

**March
19th-22nd
2009**

FREE ADMISSION

wocaf festival

women of color arts and film
The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture & History
WWW.WOGAF.ORG



In Celebration of
WOMEN'S "HERSTORY" MONTH

Iyálódè Productions

In collaboration with

Auburn Avenue Research Library
On African American Culture and History
A Special Library of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System

Presents

The 5th Annual



Films Screenings & Visual Arts Exhibition

Fourth Floor

Auburn Avenue Research Library
101 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303

Thursday • March 19, 2009

Friday • March 20, 2009

Saturday • March 21, 2009

Sunday • March 22, 2009

Music

The Atrium

Sunday • March 22, 2009

www.wocaf.org for more information



CITY OF ATLANTA

SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

85 TRINITY AVE. S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335-0300
TEL (404) 330-6100

March 19, 2009

Greetings:

As Mayor of Atlanta, it is my pleasure to welcome you to *The Women of Color Arts & Film (WOCAF) Festival - Atlanta*.

WOCAF is dedicated to promoting and supporting women's issues and positive images of minorities in the media. WOCAF serves as a vessel of change in Atlanta's evolving film community, as one of the only cultural events in Atlanta sponsored by and focused on women's achievements in the media. I commend WOCAF on your partnerships with local, national, and international communities to ensure continued growth and development of Atlanta's cinematic arts.

The Women of Color Arts & Film Festival - Atlanta celebrates the artistic creations by women of color in media and performing arts. You enrich the lives of residents in our community through your promotion of minority film production, film awareness and exhibitions. It is your leadership and integrity of serving others through the arts that has helped to improve our community. Thank you for your contributions to Atlanta's proud history of celebrating women.

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, I extend best wishes to you for a memorable and remarkable event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Franklin".
Shirley Franklin



Greetings Festival Goers,

On behalf of The Women of Color Arts & Film (WOCAF) Festival, Iyàlódè Productions and The Auburn Avenue Research Library (AARL) on African American Culture and History, I am pleased and excited to welcome you to our fifth annual festival. Reaching our 5th year has had its challenges but we are elated that we have survived this far and now we are reaching for the stars!

The WOCAF Festival is now comprised of a film festival, a visual arts exhibition and a music showcase. We partner with AARL on the Film Festival and Visual Arts Exhibition and the music showcase is produced by Iyàlódè Productions and afrosonic radio. This year's music showcase will take place on Sunday March 22nd, featuring sensational singer/songwriter **Asa [Asha]**.

The festival will begin with the screening of "The life & Times of Sara Baartman" followed by a lecture/discussion and a book signing with the authors of "Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus: A Ghost Story and a Biography", Professors **Pamela Scully** and **Clifton Crais** of Emory University. Our opening night feature film this year is from Pakistani filmmaker Mehreen Jabbar called "Ramchand Pakistani". The festival's featured centerpiece film is ***My Girlfriends's Back*** produced by Tangi Miller (Madea's Family Reunion) who is attending the festival from Los Angeles. This year's closing night film is ***Arugbá*** by celebrated Nigerian director Tunde Kelani who will be attending from Nigeria with his lead actress Bukky Awoyemi.

Other highlights for our 5th year celebration, is the introduction of the 1st Visual Arts Exhibition presented in partnership with AARL. Curated by Sharon E. Robinson, the exhibition aims to showcase up and coming Atlanta based women of color visual artists. This year the WOCAF Festival also launched its new logo, branding the festival even further. A big thank you to Cynthia Nakpodia for designing this.

We could not host the 2009 festival without the support of our partners and volunteers. Our sincere thanks to the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, Rolling Out Urban Style Weekly, The Nigerian Film Corporation, GeeBee Productions, Rainforest Films, Virtualstall.com, Women in Film/TV -Atlanta, ViewNaija.com, Bishop Entertainment Consult and The Nigerian Film and Video Censorship Board. Our sincere thanks also goes out to all our volunteers and all of you attending the festival. We say a big thank you for your continuous support!

Enjoy the festival!

Yours in the arts,

Mojisola Sonoiki
Festival Founder/Director



It is with great pleasure that the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History has collaborated with Iyàlódè Productions to present the 5th annual Women of Color Arts and Film Festival.

The opportunity to be involved in creating a platform in which underrepresented groups can develop, present and explore their creative abilities is welcomed and represents a significant aspect of the Research Library's mission to provide access to resources relating to the global Africana experience.

The founder of The WOCAF Festival, Mojisola Sonoiki, is a true visionary as she continues to recognize the significance of providing an opportunity for a wider audience to experience independent films by and about women of color throughout the global Diaspora. During the 2009 film festival, audiences may again, look forward to a variety of outstanding film creations by sensitive, talented artists, who endeavor to tell these remarkable stories.

On behalf of the entire Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, the Auburn Avenue Research Library enthusiastically supports the 2009 Women of Color Arts and Film Festival.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Francine I. Henderson

Francine I. Henderson
Research Library Administrator



Women of Color Arts & Film Festival 2009
March 19th - 22nd

Dear Mojisola,

On behalf of Women in Film and Television Atlanta, I would like to congratulate you on the 5th Anniversary of the Women of Color Arts & Film Festival. The leadership and service you provide to the local community, as well as abroad, by creating an arts forum of this kind is unsurpassed. As the only free festival of its kind in Atlanta focused on showcasing the work of women of color, you provide a unique opportunity for women filmmakers all over the world. So closely akin to our organizations goals in several ways by promoting the achievements of women in visual media, we are thrilled by your continued success and honored to support the festival by any means available.

We wish you much continued future success and longevity for many, many years to come!

Yours in Film,
Melissa Randle
President
Women in Film and Television Atlanta
Celebrating 35 years of Excellence in 2009!
www.wifta.org



Visual Arts Exhibition on view throughout the Festival

Thursday, March 19, 2009

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Life and Times of Sara Baartman

(USA, 1998, documentary, 54 minutes)

Lecture/discussion on Sara Baartman with a book signing with the authors of “Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus: A Ghost Story and a Biography”, Professors **Pamela Scully** and **Clifton Crais** of Emory University.

Friday, March 20, 2009

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Opening Night Meet and Greet Reception hosted by Iyàlódè Productions and The Auburn Avenue Research Library. Guest Poet Kemi Bennings

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Introductions & greetings from the library and WOCAF

I'm Not Britney

(USA, 2008, experimental, 3 minutes)

Say My Name

Nirit Peled

(UK/USA, 2008, documentary, 73 minutes)

Intermission

Opening Night Feature: 8:40pm

Ramchand Pakistani

Mehreen Jabbar

(Pakistan, 2008, Urdu/Hindi with English subtitles, drama 103 minutes)

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Screenings: 12 noon – 1:45pm

Beauty Lies

Karen Chapman

(Canada, 2008, documentary, 18 minutes)

Zora Neale Hurston: Jump at the Sun

Sam Pollard

(USA, 2008, 84 documentary, minutes)

Intermission

Youth Corner: Where young minds can enjoy the festival experience.

Suitable for ages 10 upwards

2:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Drawing Angel

Rosalyn Coleman Williams

(USA, 2007, drama, 19 minutes)

Me, Masi and Mr. Clean

Nina Sudra

(Canada, 2007, drama, 8 minutes)

Stella and the Storks

Sheri Hagen

(Germany, 2007, drama, 21 minutes)

Intermission

Screenings: 3:05pm – 5:00pm

Mufaro's Other Daughter

(USA, 2009, 5 minutes)

Kia M. Neal

Performance

(USA, 2008, drama, 27 minutes)

Mel Donalson

The End of winter

(USA, 2008, drama, 26 minutes)

Nefertite Nguvu

Q&A with filmmaker

Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority

(USA, 2008, documentary, 56 minutes)

Kimberlee Ke'ala Bassford

Intermission

Screenings: 5:10pm – 7:00pm

Apartment A

Michelle S. Baxter

(USA, 2007, drama, 10 minutes)

Akiras Hip Hop Shop

Joe Doughrity

(USA, 2008, English/Japanese, comedy/drama, 22 minutes)

Secret and Lies

Oghomwensemwen Ehigie

(Canada/Nigeria, 2008, short/drama, 5 minutes)

Hope

(USA, 2008, drama, 9 minutes)

Atiya Wheelings

Q&A with filmmaker

We are Riders

Tracey Hicks and Christopher Garris

(USA, 2008, documentary, 40 minutes)

Q & A with filmmaker

Intermission

Centerpiece Feature: 7:10pm

My Girlfriends Back

Steven Ayromlooi
(USA, 2009, romantic comedy, 105 minutes)
Q & A with producer/actress Tangi Miller

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Screening: 12:00 noon - 1:20pm

Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai

(Kenya/USA, documentary, 80 minutes)

Lisa Merton & Alan Dater

Presented in collaboration with ITVS (Independent TV Service)

Intermission

Nollywood Nights: A Celebration of Nigerian Cinema I

1:30pm – 2:55pm

Ekundayo: the video

Performed by Ty Bello

Abbey Olayinka

(Nigeria, 2008, music video, 3 minutes)

Area Boys

Omelihu Nwanguma

(Nigeria, 2007, drama, 25 minutes)

Nollywood Lady

Dorothee Wenner

(2008, Germany/Nigeria, documentary, 54 minutes)

Intermission

Nollywood Nights: A Celebration of Nigerian Cinema II

3:05pm – 5:00pm

Arugbá

Tunde Kelani

(Nigeria, 2008, drama, 105 minutes)

Q&A with filmmaker Tunde Kelani and Actress Bukky Awoyemi

ASA Performs @ The WOCAF Festival

Venue: The Atrium, 5479 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Date: Sunday March 22nd @ 8pm



Asa grew up in Lagos, a city teeming with people and buzzing with energy but also home to a deep-rooted spirituality “Lagos is the New York of Nigeria. If you want to get anywhere in music, that’s where you’ll find the best opportunities, as well as the worst pitfalls.” Asa was the only girl in the family and had to share her parents, not often present, with three brothers. At a tender age she began to look after the house during her father and mother’s frequent absences. That is when Asa started to sing. The desire to sing came to her and didn’t go away, carving out a permanent place in her soul. So Asa sang her heart out. She grew up to the sounds of artists including

Marvin Gaye, Fela Kuti, Bob Marley, Aretha Franklin, Sunny Ade, Ebenezer Obey and Lagbaja and went on to draw inspiration from them.

She later then signed up, in secret, for the Peter King’s School of Music in Lagos and learnt to play the guitar in 6 months.

Asa, in her own opinion, is not a commercial product and not a sex kitten. But she is dazzlingly talented and gifted with a will of iron. She began to feel the wind of success blowing in her direction. A wind strong enough to sweep her away, but that would be forgetting that Asa does, after all, mean little falcon, a nickname acquired following a running away incident in childhood. She was offered contracts, concerts and money, but Asa was determined to make her music just the way she wanted.

In 2004 she met her manager, Janet, who introduced her to Cobhams Emmanuel Asuquo – a phenomenal Nigerian music producer, who in turn became her musical partner. And enabled Asa, the free spirit, to find her bearings: songs in English and Yoruba, music falling somewhere between pop and soul, inspired by her musical heritage — with particular care paid to the melodies — and reflecting the feeling she puts into it. Her texts talk about her country, and the things in life, all delivered with feigned naivety and real irony.

Now a resident of Paris, where she was born, Asa’s debut album was certified Gold just three months after its release in France. She is currently #5 on the iTunes world chart and peaked to #9 on the overall iTunes chart. Asa has flown in from Paris en route her world tour to bless the WOCAF Festival at her debut Atlanta performance.

For more info:

www.myspace.com/asaofficial



FILM SYNOPSIS

Akiras Hip Hop Shop

Joe Doughrity

(USA, 2008, English/Japanese comedy/drama, 22 minutes)



Akiras Hip Hop Shop is a romantic comedy/drama about a rap music loving Japanese guy who owns a record store with his best friend. When Daphne, a young Black culinary student walks into his shop one day Akira's life is changed forever. As their relationship blooms, Akira and Daphne must endure the less enlightened attitudes of family and friends. Does love truly conquer all? Or will prejudice and politics drive the couple apart?

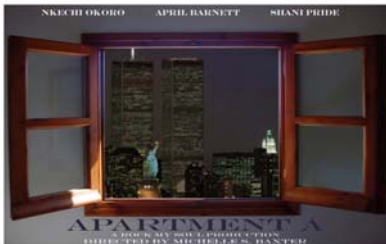
Winner Directors Guild of America Student Film Awards – Best Director 2007

Apartment A

Michelle S. Baxter

(USA, 2007, 10 minutes)

(Atlanta, Premier)



Three sisters await ward of their missing father during 9/11

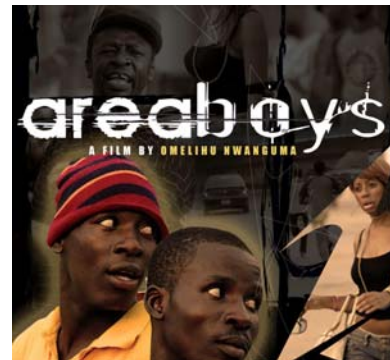
Area Boys

Omelihu Nwanguma

(Nigeria, 2007, 25 minutes)

(Atlanta, Premier)

Area boys is a fast-paced coming of age drama about two life-long friends (Bode and Obi) living in the shanty town area of Lagos. Having grown-up in a world where corruption and greed over-ride all else, the friends decide to cut their ties with their megalomaniacal boss (Dele) and form their own partnership with a view of leaving their corrupt world for good.

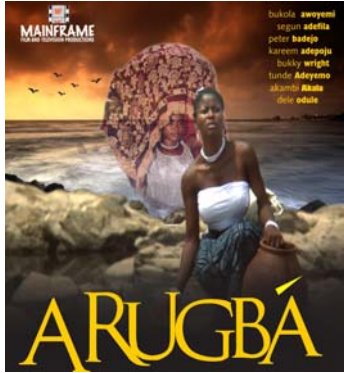


Arugbá

Tunde Kelani

(Nigeria, 2008, drama, 105 minutes)

(Atlanta, Premier)



Adetutu (Bukola Awoyemi) is on the threshold of responsibility. She must juggle her role as Arugba (the virgin who carries the sacrificial calabash during the Osun Osogbo festival in Osogbo, Nigeria) in the annual community festival with her studies at the university, she must care for an ailing and grieving friend, contend with a demanding king, a blossoming musical career and her growing fondness for Makinwa (Segun Adefila) - himself a gifted performing artiste - which places a strain on her relationship with other members of her all female musical group. Set against the backdrop of a corrupt society seeking cleansing, rebirth and nationhood,

Arugba must perform her annual traditional role of carrying the sacrifice in a procession to the river.

Beauty Lies

Karen Chapman

(Canada, 2008, documentary, 18 minutes)

(Atlanta, Premier)

Filmmaker Karen Chapman explores her feelings about her natural hair as a young black woman in a media-driven world, revealing layers of insecurities.

Winner of the Knowledge Network BC Perspectives Award –Vancouver Student Film Festival



Drawing Angel

Rosalyn Coleman Williams

(USA, 2007, drama 19 minutes)

New to the New York City, Samantha meets Levi, a 9-year-old boy displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Starring Vanessa Williams

Ekundayo: the video

Abbey Olayinka

(Nigeria, 2008, music video, 3 minutes)

Featuring Ty Bello and Olufunmi





Hope

Atiya Wheelings
(USA, 2008, narrative, 9 minutes)
(Atlanta, Premier)

Hope has her faith tested during what should be the happiest time of her life -her first pregnancy - but discovers that she was infected with the HIV virus.

I'm Not Britney

Philip Christon
(USA, 2008, experimental, 3 minutes)
(Atlanta, Premier)

A masterful blending of art and activism, music video style and spoken word performance.



Me, Masi And Mr. Clean

Nina Sudra
(Canada, 2007, short/family, 8 minutes)
(Atlanta, Premier)

Me, Masi & Mr. Clean is a short, bittersweet comedy about a young South Asian girl and her struggle to accept the color of her skin.

Mufaro's Other Daughter

Kia M. Neal
(USA, 2009, narrative, 5 minutes)
(Atlanta, Premier)

Sixteen-year-old wallflower BJ is constantly told that beauty is only skin deep. Right now that's as far as she wants to go.

My Girlfriends Back

Steven Ayromlooi
(USA, 2009, romantic comedy, 105 minutes)
(Atlanta, Premier)



Filmed in Miami and Los Angeles, this intelligent romantic comedy chronicles the social and economic rise of Derek Scott (Malik Yoba). Derek has spent his entire life plotting a course for his success. His diligence is about to pay off big when he happens upon an unexpected detour. This "road less traveled" intrigues Derek so much so that he considers throwing away his entire well orchestrated life to experience the one thing his plan has yet to provide.... Love. Starring Tangi Miller (Madeas

Family reunion) Obba Babatunde, Brent Jennings, CCH Pounder.

Sponsored by Rainforest Films

Nollywood Lady

Dorothee Wenner

(2008, Germany/Nigeria, documentary 80 minutes)

(Atlanta, Premier)

Sharing her vision for transforming preconceptions about Africa and African images, “Nollywood Lady” Peace Anyiam-Fibresima, producer, filmmaker, and founder of the African Academy of Motion Pictures, takes viewers on an all-access tour to film locations, markets, and sit-downs with Nollywood professionals in the vibrant production hub of Lagos. This vibrant

documentary is an insider’s primer to Nollywood’s dynamic \$250 million industry, interspersed with clips from the more than 1,500 direct-to-video, mostly low budget, culturally distinct, and immensely popular films Nollywood produces each year.



Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority

(USA, 2008, documentary, 56 minutes)

Kimberlee Ke’ala Bassford

(Atlanta, Premier)

In 1965, Patsy Takemoto Mink became the first woman of color in the U.S. Congress. Seven years later, she ran for the U.S. presidency and co-authored Title IX, the landmark legislation that opened up higher education and athletics to America’s women. Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority is the story of this dynamic trailblazer who battling racism and sexism redefined American politics.

Winner of the Audience Award for best documentary @ Hawaii International Film Festival - 2008

Performance

Mel Donalson

(USA, 2008, narrative 27 minutes)

(Atlanta Premier)

An African American woman journalist reluctantly takes on the assignment to interview a retired black actor who made his fame by portraying racial stereotypes.

Ramchand Pakistani

Mehreen Jabbar

(Pakistan/India, 2008, Urdu/Hindi with English subtitles, 103 minutes)



(Atlanta Premier)

'Ramchand Pakistani' is derived from a true story concerning the accidental crossing of the Pakistan-Indian border during a period (June 2002) of extreme, war-like tension between the two countries by two members of a Pakistani Hindu family belonging to the 'untouchable' (Dalit) caste, and the extraordinary consequences of this unintended action upon the lives of

a woman, a man, and their son. The singular theme of the film is how a child from Pakistan aged eight years learns to cope with the trauma of forced separation from his mother while being held prisoner, along with his father in the jail of a country i.e. India, which is hostile to his own, while on the other side of the border, the wife-mother, devastated by their sudden disappearance builds a new chapter of her life, by her solitary struggle for sheer survival.

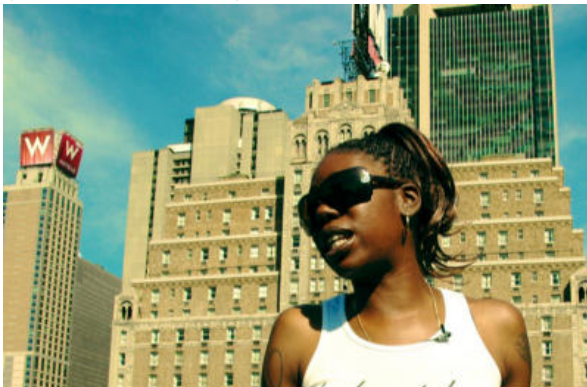
Winner of the FIPRESCI Award from the International Federation of Film Critics, July 2008.

Say My Name

Nirit Peled

(UK/USA, 2009, documentary, 73 minutes)

(Atlanta Premier)



In a hip hop and R'n'B world dominated by men and noted for misogyny, the unstoppable female lyricists of *Say My Name* speak candidly about class, race, and gender in pursuing their passions as female MCs. This worldwide documentary takes viewers on a vibrant tour of urban culture and musical movement, from hip hop's birthplace in the Bronx, to grime on London's Eastside and all points Philly, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, and L.A.

Featuring interviews and musical performances from a diverse cast of women including Remy Ma, Rah Digga, Jean Grae, Erykah Badu, Estelle and newcomers Choc Thai, Invincible and Miz Korona, this powerful documentary delves into the amazing personal stories of women balancing professional dreams with the stark realities of poor urban communities, race, sexism, and motherhood, as the more than 18 artist featured in *Say My Name* battle for a place in a society that creates few chances for women. From emerging artists filled with new creativity, to true pioneers like MC Lyte, Roxanne Shante, and Monie Love, these are women turning adversity into art.

Secret and Lies

Oghomwensemwen Ehigie

(Canada/Nigeria, 2008, short/drama, 5 minutes)

(Atlanta Premier)

Rita reveals a surprise to her husband Dominic which shakes the very foundation of their seemingly happy marriage.



Stella and the Storks

Sheri Hagen

(Germany, 2007, narrative, 21 minutes)

(Atlanta Premier)

Five-year-old Stella wants to give her mum a new little brother but where can she get a baby?

Together with her best friend Luna, she hatches a plan to surprise her mum.

Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai

Lisa Merton & Alan Dater

(Kenya/USA, documentary, 80 minutes)

(Atlanta Premier)

Planting trees for fuel, shade, and food is not something that anyone would imagine as the first step toward winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet with that simple act Wangari Maathai, a woman born in rural Kenya, started down the path that reclaimed her country's land from 100 years of deforestation, provided new sources of food and income to rural communities, gave previously impoverished and powerless women a vital political role in their country, and ultimately helped to bring down Kenya's twenty-four-year dictatorship.



Amnesty International Durban Human Rights Award 2008

Green Cinema Award Maui Film Festival, 2008,

Presented in collaboration with ITVS (Independent TV Service)

The End of winter

Nefertite Nguvu

(USA, 2008, drama, 26 minutes)

(Atlanta Premier)



The end of Winter recounts the emotional journey of Billie, a young woman struggling to reconcile her

grief after the untimely death of her father, When Bille, her sister Ella and boyfriend Jackson visit the apartment where their father once lived to retrieve his belongings, questions are raised about how he lived his life,

The Life and Times of Sara Baartman

Zola Maseko

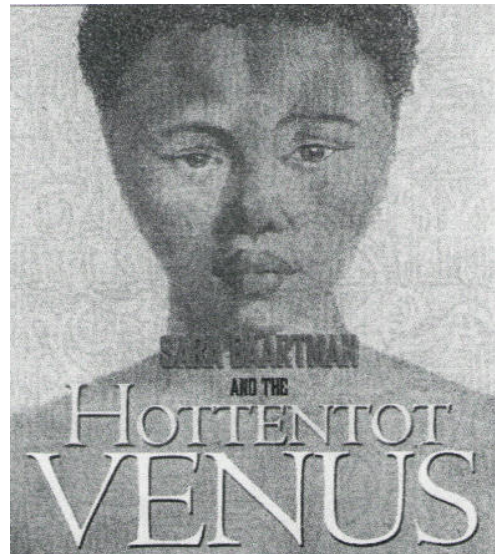
(South Africa, 1999, 54 minutes)

When 20-year-old Sara Baartman got on a boat that was to take her from Cape Town to London in 1810, she could not have known that she would never see her home again. Nor, as she stood on the deck and saw her homeland disappear behind her could she have known that she would become the icon of racial inferiority and black female sexuality for the next 100 years. The Life and Times of Sara Baartman is the fascinating story of this Khoi Khoi woman who was taken from South Africa, and then exhibited as a freak across Britain.

Best African Documentary, 1999

FESPACO African Film Festival

Best Documentary, 1999 Milan African Film Festival, Italy



We are Riders

Tracey Hicks & Christopher Garris

(USA, 2008, documentary, 40 minutes)



(Atlanta Premier)

We are riders takes you inside the world and lives of female motorcyclists. Women from across the county are interviewed and they talk about their lives on and off the wheel. A new and refreshing view of how empowered women come together and bond and share under a single commonality.

Q & A with Filmmakers

Zora Neale Hurston: Jump at the Sun

Sam Pollard

(US, 2008, 84 documentary, minutes)

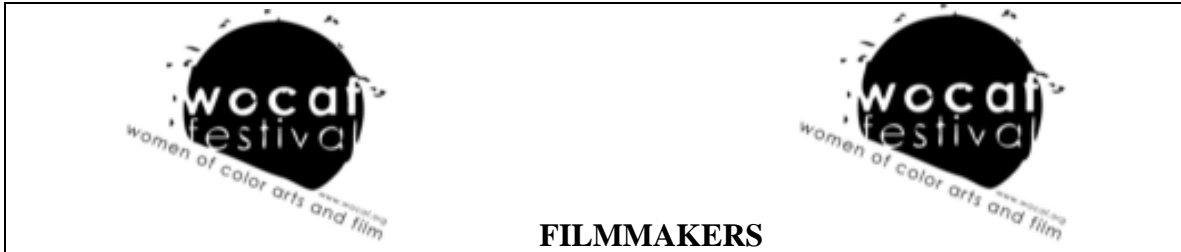
Zora Neale Hurston, path-breaking novelist, pioneering anthropologist and one of the first black women to enter the American literary canon (*Their Eyes Were Watching God*), established the African American vernacular as one of the most vital, inventive voices in American literature. This definitive film biography, eighteen years in the making, portrays Zora in all her complexity: gifted, flamboyant, and controversial but always fiercely original.



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Restaurant & Lounge
Nigerian Cuisine Eat In or Take Out
The Atrium Plaza
5479-D Memorial Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
404-299-7906

OPEN HOURS
Mon- Thurs: 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Fri & Sat: 12:00 PM to 11:00 PM
Fri/Sat: 11:00 AM - 3 AM -Chef Specials

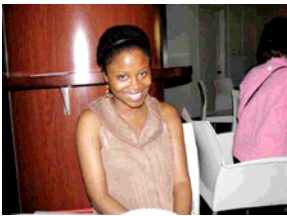
**FRIDAY NIGHT
VARIOUS AFRICAN ARTIST**



FILMMAKERS

Atiya P.L Wheelings is a native of Jacksonville, Florida and is an alumnus of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. She holds her MFA in Filmmaking from Florida State University College of Film, Television and Recording Arts. A former medical student at the University of Florida, Atiya now aspires to one day create entertaining, inspirational, and socially responsible feature films. *Director “Hope”*

Joe Doughrity is a screenwriter, director and documentary filmmaker. He began his career as an assistant to Oscar nominated filmmaker John Singleton. Signed by Creative Artists Agency in his early 20’s, Joe enjoys a successful career as a screenwriter. Having watched many of his scripts languish in development, he decided to make his own films. *Director “Akira’s Hip Hop Shop”*



Karen Chapman is a student at the Emily Carr University of arts & design in Vancouver. Ms Chapman is the recipient of the British Columbia Perspectives Award and has a Broadcasting agreement with Movieola, The Short Film Channel, in Canada. She is currently working on several film projects and is a Film and Video major at the Emily Carr University in Vancouver Canada, pursuing her career as a cinematographer.

Kia M. Neal is a Writer and Director. She is currently studying creative writing and film at New York University, believes that it is her calling to craft stories that speak to the triumphs and failures of humankind. Kia draws upon her many and varied experiences in her storytelling; ranging from her stint in the U.S. Air Force as a staff writer for the Space Sentinel newspaper, to former personal publicist to actor/director Mario Van Peebles, *Grey’s Anatomy’s* Isaiah Washington and radio/television personality Steve Harvey. *Director “Mufaro’s Other Daughter”*



Kimberlee Bassford is an award-winning independent filmmaker from Hawaii who has a passion for social issue and cultural stories. She produced, directed, wrote and co-edited *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority*, a one-hour documentary for national public television that explores the life and times of the late U.S. Representative Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color in Congress and co-author of the landmark Title IX gender equity legislation. Most recently,

Bassford was a producer on *Unnatural Causes* (2008), a four-hour national PBS documentary series and public engagement campaign that investigates our disturbing socioeconomic and racial disparities in health. She was also a producer on the three-hour PBS documentary series *The Meaning of Food* (2005), which explores the social significance of food in the United States. Bassford is a graduate of Punahou School and holds a BA in psychology from Harvard University and a Masters in Journalism from the University of California Berkeley. She owns Making Waves Films LLC, a documentary production company in Honolulu. **Director** *“Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority.”*



Lisa Merton and **Alan Dater** have been working together on the production of documentary films since 1989. Their productions include: *Home to Tibet*, a film about a Tibetan refugee's return to his homeland, shown on many PBS stations, and at the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam; *Bridge of Fire*, the story of the collaboration of a Japanese potter and a Vermonter potter, winner of a Cine Golden Eagle and The Best Media Work at the Montreal Festival of Films on Art, also screened at the Museum of Modern Art and the Louvre; and *Wolf Kahn: Landscape Painter*, a portrait of the well known American painter, winner of a Cine Golden Eagle; and *The World in Claire's Classroom* a documentary on a veteran Vermont public school teacher's extraordinary vision. **Directors** *“Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai”*

MFAB/ Tracey Hicks & Christopher Garris



A graduate of Clark Atlanta University, Ms. Hicks has a degree in Film and Theatre. Her career began in the early 90's as a production assistant on the sets of various movies and music videos. Tracey quickly climbed the ranks to production manager and then producer. Known as a pioneer in the Atlanta urban music video industry, Tracey has well over 15 years of experience in the industry. Christopher Garris is responsible for creative development of current projects in production. Prior to becoming one of the founders of Scratch Pad LLC, Garris worked in the industry in all aspects from being a production assistant, to production coordinator, to Executive Producer of Scratch Pad LLC. **Directors** *“We are Riders”*

Mel Donaldson is a writer producer and director and is currently the Chair of the Pan African Studies Department at California State University-Los Angeles. **Director** *“Performance.”*



Mehreen Jabbar worked in advertising in Pakistan for a couple of years before receiving a certificate from UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) in 1993 in Film, Television and Video. She returned to Pakistan to direct and produce made-for-TV movies and drama series/serials under the banner of TasVeer Productions, almost all of which were critically acclaimed by the Pakistani press. She went on to direct short TV films and TV series for numerous TV channels in

Pakistan, in addition to a number of short films, which have aired in festivals worldwide. Her award-winning films include 'Daughters of the Late Colonel', and a four-part television show: ' Sanam Gazida, Afsoon Khawab, Deeda-e-Purkhood, and Lal Baig.'. 'Ramchand Pakistani' is her first feature length film. Currently living between New York and Pakistan, Mehreen has been a member of the National Board of Film Censors in Karachi, a founding member of WAR (War Against Rape), the KaraFilm Festival (Pakistan's only international film festival) in Karachi, and has also served as a juror at the Leeds International Film Festival in 2002.

Director "Ramchand Pakistani"

Michelle S. Baxter began her professional career in the fashion world as a Production Manager and Consultant for Gap, Inc. By day she oversaw the creative development of Gap's color palette and fashion designs and by night, honed her craft as a director-writer-producer. She obtained a MFA in Film Producing from USC's Peter Stark Producing Program. Michelle is currently in post-production on an adaptation Kurt Vonnegut's short story, *NEXT DOOR*, for USC's First Look Festival. She is also producing a documentary film entitled "Africans in Renaissance Europe". **Director "Apartment A"**

Nefertite Nguvu is a graduate of New York's School of Visual Arts, where she obtained a B.F.A in Film. Her Thesis project at SVA won the award for Outstanding Screenplay. Having worked in numerous capacities behind the scenes in film, Nefertite has written, produced, and directed two short films: "I Want You," in 2007, which screened at numerous national and international film festivals, and her current film, "The End of Winter." **Director "The End of Winter"**





Nina Sudra is a Canadian filmmaker of Indian heritage with 10 years of producing experience under her belt including several independent films, educational and corporate video, documentary and narrative projects. She graduated from the *Southern Alberta Institute of Technology* in film and television and then went on to more creative pastures at the communications department at Concordia University. Nina has recently shifted gears from producing to writing and directing. She is a recipient of the 2007 National Screen Institute's Drama Prize and was nominated for an AMPPIA award. Currently Nina is writing a feature documentary for the National Film Board of Canada and producing a two part educational documentary called "Growing up among Strangers." **Director "Me, Masi and Mr. Clean"**

Nirit Peled has been working in Amsterdam as an audio-visual artist for the last eight years. She is a community based, cultural artist and film director, as well as co-founder of

Mamamess, a production company she runs with her partner Dave Hemmingway. Her work can be broadly categorized within video and interactive projects. Recently Peled has been focusing more on directing short films, animation and documentaries. She has also worked on numerous political, cultural projects with inner city youth, both in the Netherlands and abroad. For her recent project and debut documentary, SAY MY NAME, Peled traveled around the world documenting female vocalists, MCs, and spoken-word artists in urban environments. The sequel SAY MY NAME IN AFRICA is still in production. Other recent projects include POETRY IN MOTION, three beautifully animated poems by the Jamaican poet Staceyann Chin, and the documentaries REDNOSE GOES TO CUBA (about two DJs collaborating with Cuban musicians in Havana), and THE BATTLE (about Arab-Israeli rappers). .” **Director "Say my Name"**



Nkechi Okoro is a vibrant, Meisner trained actress, writer and producer. She is also Founder and President of Rock My Soul Productions. Originally hailing from New York City and Nigeria, Nkechi began her career as a classically trained actress, training and performing with the Oxford National Youth Theatre in England. As she returned to the States and her career progressed, she became dissatisfied with the roles being written for women of color. Not one to sit idly by, Nkechi started writing roles for herself and producing/directing independent content. She originally started producing for theatre in New York and Philadelphia before finally moving to Los Angeles to make the transition from theatre to film and television. **Producer/writer "Apartment A"**



Oghomwensemwen Ehigie earned a B.A from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada and after graduating and working for a year she decided to pursue filmmaking as a career. A graduate of Toronto Film School, Ms Ehigie considers film to be her ministry and her mission is to tell stories about Africans and touch the lives of generations of people both economically and socially. **Director “*Secret and Lies*”**

Omeli Nwanguma is a British born Nigerian filmmaker. After graduating from Advertising College and working as a creative, Nwanguma realized his passion lay elsewhere. That passion was for film but more importantly, to make films that would inspire Africans to realize their potential. In 2005, Nwanguma received funding from the UK Film Council to make his second short film- SEEKER, the story of a Nigerian immigrant struggling to come to terms with life in London. SEEKER won numerous awards on the festival circuit and secured a distribution deal with HBO. **Director “*Area Boys*”**

Rosalyn Coleman Williams is the director of the award winning short film “*Allergic to Nuts*” written by husband and partner Craig T. Williams. An accomplished actress, Rosalyn just wrapped a featured role in Frankie and Alice (release 2009) starring Halle Berry, the lead in the independent film INDELIBLE (release 2009), and an appearance in “*Brooklyn’s Finest*” (release 2009), starring Don Cheadle and Richard Gere. Rosalyn graduated Cum Laude with a BFA from Howard University and with an MFA from Yale Drama School. At her graduation from Yale she received the prestigious Carol Dye Award, the only award given for acting. **Director “*Drawing Angel*”**



Sheri Hagen was born in Lagos, Nigeria, brought up in Hamburg and completed her education at Stage School of Dance and Drama and in Studio Theater in Vienna. She has performed in various TV and film productions (Baal, Tatort, Sperling, etc.) and also on stage productions in Berlin. Her last performance was in Munich Shakespeare’s “*Othello*” (directed by Luk Perceval). *Stella and the Storks* is her first film. **Director “*Stella and the Storks*”**

Steven Ayromlooi graduated from Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in film and a Minor in Illustration. He made his first feature film for

Lions Gate Entertainment “Leprechaun Back 2 Tha’ Hood” which he wrote and directed. He has also directed, “*Flip the Script*”, starring Robin Givens and Miguel Nunez Jr. and “*Love and Other 4 Letter Words*” starring Flex Alexander, Essence Atkins, Aloma Wright and Tangi Miller. **Director “My Girlfriends Back”**

Tangi Miller has been named by Ebony magazine as one of the most beautiful people of the millennium. She can be seen in Tyler Perry’s blockbuster Film “*Madea’s Family Reunion*”. She was also nominated for a 2005 NAACP image Award for outstanding Actress in the TV movie “Phantom Force”. Along with acting Ms Miller has a passion for African Caribbean dance and producing. As a member of a Los Angeles based African dance troupe, Tangi has performed in Cameroon and Ghana. **Executive Producer, Producer and Actress “My Girlfriends Back”**.



Tunde Kelani is one of Africa's leading cinematographers. Now heading Mainframe Film & Television Productions, TK, as he is popularly called, is behind many of the professionally packaged home video movies from the emerging “Nollywood” industry in Nigeria. - **Director “Arugbá”**.

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 We look forward to seeing you next year!

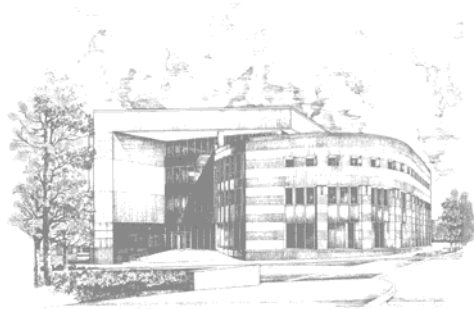
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