



## FILM LIST & SYNOPSIS

### **A Black Chapter**

Documentary, Feature. (Denmark) | Dir. Maya Albana | 60 mins.

Visual artist Jeannette Ehlers and director Maya Albana became close friends when they were children. Both are the daughters of Danish mothers and fathers from Trinidad and Malaysia respectively. The close friendship has lasted more than 30 years. But something has changed radically.

With the approach of the 100-year anniversary of the sale of the former Danish colony, the Danish West Indies, Jeanette decides to build a memorial: a gigantic sculpture of the female rebel Queen Mary, who was one of the main leaders of the labour revolt, Fireburn, which aimed to change the poor living conditions for the plantation workers in St. Croix. The sculpture is made in collaboration with La Vaughn Belle, an artist from US Virgin Islands.

During the four years it takes to build the sculpture, Maya comes to grips with the reasons for Jeanette's change.

"Det Sorte Kapitle - A Black Chapter" is a personal story about friendship and understanding the DNA of racism. It challenges the common version of the history of Denmark and prompts the audience to consider what it really means to be Danish.

In Danish with English subtitles.

### **A Love Song for Latasha**

Experimental documentary, Short. (US) | Dir. Sophia Nahli Allison | 19 mins.

A dreamlike archive in conversation with the past and the present to reimagine a more nuanced narrative of Latasha Harlins by excavating intimate and poetic memories shared by her cousin and best friend.

### **A Mother**

Narrative, Short. (US) | Dir. Natasha K Ngaiza | 15 mins.

As a town copes with the disappearance of a little girl, a mother of two must come to terms with her own decision to abort an unexpected pregnancy.



### **A Rodeo Film**

Narrative, Short. (US) | Dir. Darius Dawson | 18 mins.

A bull rider who falls out of love with the sport must choose between his family's legacy of rodeo and his own aspirations of life.

### **Arbitration**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Justin Poage | 7 mins.

Eric Andrews, criminal defense attorney wakes to find himself in the trial of his life. The prosecution, Death, the defendant, Eric Andrews. This is one case Eric isn't prepared for in the slightest, and this may cost him everything. This is Arbitration.

### **BLAHC: The Brookland Literary & Hunting Club**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dir. Kenneth Alexander Campbell | 9 mins

"This oral history film honors the experience of 5 members of the Brookland Literary and Hunting Club (a.k.a. BLAHC), a poker and social club founded in Washington, DC in 1942 by 9 accomplished Black men from the Brookland neighborhood in the district — doctors, lawyers, scientists, university presidents — many with Howard University affiliations. They gathered monthly to discuss important topics of the day (the "literary") and "hunt" (aka play poker). BLAHC has survived until today, but now it may be reaching its end."

### **BLOOM**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dirs. Christopher B. Derrick & William A. Derrick III | 7 mins.

An awkward inner city teen enters a vicious rap battle with ulterior motives.

### **Body and Son**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Chris Anthony Hamilton | 19 mins.

A young boy finds an unusual father figure when he finds and befriends a dead body. Body and Son is the story of DeShawn, a 9-year-old boy who lives with his single mother. He comes across the dead body of a man he believes to be his absentee father and confides in it about being bullied at school until his real father unexpectedly returns causing DeShawn to react in the only way he knows how.



### **Bonne Mort**

Experimental, Short (US) | Dir. Jade Wilson | 7 mins.

They say that a doula is a "birth companion". They are non-medical professionals who assist, physically and emotionally, families preparing for childbirth and often offer additional support after the baby's arrival. There are death doulas too. People who seem to be called to be death companions.

### **Chapter 32: From Tragedy to Triumph**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dir. PreShus Lee | 19 mins.

A 32-year-old woman documents her survival of the year that changed her life forever. This is my story.

### **Chief Black Hawk**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dir. Jonathan Isaac Jackson | 19 mins.

Terrance Williams Jr. aka Big Chief Tee is a 10th grader, the youngest masking Mardi Gras Indian in New Orleans, and Big Chief of The Black Hawk Hunters, a Mardi Gras Indian Masking Tribe that carries on the Mardi Gras Indian masking tradition. This documentary gives us a peek into Terrance's life, following him as he continues to carry the torch of tradition while being one at one of the most prestigious schools in New Orleans.

### **DAMITA.**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dir. William Feagins, Jr. | 10 mins.

Stunt actor, Damita Jane Howard, shares the story of her journey from playing roller derby professionally to working full-time as a stunt actor in major hollywood films to realizing her childhood dream of riding horses.

### **Finding Elijah**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dir. Yolonda Johnson-Young | 25 mins.

Told from a mother's perspective, Finding Elijah follows a young man's journey from home; into mental illness, to homelessness, and ultimately to suicide. It explores how a search for answers leads a mother to action.



### **Give Us This Day**

Documentary, Feature (US) | Dir. Jeff & Michael Zimbalist, Co-prod. Mike Rae Anderson | 2 hrs.

Give Us This Day documentary chronicles a year in the lives of three police officers and three residents of East St. Louis, Ill., the city with the highest homicide rate in the United States.

### **Godspeed**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Sade Abiodun | 6 mins.

Godspeed is a meditative film that explores the notions of personhood, faith, and intergenerational community. Poetry, music, and visuals converge to lead us through the life of a Black girl as she becomes a Black woman.

### **Higher Learning**

Narrative, Feature (US) | Dir. John Singleton | 2 hrs. | 1995

This year's legacy film is In honor of our newly minted film ancestor, John Singleton, in a 25th anniversary presentation of HIGHER LEARNING:

People from all different walks of life, encounter racial tension, responsibility, and the meaning of an education on a university campus. Omar Epps, Laurence Fishburne, Michael Rapaport, and Tyra Banks star.

### **Illegal Rose**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Deborah Riley Draper | 12 mins.

A cynical woman caught in a rut accidentally kidnaps a 9-year-old runaway girl from an Immigration Detention Center.

### **JEGNA**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Amadio | 7 mins.

While trapped in a terrible foster home, a young boy secretly meets up with his older brother for a day of therapeutic relief.

### **LEON**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dir. Jackson Tisi | 14 mins.

Leon Ford's life was changed when he was racially profiled and shot by the police at the age of 19. LEON is the story of his mental health in the years after.



### **MINO: A DIASPORIC MYTH**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Ashunda Norris | 18 mins.

It is 2079. In the utopic haven of Biamara, a Coven of Black women who can conceive without men must consider denouncing one of their own when she chooses to defy the all female code and self produce a male child.

### **Mossville**

Documentary, Feature (US) | Dir. Alexander John Glustrom, Exec. Producer Michelle Lanier | 1 hr.

A centuries-old Black community in Louisiana is contaminated and uprooted by petrochemical plants. As the community comes to terms with the loss of their ancestral home, one man standing in the way of a plant's expansion refuses to give up.

### **NuMas(k)ulinites**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dir. Joie Lou Shakur | 17 mins.

Black men and masculine folks have benefitted from the system of patriarchy. From being present to the mundane, what might we learn about the habit of patriarchy and how it lives in each of our bodies? There is wisdom in each movement we make. How might we conjure a post patriarchal society from this study and unlearning? How does your masculinity take form outside of patriarchy? What does your NuMas(k)ulinity look like?

### **Pattaki**

Experimental, Short (Brazil/Cuba) | (Dir. Everlane Moraes) | 21 mins.

In the dense night, when the moon rises, those who live in a monotonous daily life without water are hypnotized by the powers of Yemaya, the goddess of the sea.

### **Quilt Journeys**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dirs. Atinuke Diver & Maracel Guevara | 5 mins.

Journeys can be transformative. And while most begin as a single step towards a known destination, for a community of African-American women anchored in the Hayti community of Durham, North Carolina, the path towards courage, growth, and change isn't a straight line, but a circle.

# HAYTI HERITAGE FILM FESTIVAL

## **-Ship: a visual poem**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Terrance Daye | 13 mins.

A black boy learns contradicting lessons of manhood and masculinity on the day of his cousin's funeral.

## **Subira**

Narrative feature (Kenya) | Dir. Ravneet Chadha | 1 hr. 39 mins.

A free-spirited young girl, in Lamu struggles to live out her unique dream of swimming in the ocean, against local customs and an arranged upper- class marriage. Does Subira have the courage to take her dream on, against all odds?

## **Sunset Ivory**

Narrative, Short (UK) | Dir. Bree Nieves | 5 mins.

A father's morning on the anniversary of his daughter's death.

## **The Black Baptism**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Stephanie Diane Ford | 20 mins.

Informed by a mysterious voice, an imprisoned young woman must pass a series of enigmatic tests or face a violent death as the terrifying situation unlocks a dormant power in this story of courage and redemption.

The girl And her Electric Sheep

Narrative, Short (US) | Dirs. Jonathan Isaac Jackson | 8 mins.

In the distant future, a young, black woman discovers her purpose and is given a very significant role in when it comes to the Earth's future.

## **The History of White People in America: How America Invented Race, The American Family, These American Truths (Eps. 1-3)**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dirs. Ed Bell Clementine Briand, Pierce Freelon, Jon Halperins, Aaron Keane, Drew Takahashi | 19 mins

Episode 1: The white "race" was invented by rich Virginians in 1676 in the aftermath of a populous rebellion of impoverished, indentured, and enslaved Africans and Europeans known now as Bacon's Rebellion. 9 mins.

Episode 2: In the decades after Bacon's Rebellion, an African man and an English woman -- husband and wife -- sing of their fate, their future as law by law, edict by edict, their family, their marriage, their love are made illegal. 5 mins.

# HAYTI HERITAGE FILM FESTIVAL

Episode 3: How skin became color, color became race and race became power as told by President Thomas Jefferson, Sally Hemings, and one of their five children, Eston Hemings. 5 mins

## **The Passing On (work-in-progress)**

Documentary feature (US) | Dir. Nathan Clarke. Prod. Lana Garland, Tyler Trumbo. Exec. Prod. Tamara Tunie | 70 mins.

Three professions ushered Black former slaves from poverty to the American dream: preacher, teacher, and undertaker. Now, renowned embalmer James Bryant puts his faith in a new generation to continue this vanishing legacy. He's met with resistance from his young intern, Clarence Pierre, who himself is conflicted about his commitment due to the judgment he feels from the Black community as a queer, Christian man. This screening is a fundraiser to help raise finishing funds for color correction and sound design.

## **The Sound of Silence**

Narrative, Short (US) | Dir. Donald Wilson | 6 mins.

A man returns to his beach house along the Currituck Sound after losing his better half and wonders if the other half will ever be whole again.

## **This Little Light**

Documentary feature (US) | Dirs. Wendi Moore-O'Neal & Ada McMahon | 50 mins.

This Little Light tells the story of Wendi Moore-O'Neal, a Black Feminist freedom singer from New Orleans. The documentary recounts how Wendi was fired from her job as a community organizer when she married her wife, Mandisa. This Little Light is a self-determined portrait about the power of love, community, and the living legacy of the Black Southern Freedom movement.

This inspiring story shows a way forward in the Era of Trump, disaster capitalism, and Christian fundamentalism. This Little Light calls us to rethink work, build beloved community, and take risks in service to being free. The film is co-directed by Wendi Moore-O'Neal and her friend Ada McMahon.

## **Translucent**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dir. Azzan Quick | 16 mins.

Translucent, a documentary short, is a self portrait of me stumbling my way through self discovery. Using compelling conceptual scenes and verite footage, I document my struggles and triumphs exploring my own gender identity and figuring out unapologetic ways to explain it to friends and family. As I move into the notion of being comfortable in my own skin, the people around me deal with the cognitive dissonance of my change. I



compare this moment to a funeral, meaning the people involved in my life are slowly having to mourn the person they perceived me as for the person I actually am.

### **Una Great Movie**

Narrative feature (US) | Dir. Jennifer Sharp | 2 hrs.

As a dedicated writer unsuccessfully pitches her script in Hollywood, her movie comes alive and intercuts with reality. As she receives notes from non-creative execs, her script slowly transforms from a great movie about a black woman in Mexico, to a romantic comedy with all white people. A quirky cerebral look into commercialism and greed, juxtaposed with a heartwarming movie that challenges stereotypes.

### **When They See Us Vote**

Documentary, Limited Series (US) | Dirs. Bree Newsome | 15 mins.

At a critical time in American history with a looming census, a national election and an atmosphere of both heightened activism and racist backlash, When They See Us Vote is a limited series talk show that seeks to engage and educate the many people who are becoming politically conscious and active in this moment with an analysis of how we build resilience and Black political power at the voting booth and beyond.

The show is co-hosted by Ajamu Dillahunt, founding member of Black Workers for Justice and a long-time North Carolina civil rights organizer, and Bree Newsome Bass, an artist and community organizer in Charlotte who committed a historic act of protest when she removed the Confederate flag at the South Carolina statehouse in 2015. Bree Newsome will be in attendance.

### **Wish Ahead (work-in-progress)**

Documentary, Short (US) | Dirs. Ajamu Dillahunt & Desmera Gatewood | 15 mins.

Two Durham residents, Desmera and Ajamu, visit Palestine and talk to people affected by the Israeli occupation, including activist Ahed Tamimi. Strong parallels between the situation in Palestine and America's treatment of African-Americans emerge. Directed by Desmera Gatewood and Ajamu Dillahunt. Score by J Gunn.