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GARY INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

GET INSIDE FILM. GET OUTSIDE YOURSELF.

OCT. 14-16, 2016

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BERGLAND AUDITORIUM, GARY, IN



WWW.GARYBLACKFILMFEST.ORG

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2016 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE | PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WELCOME

The Gary International Black Film Festival (GIBFF) is a Gary-born cultural event that brings independent Black film to Gary audiences providing rich, authentic opportunities to celebrate African American and diaspora heritage and culture through film and discussion.

Our goal is to foster authentic discussion about our culture and history by using films that provide a counterbalance for widely distributed misaligned representation of our heritage and contributions to American and global society.

Some films are serious and deeply provocative, some are funny and irreverent, but we hope that all the films are provocative enough to remain in our hearts and minds long after leaving the theater. Community and culture are at the heart of this festival.

The festival is run by a committed core of community volunteers who work year-round to review and select film content, solicit in-kind and cash support for festival expenses, recruit volunteers and build awareness and support for a successful festival event. This year we are honored to broaden our capacity to screen and deliver the best in indie Black film through our film screeners, who reviewed hundreds of hours of film submissions and helped us select films that our audiences are sure to enjoy

Often, we are asked, "Who are you?" and "Why are you doing this?" Our answer is simply, we are the ones that we have been waiting for. As to "why", we simply say why not? If we are not the best caretakers of our stories, whom do we expect to take up this task? Supporting Black artists and the stories they bring is of the highest priority to us. We support their work with joy and enthusiasm.

We would like to thank all of our collaborators, supporters, sponsors and the individual and in-kind donors who believed enough in us to lend their support. We think this year is our best yet, but of course, we think every year is our best.



Jerico

POP UP PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

BROWNBAG POP-UP MINI FEST

Purdue University Northwest Alumni Hall 2-4 PM
Bring your lunch, we'll bring ours. Let's munch and check out our popup mini fest! Films, Giveaways FREE

NAIJA BETA

Dir. Arthur Musah, GHANA, NIGERIA, USA 50mins
Dreaming of shaking up education in Nigeria, a team of Nigerian and Nigerian-American MIT students heads home one summer to teach technology to high-schoolers through a competitive robotics camp in Lagos. As they seek to contribute to a new and better Nigeria, their ideals are tested by reality.

UNDER THE HEAVENS

Dir. Tyrik Washington, USA, 9min
The American dream becomes a nightmare due to the recent killings of several unarmed black American citizens by the police. Rahkeem, a frustrated African-American adolescent from Brooklyn, New York becomes vulnerable to questionable spiritual guidance as he searches for justice.

THE REUNION

Dir. Carmen Elly Wilkerson, USA, 20min
A teenage girl is sexually assaulted at a drunken party. The next morning, her friends debate what to do next - call the police, tell their parents or keep it a secret.

BLACKBIRDS: AFRICAN-AMERICAN IDENTITY AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, A DOCUMENTARY FILM

Dir. Maria Moore, USA, 0:33:21
A study of the lived experience of two African-American male undergrads at Illinois State University; one performing well, the other academically challenged. The juxtaposition of the two

FESTIVAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GRAPHIC DESIGN

- Naomi Ishisaka - naomiishisaka.com
- FESTIVAL PHOTO IMAGE**
- Inye Wokoma - ijoarts.com

GIBFF FESTIVAL TEAM

- Kay Abraham
- Sydney Chatman
- Pr. Lisette Celochia
- Saidah Holt
- Lester Lowe
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2016 FILM SCREENING PANEL

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- Brandon Jones
- Naomi Millender
- Andre Myers
- Crystal O'Brien
- Jeanette Riley
- LaReina Valdez
- Jacqueline Schroeder
- Krystal Wilson

IN MEMORIAM

The 2016 Festival is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Dharathula H. "Dolly" Millender, beloved Gary historian and steadfast friend of the GIBFF. Dolly attended the inaugural GIBFF in 2011, and never missed a festival since our very first day.



Dolly was a 3rd generation Hoosier. She received her bachelor's degree from Indiana State Teacher's College in 1941 and began a long and distinguished professional career as an educator, author and librarian. She received a master's degree in educational media from Purdue University/Lafayette in 1968. She came to Gary in 1960 as librarian of Pulaski School, and early on recognized the rich history of Gary's Central Community, as well as the rich and rare American ethnic diversity of the entire city. Mrs. Millender was Founder/CEO (unpaid) of The Gary (IN) Historical and Cultural Society, Inc. in 1976, and she dedicated much of her adult life to the preservation of Gary's illustrious history, as "Gary's Historian". Gary's founding was and is a story that she told in her three books on Gary's history, and in her numerous cultural, historical and civic activities and programs.

Photos by Saidah Holt



6TH ANNUAL GARY INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL | OCT. 14-16, 2016

INDIANA UNIVERSITY NW BERGLAND AUDITORIUM | SAVANNAH HALL 3400 BROADWAY, GARY, IN 46408



www.garyblackfilmfest.org | @garyblackfilm

What would you do if you saw an old professor at a bus stop? What impact did they have on your life? What impact will you have on theirs, now that you are what you wanted to be?

SOME TORCHES DON'T BURN

Dir. Chris Reese, USA, 22min

The film examines progress (realized or perceived) in the African-American community since the civil rights era, while telling the story of the films' patriarchal character Winston.

MAN VS BEAST: CHILD EDITION

Dir. Malik Bolton, USA, 3min

A comedic retelling of a life changing event in my life. The day I was attacked by dogs.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

10AM

BRUNCH & BLACK FILM

LIBERTY IN A SOUP

Dir. Dudley Lewis, Haiti, USA, 56mins

This documentary traces the culinary tradition of Soup Jomou, celebrating the Haitian Revolution. \$8 buffet, giveaways @ Mama Pearls, 411 E 5th Avenue

11AM

SLEEPER

Dir. Christopher Miles

A former soldier named Luke King, who is wanted for the assassination of the President of the United States. While on the run, Luke takes a hostage and they drive to a remote house in the desert. While there, the truth unfolds.

SCREENS WITH

LOVE

Dir. Marcellus Cox, USA, 14min

Based on A True Story About Raymond Porter from Van Nuys, California. A Young Man who captures and seeks his revenge on the murderer of his Mother.

BULLIED

Dir. Khaled Ridgeway, USA, 6min

A meek high school janitor struggles to maintain both his dignity and moral compass when a bullying incident spirals out of control.

THE CLOSET

Dir. Timeca Seretti, USA, 14min

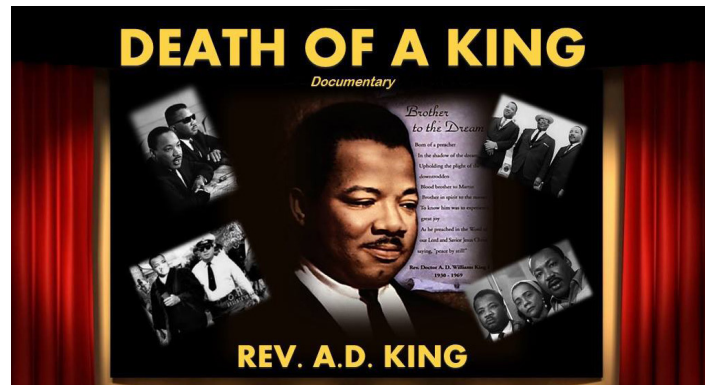
Haile Stephens has it all, the husband, the house, the car and all that money can buy. Or does she?

1PM

JERICO

Dir. Seckeita Lewis, USA, 137mins

Best friends, Jerico Walker and Jarvis Cook, set out on the morning of the signing of the civil rights act of 1964 with aspirations to capture the newly available Paper Press Manager



promotion. But when their car breaks down all hell breaks loose. Husband and Wife team, Director Seckeita Lewis and Writer Brandon Lewis bring a fresh story that will make you laugh, cry, and think.

SCREENS WITH:

LOST BOY

Dir. Aisha Porter-Christie, Jamaica, 12min

A 12 year old Jamaican runaway sneaks back into to his home town for what he assumes will be a routine visit with his best friend. Things don't quite go according to plan.

NAGA PIXIE

Dir. Anthony Hobbs, USA, 15min

A pixie is always nagging everyone, and a group of friends trying to figure her out. Naga Pixie is a short film by 11 year old award winning filmmaker Anthony Michael Hobbs.

3PM

GARY SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

DEATH OF A KING

Dir. Joretta Shropshire, USA, 97MINS

Death Of A King - A.D. King - The Untold Story...is the true amazing life history of Rev. Alfred Daniel Williams King, the only blood brother of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Positive Promotions Ltd. TV has done a masterful job archiving and chronicling King's intimate behind the scenes involvement in the fight for civil rights and equality. Using more than 100 hours of never before seen footage, and photos from the private King family collection, Positive Promotions Ltd. TV explores Rev. A.D. King's life and tragic mysterious death. Through this film, the world is now exposed to this obscure yet important nugget of civil rights history.

SCREENS WITH

OUR LIVES IN TRANSIT

THE PROCESS

5PM

FESTIVAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Join us as we wrap up the festival with awards and a special closing night event (FREE)

student experiences explores the impact of African- American social identity's effect on academic performance.

CINEMA AND COCKTAILS

Marshall Gardner Center

5pm - 7pm

Spend 'Film Fest Eve' with us and enjoy nibbles, meet and greet filmmakers and get a sneak peek of the fest.

Drink specials, short films. FREE

INTROVERT

Dir. Chaz Bottoms, USA,

2min

To win a bet, a quiet girl must make a friend at a crowded party.

BALL IS LIFE

Dir. Terry Bluez, USA, 0:07:40

The story of a young female basketball star on the verge of earning a Division I scholarship under the intense coaching of her overbearing father. But when her hoop dreams are jeopardized by an unplanned pregnancy, she must decide which is more important, Ball or Life?

FORGOTTEN SUNSET

Dir. Alex Costello, USA, 0:24:30

After recently being released from prison, a man tries to reconnect with his daughter and see if there is any chance of saving their relationship.

THE PROCESS

Dir. Folleh Tamba, USA, 0:12:59

[The Process] What role do you play in the fight for social justice and human rights? Art is a weapon. Gary, Indiana activist and performance artist N. Davina Stewart is one of many continuing the tradition of using performance art and teaching to combat social injustice. This is her process. What's yours?

NAIJA BETA

Dir. Arthur Musah, GHANA, NIGERIA, USA, 50mins

Dreaming of shaking up education in Nigeria, a team of Nigerian and Nigerian-American MIT students heads home one summer to teach technology to high-schoolers through a competitive robotics camp in Lagos. As they seek to contribute to a new and better Nigeria, their ideals are tested by reality.

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

Dir. Elaine Spaul, USA, 0:21:00

A young man becomes homeless when his mother becomes terminally ill. With the help of a youth agency he is housed in a



Malkia Cyril in 13th

shelter where he meets other homeless youth. They discover a strong bond in their love for creating music.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

RECEPTION 6 PM | FILM 7:30 PM

Opening Night Reception is hosted by artist, soul music historian and DJ Ayana Contreras. Ayana is also an artist and collector (LPs & 45s), and enjoys the stories behind them, especially those recorded locally. Ayana's radio program, Reclaimed Soul is featured on Vocalo, serving young diverse audiences through conversation, storytelling and local music, producers use the power of radio, internet and social media to curate content contributed by the community. [photo]

The festival is thrilled to have Guest Host Morocco Omari is an actor and director, known for Hope (2003), Kubuku Rides (This Is It) (2006) and Half Past Dead 2 (2007). Most recently, Omari can be seen on Fox's Empire cast as Lucious Lyons' half-brother, Tariq Cousins. The introduction of the character, whose presence is much more felt in Empire's season 3 has audiences and critics alike taking notice. Omari also has an extensive theater career, appearing in INTIMATE APPAREL, THE BALLAD OF EMMITT TILL AND QUEEN OF HAITI, to name a few. [PHOTO]

13TH

Dir. Ava DuVernay, USA, 100MINS

History has recorded the 13TH Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as the supposed end to what is called this country's Original Sin. But practically from the moment slavery was outlawed, its horrors became politicized and systemic, a genocide in plain sight. Hauntingly, the blueprint for its continuation is a simple phrase in the Amendment itself: "...except as a punishment for crime."

That is the powerful and unforgettable revelation of "13TH," Ava DuVernay's searing, sweeping documentary that digs into how America's politics, corporate structure, police militarization, media culture and legal system have colluded for over 150 years to imprison African-Americans in second-class-citizen status. Generation upon generation have been victims of an incarceration machine that ruins lives and communities, obliterates families, and cripples the morality our democracy is built on.

After Party with festival host, Morocco Omari \$5 with promo code (BROADWAY)Backstage on Broadway.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15

11 AM

SOUND OF REDEMPTION: THE FRANK MORGAN STORY

Dir. Kyle Greenberg, USA, 91min

Frank Morgan was touted as the greatest saxophone player in the world, but if you wanted to hear him, you had to go to San Quentin. 91min

SCREENS WITH SHORTS PACKAGE

ATTACHED AT THE SOUL

Dir. William Leon, USA, 11min

Donald Kline struggles with having to leave his wife Margie's death bed in order to attend a ceremony where he and his wife will be honored for their life time achievements. Through his love, we learn how truly connected they are.

NAGA PIXIE

Dir. Anthony Hobbs, USA, 15min

A pixie is always nagging everyone, and a group of friends trying to figure her out. Naga Pixie is a short film by 11 year old award winning filmmaker Anthony Michael Hobbs.

Marianne

Dir. Tomisin Adepaju, U.K, 18min

A young Nigerian man travels to a remote Pentecostal church with his ailing wife.

INJUSTICE

Dir. Amanda Chambers, USA, 12min

This redemptive narrative spans an emotional spectrum of a mother who mourns the loss of a son at the hand of the system meant to protect him.

1 PM

FILMMAKER PANEL DISCUSSION

#OscarsSoWhite made Hollywood take note. Are we in a more fertile time for indie Black film? Join Filmmakers Charles Murray (Luke Cage, Star), Brandon Bowens (Chicago PD, Chiraq) Hakim Khalfani (Forgiveness,LA2LA), and festival host Morocco Omari (Empire, Homeland) as we explore the new explosion of Black film. Can it last? (FREE)



Morocco Omari

2 PM

MATINEE DOUBLE FEATURE

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Dir. Nicolle M. Whalen, USA, 57mins

Roxanna Biltmore is a woman who knows what she wants out of life; and having to sign her mother's name as her EMERGENCY CONTACT after turning 33 years is no longer an option. In this modern day, comedy about finding love, you witness the men of Roxanna's past and present collide when she decides to take matters into her own hands. 60min

ONE LAST SUNSET:

REDUX

Sisters , Brigot and Nita seek shelter as an apocalyptic virus turns the entire human population into flesh eating zombies. While battling disease , famine and cannibalism , they run across an unpredictable and violent, former school teacher named Die-dre. 60min

4 PM

MAJOR!

Dir. Annalise Ophielian, USA, 90mins

MAJOR! explores the life and campaigns of Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, a formerly incarcerated Black transgender elder and activist who has been fighting for the rights of trans women of color for over 40 years.

SCREENS WITH

REMIXING COLORBLIND

Dir. Sheena Howard, USA, 30min

This documentary embarks on examining how the educational system today shapes our understanding of race and, by extension, the nuances of race relations – including notions of implicit bias, individual racism, and institutional racism.

7 PM

HONEYTRAP

Dir. Rebecca Johnson, United Kingdom, 100mins

Inspired by true events, it tells a story of fifteen-year-old Layla, who sets up the boy in love with her to be killed. When Troy discards her, Layla is left in ruins. She vows to rebuild herself as a hardened player in order to win him back and Shaun becomes a pawn in her game. Soon the forces she has set in motion are escalating out of control. The first UK urban drama seen from a girl's point of view, HONEYTRAP is authentically local in its setting but universal in its themes of passion, jealousy and revenge. We have not seen a character like Layla take centre-stage before and it's time her story to be told. Girlhood and gang culture collide as 15-year old Layla (Jessica Sula) contends with bullying at a new school by transforming herself inside and out. The teen's compulsive journey for love and acceptance soon becomes fatal in this cautionary tale based on headline news.

SCREENS WITH

EASY LIFE

Dir. Arnaud Bettan, France, 0:10:45

The story of a dad attempting to make his rebellious kid understand how easy his life is compared to some other kids in the world. To get his message across, he tells a vivid story of a little kid in Africa being turned into a child soldier.

MAN VS BEAST: CHILD EDITION

Dir. Malik Bolton, USA, 0:02:51

A comedic retelling of a life changing event in my life. The day I was attacked by dogs.

THE CLOSET

Dir. Timeca Seretti, USA, 0:14:00

Haile Stephens has it all, the husband, the house, the car and all that money can buy. Or does she?

FORGOTTEN SUNSET

Dir. Alex Costello, USA, 0:24:30

After recently being released from prison, a man tries to reconnect with his daughter and see if there is any chance of saving their relationship.

9 PM

LATE NIGHT FEATURE

THE HILLZ

Pharoh (ERNEST BATTLE) and his cousin Ali (NICK TATE) finds



Honeytrap

himself in a bit of a rough patch when they cross two known gangsters. With Ali out of the picture Pharoh has to figure out a way to make things better on his own.

SCREENS WITH

LA2LA

Dir. Hakim Khalfani, USA, 8 MIN

Louisiana rappers Lil Trill and Shell plan a trip to Los Angeles, California, to film a music video and promote their new album. In addition to the music video and album promotions, the two also are looking for a PLUG to assist them in purchasing large quantities of marijuana back to Louisiana. They pay a visit to a medical marijuana dispensary, looking for someone to help purchase some weed. While waiting outside of the dispensary, they meet someone who not only got them some weed, but he took them on a journey they would never forget.

THE EXAMPLE

Dir. Gordon Williams, USA, 24min

During a race riot in Beaumont, Texas in June 1943, Officer Miller Harvey, a white police officer crosses paths with Black business owner Carver Jefferson. Tensions explode on that hot summer night, forcing them to make decisions that will question their morals, loyalty and manhood.

ReversALL

Dir. Eric Matthews, USA, 10min

Helen and Marcus Thomas are minority cafe owners, working through the daily struggles of married life and keeping their business afloat. Their stressful Saturday morning is interrupted by a call from the Police. They arrive, one seeking to hold the blue line, the other, regretting lives he has just changed.

BUS STOP

Dir. Jason Bostic, USA, 6min