

# African Diaspora Film Festival



FILM

## SCHOOL PROGRAM

### White Like the Moon I

(9th grade & up)

General Public Welcome

USA, Marina Gonzalez Palmier, dir.

A Mexican-American girl struggles to keep her identity when her mother forces her to bleach her skin white to fit into "Anglo" society in the 1950's.

FOLLOWED BY:

### Every Child is Born a Poet: The Life and Work of Piri Thomas I

USA, Jonathan Robinson dir.

A fiery mix of documentary, spoken word poetry, and dramatizations, this film examines Thomas' use of creative expression as a means of confronting poverty, racism, violence and isolation.

DEC 5 at NOON \$8

## NY PREMIERE

### The Fists of a Nation (Los Puños de una Nación) I

Panama, Spanish with English Subtitles,

Pituka Ortega Heilborn, dir.

The ideologically volatile late Seventies and early Eighties is when Roberto Duran, a young, hard-hitting boxing champion, became a hero and a symbol not only for his country but for all of Latin America as it fought for its independence from mounting U.S. economic imperialism.

DEC 5 at 2 PM \$8

### The Black Candle I

USA NY Premiere

This landmark, vibrant documentary uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American experience. Narrated by world renowned poet Maya Angelou and directed by award-winning author and filmmaker M.K. Asante, Jr.

DEC 5 at 3:45 PM \$8



### El Benny I

Cuba, Spanish with English Subtitles,

Jorge Luis Sanchez, dir.

Cuba's 2007 Oscar entry, based on the life of the famous Cuban musician, Benny Moré, with new versions of Moré's songs performed by contemporary musicians including Chucho Valdés, Juan Formell, Haila, and Cuban hip-hop sensation, Orishas.

DEC 5 at 5:30 PM \$10/\$8

## SPECIAL EVENT: A NIGHT IN ETHIOPIA



US PREMIERE

### 13 Months of Sunshine I

USA, English and Amharic with English Subtitles, Yehdego Abeselom, dir.

Solomon (Sammy Amare), an Ethiopian man, marries Hanna (Tsion Fikreselassie) so she can get a green card and become a legal immigrant of the United States.

During the year-long green card application process, the marriage of convenience becomes complicated through love, jealousy, and the clash of cultural values each must face in following their dreams.

DEC 5 at 8 PM

Q&A with cast followed by a catered reception - \$25

## NY PREMIERE

### Nzi The Small Griot I

Switzerland, animation, French with English Subtitles, Mohamed Soudani, dir.

Follow the adventures of a very curious and adventurous little boy who likes to tell stories.

SHOWN WITH:



US PREMIERE

### The Story Tellers I

Switzerland, French with English Subtitles, Mohamed Soudani, dir.

In this revealing documentary, African actors and film-makers discuss how they have to fight to take back African cinema "One of Africa's weapons is its culture, its identity." Q&A with the director following the screening.

DEC 6 at 2 PM

Q&A with the director following the screening. - \$10/\$8

### Disappearing Voices: The Decline of Black Radio I

USA, 2008, documentary, English,

U-Savior Washington, dir.

In this controversial, original and provocative documentary, director U-Savior Washington takes an probing look at the rise and fall of an art form unique to America - Black radio. Written and narrated by radio personality and historian, Bob Law (Night Talk). Not only an expose, a history lesson, and a memoir, it is also a source for solutions.

DEC 6 at 4:30 PM

Q&A with the director following the screening. - \$10/\$8

FILM

### Complexion I

USA, 2008, drama, English,

Vendon N. Gibbs, dir.

Derek meets the intriguing Tracee, and the two immediately form a special bond. All seems perfect in their relationship except the one thing that's keeping Derek from truly falling in love with Tracee - her skin complexion.

DEC 6 at 7:00 PM, \$10/\$8

### Southern Cross I

USA, 2008, Family drama,

English, Kameisha Wooten, dir.

A traditional Sunday for an African American family is turned upside down when Gloria, discovers her seven-year-old daughter, Tabitha, playing with a Confederate Rag Pillow. This leads to new discoveries of family history, and eventually brings Tabitha to a new understanding of her cultural background.

SHOWN WITH:

### Mr. Bones I

USA, 2007, Family drama, English,

Nathan Ross Freeman, dir.

When three children survive a bus crash that kills their parents, their childhood dies as well until they find an unlikely partner in grief at a shallow grave in the woods of a desolate park. They share a secret - MR. BONES - whose final resting place they've enshrined with their own memories and kept closely guarded for nearly 30 years...

DEC 7 at 1:30 PM, \$10/\$8

### Angels Can't Help But Laugh I

USA, Thomas S. Burns, dir.

Actress Terri J. Vaughn sits down with 25 of Hollywood's African-American actresses for candid, unscripted discussions on how they deal with being Black female in today's entertainment industry.

DEC 7 at 4:00 PM

Q&A following the screening. - \$10/\$8

FILM



## Friday 12/6

12 PM White Like the Moon

Every Child is Born a Poet

2 PM The Fists of a Nation (Los Puños de un Nación)

3:45 PM The Black Candle

5:30 PM El Benny

8:00 PM NY Premiere - 13 Months of Sunshine

## Saturday 12/6

2 PM US Premiere - Nzi the Small Griot

US Premiere - The Storytellers

4:30 PM Disappearing Voices:

The Decline of Black Radio

7 PM NY Premiere - Complexion

## Sunday 12/7

1:30 PM Southern Cross & Mr. Bones

4 PM NY Premiere - Angels Can't Help But Laugh