

HHFF Vision 2020 Schedule

25th Anniversary of Higher Learning

Thursday, 2/13/20 @ 10 am

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.

Identity Doc Shorts

Thursday, 2/13/20 @ 1:30 pm

Being able to determine who we are is at the top of the needs hierarchy of human beings. In this block of doc shorts, individuals grapple with the who and the how of being in a world in their own way, on their own terms.

NuMas(k)ulities
Chief Black Hawk
Translucent
Wish Ahead
Damita.
Leon

Fiction Shorts One

Thursday, 2/13/20 @ 4 pm

It's a thin line between life and death, love and hate in these fictional shorts.

Arbitration
JEGNA
The Sound of Silence
A Mother
Bloom
-Ship: a visual poem

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Opening Night reception + program/film

Thursday, 2/13/20, Reception 5:30pm, Program 6:30-9:30pm

First, join us for hors d'oeuvres and refreshing beverages before a program that will have the town talking! Celebrate the opening of Vision 2020 with music and the opening night film, *Una Great Movie*:

Narrative feature (US) | Dir. Jennifer Sharp | 1 hr. 39 mins.

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.

Gamechanger Doc Shorts

Friday, 2/14/20 @ 9:30 – 11:30 am

The calm. The storm. The turning point. The revelation. These doc shorts reveal something about how what we construct in our lives has an impact.

Quilt Journeys

Chapter 32: From Tragedy to Triumph

BLAHC: The Brookland Literary & Hunting Club

Finding Elijah

The History of White People

Black Feminist Film School presents The Sight: Speaking the Visual Language of Film

Friday, 2/14/20 @ 9:30 am -1 pm

(Included in the All-access pass. Advanced sign-up required. \$10 for class only.)

You have *the sight!*

Most of us are able to read the visual language that film speaks on some level– from terms like “close up” to “fade in!”; just as we are able to speak the language of spirit on some level– from “our gut feelings” to “our heart’s desire”. We are gathering to practice speaking the language found at the intersection of the two forms by creating images. This workshop invites participants into ancestrally reverent, community accountable and dynamic purpose-filled filmmaking.

We will be introduced to Black Feminist Film School through the theories and practices that generate it including the visual language of filmmaking. This will include: considering the language that well known and little known Black Women filmmakers have created AND creating a library of frames & film composition techniques. We will be spending the majority of our time together speaking the visual language with still and video camera exercises.

Black Feminist Film School presents The Sight (cont.)

This is first come, first served for All-access pass holders. For non-pass holders, click on the Eventbrite link to secure your ticket & place. No need to send an email!

Participants in this workshop will receive a 20% discount on a Black Feminist Film School 4hr. course.

A Black Chapter documentary

Friday, 2/14/20 @ 11:30 am – 1 pm

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. It was a bond tied together in the Danish city of Odense of the 80s, where other colored people were a special sight. The close friendship has lasted more than 30 years. But something has changed radically.

Fiction Shorts Two

Friday, 2/14/20 @ 1:30 - 3 pm

The transformative nature of a child, grief, and hope for our daily lives is explored in these fictional shorts.

Sunset Ivory
Illegal Rose
A Rodeo Film
Body and Son

When They See Us Vote

Friday, 2/14/20 @ 3:30 – 5:30 pm

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 long-time North Carolina civil rights organizer and founding member of Black Workers for Justice, Ajamu Dillahunt 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.

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The Passing On documentary work-in-progress screening & fundraiser

Friday, 2/14/20 @ 6 – 7:30pm

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.

A portion of ticket sales will go to help raise finishing funds for color correction and sound design. Mayor Schewel will honor legend and funeral director/activist Skeepie Scarborough with a proclamation.

Experimental/ Afrofuturistic

Friday, 2/14/20 @ 8 – 10 pm

A vibe. A vision. A movement. The filmmakers in this block of experimental and afrofuturistic shorts ask you to think differently, and to imagine beyond the known and ordinary.

The Black Baptism
The Girl and Her Electric Sheep
Godspeed
Bonne Mort
Mino: A Diasporadic Myth
Pattaki
A Love Song For LaTasha

100th Anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance shorts

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 9:30 – 10:30 am

The Harlem Renaissance was a social, intellectual, and cultural revolution brought on partially by the Great Migration of Southern Blacks to the North. Get a flavor for the era as we show short fictional films with Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and Bessie Smith, and documentary work by Zora Neale Hurston. NC State's Darrell Stover will be our host, taking us on a journey through time while NCCU's Lenora Helm Hammonds leads a jazz band with music from the era.

Obba Babatundé Acting Master Class

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 9:30 am-12:30 pm

(Not included in All-access pass. Advanced sign-up required.)

Cost: \$60

Hayti Heritage Film Festival is proud to present an Acting Master Class with the award-winning, multi-talented veteran of stage, screen, and TV, Obba Babatundé! Obba is an actor, singer, dancer, director, writer, and producer whose breadth of work is known worldwide by audiences of all ages, and his face is one of the most recognizable in the entertainment industry. His career spans over 4 decades and he is a unique breed in today's industry as a triple-threat (and more). Currently, he plays the role of Daniel Harrelson, Sr., Shemar Moore's father, on the hit CBS show, S.W.A.T. In addition to his award-winning performances on stage and screen, he is a nationally renowned speaker and master class teacher for adult and young audiences alike.

Mossville

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 11 am – 12:30 pm

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.

REPLAY – Doc, Experimental, & Fiction shorts

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 1 – 3 pm

This is a chance to see some of the documentary, experimental, and fictional shorts you may have missed!

Bonne Mort

A Love Song for Latasha

Chief Black Hawk

Finding Elijah

The History of White People

Body & Son

-Ship: A Visual Poem

LEVEL UP! Turn Your Web Series into A Pitch-Worthy Network TV Show

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 1 – 3 pm

***Note: Space is limited and advanced sign-up is required for all, including All-access pass holders. Free to All-access pass holders and \$10 for non-pass for the class only.**

Nowadays the film/TV industry is overflowing with the genius work of writers and producers waiting to take their web content to another level. Oftentimes, people have no clue as to where to begin and how to get past the gatekeepers of unsolicited material. Development and construction of a hit TV show has to begin somewhere and a strategy is required in order to find the project a home. Learn the A to Z process of building your webseries or reality show into a fully developed, pitch-worthy network TV masterpiece with Show Producer and Development Consultant Diedra Wayans-Benson and Film/Television Content Producer Mike Rae Anderson.

As the matriarch/sibling of one of the most successful families in the Film and TV industry, Diedra Wayans-Benson has always played behind-the-scenes while operating as a ghost writer and project development consultant. Known for her "beast mode" power moves during the "In Living Color" era and other phases, she has several episodic and reality TV shows slated for network broadcasts and streaming through her Wayans Gyrl brand.

Born in Stuttgart, Germany and raised in Fayetteville, NC, Mike Rae Anderson is an actor, author, filmmaker, and movie producer. In addition to his film/TV resume, he is also a national spokesperson for juvenile justice and mass incarceration reform. His documentary film, Give Us This Day will also be showing during the festival, and he will assist Obba Babatundé in the Acting Master Class.

Speed Dating with Working Films & Southern Documentary Fund

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 2 – 4 pm

***Note: Free with advanced sign-up and is first come/first-served.**

Do you have a great idea for a documentary film? Or are you already working on a film-in-progress? Getting feedback from a trusted advisor is important along your doc journey. Two documentary powerhouses, Working Films and the Southern Documentary Fund, will "speed date" festival participants in 15 minute sessions to answer your burning doc questions, particularly with regard to impact campaigns and fiscal sponsorship.

Give Us This Day documentary

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 3:30 - 6 pm

This film 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. After the screening, producer Mike Anderson will talk about the experience of what it took to shoot this award-winning film.

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This Little Light documentary

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 6 – 7:30 pm

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. It 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.

Wendi and Ada will be in attendance.

Closing Night program + film, Subira

Saturday, 2/15/20 @ 8 – 10 pm

Acting legend Obba Babatundé will deliver the closing night speech. Afterwards, we’ll screen the Kenyan coming-of-age film, 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?

Followed by the closing night afterparty!