

NEWS RELEASE

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Press Photos/Info:

www.langstonblackfilmfest.org

April 7, 2008

Langston Hughes African American Film Festival Unique Films for Everyone to Savor

Festival Runs:

April 12 – April 20, 2008

Opening Night HONEYDRIPPER:

Special Guest Donnie L. Betts (4/12; 7:00; \$15)

Kids Flash Animation Workshop:

ADOPTED BY ALIENS Creators (4/19; 12:30)

The Pedagogy of Cinema Workshop:

Alonzo Crawford of Howard Univ. (4/19; 2:00)

St.Clair Bourne Double Feature:

2 Rare Films from his Estate (4/12; 12:30)

Youth Film Screening:

Teen Filmmakers Screen Work (4/16; 4:30)

Long-Lunch Matinees:

With Lunch by Café Vega (4/16 & 4/18; 12:30)

Closing Night NAMIBIA:

Special Guest Charles Burnett (4/20; 4:00; \$15)

SEATTLE –Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center (LHPAC) will host its **Fifth Annual African American Film Festival**, featuring over 40 films & shorts. This includes a powerful lineup of features, documentaries, narratives, film shorts workshops and animation. There is something for everyone; young and old alike. Complete and updated film details and ticketing information is available at www.langstonblackfilmfest.org or by calling 206-326-1088.

DATES & LOCATION

9 Consecutive Days.

Saturday, April 12 - Sunday, April 20, 2008

All Screenings will be held at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center; 104 17th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98144

STATISTICS

34 Seattle Premieres

16 Shorts

15 Narratives

14 Documentaries

3 World Premieres

2 Workshops

WEBSITE

www.langstonblackfilmfest.org

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

www.langstonblackfilmfest.org

Langston Hughes Box Office. Open from 11-8 pm

TICKETS

\$15 Opening and Closing Night

\$7 Adult Tickets

\$5 Senior (55+) and Youth (Under 18)

\$50 TenPass (A group of 10 Adult tickets)

\$75 Langston All Festival Pass

FILM FESTIVAL INFOLINE

206.326.1088

CAPACITY

Seating capacity for the theater is 281. Advance ticket purchase advised

SELECTED FILM & WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

A GREAT & MIGHTY WALK (1996 USA)

Both a biography of legendary African-American historical scholar John Henrik Clarke himself and an overview of 5,000 years of African history, this film offers a provocative look at the past through the eyes of a leading proponent of an Afrocentric view of history.

****SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ST. CLAIR BOURNE**

4/12 12:00

ADOPTED BY ALIENS (2006 USA)

Youth and audiences of all ages will have the opportunity to engage with two delightful storytelling sisters, Shawnelle & Shawnee Gibbs and their award winning animated series *Adopted by Aliens*. *Adopted* tells the story of Whitney Ward, an orphan who never expected that the love and acceptance she seeks would come from outer space.

www.adoptedbyaliens.com

4/16 4:30

****SPECIAL KIDS WORKSHOP: INTRO TO FLASH ANIMATION.** Filmmakers Shawnee & Shawnelle Gibbs will be in Seattle to discuss filmmaking and Flash animation.

4/19 12:00

ADRIFT IN THE HEARTLAND (2007 USA)

The friendship between an African American and Palestinian American woman. www.tinyleaps.com

4/15 4:30

ALL OUR SONS: Fallen Heroes of 9/11 (2004 USA)

Framed by the events of September 11th, *All Our Sons – Fallen Heroes of 9/11* is the story of the twelve black firefighters who died at the World Trade Center. www.alloursons.com

4/13 4:30

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS (2007 USA)

In this murder mystery, a black professor is accused of murdering one of his students, a white woman with whom he had an affair. The jury discussion turns into a bitter dispute about racial authenticity. www.atriumcinematics.com

****LOCAL FILMMAKER EDDIE SMITH IN ATTENDANCE**

4/17 7:00

THE BLACK & GREEN (1982 USA)

This rarely-seen, somewhat controversial 1982 film documents the visit of five African American community activists to West Belfast, Northern Ireland. It explores parallels between Northern Irish Catholics and African Americans in the Civil Rights movement as the delegation members observe "crushed tenements, graffiti-stained walls and heavily armed law officers," as Richard Harrington wrote in the Washington Post. The delegation and their Irish hosts try to find out what they have in common in the areas of human rights and social change. The film was originally made for PBS but was withdrawn before it could be aired.

**SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ST. CLAIR BOURNE

4/12 12:00

BLACK AUGUST (2007 USA)

The movie encompasses the infamous Soledad Brothers case. George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo, and John Clucheette are accused of murdering a Soledad prison guard in retaliation for killing three Black inmates involved in a fight with white inmates on an exercise yard in Soledad State Prison, Soledad, California. The film reflects the general prison movement in the late 1960s and early 70s, and the role the Black Panther Party played on prisoners across the country and in organizing the outside communities. <http://warnervideo.com/blackaugust>

**PANEL DISCUSSION WITH AARON DIXON, SEATTLE BLACK PANTHER ALUMNI

4/16 7:00

BLACKOUT (2007 USA)

In summer 2003, America experienced the largest blackout in its history—widely reported as peaceful. But in Brooklyn's forgotten East Flatbush neighborhood, mayhem unfolded when the power shut down. This is the untold story of the blackout—a place where, as night fell, looters emerged, violence surfaced and residents feared for their lives.

4/14 7:00

BROTHER? (2007 USA)

A candid video collage dedicated to all the 'brothers from other mothers' in search of their true selves.

4/16 7:00

BUSS DI DANCE (2007 USA)

A look into the world of Caribbean dancehall music and culture. www.dctvny.org

**YOUTH MADE FILM

4/16 4:30

CONNECT (2007 USA)

Teens learn to put down their electronic and digital devices and enjoy interacting with each other.

** YOUTH MADE FILM

4/16 4:30

DEATH OF TWO SONS (2006 USA)

Film follows the life histories of Amadou and Jesse as their dreams led them to each other's home countries. The film looks at the religious, social and political implications of their deaths, raising painful and difficult questions about race and global disparities of justice. Beyond examining the broad societal aspects of these events, the film leads us to a very personal truth: that the loss of any human life is equally tragic. *Death of Two Sons* shows the common humanity shared by these young men, their families, and their nations. www.alrick'sporch.com

**FILMMAKER ALRICK BROWN IN ATTENDANCE

4/19 12:00

EBONY CHUNKY LOVE: B*tch Can't Get a Date (2006 USA)

The flamboyantly funny co-host of Sirius Radio's "OutQ in the Morning", Keith Price has the spotlight in this documentary about the personal and professional troubles of a gay African American comedian. Filmmaker Renteria

uses clips from Price's act, interviews, and scholarly commentary to explore issues of popular culture, class, and racism in the gay community. Ebony Chunky Love is ready to make you think – and laugh!

****LOCAL ACTOR KEITH PRICE & FILMMAKER LONNIE RANTERIA IN ATTENDANCE**

4/13 7:00

ELI'S LIQUOR STORE (2007 USA)

Set in Koreatown, Eli, a 43 year old store owner, college educated and corporate trained, struggles with culture shock in this humorous tale as he, tries to run his liquor store and learns that change begins with one person.

<http://www.elisliquorstore.com/>

4/14 7:00

GOT BREAST? (2007 USA)

Documentary on breasts, beauty ideals, body image, positive and negative attitudes about breasts.

****LOCAL FILMMAKER ANASTACIA (Stacey) TOLBERT IN ATTENDANCE**

4/18 4:30

HONEYDRIPPER (2007 USA) **OPENING NIGHT FILM EVENT**

It's 1950 and it's a make or break weekend for Tyrone Purvis (Danny Glover), the proprietor of the Honeydripper Lounge. Deep in debt, Tyrone is desperate to bring back the crowds that used to come to his place. He decides to lay off his long-time blues singer Bertha Mae, and announces that he's hired a famous guitar player, Guitar Sam, for a one night only gig in order to save the club. www.honeydrippermovie.com

****FILMMAKER DONNIE L. BETTS IN ATTENDANCE. SHARES BEHIND-THE-SCENES FOOTAGE**

4/12 7:00

IF I HAD KNOWN I WAS A GENIUS (2006 USA)

Dominique Wirschafter's quirky, energetic comedy offers a fresh and intelligent perspective on social malfunction and black masculinity. Whoopi Goldberg turns in a brilliant, understated performance as Michael's myopic-minded mother, while Markus Redmond delivers a marvelously ironic performance as Michael in all stages of his life. *If I Had Known I Was a Genius* is a unique and accomplished first-time feature from Wirschafter and establishes her as a director to watch. <http://festival.sundance.org/filmguide/popup.aspx?film=4679>

****LONG LUNCH MATINEE. Lunch Available from Café Vega**

4/16 12:30-2:00

I'M THROUGH WITH WHITE GIRLS (the inevitable undoing of Jay Brooks) (2007 USA)

Romantic/dramatic comedy. Jay struggles to get his love life in order after running out on a series of White girlfriends. He claims he can't find a Black woman interested in a hipster like him in L.A., but he's proven wrong when he meets a writer who is as smart, 'alternative' and creative as he is.

4/18 7:00

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ELEGANT (2004 FRANCE / UK)

This is the story of one of the most unusual clubs in the world: La SAPE. Its members, the Sapeurs, come from the Democratic Republic of Congo and have elevated fashion to the status of a religion. Despite extreme economic hardships the Sapeurs will only settle for the likes of Roberto Cavalli, Yohji Yamamoto, Versace, Issey Miyake and Burberry. Set to the soundtrack of Congo's extraordinary music, the film follows the cult's founder and spiritual father, Papa Wemba, the world-famous musician known as 'Le Roi De La Sape' (The King of la Sape).

4/13 4:30

KIBRE-NEK(PREJUDICED PRIDE) (2006 ETHIOPIA)

Ethiopian romantic/family drama. Young couple struggles against family prejudices regarding class, health, lineage, and moral standards. No matter how beautiful or smart she is, the fact that her father suffers from leprosy stigmatizes her and her family in the eyes of her surroundings.

4/17 4:30

LALIBELA: Wonders and Mystery (2006 ETHIOPIA)

Documentary about the 900+ year old historic landmark and 11 rock-hewn Eastern Orthodox churches in Ethiopia.

<http://addisculture.com>

4/13 12:00

MAN II MAN (2007 USA)

Psychotic holds bar patrons hostage while negotiating with cop. www.atriumcinematics.com

****LOCAL FILMMAKER EDDIE SMITH IN ATTENDANCE**

4/17 7:00

MORNING DUE (2007 USA)

The bonds of true love can never be broken as a couple ponders their fate & the future of their unborn child.

www.middlepassageproductions.com

4/15 7:00

NAMIBIA: The Struggle for Liberation (2007 NAMIBIA) ** CLOSING NIGHT FILM EVENT **

NAMIBIA depicts the long struggle waged by the people of Namibia for their independence that was ultimately won with the help of Cuban military volunteers fighting in Angola. The 1987 battle of Cuito Cuanavale, in which the South African army was decisively defeated, turned the tide in the liberation struggle for all of Southern Africa. This was one of the key factors that led to Namibian Independence and the election of Sam Nujoma as Namibia's first President and forced the white supremacist South African government to free President Nelson Mandela and to negotiate with the African National Congress. www.namibiathemovie.com/HOME.html

****LEGENDARY FILMMAKER CHARLES BURNETT IN ATTENDANCE**

4/20 4:00

NAPPY HEADS (2007 USA)

Experimental short about Afro hair in its natural state, by Sabrina Moella www.myspace.com/sabrinamoella

4/16 7:00

PARIAH (2007 USA)

Pariah is a coming-of-age drama about a lesbian teenager who unsuccessfully juggles multiple identities to avoid rejection from her friends and family. Set against the kinetic and incongruous social landscape of middle class New York City, Alike vacillates between being a proud and sexually independent woman amongst her openly gay friends and being the feminine, obedient girl that her strict Christian upbringing dictates. Torn by mounting pressure from home, school, and within, the line between her dual personas wears thin with explosive consequences. Pariah is an excerpt from a feature-length film of the same title currently in development.

<http://www.pariathemovie.com/>

4/13 7:00

THE PEDAGOGY OF CINEMA

The power of motion pictures to effect change in society is not nurtured by the traditional methods of consumption. Instead, its true power of consciousness-raising is inherent in the method of production. According to Paulo Freire, the author of Pedagogy of the Oppressed, there are two basic methods of teaching or pedagogy. One designed by the teacher for the student, in which it is assumed that the teacher has knowledge and the student is without knowledge. The alternative is a dialogical teaching method, with the area for study delineated in an interaction between teacher and student. The goal of this method is to perceive the processes, which create reality and the place of the participants in those processes. The challenge for filmmakers of the future is to find a way to bring about the involvement of oppressed people in the production process of the filmmaking experience. In the new millennium, filmmakers must come to know that the liberating power of film to change social consciousness is not in how a film is watched, but how it is created.

****FILMMAKER & HOWARD UNIV. PROFESSOR ALONZO CRAWFORD LEADS THE WORKSHOP**

4/19 2:00

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL (LIBERIA / USA)

The civil and clan wars that ravaged Liberia from 1989-2003 accounted for over 250,000 deaths, one million displaced persons, and a malignancy of unspeakable atrocities often committed by child-soldiers, that left the country in a dire state of hopelessness. Out of this despair rose a group of women; mothers, grandmothers, aunts and daughters, led by Leymah Gbowee, a mother who dared to dream that the wars could end. This film tells their extraordinary story. Through simple testimonials and footage from the conflicts, it weaves a story of hope that stands as a testament to the power of women and peace.

4/13 2:00

PROPHECY (USA)

A girl's lyrical mediation on her independence and her strained relationship with her single mother & other family
**YOUTH MADE FILM

4/16 4:30

RHYTHM OF FIRE/RITMO DEL FUEGO (2007 USA/CUBA)

The magical, historical, and political life of the Black community of Santiago de Cuba. Hosted by Danny Glover.

www.cimerroncinema.com

4/12 3:00

ROOTS TIME (2006 JAMAICA / ARGENTINA)

The story of Jah Bull and Baboo, two Rastafarians who travel the country towns of Jamaica, selling LP records in an old colorful car. By chance their favorite and well known radio broadcaster "Farmer Roots" hitchhike them in an emergency while trying to take his sick girlfriend to a hospital. Jah Bull and Baboo, because of their Rastafarian principles, don't believe in traditional medicine and convince "Farmer Roots" to take his girlfriend to a well known herbal doctor call Bongo-Hu. Getting to the herbal doctor turns out to be much more difficult than what they expected and all kind of adventures happen on their way to reach the herbal doctor.

<http://www.oneeyedfilms.com/Website/RootsTime.htm>

4/19 7:00

SOMETHING IS KILLING TATE (2007 USA)

This is a family drama about a young man's experiences with depression, a suicide attempt and interactions with his deaf sibling.

4/15 7:00

SUGAR (2008 USA)

Sugar follows Miguel Santos, a Dominican baseball player struggling to make it to the big leagues and pull his family out of poverty. He gets his break at age 19, when he advances to the United States' minor league system and travels from his tight-knit community to a small town in Iowa. Miguel struggles with the new language and culture despite the welcoming efforts of his host family. When his play on the mound falters, he begins examining more closely the world around him and his place within it, and ultimately questions the single-mindedness of his life's ambition.

**LONG LUNCH MATINEE. Lunch Available from Café Vega

4/18 12:30-2:00

THIS IS THE LIFE (2007 USA)

This Is the Life tells the little known story of a group of teenagers who revolutionized Hip Hop by innovating the very rhyme patterns, melodic concepts and lyrical styles used by many of today's biggest rap stars.

**FILMMAKER AVA DUVERNAY IN ATTENDANCE

4/19 9:00

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED (2007 USA)

The Tillery, NC settlement was created by a New Deal program offering landless sharecroppers a chance to buy their own farms. Roanoke Farms was only one of a handful of resettlement projects for African Americans. Families overcame Jim Crow and slavery's legacy to earn part of the American Dream - land ownership. Their descendants continue to battle racism, foreclosures, & environmental problems. Seeds of independence took roots in the 1960s

Civil Rights movement and grew into a strong force battling present-day environmental racism and economic marginalization. Today, the Concerned Citizens of Tillery lead national campaigns against industrial hog farming, Black land loss, and toxic waste dumping.

4/14 4:30

WOMEN TOGETHER AS ONE (2008 USA)

Liberian refugee women living in a refugee camp in Ghana. The women develop classes in economic sustainability and give testimonies about rape and war.

****LOCAL FILMMAKER GILDA SHEPPARD IN ATTENDANCE**

4/13 2:00

YARI YARI PEMBERI: Black Women Writers & Globalization (2006 USA)

Yari Yari means the future in the Kuranko language of Sierra Leone, West Africa. It was the first major international literary conference of its kind, featuring such renowned writers as Edwidge Danticat, Sonia Sanchez, Maya Angelou, Werewere Liking and Sapphire. The video documents selected scenes from panels, readings, and performances during the conference.

****FILMMAKER JAYNE CORTEZ IN ATTENDANCE**

4/19 2:00

YOKES AND CHAINS (2007 USA)

The Lienau family: Michael and Shari and their children, Jacob, Anna, Bibianna, Joseph, Janey, Tatsi, Corina, Estee and Joshua, live, work and are taught at home on Camano Island. The family has traveled around the United States to apologize for slavery, and Michael, Jacob and Anna have also traveled to historic slave ports on Caribbean islands, in England and in Africa to say "so sorry." Michael Lienau, known for his documentaries about the Mount St. Helens eruption, serial arson and other topics, filmed the Lifeline Expedition, including his own wife and children, as they apologized for slavery.

****LOCAL FILMMAKER MICHAEL LIENAU IN ATTENDANCE**

4/14 4:30

The African American Film Festival is supported by The Lucky 7 Foundation, Seattle Parks and Recreation, 4 Culture, the Washington State Arts Commission, the Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, and a host of local businesses and organizations. The Langston Hughes African American Film Festival gives Northwest audiences a chance to view a diverse array of irreverent, poignant, provocative documentary films on topics such as youth, politics, history, social justice and relationships.

About the Langston Hughes African American Film Festival: The Langston Hughes African American Film Festival supports community building by providing opportunities for artists and audiences to connect using the medium of film as a catalyst for dialogue that leads to social change. The festival creates year round opportunities to enhance media literacy, self reflection, and community discussion. By creating the shared experience of films that are by and about black people, the festival is a creative and collaborative opportunity to build cultural competency across the aisle and across neighborhoods in greater Seattle. www.langstonblackfilmfest.org

About Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center: Established in 1969 as a dynamic and creative cultural arts center under the Model Cities, Urban Renewal program, the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center (LHPAC), provides a cultural institution in Seattle's Central Area, where arts specific to the African American experience is taught, explored, expressed, and enjoyed by all. Having become a program of the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation in 1972, LHPAC has been a consistent locale for experimental, cutting edge, traditional, and emerging art forms for more than 35 years. The organization remains committed to providing a place where community is created, powerful and authentic connections are developed, and dynamic art is presented, by and for multiple generations. To accomplish these goals, LHPAC proudly partners with a host of organizations such as: The Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas, Seattle Public Schools, the Seattle Theatre Group, ACT Theatre, Book-It-Repertory Theater, ReAct Theater, the Seattle Symphony, Earshot Jazz, The Jackson Street Music Program and many others that share our commitment to quality programming for diverse audiences.

www.seattle.gov/parks/Centers/langston.htm

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