts her feelings for Hollywood. Plus, Micah has a dangerous encounter with a police officer and Nova deals with the loss of her relationship with Calvin and later holds a community fundraiser.



WORLD
PREMIERE

INSECURE

SATURDAY | COLONY THEATRE | 8:00 PM

Courtesy of **HBO**

30 Min. | **Director:** Melina Matsoukas
Writer: Issa Rae

Producers: Issa Rae, Larry Wilmore, Prentice Penny,
Dave Becky, Michael Rentenberg, Jonathan Berry,
Melina Matsoukas

Cast: Issa Rae, Jay Ellis, Yvonne Orji

Insecure returns this season with Issa, Molly and Lawrence trying to come to terms with the reality of being in their 30s. Premieres July 23rd on HBO.

TELEVISION SHOW OF THE YEAR

AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL HONORS



FROM ACADEMY AWARD®-NOMINATED VISIONARY FILMMAKER **AVA DuVERNAY**

QUEEN SUGAR

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **OPRAH WINFREY**

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JUNE 20 & 21 10|9c OWN

The American Black Film Festival continues to provide a platform for aspiring creatives in film. The competitors in this category will compete for the **Grand Jury Awards for Best Director**, sponsored by Cadillac (Prize: \$25,000) and **Best Narrative Feature**, sponsored by Prudential Financial (Prize: \$5,000)



A HUNDRED BLOCKS

THURSDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 1:15 PM
SATURDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 1:00 PM
86 Min. | Director: Diaunte Thompson
Writer: Arthur Walls
Exec Producer: Marshawn Lynch
Producers: Arthur Walls, Michael Revolvalcke, Diaunte Thompson, Arthur Walls, Lathan Hodge
Cast: David A. Green, Robert D. Jordan, JaMaurae Birden, Tina Gilton

Jaleel finally has enough cash saved up to leave Oakland and avoid the violent fate of his father, along with so many of his peers. When a friend promises to triple those savings, Jaleel goes against his better judgment and says yes. The added money will let Jaleel realize his goal of opening a gym in the new town—a dream inspired by his father.

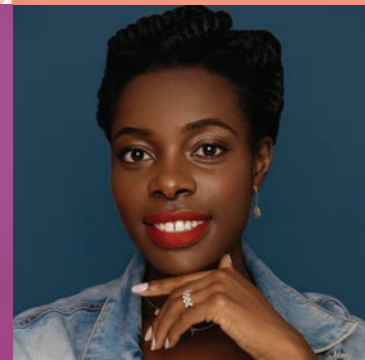


WORLD PREMIERE

EXECUTOR

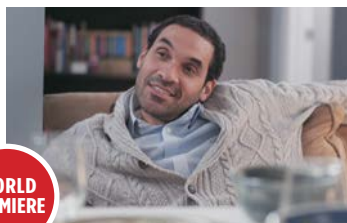
THURSDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 6:45 PM
SATURDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 10:00 PM
96 Min. | Director: Moziko Wind
Writer: Michael Marcelin
 (screenplay adapted by Moziko Wind)
Producer: Markiss McFadden
Cast: Markiss McFadden, Paul Sorvino, Mischa Barton, Robert Miano,

Ruthless assassin Kyle (Markiss McFadden) was raised by corrupt priest (Paul Sorvino) who trained him to murder under the guise of executing God's justice.



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WORLD PREMIERE

BRUCE!!!

THURSDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 9:40 PM
SATURDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 4:00 PM
102 Min. | Director: Eden Marryshow
Writers: Eden Marryshow, Jesse Marryshow
Exec Producers: Gene Pope, Sasha Lewis, Eden Marryshow
Producers: Sasha Lewis, Cesa Pledger, Eden Marryshow
Cast: Eden Marryshow, Jason Tottenham, Mìe Chester, Cesa Pledger

Bruce is an asshole. He's shitty to everyone, until he falls hopelessly in love and is forced to grow the fuck up...in his thirties.



WORLD PREMIERE

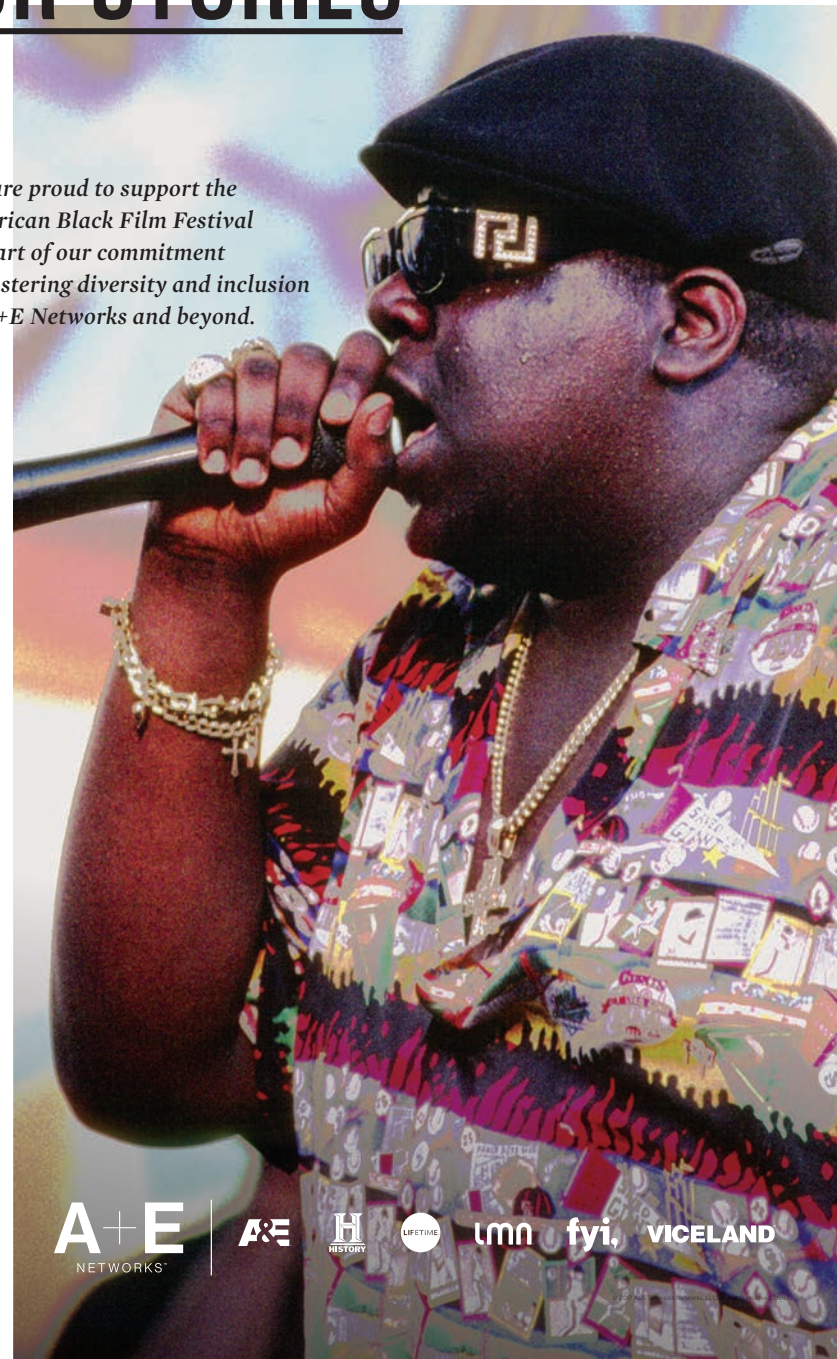
AMBITION'S DEBT

FRIDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 6:00 PM
SATURDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 7:00 PM
100 Min. | Director: Devin E. Haqq
Writer: William Shakespeare (adapted by Devin E. Haqq)
Producers: Josh Wick, Devin E. Haqq, Brandt Adams, George Lyon, Tony Grocki
Cast: Nathan Darrow, Peter McRobbie, Kathleen Chalfant, Billy Eugene Jones, Carra Patterson, Pernell Walker

Set against the backdrop of a post-apocalyptic world, the story follows the downfall of Rome's most honored citizen, Marcus Brutus, as he conspires to assassinate Julius Caesar.

DIVERSITY FUELS OUR STORIES

We are proud to support the American Black Film Festival as part of our commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion at A+E Networks and beyond.





WORLD PREMIERE

CREATED EQUAL

THURSDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 4:00 PM
91 Min. | Director: Bill Duke
Writers: Ned Bowman, Michael Ricigliano Jr., Joyce Renee Lewis
Producer: Thada Catalan
Cast: Aaron Tveit, Edy Ganem, Lou Diamond Phillips, Gregory Alan Williams, Yohance Myles

Desperate to become a priest, a woman files suit against the Archdiocese of New Orleans for sex discrimination without justifiable cause.



GOOK

FRIDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 7:00 PM
94 Min. | Writer & Director: Justin Chon
Producer: James Yi, Alex Chi
Cast: Simone Baker, Justin Chon, David So, Curtiss Cook Jr., Omono Okojie, Sang Chon, Ben Munoz, Cesar Garcia, Isaiah Jarel, Kirlew Vilbon

Eli (Chon) and Daniel (So) are two Korean American brothers that run their late father's shoe store in a predominantly African American community of Los Angeles. These two brothers strike up a unique and unlikely friendship with an 11-year-old African American girl, Kamilla (Baker). As Daniel dreams of becoming a recording artist and Eli struggles to keep the store afloat, racial tensions build to a breaking point in L.A. as the "infamous" L.A. riots of 1992 break out.



NOEM MY SKOLLIE: CALL ME THIEF

SATURDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 5:15 PM
94 Min. | Director: Daryne Joshua
Writer: John W. Fredericks
Exec Producers: David Max Brown, Moshidi Motshagwa, Jan du Plessis
Producers: David Max Brown, Moshidi Motshagwa
Cast: Dann-Jaques Mouton, Gantane Kusch, Christian Bennett, Gershwin Mias, Austin Rose

The true story of a young "so-called coloured" man in 1960's Cape Town who barter's his status with the prison gangs by becoming a storyteller, but soon after his release is arraigned for a murder he did not commit and faces the hangman's noose. The film is based on the life story of the scriptwriter, John W. Fredericks.



U.S. PREMIERE

LOVE BY CHANCE

SATURDAY | MB CINEMATHEQUE | 8:15 PM
106 Min. | Director: Samad Davis
Writers: Dani Renee, Samad Davis
Producers: Samad Davis, Ty Johnston, Dumi Gumbi, Cati Weinek
Cast: Altovise Lawrence, Atandwa Kani, Terri J. Vaughn, Clifton Powell, E. Roger Mitchell, Lil Zane, Carl Anthony Payne II, Desi Banks

Two aspiring actors from South Africa who are independently in America trying to crack into an extremely difficult and oversaturated Hollywood industry, meet by chance. Between the everyday struggle of auditioning, dealing with daily rejection, self-doubt, financial hardship, crazy friends and a crazy dating scene, who has time for Love?

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ABFF INFORMATION
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THURSDAY, JUNE 15 | 10:00 AM

LOEWS HOTEL THEATER

The following six films screen together as World Showcase, Section I



CALIGINOSITY

Directed by Katrell N. Kindred
 After losing their only child to a drive-by shooting, a devoted South Los Angeles couple must learn to cope with grief and depression while struggling to keep their floundering marriage intact.



THE FIRST STONE

Directed by Kaisan Rei
 Reigh is released from prison in time to say goodbye to her dying mother. But she returns to find not just her mother, but her whole world unraveling.



WORLD PREMIERE

IBRAHIM

Directed by Terron Jones
 An undocumented African immigrant finds his way to the United States in search of the "American dream."



WORLD PREMIERE

IMAN AND THE LIGHT WARRIORS

Directed by Jarrett Woo
 10-year-old Iman navigates through a war-ravaged City of Aya with the help of the Light Warriors to express his feelings to his school crush in order to unlock his superpower.



MIXED

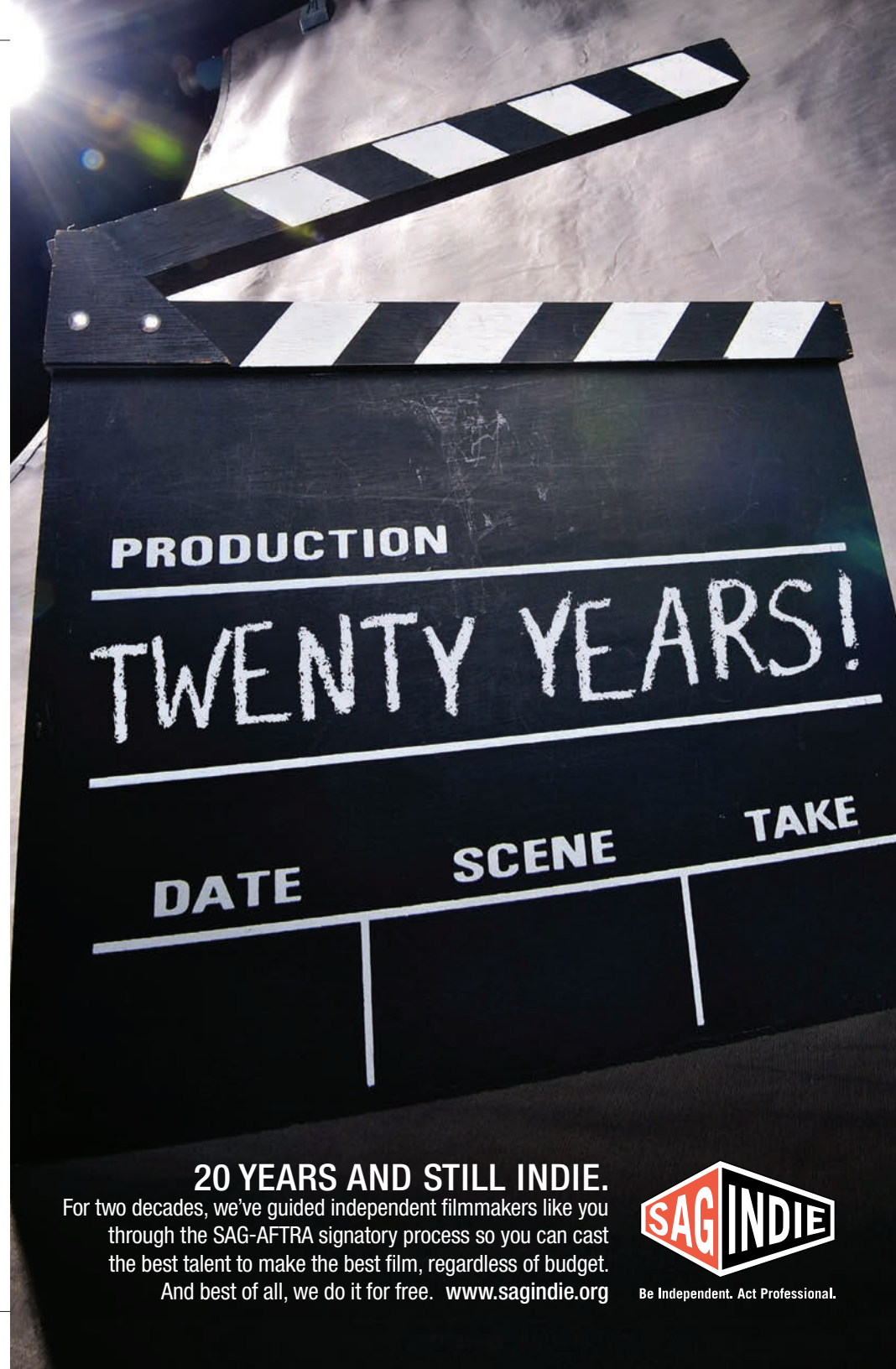
Directed by Chad Quinn & Yolande Gerald
 What happens when a white girl, a black girl, a mixed boy and others get together?



WORLD PREMIERE

THE BILL

Directed by Caralene Robinson
 Barbie's 35th birthday celebration brings together her diverse group of friends. When the bill arrives, the best intentions dissolve into drama.



20 YEARS AND STILL INDIE.

For two decades, we've guided independent filmmakers like you through the SAG-AFTRA signatory process so you can cast the best talent to make the best film, regardless of budget. And best of all, we do it for free. www.sagindie.org



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THURSDAY, JUNE 15 | 4:00 PM

LOEWS HOTEL THEATER

The following six films screen together as World Showcase, Section II



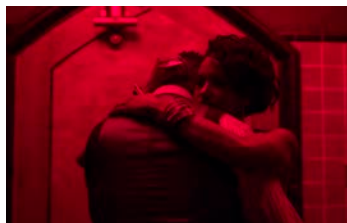
BENNY GOT SHOT

Directed by Malcolm Washington
When Naomi, a young autopsy assistant at the LA County Coroner's office, realizes her brother has gone missing on the night of a police shooting, she is forced to confront her worst fear, that his body may be in the morgue.



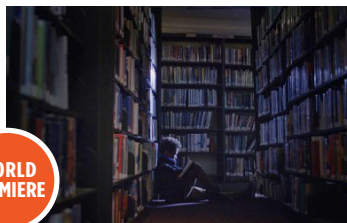
HOLD ON

Directed by Christine Turner
Family bonds are tested when a young man is left to care for his grandmother one morning.



NIGHT SHIFT

Directed by Marshall Tyler
Ollie Jeffries is an on-again, off-again actor. His long-term gig as a bathroom attendant on this one night, forces Ollie to face a reality he's not yet ready to embrace.



WORLD PREMIERE

COURIOSITIES OF THE QUITE BOY

Directed by Quran Squire
A partially deaf 12-year-old undergoes a series of supernatural phenomena in the midst of mourning his mother.



WORLD PREMIERE

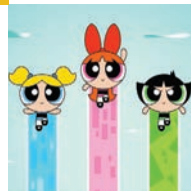
INTERSECTION

Directed by Angela Tucker
A road trip forces a young woman and her two best friends to examine their identities and place in the American South.



SEARCH PARTY

Directed by Tesia Joy Walker
Donna Greene is a mother living in a New York City Housing Project, who is throwing a party for her son, while a manhunt is underway in their building. Tensions unfold when a surprise visitor shows up at their door, interrupting the event.



Time Warner

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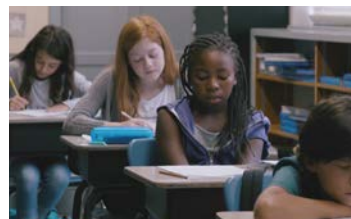
ABFF

Congratulations to this year's Festival Filmmakers

THURSDAY, JUNE 15 | 8:00 PM | COLONY THEATRE
 ENCORE FRIDAY, JUNE 16 | 8:45 PM | COLONY THEATRE



This prestigious competition, now in its 20th year, carries a grand prize of \$10,000, awarded by **HBO** to one filmmaker at the “ABFF Filmmaker Awards Presentation,” June 18, 2017. All finalists receive \$5,000 and the opportunity to have their films licensed by HBO for exhibition on HBO, HBO GO and HBO NOW.



AMELIA'S CLOSET

Written and directed by Halima Lucas
 Amelia steals items from her classmates in retaliation for being bullied. After she's caught, her father gives her the tools to gain true empowerment.



GEMA

Written and directed by Kenrick Prince
 After an emotional day with her family, Gema Walker comes home to face meeting her fiancé's parents for the first time. Upon discovering that her future in-laws plan to drop by their Brooklyn apartment before dinner, Gema is forced into an emotional confrontation when Sam admits that he's still harboring a sensitive and potentially damaging truth from his parents.



PLAQUEMINES

Written and directed by Nailah Jefferson
 Trapped in the dwindling fishing town of Plaquemines, Ethan, an inquisitive boy, collects whatever he can find to feed his imagination and desire to break out into a world different from his own. His father, Reve, an out of work fisherman, holds stubbornly to his belief that fishing will soon return and that Ethan will follow in the family tradition. Reve's tight grasp on the past causes a rift in the family and leaves Ethan to seek escape however possible. As fishing conditions worsen and family bonds become strained, Ethan and Reve are forced to face the reality of their actions—taking both in different directions, just over the horizon.



SEE YOU YESTERDAY

Writers: Fredrica Bailey and Stefon Bristol
Director: Stefon Bristol
 Two Brooklyn teenage science prodigies build a time machine to stop one's brother from being wrongfully killed by the police.



WE LOVE MOSES

Written and directed by Dionne Edwards
 Ella reflects on how her teenage obsession with her brother's best friend Moses left her with a secret she still carries.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

LOEWS HOTEL THEATER



**TELL THEM WE ARE RISING:
THE STORY OF BLACK
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

FRIDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 10:00 AM

95 Min. | Director: Stanley Nelson

Writer: Marcia Smith

Producers: Cyndee Readdean,
Stacey L. Holman, Marco Williams

A haven for Black intellectuals, artists and revolutionaries—and path of promise toward the American dream - Black colleges and universities have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field. They have been unapologetically Black for 150 years. For the first time ever, their story is told.



MILWAUKEE 53206

FRIDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 1:00 PM

54 Min. | Director: Keith McQuirterExec Producers: CarolAnne Dolan,
Nick Stuart

Producers: Adam Miller, , Katie Taber

Cast: Beverly Walker, Chad Wilson, Dennis
Walton, Muhibb Dyer

MILWAUKEE 53206 chronicles the lives of those affected by incarceration in America's most incarcerated ZIP code. Through the intimate stories of three 53206 residents, we witness the high toll mass incarceration takes on individuals and families that make up the community. The film not only examines Milwaukee's ZIP code 53206, but also illuminates the story of people from across the United States who live with the daily effects of mass incarceration.



BEHIND THE CURTAIN: ECLIPSED

FRIDAY | LOEWS HOTEL | 3:20 PM

74 Min. | Writer & Director: Collins Harris IVExecutive Producers: Ava L. Hall and
Michael D. ArmstrongProducers: Collins Harris IV,
Michaela Angela Davis, Stephen Byrd,
Alia Jones-Harvey, Tamara Scurlock Briggs
Cast: Danai Gurira, Saycon Sengbloh,
Liesl Tommy, Akosua Busia, Zainab Jah,
Lupita Nyong'o, Stephen C. Byrd, Alia
Jones-Harvey, Clint Ramos, Cookie Jordan

A multipart documentary series chronicling the ascent and realization of *Eclipsed*, a Broadway play written, directed and acted by women of African descent. Inspirational and sobering, the series documents the fearless women using art to combat social injustice and give voice to the voiceless. This series captures history in the making and the courageous women standing center stage.

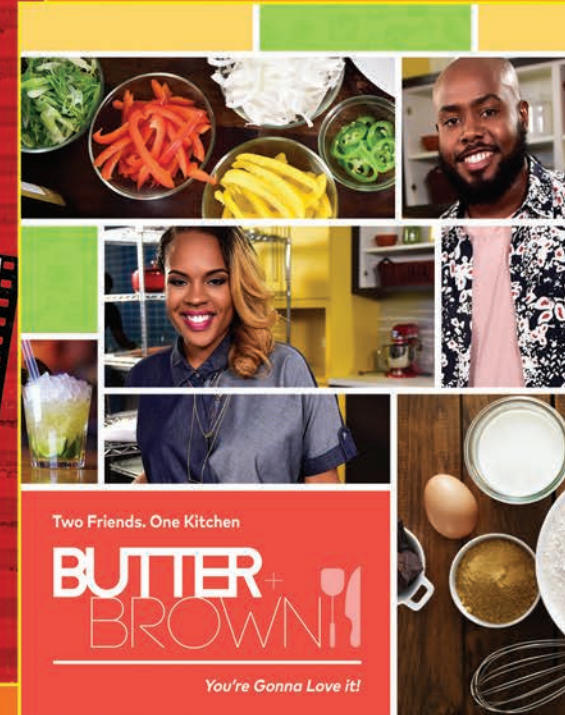
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Oct 3rd Premiere

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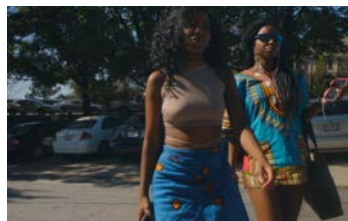


SATURDAY, JUNE 17 | 10:00 AM — 11:30 AM

LOEWS HOTEL THEATER

In competition for the Best Web Original Award, presented by **xfinity****BROOKLYN.BLUE.SKY.****Created and directed by** Rhavynn Drummer and Dui Jarrod

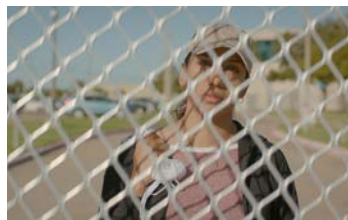
Brooklyn.Blue.Sky. is a web series about two execs who reluctantly come together to create a pilot for a "Netflix and Chill" TV competition.

**CREAM X COFFEE****Created by** Nakia Stephens

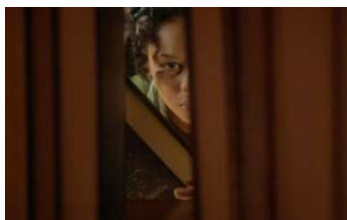
When Dionne, a pro-Black activist, falls for Ryan, a charming white guy, her idea of love changes drastically. She's accidentally down for the swirl.

**NEW FATHER CHRONICLES****Created and directed by** La Guardia Cross

A father confronts his 1-year-old daughter about her inability to sleep through the night and financially contribute to the family

**THE BEGINNING AND ENDING OF EVERYTHING****Created and directed by** Ya'Ke

Angelita returns home from prison in hopes of reuniting with the young child she left behind, only to discover the child is nowhere to be found. She goes on a quest to find the baby, her hope and her reason for living.

**THE DISCOVERY OF DIT DODSON****Created and directed by** Kelley Kali

14-year-old Dit Dotson travels to New Orleans and discovers that she inherited magical healing powers...only they wind up getting her into a world of trouble.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION**AMERICAN KOKO**

Coming to ABC, created by ABFF alumnus Diarra Kilpatrick, winner of the 2015 ABFF Best Web Original.

A satirical comedy that follows Akosua "Koko" Millard, as she investigates and solves race problems in a post post-racial America. As a member of the Everybody's A Little Bit Racist Agency, her team of specialists will tackle any case, but for Koko the hardest case of all may be her own. She was recently cured of "Angry Black Woman Syndrome."

Season 1 follows the case of a high school drama teacher who writes a stirring, gospel musical about Harriet Tubman, only to find out that the only black girl in his class cannot sing.

Season 2 has the agency investigating chef John Williamson, who hires the agency after he's accused of killing an unarmed black teen. John swears he's not racist and asks for a certification to prove it.

"JuVee Productions continues our mission to be inclusive, and this project fits perfectly with our vision."

Viola Davis, Academy Award-winning Actress. President and CEO, JuVee Productions, producers of American Koko.

ABFF COMMUNITY DAY

PRESENTED BY



SUNDAY, JUNE 18

LITTLE HAITI CULTURAL COMPLEX



3:00 PM
**FLORIDA FILM HOUSE
STUDENT SHOWCASE**

27 Min. | **Films:** Prodigal Son; Full Circle; Full Circle
Directors: Jacob Wohl, Maslow Touissant, Marcus Williams
Writers: Brandon Francis, Wilson Remy, Angie Bien-Aime
Producers: Tiffany Ortiz, Rood Pierre, Ashley Requena

The Florida Film House (FFH) 1st Take Youth Film Program is designed to provide Miami's Youth with an introduction to filmmaking. FFH's educational outreach program was created for children ages 12-18 in order to excite the imagination of young aspiring filmmakers, motivating them to succeed and arming them with the tools needed to do so. Three films were produced during the spring break program.

5:00 PM
DOWNSIZED

Courtesy of **TV One**
84 Min. | **Director:** Rhonda Baraka
Writer: Michelle McKissic
Producers: Eric Tomosunas, James Seppelfrick
Cast: Boris Kodjoe, Nicole Ari Parker

Michael and Ebony Nelson's middle-American, suburban lifestyle is disrupted when they become teenage parents. Forced into a modern-day "shotgun" wedding, they must put their personal goals on hold in order to do what is best for their new family. Amazingly, the two high school sweethearts manage to overcome the odds, and even establish an ideal life. However, life isn't as perfect as it seems. The success that initially was meant to strengthen their family becomes the very thing that drives them apart. As a result, Michael desperately tries to hold onto everything he's worked for his entire life. This leads the family on an unconventional adventure to restore their faith, hope, and trust.

8:00 PM
STEP

Courtesy of **Fox Searchlight**
83 Min. | **Director:** Amanda Lipitz
Producers: Steven Cantor, Amanda Lipitz
Cast: Blessin Giraldo, Cori Grainger, Tayla Solomon, Gari McIntyre, Paula Dofat

STEP is the true-life story of a girls' high-school step dance team against the background of the heart of Baltimore. These young women learn to laugh, love and thrive – on and off the stage – even when the world seems to work against them. Empowered by their teachers, teammates, counselors, coaches and families, they chase their ultimate dreams: to win a step championship and to be accepted into college.

PRODUCTION
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EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT

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FILM, CULTURE AND
ENTERTAINMENT IN ATLANTA.**



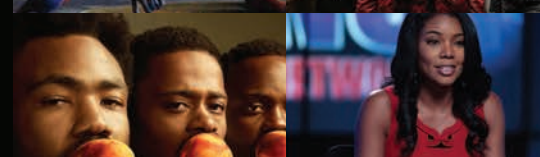
FURIOUS 8

SLEEPLESS NIGHT



THE SUMMER OF GEORGE

BABY DRIVER



ATLANTA

BEING MARY JANE



HIDDEN FIGURES

THE QUAD



TV ONE SCREENPLAY COMPETITION & CELEBRITY SCENE STEALERS



FRIDAY, JUNE 16 | 12 NOON | NEW WORLD CENTER

CELEBRITY SCENE STEALERS: Join TV One for this dynamic event featuring popular actors and actresses performing scenes from the three finalists of their annual screenplay competition.

One of these talented screenwriters will win \$5,000, and the opportunity to have their screenplay produced for TV One. Boris Kodjoe, Nicole Ari Parker, Lil Mama, Lance Gross, Tami Roman, and Lisa Wu will make appearances.

Join us following Celebrity Scene Stealers for the world premiere of last year's screenplay finalist *Downsized*, 3:00 p.m. at the Colony Theatre, Friday, June 16.

The three finalists are:

Down for Whatever
a drama written by
Timothy Folsome



The Replacement
a thriller by
Sade Sellers



Mr. Wonderful
a romantic comedy
written by
Roni Brown



PRESENTED BY



FRIDAY, JUNE 16 | 9 PM | NEW WORLD CENTER

Five finalists from across the nation compete in the **5th annual Comedy Wings Competition** for a grand prize of \$5,000 and the opportunity to meet with HBO talent executives. Come see them in action Friday, June 16, 9:00 p.m., at the New World Center.

The five finalists are:

Brandall Cole



Shereen Kassam



TuRae



Cyrus Steele II



Jason Weems



ABFF STAR PROJECT



NBCUniversal annually partners with the American Black Film Festival to find the next fresh face of the small and big screen. Meet this year's **Star Project** winner Duain Richmond – who will receive \$1,000 towards professional headshots or performance training classes, VIP access to NBCUniversal Short Film Festival semi-finals in NYC (August) and finals in LA (October).



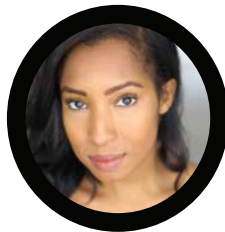
NBCUNIVERSAL HOSTING WORKSHOP



INTRODUCING:

Andrea Laing

Megan Thomas



NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment produces a workshop for up to twenty-five candidates in NYC during the month of April, to discover and cultivate new on-air talent. Two promising hosts from the workshop are selected to attend the festival and gain hands-on experience conducting celebrity interviews live from the ABFF 2017 red carpet.

ABFF TURNER TV WRITING CONTEST

Turner

THE TWO WINNERS ARE:

Darrin Dortch
(Comedy)

Derege Harding
(Drama)



New to the festival program this year, ABFF and **Turner** have launched a writing contest designed to discover fresh writing talent from racially diverse backgrounds. Winners in each genre receive a cash prize and the opportunity to meet with the original programming development teams for Turner's TBS & TNT.



We're proud to support the American Black Film Festival as part of our commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion at Google and beyond.

BRING QUESTIONS. BUILD ANSWERS.

THE BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT TALK SERIES

PRESENTED BY



One-on-one interviews with some of the industry's most dynamic artists and entertainment executives.

NEW WORLD CENTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 15 | 5:00 PM

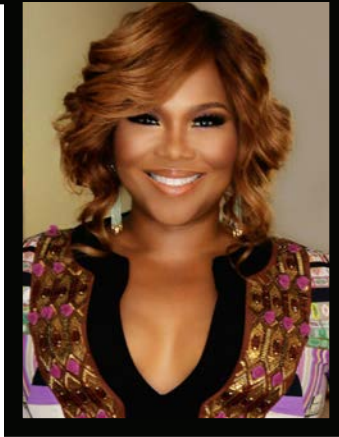
MONA SCOTT-YOUNG

Mona Scott-Young has proven that with integrity, hard work and dedication, anything is possible. She is a successful talent manager, television producer, publisher and TV host, as well as CEO and Founder of Monami Entertainment (www.monamient.com). The multimedia entertainment company is home to Grammy Award-winning artist Missy Elliott, publishing imprint Monami Books and VH1's most popular docu-franchise *Love & Hip Hop*.

Executive producer of *Love & Hip Hop* and the highly rated spin-offs *Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta*, and *Love & Hip Hop: Hollywood*, Scott-Young is also executive producer of the related series *K. Michelle: My Life* and *Stevie & Joseline Take LA*, as well as numerous reunion shows and specials for VH1, where she has also served as on-camera host and narrator. Additionally, she produced VH1's late night series *The Afterparty* and was a consulting executive producer on the network's late night talk format, *The Amber Rose Show*. Scott-Young is also executive producer of the docu-series *Money. Power. Respect.*, airing on WE tv. Additional credits include executive producer of VH1's *2016 Hip Hop Honors*, *Cocaine: History Between The Lines*, *This is Hot 97*, *The Gossip Game*, *Chrissy & Mr. Jones* and *The New Atlanta*.

Scott-Young's business and philanthropic achievements have garnered recognition from a variety of organizations and publications including The Hollywood Reporter's Reality Power List, Variety's Power of Women, Variety's Reality Television Impact Report, Billboard's TV's Top Music Power Players and Multichannel News' list of Women to Watch. Multichannel News also named her "VH1's Reality Superstar" and she was named a Women of Influence by the New York Business Journal.

While television production, talent management and publishing are at the core of Monami Entertainment, Scott-Young is also part owner and Chief Marketing Officer of Myx Fusions (www.myxfusions.com) - a premium, ready-to-drink wine beverage company currently in over 60 markets worldwide, which boasts a line of fruit infused moscatos and sangrias. She has also ventured into creating mobile content, as the creative force behind the release of *Love & Hip Hop: The Game* - a lifestyle gaming app, available for download worldwide. Please visit ABFF.com to read Mona Scott-Young's full bio.



FRIDAY, JUNE 16 | 5:00 PM

TERRENCE HOWARD

Terrence Howard is regarded among his entertainment industry peers as one of the true masters of his craft.

The actor, husband, father, and Renaissance man currently stars in top-rated Fox television series *Empire* as hip-hop mogul Lucious Lyon, an already iconic character that has earned Howard critical acclaim and a BET Award for Best Actor in 2015. He also plays a recurring character on the network's mystery thriller *Wayward Pines*. Born in Chicago and raised in Cleveland, Howard realized his love of acting through his great grandmother—stage actress Minnie Gentry. He entered entertainment when he played Jackie Jackson in the ABC miniseries *The Jacksons: An American Dream* but significant acting credits didn't occur until 1995 when he appeared in both *Mr. Holland's Opus* and *Dead Presidents*.

Howard's musical talents became apparent in *Ray*, the breakout movie of 2004; and *Hustle and Flow*, in which Howard performed all of the tracks for his character, including "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp," which won the Academy Award for Best Original Song at the 78th Academy Awards in 2006.

His other major roles include *Crash*, which was nominated for six Academy Awards; *Lackawanna Blues*; *Four Brothers*; *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*; *Idlewild*; *August Rush*; *The Brave One*; *Prisoners*; and *Red Tails*, to name only a few.



SATURDAY, JUNE 17 | 4:00 PM

JOHN SINGLETON

Please visit ABFF.com to read Singleton's bio.

MASTER CLASS SERIES

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 **Prudential**
 Bring Your Challenges[®]

DAILY FROM 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

THE GALLERY AT THE BETSY HOTEL

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

MASTER CLASS IN ACTING

Tasha Smith is a multifaceted actress whose work brings style and intensity to the subjects she plays on the big and small screen: *Empire*, *For Better or Worse*, *Why Did I Get Married*, *The Corner* to name a few. Smith leads students through multi-level instructional training focused on the craft and career of an actor. A no holds-barred class designed to help students unlock their artistic potential, and inspire personal growth.



FRIDAY, JUNE 16

MASTER CLASS IN PACKAGING YOUR IDEA FOR TV

Karen Horne, Vice President of Programming, Talent Development & Inclusion for NBC Entertainment and Universal Television Studios presents a valuable introduction into what it takes to become a television writer. Guest instructor Misha Green, creator of the hit series *Underground*, will then provide a framework for how to prepare a pitch package for general meetings, detailing what that looks like, as well as breaking down what to expect on the journey to selling a project.



SATURDAY, JUNE 17

MASTER CLASS IN PRODUCING

Led by Stephanie Allain (*Dear White People*, *Burning Sands*, *Beyond the Lights*, *Hustle & Flow*, *Boyz N The Hood*) who began her career as a script reader at CAA. Allain has been credited with launching the careers of iconic filmmakers John Singleton and Robert Rodriguez. This class will break down the nuts and bolts of producing a movie, from script development to distribution.



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PANELS

DAILY AT 12 NOON

NEW WORLD CENTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

ABFF FIRST LOOK PANEL: "GIRLS TRIP - THE ANATOMY OF A SCENE"

A discussion about the making of *Girls Trip* with star Regina Hall, producer Will Packer and director Malcolm D. Lee

Moderated by Cori Murray, ESSENCE magazine

PRESENTED BY



MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

in association with
Universal Pictures

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

CELEBRITY SCENE STEALERS

Join TV One for this dynamic event featuring popular actors and actresses performing scenes from the three finalists of the annual screenplay competition. One of these talented screenwriters will win \$5,000 and the opportunity to have their screenplay produced for TV One. Boris Kodjoe, Nicole Ari Parker, Lil Mama, Lance Gross and Tami Roman will make appearances.



SATURDAY, JUNE 17

THE NEW FACES OF TV

Meet the stars of some of TV's most successful shows featuring Dawn Lyen-Gardner (*Queen Sugar*), Merle Dandridge (*Greenleaf*), DeWanda Wise (*She's Gotta Have It*), Jessie T. Usher (*Survivor's Remorse*) and more.

Moderated by Dondre Whitfield



ABFF EVENT GUIDE

WHEN LOVE KILLS
THE FALICIA BLAKELY STORY
WORLD PREMIERE & CAST Q&A
LIL MAMA, LANCE GROSS, TAMI ROMAN
AND DIRECTOR, TASHA SMITH
THURS JUNE 15 | 2:45P
THE COLONY THEATRE

**CELEBRITY
SCENE STEALERS**
LIL MAMA, LANCE GROSS, TAMI ROMAN, BORIS KODJOE,
NICOLE ARI PARKER, AND LISA WU WITH HOST TASHA SMITH
FRI JUNE 16 | 12P
NEW WORLD CENTER

DOWNSIZED
WORLD PREMIERE & CAST Q&A
BORIS KODJOE AND NICOLE ARI PARKER
FRI JUNE 16 | 3P
THE COLONY THEATRE

SPECIAL EVENTS

CADILLAC AT ABFF

PRESENTED BY



LOEWS HOTEL – 2ND FLOOR

Step into the Cadillac interactive experience and be the star of your own movie poster.

Get a first-hand look at Cadillac's latest luxury performance vehicles – including the CT6, XT5 and CTS-V – at the **New World Center**

Exclusively for Deco Passholders – visit the Power Lounge for refreshments and celebrity appearances Thursday to Saturday

COCKTAILS, CONVERSATION & FINANCIAL FACTS

PRESENTED BY



THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JUNE 15 & 16 | 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM | THE BETSY HOTEL – CONSERVATORY ROOM

Want to learn how to manage the finances that impact your daily life and your future? We know the struggle is real. But this event can be your “aha” moment. Our thought leaders will chat about ways you can achieve your financial goals. And Financial Professionals from Prudential will be on hand to discuss any financial topic that concerns you.

ABFF STYLE LOUNGE

PRESENTED BY



THURSDAY & FRIDAY | 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM | LOEWS HOTEL – COWRIE 2

Lights! Camera! Action! Stop by the ABFF Style Lounge presented by SheaMoisture! Let us pamper you before or after your next screening or masterclass, including quick hair touch ups, massages and grooming for men. Also, there are special giveaways & samples of your favorite SheaMoisture brands. First come, first serve.



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CAREERS IN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

THE GALLERY @ THE BETSY

ABFF partners with leading media companies, organizations, unions and guilds, to host targeted workshops and tech talks to foster career development.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

1:30 PM

TECHNOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT

Aspire TV will ignite discussion in the sphere of Media Technology and its impact on the entertainment industry. Join the conversation with Aspire TV's *ABFF Independent* host, David Banner, and the Director of Tech and Innovation, Andre Barnes.

PRESENTED BY



3:30 PM

DECODING TECH: THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEAM

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful, and our approach to computer science in media is an extension of that mission. We are committed to increasing computer science (CS) opportunities for all — regardless of gender, ethnicity, geography, or socio-economic level — and aim to inspire young people everywhere to use and create technology. This panel discussion with notable names across various industries who all aim to defy what it means to be a STEAM professional. With more than 9 million current jobs in STEAM and it being one of the high-paying career paths in the world, we need influencers from all angles expanding to this lucrative industry.

Ne-Yo, GRAMMY Award-winning singer, Composer, Producer, Actor
Marcella Araica, Mixing Engineer (Madonna, Britney Spears, Keri Hilson)
Emmie Louis, Educator, Core Team Member, Black Girls Code
Mekka Okereke, Engineering Manager, Google
Daraiha J. Greene, CS in Media Multicultural Strategy Lead, Google (Moderator)

Opening remarks by **Valeisha Butterfield Jones**, Head of Black Community Engagement, Google

PRESENTED BY



FRIDAY, JUNE 16

2:00 PM

TURNER PRESENTS...

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

Walter J. Newman, Vice President of Development for Adult Swim, will break down the role of developing and producing comedy series and animated programming for Adult Swim. His career journey and what his day-to-day responsibilities entail.

Followed by

TALENT RECRUITMENT & DEVELOPMENT AT CNN

Ramon Escobar, Vice President of Talent Recruitment and Development, and Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Worldwide responsible for the recruitment for on and off-air talent will explain the important charge behind this job, key skills needed and how he rose this position.

PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, JUNE 17

1:30 PM

PRODUCING NETWORK SPECIALS & ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING

Featuring Jesse Collins, Founder & CEO, Jesse Collins Entertainment

PRESENTED BY



3:30 PM

COMPOSING MUSIC FOR FILM & TV WORKSHOP

Join composer Elvin Ross (*Boo! A Madea Halloween*, *The Haves and the Have Nots*) to understand what it entails to score music for the purpose of storytelling.

PRESENTED BY



THURSDAY, JUNE 15 | LOEWS ROTUNDA

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
TV ONE**

Get exclusive TV One swag, win cool prizes and more when you stop by the Industry Expo between 10am – 1pm! Visit the TV One booth, network with industry insiders and REPRESENT with TV One.

ATLANTA the New #1

Representatives from Atlanta Mayor's Office of Entertainment & Invest Atlanta will discuss what to expect when you film in Georgia. Learn what financial incentives, funding opportunities, location diversity, production resources and professional support is available as you plan your next production.

**3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
MOTION PICTURE EDITORS GUILD**

The Motion Picture Editors Guild (MPEG) is a national labor organization currently representing over 7,500 freelance and staff post-production professionals. Ours is the world's premiere craft guild that sets the standards for excellence in the post-production industry.

UMC – URBAN MOVIE CHANNEL

UMC – Urban Movie Channel is a new subscription streaming service dedicated to programming the best in urban content, and providing a destination for independent producers to showcase their work. Whether you're a content creator or content consumer—stop by and learn more about UMC and opportunities to have your work shown on this new streaming platform. Plus a chance to win an annual subscription!

BLACK ENTERPRISE

Stop by the BLACK ENTERPRISE booth and meet the SVP/Editor-At-Large, Alfred Edmond Jr. and learn of all the exciting conferences there is to come! Be sure to also sign-up for a chance to win free magazine subscriptions, access to our premier events and more!

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 | LOEWS ROTUNDA

**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
TURNER**

Turner hosts a "Morning Mixer" for the next generation of innovative and creative thinkers! Learn more about job opportunities across the various brands. Join the recruiting team for a drink/snack and find out how you can join the family.

JARO

Jaro provides on-demand access to independent films and visual art rooted in the black experience. Streaming independent feature films, emerging web series and a diverse selection of shorts, Jaro actively promotes our streaming content across social media platforms and with original articles, videos and podcast

**3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
HBO**

Come meet HBO recruiters to discuss open job opportunities in Media Relations, Creative Marketing, Programming areas, as well as information on their internship program.

COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL

At Comcast NBCUniversal, we want to be reflective of the communities we serve. We want diversity in front of the camera, behind the camera and in the business. Everyday thousands of our employees have a chance to make an impact and to build incredible experiences that touch millions. That touch us.

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Please visit our table and meet some of our senior executives and talent acquisition professionals to learn more about Comcast NBCUniversal. Get started at NBCUniCareers.com and ComcastCareers.com.

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HOSTED BY CHRIS SPENCER

ABFF FILMMAKER AWARDS PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 10:00 AM

Come celebrate the 2017 filmmakers, where the highly anticipated winners of this year's film awards and talent discovery programs will be announced. Hosted by **Chris Spencer**, comedian and co-creator of *Real Husbands of Hollywood*.

2017 HBO SHORT FILM AWARD WINNER

2017 STAR PROJECT WINNER

Presented by **NBC**

2017 TV ONE SCREENPLAY COMPETITION WINNER

2017 TURNER WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

Comedy and Drama

2017 BEST WEB ORIGINAL

Presented by **Xfinity**

2017 GRAND JURY AWARD BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

Presented by **Prudential**

2017 GRAND JURY AWARD BEST DIRECTOR

Presented by **Cadillac**



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Locations and daily operating hours for Pre-Registration Pick-Up (passes and tickets) and On-Site Sales listed below.

PRE-REGISTRATION PICK-UP AND ON-SITE SALES (PASSES AND TICKETS)

Location: ABFF Welcome Center, Loews Hotel, Americana 2 Ballroom
1601 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach

Hours: Wednesday, June 14 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday, June 15 7:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday, June 16 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM
Saturday, June 17 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Onsite Sales will accept Credit Cards only. No Cash transactions.

FESTIVAL PASSES

SPLASH PASS SOLD OUT
SOBE PASS \$600
DECO PASS \$1,075

MASTER CLASSES

Presented by **Prudential**
Master Class in Acting \$125
Thursday, June 15 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am
Master Class in Packaging Your TV Show Idea \$125
Friday, June 16 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am
Master Class in Producing \$125
Saturday, June 17 | 8:00 am – 11:00 am

EVENT TICKETS

Opening Night Celebration (Film & Reception) \$80
Wednesday, June 14
8:30 Film | 11:30 Reception

Panel Discussion: ABFF “First Look” Girls Trip
Presented by the MPAA & Universal Pictures **\$45**
Thursday, June 15 | 12:00 PM

Careers in Entertainment Center: Tech Talk: Technology & The Future Of Entertainment
Presented by ASPiRE **\$30**
Thursday, June 15 | 1:30 PM

Careers in Entertainment Center: Decoding Tech: The Next Generation of Steam
Presented by Google **\$30**
Thursday, June 15 | 3:30 PM

ABFF Talk Series: The Business of Entertainment with Mona Scott-Young
Presented by Verizon **\$50**
Thursday, June 15 | 5:00 PM

ABFF White Party \$65
Thursday, June 15 | 10:30 PM
Celebrity Scene Stealers
Presented by TV One **\$30**
Friday, June 16 | 12:00 PM

Careers in Entertainment Center: A Day in the Life of a Development Exec. & Talent Recruitment & Development at CNN
Presented by Turner **\$30**
Friday, June 16 | 2:00 PM

ABFF Talk Series: The Business of Entertainment with Terrence Howard \$50
Presented by Verizon
Friday, June 16 | 5:00 PM

Panel Discussion: The New Faces of TV
Presented by American Airlines **\$45**
Saturday, June 17 | 12:00 PM

Careers in Entertainment Center: Producing Network Specials & Original Programming
Presented by BET **\$30**
Saturday, June 17 | 1:30 PM

Careers in Entertainment Center: Composing Music for Film & TV
Presented by ASCAP **\$30**
Saturday, June 17 | 3:30 PM

Closing Night Party \$75
Saturday, June 17 | 11:00 PM
ABFF Filmmaker Awards Presentation \$25
Sunday, June 18 | 10:00 AM



- 1 LOEWS MIAMI BEACH**
1601 Collins Ave.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- 2 LINK GALLERY**
701 Lincoln Rd.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- 3 OLYMPIA THEATER**
174 E. Flagler St.,
Miami, FL 33131
- 4 RIVER YACHT CLUB**
401 SW 3rd Ave.,
Miami, FL 33130
- 5 THE GALLERY AT THE BETSY HOTEL**
1433 Collins Ave.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
(Conservatory Entrance)
- 6 COLONY THEATRE**
1040 Lincoln Rd.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- 7 MB CINEMATHEQUE**
1130 Washington Ave.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- 8 NEW WORLD CENTER**
500 17th St.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- 9 YUCA**
501 Lincoln Rd.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- 10 NIKKI BEACH**
1 Ocean Dr.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- 11 PARIS THEATRE**
550 Washington Ave.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139
- 12 REGAL CINEMAS SOUTH BEACH STADIUM 18**
1120 Lincoln Rd.,
Miami Beach, FL 33139

ABFF VENTURES

Jeff Friday
 Founder and CEO

Ghana Odet Wilson
 Coordinating Producer
 and General Manager

Amelia Winfree
 Sr. Director Sponsorship
 and Partnership Marketing

Melanie Sharee
 Head of Programming,
 Industry Relations
 & Creative

Lamonia Deanne Brown
 Director Outreach Media &
 Brand Partnership

Jazmin K. Washington
 Grassroots Marketing,
 Social Media & Festival
 Communications Manager

Michelle Huff-Elliott
 Publicist

Jeffrey Pearl
 Technical Director

Maia Miller
 Film and Talent Discovery
 Programs Manager

Reoni Mapp
 Sponsorship and Client
 Services Coordinator

BLACK ENTERPRISE

Earl “Butch” Graves, Jr.
 Partner ABFF Ventures &
 President/CEO,
 Black Enterprise

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 SVP/Multimedia Sales

Dirk J. Caldwell
 SVP/National Director of
 Multimedia Sales

Derek T. Dingle
 SVP/Chief Content Officer

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 Editor-at-Large

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 SVP/Finance & MIS

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 VP/Director of Events

Natalie Hibbert
 VP of Human Resources &
 Corporate Operations

Shelly Jones
 VP/Director of Digital

Genevieve Michel-Bryan
 VP/Director of Broadcast

Terence K. Saulsby
 VP/Creative Director

Renau Daniels
 Sr. Director Event
 Sponsorship Sales

Todd Chapman
 Associate Art Director

Jessica Barthley
 Finance

Juliet Gordan-Stewart
 Finance

Tony Ramphal
 Finance

EVENT STAFF

Anthony W. Gentry
 Production Manager/Line
 Producer

Shatarra Denise Jackson
 Assistant to the Founder and
 CEO

Jean Claude Louis
 Signage and Logistics Manager

Kayla Richardson
 Operations and Administration
 Coordinator

Emma Jackson
 Assistant to Coordinating
 Producer

Mecca N. Harris
 Production Intern,
 Festival Operations

Dail Hughes
 Volunteer, Festival Operations,
 Management and Events

Ebon Brooks Lane
 Volunteer, Festival Operations,
 Management and Events

Kenneth Dagens
 Volunteer, Festival Operations,
 Management and Events

Mashawn Robertson
 Volunteer, Festival Operations,
 Management and Events

Ntsako Mabasa
 Volunteer, Festival Operations,
 Management and Events

Ariel Rainey
 Social Media Coordinator

Chanet Wallace
 Social Media Coordinator

Shana Pendelton
 Social Media Coordinator

Henry Byrd
 Volunteer, Social Media

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a snack

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great taste

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Volunteer, Social Media

Stephanie Eure
Volunteer, Social Media

Nicole Frazier
Production Assistant,
Festival Information and
Customer Service

Amber Sikes
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Erica Miller
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Imani Robinson
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Katreaka Keels
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Macy Hughes
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Paula Simmons
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Quiana Jenkins- Milligan
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Raheem Nubin
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Tamiya Baker
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Theresa Williamson
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Yollette Geen
Volunteer, Festival Information
and Customer Service

Yvette N. Harris
Community Relations Manager

Akanni Evans
Production Intern,
Community Relations

Ises Roonparine
Production Intern,
Community Relations

Rodina McGore
Registration Manager,
Onsite Sales Fulfillment

Rosalind Murphy
Registration & Customer
Service Manager

Ryan Smith
Registration Consultant (TRC)

Beverly Murphy
Volunteer, Registration and
Customer Service

Gerald Graves
Volunteer, Registration and
Customer Service

Donald Clark
Front of House and
Security Director

Shadow Group
Security Consultant

Alicia Cuthbertson
Front Of House Coordinator

Adraian Bell
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Amanda Robbins
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Ashton Maxey
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Connaitre Tillman
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Frank Williams
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Janell Jones
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Jeffrey Fleming
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Jessica Thomas
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Jessie Thomas
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Keith Jones
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Kenishia Green
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

LaJuana Collins
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Lisa Eason Adil
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Lisa Lauray
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Nicolas Miles
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Randi Bibbs
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Serge Jean
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Sharon Coleman
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Tyler Young
Line Ambassador/Ticket Taker

Aishah Murray
PR Assistant

Alaina Lewis
PR Assistant

Alonna Gordon
PR Assistant

Eunice Liriano
PR Assistant

Jordyn McLane
PR Assistant

Melonee Griggs
PR Assistant

Michelle McNeal
PR Assistant



GROWING DIVERSITY IN MEDIA

The Walter Kaitz Foundation is dedicated to fostering diversity and inclusion in the internet and television industry as we seek to grow the contributions of women and minority professionals. With the funds we raise we support organizations and produce programs that expand diversity and inclusion across the industry.



www.walterkaitz.org

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PR Assistant

Aaron Thornton
Photographer

Antoine DeBrill
Photographer

Thaddeus McAdams
Photographer

Tim Rogers
Photographer

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Production Intern,
Public Relations

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Volunteer, PR

Ariel Norfleet
Volunteer, PR

Ernestine Taylor
Volunteer, PR

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Volunteer, PR

Natasha Henderson
Volunteer, PR

Mercedes Kemp
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Wanda Croudy
Associate Producer,
Video Content

Charlie Tabano
Video

Willie Velasquez
Video

Kenneth Meeks
Video Editor

Kaif Johnson
Production Intern,
Video Content

Alonzo Thompson
Production Intern,
Video Content

Sherrese Moise
Master Class and
Career Center Manager

Aimee Coe
Volunteer, Master Class
and Career Center

Arba Cooper
Volunteer, Master Class
and Career Center

Kaya Proctor
Volunteer, Master Class
and Career Center

Kenley Duke
Volunteer, Master Class
and Career Center

Amitria Fanae'
Volunteer, Events -
New World Center

Candace Tucker
Volunteer, Events -
New World Center

Candess Taylor
Volunteer, Events -
New World Center

Danielle Russell
Volunteer, Events -
New World Center

Regina Lowe
Volunteer, Events -
New World Center

Stephanie Moore
Volunteer, Events -
New World Center

Tamara Bell
Volunteer, Events -
New World Center

Derrick Williams
Screenings Manager-
Colony Theatre,
MB Cinematheque,
ABFF Screening Room

Ernestine Johnson
Event Manager-
ABFF Screening Room

Michelle McKoy
Event Manager-
MB Cinematheque

Chaylah Francis
Volunteer, Screening Assistant/
Usher-Colony Theatre

Daphne Huntley
Volunteer, Screening Assistant-
ABFF Screening Room

Jocelyn Turner
Volunteer- Screening
Coordinator: ABFF
Screening Room

Lauren Mayo
Volunteer, Screening
Assistant- Colony Theatre

Maiesha Porter
Volunteer, Screening
Assistant- ABFF Screening
Room

Passion Roosevelt
Volunteer, Screening
Assistant- Colony Theatre

Selah Peterson
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Usher-Colony Theatre

Sheila Robinson
Volunteer, Screening
Coordinator- Colony Theatre



All the feels

Laugh out loud, wipe your tears and fall in love with the best in Black entertainment. Enjoy your favorite TV shows, movies, music and more. Get behind-the-scenes footage, news and up close and personal with the hottest stars and directors. Even enjoy American Black Film Festival favorites on XFINITY On Demand. It's all in one easy-to-access place.

Go to **Black Film & TV** on **XFINITY On Demand** or visit xfinity.com/DiscoverMore

STREAMPIX

Kitab Rollins
VIP and Reserved Seating
Manager

Christiana Beasley
Volunteer, VIP and
Reserved Seating

LaToya Blakely
Volunteer, VIP and
Reserved Seating

Drew Pratt
Assistant Technical Director

Dean Craft
Video Services Director

Kenyatta (MD) DeShazor
Red Carpet Installation
Manager

Alice Tanner
Volunteer, Technical Services

Nwabata Nnani
Volunteer, Technical Services

Kareemah Muhammad
Volunteer, Assistant to Films
and TDP Coordinator

Deondra Edwards
Volunteer, Assistant to
Programming Director

Ashley Simms
Volunteer, Filmmaker Check-In

Jimmy King
Volunteer, Filmmaker Check-In

Miah Harris
Volunteer, Filmmaker Check-In

Bridgette Kilkenny
Sponsorship and
Client Services Manager

Dana Brown
Sponsorship and
Client Services Manager

Dorrie Foster
Sponsorship and
Client Services Manager

Blake Hamilton
Production Intern,
Sponsorship and
Client Services

Christina Starks Capers
Volunteer, Sponsorship
and Client Services

Imani Clark
Volunteer, Sponsorship
and Client Services

Rasheda Crockett
Volunteer, Sponsorship
and Client Services

Ronnika Williams
Volunteer, Sponsorship
and Client Services

Taylor Tucker
Volunteer, Sponsorship
and Client Services

Myca-Che Miller
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Monique Lauren Peters
Talent Manager

Bianca Lumpkin
Production Intern, Talent
Hospitality

Abisola Ariwoola
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Africa McClain
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Francess Gideon
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Isabel Morgan
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Marcus Walter
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

OSheena Simmons
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Taylor Flinn
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Tiffany Ennis
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Victoria Bell
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Winie Camille
Volunteer,
Talent Hospitality

Tina Oberry
Travel Manager-
Escape Travel

Alton Glass
VR Programming
Consultant

Jason Huffs
VR Programming
Consultant

Amanda Shelby
VR Programming
Assistant

Adrian Driscoll
VR Programming
Assistant

Bob Sumner
Comedy Programming
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Celebrating YOUR STORIES

It takes courage and determination to tell your story. We are proud to sponsor the American Black Film Festival and celebrate the filmmakers whose vision, talent and dedication inspire us all.



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 Sharon Moody
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 Joseph Mouzon
 My Urban Passport
 Clarissa Newby Phillips
 Pacific West Motion
 Pictures
 Kimberly and
 Gregory Parris
 Alice Pitts and Dennis
 Herndon
 Kenkenyana Roberts
 Pamela Ross
 Kay Sharon
 Paul Simon
 Valerie Singleton
 Janay Smith
 Tiffany Smith-Anoa'i
 Julisa Sosa
 Adrienne Spivey
 Alisa Starks and
 Deborah King
 Pamela Stewart
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 Entertainment Agency
 Asher Turney, Producer,
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 Jessika Ward T.V.
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SATURDAY, JUNE 17 | 11:30 AM

MB CINEMATHEQUE

THE VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE



A curated presentation of immersive VR/360 films followed by a talkback with filmmakers and VR experts on the convergence of technology, media and entertainment. Produced in association with award winning alum Alton Glass (Glassrock Entertainment).

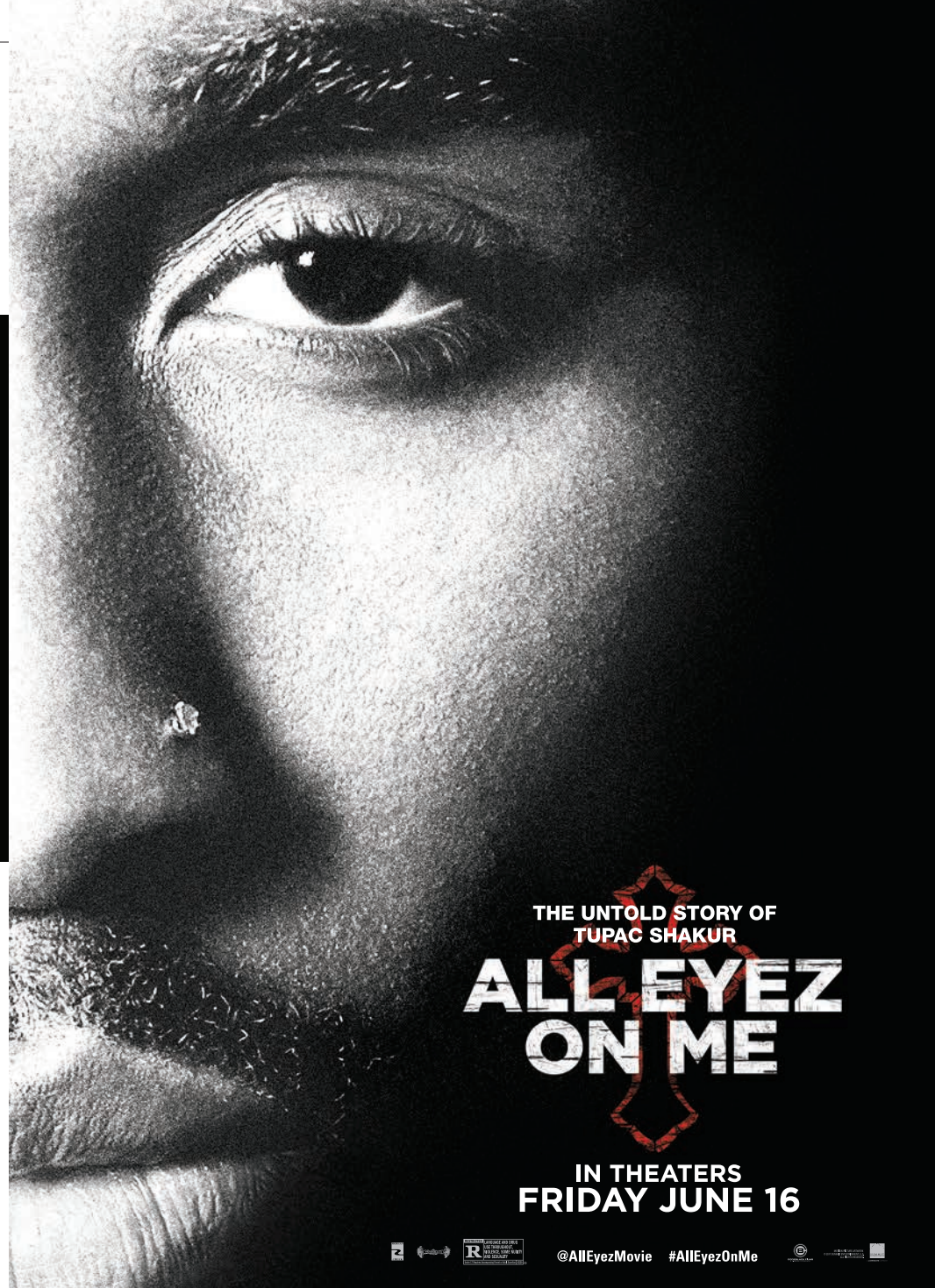
A LITTLE LOVE

written and directed by Alton Glass
VR | LIVE ACTION | ANIMATION | FANTASY

When a successful hardworking mother finds herself too busy to make her daughter's 8th birthday party on time - the girl makes an unusual wish, sending them on an unforgettable and eye-opening journey.

PLUS

A VR DOC, courtesy of CNN VR



THE UNTOLD STORY OF TUPAC SHAKUR ALL EYEZ ON ME

IN THEATERS
FRIDAY JUNE 16

@AllEyezMovie #AllEyezOnMe

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