



BLACK BOTTOM FILM FESTIVAL

CINEMA FOR THE SOUL.

AUGUST WILSON CENTER
FEBRUARY 23 - 25, 2018



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Congratulations, Black Bottom Film Festival



Janis Burley Wilson
President & CEO August Wilson Center

The Black Bottom Film Festival is a celebration of cinema. An illumination of film that focuses on race, family, working class struggle, duty, and honor; themes that are the basis for all of the plays in August Wilson's award-winning Pittsburgh Cycle. It is our mission to bring film to the region that people would not otherwise have an opportunity to see, as well as to celebrate filmmakers that haven't received the recognition they deserve.

On behalf of the African American Cultural Center, we would like to thank Joseph L. Lewis, III and Mike Dennis for curating this wonderful line up of creative and independent excellence. We'd also like to thank trailblazing production designer, Wynn Thomas for allowing us to honor his body of work. We appreciate the support of Brian Cook, President of the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation, for bringing his media savvy to the Black Bottom Film Festival as a perfect host. Our collaborators, Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Row House Cinema, the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater brought their expertise and community connections and we look forward to deepening those partnerships.

See you at the movies!

Janis Burley Wilson





is pleased to support the

BLACK BOTTOM FILM FESTIVAL



TEEN SCREEN

FilmPittsburgh.org

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23

TALE OF FOUR SHORT

Friday 5:30 PM | Duration: 23 Minutes

QUEEN NANNY: LEGENDARY MAROON CHIEFTAINNESS

Co-presented with Pittsburgh Filmmakers DOCUMENTARY
Harris Theater: Friday 6:00 PM | Duration: 59 Minutes

LOVE JONES - 20TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE FEATURE FILM

Friday 8:30 PM | Duration: 104 Minutes

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24

WENDELL FREELAND: A QUIET SOLDIER DOCUMENTARY

Saturday 12:30 PM | Duration: 43 Minutes

ODDS AGAINST TOMORROW FEATURE FILM

Saturday 1:30 PM | Duration: 96 minutes

CINDERELLA MAN FEATURE FILM

Saturday 5:00 PM | Duration: 144 minutes

DOUBLE PLAY FEATURE FILM

Saturday 8 PM | Duration: 130 Minutes

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25

NIGHT SHIFT SHORT

Sunday, 12:30 PM | Duration: 14 Minutes

INAMORATA SHORT

Sunday 1:00 PM | Duration: 20 Minutes

THE MAGNIFICENT LIFE OF CHARLIE FEATURE FILM

Sunday 2:00 PM | Duration: 87 Minutes

LAST LIFE FEATURE FILM

Sunday 4:30 PM | Duration: 82 Minutes

QUEEN NANNY: LEGENDARY MAROON CHIEFTAINNESS

Co-presented with Pittsburgh Filmmakers DOCUMENTARY
Harris Theater: Sun./Tue./Wed./Thur. 6:00 & 7:30 PM
Duration: 59 Minutes

BETTY DAVIS: THEY SAY I'M DIFFERENT DOCUMENTARY

Sunday 7:00 PM | Duration: 56 Minutes

TICKETS

\$55

Weekend Pass

Includes access to all screenings, QA sessions and workshops on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

\$25

Day Pass

Includes access to all screenings, QA sessions and workshops on the one day purchased.

University student discounts by phone and box office

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AUGUST WILSON CENTER
FEBRUARY 23 - 25, 2018



FRIDAY, FEB. 23

5:30–6:00 PM	SHORT Tale of Four
6:00–7:00 PM	April Reign: Truth Sayers Speaker Series
6:00–7:00 PM	DOCUMENTARY HARRIS THEATER Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess
7:15–8:00 PM	Reception
8:00–8:30 PM	Q&A Khalil Kane
8:30–10:20 PM	FEATURE FILM Love Jones
10:00 PM–12:00 AM	90s After Party with DJ Selecta

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

11:00 AM–12:30 PM	Writers Workshop
12:30–1:30 PM	DOCUMENTARY Wendell Freeland: A Quiet Soldier
1:30–2:40 PM	FEATURE FILM Odds Against Tomorrow
3:00–3:30	Q&A Wynn Thomas
4:30–5:00 PM	BBFF Cinematic Excellence Awards Presentation
5:00–7:30 PM	FEATURE FILM Cinderella Man with Production Designer Wynn Thomas
8:00–10:10 PM	FEATURE FILM Double Play

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

11:00 AM–12:00 PM	Actors Workshop
12:30–1:00 PM	SHORT Night Shift
1:00–1:30 PM	SHORT Inamorata
1:30–2:00 PM	Q&A Bobby Huntley II, Ashley Evans
2:00–3:30 PM	FEATURE FILM Magnificent Life of Charlie
4:00–4:30 PM	Q&A Michael Philip Edwards, Tamika Lamison
4:30–6:00 PM	FEATURE FILM Last Life
6:00–7:00 PM 7:30–8:30 PM	DOCUMENTARY HARRIS THEATER Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess
6:30–7:00 PM	Q&A Phil Cox
7:00–8:00 PM	DOCUMENTARY Betty Davis: They Say I'm Different



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SHORT

TALE OF FOUR

Gabourey Sidibe | Friday 5:30 PM

Academy Award and Golden Globe Award nominated actress, Gabourey Sidibe makes her directorial debut in a multi-layered story that spans one day in the life of four different women who are connected through their quest for love, agency and redemption. Inspired by Nina Simone's song, "Four Women," this film examines four separate stories reflective of multi-faceted African American women connected by the inner city building that they live in, ultimately converge on one fateful day through unheralded acts of bravery.

Duration: 23 Minutes



LISA CORTÉS *TALE OF FOUR AND DOUBLE PLAY*

Lisa Cortés, CEO of Cortés Films, Executive Producer of the Academy Award winning *Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire*, has always been a pioneer. Her work with

trailblazing companies such as Rush Artist Management, Def Jam Records, and Lee Daniels Entertainment has defined a career that has been distinguished by her commitment to empowering diverse voices in front of and behind the camera, producing content with challenging themes and for giving light to visionary stories. Her productions have received over 70 international awards and nominations, including the Academy Award, the Golden Globe, the Berlinale Golden Bear, and the Sundance Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize among others.



MICHAEL PHILLIP EDWARDS DIRECTOR/ACTOR *LAST LIFE*

Michael Phillip Edwards is an award winning writer, director, actor and a multiple NAACP Image Awards nominee. Michael is the first African American writer director performer

to win the Scotsman Fringe First Award in the festivals over 60-year history. In addition to *Last Life*, Michael has produced and directed the plays *Runt*, *I am not Sam* and *Blood and Sister*.



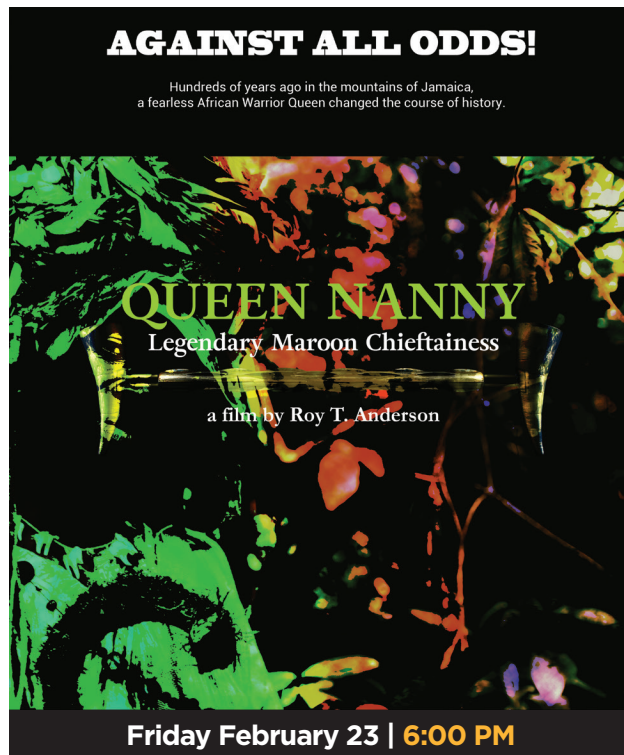
EUGENE HAYNES PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Eugene Haynes builds bridges that connect the gaps between craft, creative voice and commerce. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at Temple University. He works closely

with undergraduate and graduate filmmakers to develop film analysis skills on issues of race, class and gender.

Prior to coming to Temple, Eugene was the Director of Production and Acquisitions at USA Films (now known as Focus Features) and has also served as the Festival Artistic Director of the International Jamerican Film and Music Festival in Montego Bay, Jamaica with actress/activist Sheryl Lee Ralph. His most recent film project, *The Adventures of Teddy P. Brains* is an award winning 3D animated feature film for children that has been featured on television and showcased at film festivals worldwide.

He also currently serves as Program Manager of the BlackStar Film Festival held annually in Philadelphia, PA. The BlackStar Film Festival is a celebration of cinema focused on work by and about people of African descent in a global context.



DOCUMENTARY

HARRIS THEATER

QUEEN NANNY: LEGENDARY MAROON CHIEFTAINESS

Co-presented with Pittsburgh Filmmakers

Roy T. Anderson | Opening Night, Friday 6:00 PM

Sun./Tue./Wed./Thur. 6:00PM & 7:30PM

Harris Theater, 809 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess documents the struggle for freedom by the Jamaican Maroons, led by the indomitable military genius, 'Grandy' Nanny. A spiritual leader, skilled in the use of herbs and 'guerilla warfare' tactics, from her mountain stronghold at the source of the Stony River in the Blue Mountains, she directed the warfare that effectively neutralized the vaunted British firepower.

Conceived by award-winning Jamaican-born, American filmmaker, Roy T. Anderson, and history professor, Harcourt T. Fuller, this landmark one-hour documentary film, *Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess* unearths and examines this mysterious figure that is Queen Nanny of the Maroons.

Duration: 59 Minutes

Q&A

Friday 8:00 PM



KHALIL KAIN: LOVE JONES ACTOR

Khalil Kain was born and raised in New York City. A 20 plus year veteran actor best known for his turn as “Raheem” in the urban classic film *Juice*. Khalil has been in eight feature films, last

seen in Tyler Perry’s “*For Colored Girls*”. Kain played the character Darnell as a series regular on the show *Girlfriends* for six seasons.

As an educator Khalil Kain taught a course titled Responsibility of Imagery at City College in New York City and also instructed youth at the Harlem School of the Arts in drama.

Khalil directed a production of Sam Shepard’s *Buried Child* at Aaron Davis Hall on the campus of City College in Harlem USA, where he sits on the Board for the City College Center of the Arts.

Khalil has now penned his first play *Lambs To Slaughter*, which has been workshopped at the Cell as part of the Blackboard Reading Series and CMORE Festival. In March of 2018 Khalil will be directing his first feature film titled *Masters*.



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FEATURE FILM

LOVE JONES 20TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

Theodore Witcher | Friday 8:30 PM

Darius Lovehall is a young black poet in Chicago who starts dating Nina Moseley, a beautiful and talented photographer. While trying to figure out if they’ve got a “love thing” or are just “kicking it,” they hang out with their friend, talking about love and sex. Then Nina tests the strength of Darius’ feelings and sets a chain of romantic complications into motion. Stars Larenz Tate, Nia Long and Khalil Kain, who will be attending the Black Bottom Film Festival.

Duration: 104 Minutes

WRITERS WORKSHOP

Saturday 11:00 AM



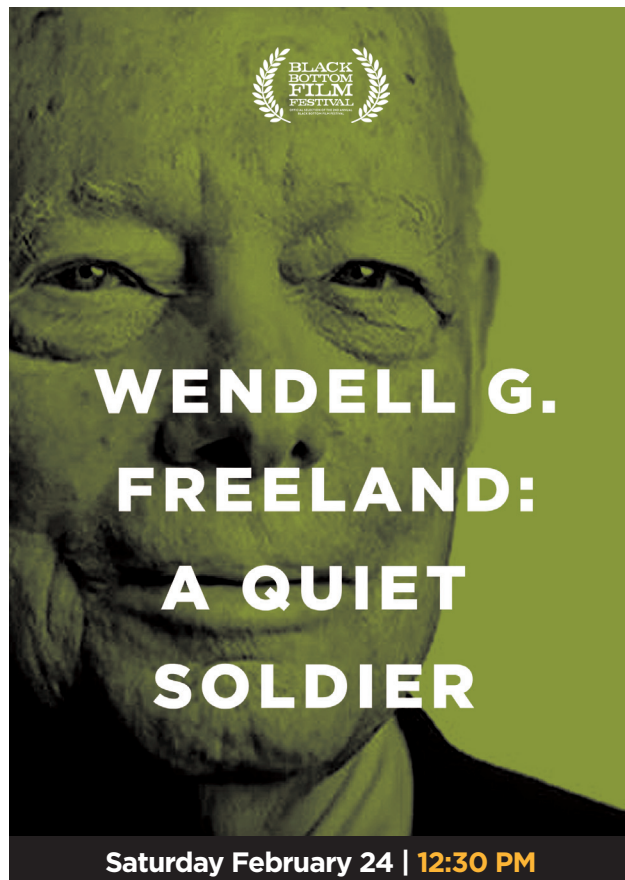
GERARD BROWN SCREENWRITER

Gerard Brown III is a native of Asbury Park, New Jersey and a graduate of Howard University in Washington DC where he studied television, film and journalism. His feature film,

television and theater credits include award-winning projects including *Juice* which was produced by Island-World Pictures. Paramount Pictures distributed the film domestically, releasing it over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in January 1992 in 1,100 theaters. It has since gone on to be considered by many as a cult classic. The film was the directorial debut of Spike Lee cinematographer, and current AMC producer/director Ernest Dickerson.

Mr. Brown also scripted *Monster: The Life of an L.A. Gang Member* for Oliver Stone's Propaganda Films and won first place in the screen writing competition for the New Federal Theater in New York City for his screenplay *High Caliber*.

He is an adjunct professor at Long Island University (Brooklyn campus), and at SUNY Orange. He has also been a guest lecturer at New York University, Duke University, Rutgers University, Howard University, Morgan State University, North Carolina State University, and Saint Augustine's University.



DOCUMENTARY

WENDELL FREELAND: QUIET SOLDIER

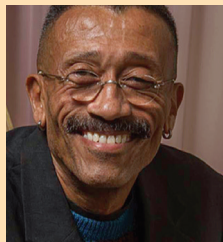
Wendell Freeland | Saturday 12:30 PM

Wendell Grimkie Freeland—A Quiet Soldier in the Fight for Civil Rights is a documentary on an important but little known Pittsburgher, African American leader, attorney, activist, and Tuskegee Airman who worked quietly, but effectively, on all of the significant civil rights battles of his time. His inspirational story is a significant piece of American history.

Duration: 43 Minutes

Q&A

Saturday 3:00 PM


WYNN THOMAS
BBFF CINEMATIC AWARD RECIPIENT

Wynn Thomas holds a bachelor of fine arts from Boston University where he studied Theatre-set design. He designed sets for the famed off Broadway company, The Negro Ensemble Company,

The Public Theatre and Arena Stage in Wash. D.C. He assisted Richard Sylbert, Patrizia Von Brandenstein, and Stuart Wurtzel early in his film career. He has designed movies for Spike Lee, Ron Howard, Tim Burton, Harold Ramis, Robert DeNiro and Barry Levinson.

Wynn is the first African-American Production designer in the history of movies. Some of his work includes the Academy Award winning *A Beautiful Mind*, *Malcom X*, *Inside Man*, *Mars Attacks*, *Cinderella Man*, *Wag the Dog* and *Get Smart*. His most recent movie was the Academy Award nominated *Hidden Figures*. He lives in New York City.

Harry Belafonte

Belafonte Enterprises, Inc.
 310 West 43rd Street, 14th Floor
 New York, NY 10036
 Tel: 212.691.2550
 Email: BelafonteEnterprises@gmail.com

Thursday, January 18th

To The Audience Of Odds Against Tomorrow -

At the turn of the 20th century, an African-American brother by the name of Oscar Micheaux emerged as a major outlet in the motion picture industry presenting films that represented the interests of African-Americans. In 1958, HarBel became the second major producer of films dealing with subject matter touching on the interests of Black life. *Odds Against Tomorrow* was its first film. The film was well received critically and it became an example that encouraged other African-American filmmakers to become to become responsive to the need for engagement in the production of films dealing with subject matter that would be of particular interest to American audiences in general and African-Americans specifically.

HarBel has attempted to make other films that would attract public interest. It is gratifying to see so many young African-American filmmakers beginning to take responsibility to tell the story of their experiences.

Harry Belafonte

BLACK BOTTOM FILM FESTIVAL

**BY ALL ODDS...
IT STANDS
BIG AND
BREATHLESS
AT THE
TOP OF
THE LIST!**

**ODDS
AGAINST
TOMORROW**

*The Director of "I Want to Live"
Makes You Live The Suspense of
Your Lifetime!*

Saturday February 24 | 1:30 PM

FEATURE FILM
**ODDS AGAINST
TOMORROW**

Harry Belafonte | Saturday 1:30 PM

This cinematic classic, is the first feature film produced by Harry Belafonte, August Wilson Center Global Advisory Board member. The story is a crime drama about Dave Burke, a man who hires two very different debt-burdened men for a bank Robbery. Suspicion and prejudice threaten to end their partnership.

Duration: 96 minutes



THANK YOU!



FEATURE FILM

CINDERELLA MAN

Ron Howard | Saturday 5:00 PM
Introduction by Wynn Thomas

Nominated for three Oscars, this working class drama is a true story about James Braddock, a supposedly washed-up professional prize fighter who came back to become the Heavyweight Champion of the World and a national hero in the 1930s. Directed by Ron Howard and Production Designed by 2018 Black Bottom Film Festival Cinematic Excellence Awardee, Wynn Thomas, the movie features Academy Award winners Russel Crowe and Renee Zellweger.

Duration: 144 minutes



FEATURE FILM

DOUBLE PLAY

Ernest Dickerson | Saturday 8 PM

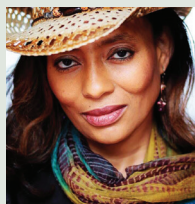
Poverty and wealth are two sides of the same coin in a high stakes game of dominoes where the players confront their lust, desperation and remorse with deadly consequences. Directed by Ernest Dickerson, this film stars Lennie James (*The Walking Dead*, *Blade Runner 2049*) and Academy Award Winner Louis Gossett, Jr., The movies producer, Lisa Cortes, will be attending the Black Bottom Film Festival. No opponent is more formidable than destiny.

Duration: 130 Minutes



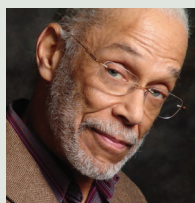
APRIL REIGN TRUTHSAYERS SPEAKER SERIES

April Reign is one of social media's most influential voices on race, politics, and pop-culture. As the creator of the rallying cry and viral hashtag #OscarsSoWhite, she has challenged the lack of representation of marginalized communities in Hollywood, resulting in the most sweeping changes in the history of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



TAMIKA LAMISON PRODUCER/ACTOR *LAST LIFE*

Tamika graduated from The American University with a BA in Performing Arts. She wrote her first screenplay, *Jar By the Door*, which was a Sundance Finalist and won several other awards including the Gordon Parks Indie Film Award. Tamika won several Fellowships and Awards in Writing and Directing including the ABC/Walt Disney Fellowship in Screenwriting for, *Memoirs of A Virgin Whore*, The Guy Hanks and Marvin Miller (Cosby) Fellowship, the CBS Director's Initiative and AFI's Directing Workshop for Women Fellowship in which she wrote, directed and produced the multi-award winning short film, *Hope*.



BILLY JACKSON DIRECTOR *WENDELL FREELAND: QUIET SOLDIER*

Billy Jackson is a national award winning documentarian and principal owner of NOMMO Productions, which has produced more than 50 documentary, dramatic, and promotional films. He also produced and directed *A Safe Place*, a documentary about gangs, produced by Community Media, won a Community Video first place award in 1995 from the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame. Another Community Media production, *Things That Fit*, on August Wilson's play, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, won a Cultural Affairs Documentary runner-up award in 1999 from the National Black Programming Consortium.



SHORT

NIGHT SHIFT

Marshall Tyler | Sunday 12:30 PM
2017 SUNDANCE OFFICIAL SELECTION

A night in the life of a club bathroom attendant, goes haywire on this one night.

Executive produced by Viola Davis and Juvee Productions, Marshall Tyler's *Night Shift* has been selected for the 2017 Sundance Film Festival Shorts program.

Starring famed musician Tunde Adebimpe (TV on the Radio) and with new original compositions from producer Michael Uzowuru (*Nights*, the stand out track from Frank Ocean's acclaimed 2016 album *blond*), *Night Shift* explores uncharted ground and is a part of a new millenium of the black art movement epitomized by films like *Moonlight*.

Duration: 14 Minutes

ACTORS WORKSHOP

Sunday 11:00 AM



KEVIN BROWN ACTOR

Kevin Brown is an actor, singer, environmentalist. He recently performed Mark Clayton Souther's *Miss Julie*, *Clarissa* and *John* at The Fringe Festival in Scotland 2017, as well as the

The National Black Theater Festival (Winston-Salem). Mahalia Jackson *Standing On Holy Ground* and *The Billie Holiday Story* at the Grahamstown Theater Festival in South Africa. He has performed seven of August Wilson's ten play Pittsburgh cycle *Jitney*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Gem Of The Ocean*, *Fences*, *Radio Golf*, *King Hedley II* and *Seven Guitars*. In addition to being one of the original founders of the August Wilson Theater Ensemble. His film credits include *Concussion*, *Fences* and *The Rehabilitation of the Hill* starring Harry Lennix, slated for release in 2018.



RITA GREGORY ACTRESS

Rita Gregory, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has been a member of the performing arts community for more than 30 years. She has appeared in numerous television

commercials. On stage she's earned awards for her portrayal as Rose in August Wilson's *Fences* and the one woman show, *No Child*, portraying 16 characters. Other credits in film and television include *Redevelopment Of The Hill* (in post production), *Abduction*, *Sonny Days*, *My Bloody Valentine*, *Those Who Kill*, *Three Rivers And Cleveland Abduction*, *The Michelle Knight Story*. She will soon travel to Columbus, Ohio to begin work on a new film, *Apartment 304*.



Sunday February 25 | 1:00 PM

SHORT

INAMORATA

A-lan Holt | Sunday 1:00 PM
BLACKSTAR FILM FESTIVAL 2017
OFFICIAL SELECTION

After learning of her fiancé's infidelity, Lola Francis (Sabina Karlsson), a young, Black, clairvoyant finds herself in his lover's bedroom. What happens between them, neither see coming. *Inamorata* is a story about healing yourself. It is told through the narrative of three lovers. What happens when you find love in the most unlikely of places, in the bedroom of the "other woman"?

Duration: 20 Minutes

Q&A

Sunday 1:30 PM


ASHLEY EVANS
ACTRESS

Ashley S. Evans, was born on November 21, 1985, to George and Anna Evans Sr. of Waynesboro, GA. She is the youngest of two children.

At an early age, her family

knew she was destined for the stage. From modeling, to singing, and pageants, Ashley loved the spotlight. But after moving to Atlanta and graduating college, she discovered she had a passion for being in front of the camera as well. Leaving her imprint on media outlets, she has appeared in numerous independent and feature films and television series. A small town girl with big city dreams of the bright lights, acting is but the beginning of Ashley S. Evans' journey, merely a stepping stone to the true accomplishments she has in store for the future.


BOBBY HUNTLEY
DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER

Bobby Huntley II is a director, producer, writer and editor who began his journey as a filmmaker at the age of ten years old. His intense passion for the arts and creativity has captured

audiences with each new project. After joining forces with his mentor Chet A. Brewster, he went out on a limb and enlisted the help with fellow creative Nikki Wade to create the fanmade trailer for the *New Editon Story*. Which continues to go viral with several million views and eventually laid the groundwork that led to the highly rated BET miniseries.

Soon after, Bobby developed "Louisiana 1961", which is a sensual and striking love story starring Bryan Earl and Ashley John. The short film has taken Bobby all around the country with not one but two showings in the prestigious Manns Chinese Theatre in Hollywood and also awarded him his first award—which now allows him to finally be regarded as an award winning filmmaker... finally! Now with "Charlie" he hopes to continue telling gripping stories with compelling images for years to come and inspire other independent filmmakers to do the same.

DAVENSTAR 1 ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS
 A BOBBY HUNTLEY FILMS PRODUCTION
 IN ASSOCIATION WITH DIVADOM ENTERTAINMENT

La Vie Magnifique de
CHARLIE

#CAREFREE NEVER LOOKED THIS DOPE

DIRECTED BY BOBBY HUNTLEY WRITTEN BY BOBBY HUNTLEY & NIKKI WADE

KORTNEE PRICE NIKKI LASHAE
LAILAA BROOKINGS ASHLEY S. EVANS

DAVENSTAR 1 ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS A BOBBY HUNTLEY FILMS PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH DIVADOM ENTERTAINMENT
 "LA VIE MAGNIFIQUE DE CHARLIE" KAI TURÉ PRIAN NICOLE FERGUSON NICOLE DOUGLAS AND MARY ANN LA CUE
 PRODUCED BY LAKISHA HUGHES EDITED BY DR. THEODORE WINS. SMITH COSTUME DESIGNER KIMBERLY MARIE
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TONNIE Z. SMITH PRODUCED BY CHUCKEY CHARLES AND BRANDON CORDY CHUCKEY CHARLES LAMAR COASTON JR.
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BRANDON CORDY/GARUDA STUDIO PRODUCED BY CHET A. BREWSTER FOR DAVENSTAR 1 ENTERTAINMENT
 PRODUCED BY BOBBY HUNTLEY & NIKKI WADE FOR DIVADOM ENTERTAINMENT WRITTEN BY BOBBY HUNTLEY

THECHARLIEMOVIE.NET

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BLACK BOTTOM FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday February 25 | 2:00 PM

FEATURE FILM

THE
MAGNIFICENT
LIFE OF
CHARLIE
Bobby Huntley | Sunday 2:00 PM

After her sister Brandy's untimely death, everyone is taken aback by Charlie's unorthodox (and seemingly chipper) approach to her grieving process. However, a note left behind by Brandy for Charlie leads her to discover many things about her sister and herself that she never knew. Follow Charlie and her friends Kayla and Keturah as they go along for a wild, hilariously exhilarating and bittersweet ride—which will surely be the craziest day of Charlie's life.

Duration: 87 Minutes

Q&A

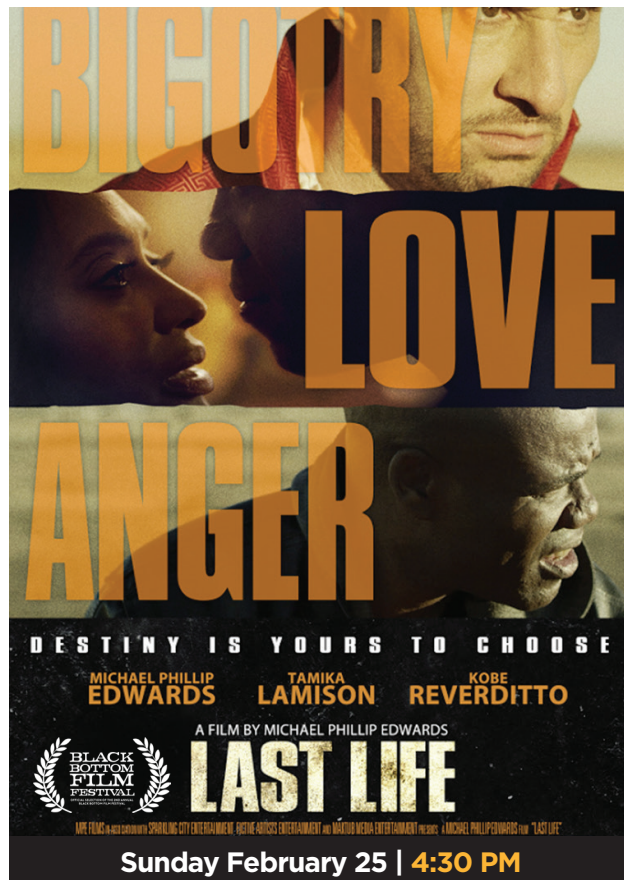
Sunday 6:30 PM



PHIL COX DIRECTOR / WRITER: BETTY THEY SAY I'M DIFFERENT

Phil studied languages and literature before creating Native Voice Films in London in 1998 as a collective of independent filmmakers aiming to collaborate

on innovative and cinematic documentary, reportage and experimental. As an independent director and producer Phil has been awarded the Rory Peck Award for his work covering the conflict in Darfur and also a British Grierson Award and Royal Television Society Award. His recent feature documentaries have been *We Are The Indians* which premiered in Sheffield Doc Fest and won BAFICI Buenos Aires FF award, *The Bengali Detective* which premiered at Sundance and Berlin, winning a GRIERSON AWARD and *Love Hotel* which premiered at Toronto and won a Berlin Film festival award. *Betty - They Say I'm Different* his latest feature documentary premiered at Amsterdam IDFA in late 2017. Phil is currently working on a theater production entitled *40 Days Of Khartoum*.



FEATURE FILM

LAST LIFE

Michael Phillip Edwards | Sunday 4:30 PM

Produced written and directed by Michael Phillip Edwards ("RUNT", "I AM NOT SAM", "BLOOD", and "SISTER"), *Last Life* is a tale about Two African-American lovers learn they've been together over the course of many lifetimes and that they must come to terms with the purpose of their repeated union. They are told by their doppelganger spirits that they only have days to live and achieve their goal (healing the divide between a former slave woman and slave man) after which they will die and never return. Edwards stars in the film as well, along with Tamika Lamison and Kobe Reverditto. Duration: 82 Minutes

Kelly Strayhorn Theater presents
MICHAEL SAKAMOTO
S O I L

Western
 Contemporary,
 Northern Thai
 traditional
 and Butoh Dance

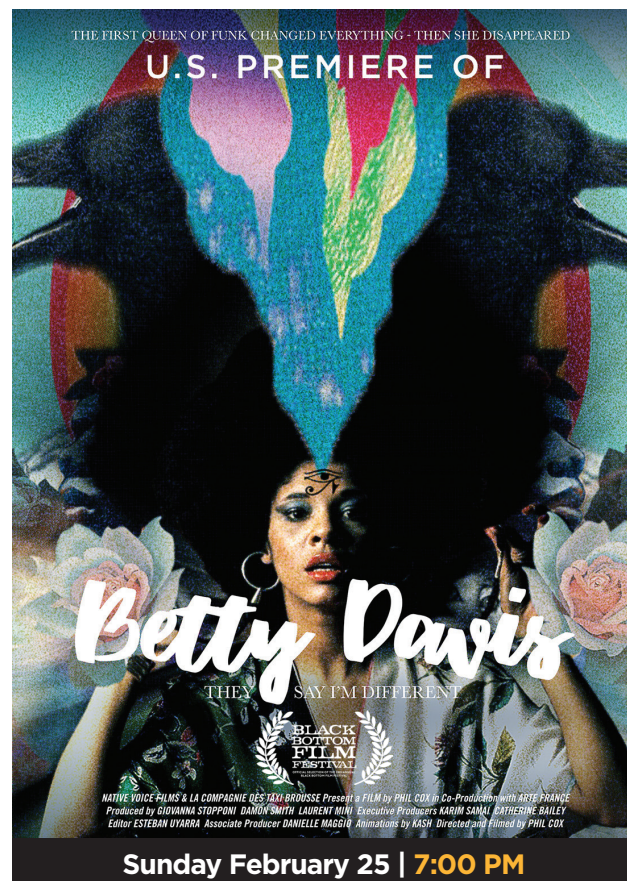
Friday-Saturday
 March 9-10
 8 PM



For tickets go to: **Kelly-Strayhorn.org**



Kelly Strayhorn
THEATER



DOCUMENTARY

BETTY DAVIS: THEY SAY I'M DIFFERENT

Phil Cox | Sunday 7:00 PM

The original Funk Queen Betty Davis changed the landscape for female artists in America. She “was the first...” as former husband Miles Davis said. “Madonna before Madonna, Prince before Prince”. An aspiring songwriter from Pittsburgh, Betty arrived on the 70’s scene to break boundaries for women with her daring personality, iconic fashion and outrageous funk music. She befriended Jimi Hendrix and Sly Stone, wrote songs for the Chambers Brothers and the Commodores, and married Miles—startlingly turning him from jazz to funk on the album she named “Bitches Brew” then disappeared. Betty Mabry Davis is a global icon whose mysterious life story has until now, never been told.

Duration: 56 Minutes



BRIAN COOK

Brian Cook a journalist and filmmaker who owns Golden Sky Media Company, LLC, a full service media company specializing in video production. He is a national award-winning journalist for American Urban

Radio Networks. He also serves as the Web Content Manager for Sheridan Broadcasting Networks. The versatile journalist is also a sports reporter for *Championship Chase* on WPXI-TV (NBC Affiliate,) and is a regular video/photo contributor for NBCNews.com, Soul Pitt Media, and PublicSource.

Cook is currently President of the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation (PBMF), a trade organization comprised of journalists and media professionals. It is the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists.

The 14-year media veteran has interviewed a “who’s who” list of newsmakers including President Barack Obama, the late Senator Ted Kennedy, legendary Motown singers Smokey Robinson and Otis Williams, hip hop artist Common, and many others.



JOE LEWIS

Festival director, Joseph L. Lewis, III is an award-winning television producer, journalist, and media specialist. He’s worked on several documentary projects that aired on NBC, Bravo, PBS, and the A&E

Network. Some of these documentaries include: The four-part television series *Images & Realities*, two shows that illuminated the careers and life of Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie respectively, and another project that provided the historic context of the NAACP.

In between these projects, Joe covered politics and the courts for the *Philadelphia Tribune* and served as a Contributing Editor for *HealthQuest: The Publication of Black Wellness*. He is the Co-Creator and Executive Producer of the Award Winning animated DVD, *The Adventures of Teddy P. Brains: Journey into the Rainforest*, and was Producer of *Science Mission 101*, which won the 2010 Best Children’s Program award from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters.

Currently, Joe is the General Manager of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater.



KILOLO LUCKETT

Kilolo Luckett is an art historian, cultural producer, and writer. With over fifteen years of experience in the arts, culture and community and economic development fields, she is committed to making art and

culture more accessible. Kilolo has worked with national and international artists such as Billy Sullivan, Larry Bell, Mischa Kuball, Tim Rollins + K.O.S. and Peter Sarkisian, and local artists that include Vanessa German, Tina Brewer, Lenka Clayton and Thaddeus Mosley.

She is a contributing writer to the exhibition book *Halston & Warhol: Silver & Suede*. Kilolo is writing an authorized biography on Naomi Sims, who grew up in Pittsburgh and became one of the first black supermodels.

She created By Any Means, a contemporary arts series that engages directly with leading artists, curators, writers, and cultural consumers to broaden the scope and understanding of contemporary art influenced by black culture. Kilolo is acting curator for Visual Arts at the August Wilson Center - African American Cultural Center.



BBFF PODCAST FESTIVAL LONG EVENT

BLACK FILM NOW EXPLORING
THE CURRENT STATE OF BLACK
AMERICAN FILM – PODCAST

CHARLES WOODS TRICKNOLOGY

Podcast director and BBFF curator **Michael J. Dennis** (Director/ Editor) a.k.a. “Mike D.” has over 20 years of experience as a filmmaker. He holds a B.F.A. in Film Production from New York University and a M.F.A. in Film Directing from the American Film Institute. In 1999, he founded Reelblack, an independent film company dedicated to creating and promoting “Good movies ‘bout Black folks.” Mike’s credits include the biographical portraits *Who Is Chris Rock*, *Philly Boy: A Movie About M.C. Breeze*, *Jazzyfatnastees In Process*, *Kindred*, *The Family Soul*, *Ursula Rucker: Poet and Ladies and Gentlemen*, *Jordan Rock*. His work has screened on CNN, BET, WYBE-TV and Aspire TV.

For more than fifty years, podcast host **Charles Woods** has studied and archived memorabilia depicting the images of African Americans in motion pictures. He has presented countless film series in all boroughs of New York, for colleges, libraries, museums and various historical societies. He’s worked for *Essence: The Television Program*; *Brown Sugar: Eighty Years of America’s Black Female Super Stars*; *Images and Realities: African American Men and Images and Realities: African American Women*.

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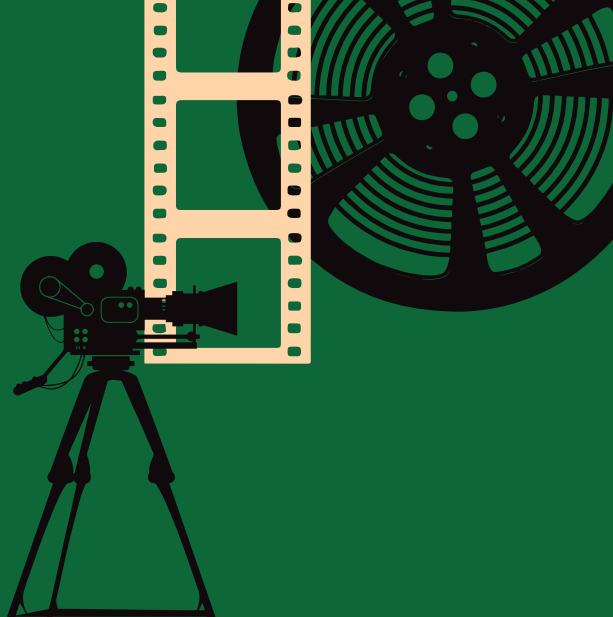
*Original work featuring regional artists
representing the African Diaspora*

AUGUST WILSON CENTER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018
11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018
11:00 AM – 6:00 PM



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