TORONTO BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

5TH ANNUAL

FEBRUARY 15 - 19, 2017

Co-presented by

in collaboration with

Global NEWS
Many cultures.
One celebration.

Come celebrate
Black History Month with us.

For years TD has sponsored artistic projects as well as historical and cultural events that celebrate the rich cultural contributions of Black Canadians. Learn more by checking out an event near you.

Join us at td.com/blackhistorymonth

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MISSION

The Toronto Black Film Festival is dedicated to giving unique voices in cinema the opportunity to provide audiences with new ways of looking at the world. We are a dynamic, refreshing and audacious festival, whose ambition is to encourage the development of the independent film industry and to promote more films highlighting the reality of Black people and communities around the globe.

VISON

Cool, international, independent, politically incorrect and eye-opening, the Toronto Black Film Festival (TBFF) is about DISCOVERY & DIVERSITY! TBFF brings you the most outstanding and most powerful Black films while creating a space to debate major cultural, social and socio-economic issues.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“Greater knowledge leads to greater understanding”. TBFF is glad to celebrate diversity within the Black communities through films that matter. Films illuminate, entertain and invite audiences to see the world from another person’s experience. In connecting Black films with viewers of all colours and ethnic origins we recognize the differences that make us unique and celebrate the shared values that bring us together. Coming together through art allows members of all cultural communities to better understand one another.
#TBFF17 TEAM

FOUNDING & ORGANIZING BODY
Fabienne Colas Foundation

OVERALL ORGANIZATION & COORDINATION
Zaza Production

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Fabienne Colas, President, Founder and CEO
Réal Barnabé, Vice President
Emile Castonguay, Treasurer and Operations Director

PROGRAMMING TEAM
Emile Castonguay, Programming Director
Joyce Fuerza, Programming Coordinator
Imanol Arias, Assistant Programmer

COMMUNICATIONS & SPONSORSHIP
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Sarah Vulcain, Communications Coordinator
Alexe Louisa, Promotions & Box-Office Coordinator
Imanol Arias, Partnerships & Theatre Coordinator
Joy Bullen, Sponsorship Coordinator
Daniela Kelloway, Head Publicist (ClutchPR)
Amy Saunders, Publicist (ClutchPR)
Karlene Nation, Community relations Coordinator

COORDINATION & LOGISTICS TEAM
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Sarah Vulcain, Overall Logistics Coordinator
Alexe Louisa, Ground Coordinator
Dominique Argant, Guests Coordinator
Frederica Black, Logistics & Volunteers Coordinator
Julie Christian, Logistics Advisor
Richard Bonnick, Guests Logistic Facilitator
Sharon Lavelle, Guests Logistic Facilitator

WEBSITE, GRAPHIC DESIGN & EDITING
Zaza Production:
David Fortuné, Webmaster
Géraldine Entiope, Graphic Designer
Camilo Sorto-Cazaux, Trailers & Video Ads
Rose Kivellote, Photographer

SPECIAL THANKS TO
All our generous and devoted volunteers!

The entire team at Global News (Toronto & Montreal) and TD Bank.

#TBFF17 PARTNERS

CO-PRESENTER
TD

IN COLLABORATION WITH
Global News

FOUNDER
Fabienne Colas Foundation

COORDINATOR
Zaza Production

AFFILIATE FESTIVAL
Montreal International Black Film Festival

MEDIA PARTNERS
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SUPPORTERS
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VENUES
Isabel Bader Theatre • Carlton Cinema • Art Gallery of Ontario

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Around 30 community partners. Please see complete list at www.TorontoBlackFilm.com/about-us/our-partners
#TBFF17 INFO

TorontoBlackFilm.com  
416-888-7208

PRICES

- Passport card ................................................... $140  
  (Priority access to all events)
- Opening Night ............................................. $25
- Closing Night .................................................. $15
- Tribute & Master Class  
  with Louis Gossett Jr. .................................. $20
- Regular tickets .............................................. $10
- Community program: Free Admission
- TBFF Black Market: See pages 14 & 15

*Fees: All tickets are subject to service charges
Powered by Beavertix

#TBFF17 wouldn't be the same without your strong support. Here are some ways to get involved in your Festival:

- Attend the Festival: Buy tickets & passes.
- Help the Festival grow: Make a donation.
- Be cool while supporting: Buy the Festival T-Shirt.
- Get involved: Volunteer & become an Ambassador.
- Tell your friends: Help spread the word.

Make sure you get the news first: subscribe to our newsletter through the Festival’s website!

Join us on Social Media - See below

STAY IN TOUCH #TBFF17

TorontoBlackFilm.com
Find out all about films, trailers, directors & special guests attending, and buy your tickets / passes.

: @TOBlackFilmFest
: TorontoBlackFilmFestival
: TorontoBlackFilmFest

Join us, love us, follow us! Take part in real time conversation, get engaged, share and support!

#TBFF17

Use it everywhere and each time you want to mention the Festival.

BOX OFFICE & VENUES

Passport cards & Individual tickets available at:
- Online: TorontoBlackFilm.com
- In person (Only day of events):
  ISABEL BADER THEATRE  
  93 Charles St W, Toronto
  416-598-5454
  CARLTON CINEMA  
  20 Carlton Street, Toronto
  416-598-5454
  JACKMAN HALL,  
  Art Gallery of Ontario  
  317 Dundas Street West, Toronto
  (McCaul Street entrance)
  416-979-6648
The Toronto Black Film Festival was founded by the Fabienne Colas Foundation. Its board of directors wish you all a wonderful festival!
Happy TBFF 5th anniversary to all its festivalgoers, partners, volunteers & devoted staff!!!!

It all started in 2005 with the Montreal Haitian Film Festival which expanded into the Montreal International Black Film Festival (MIBFF), Canada’s largest Black Film Festival. And in 2013, the Toronto Black Film Festival (TBFF) was born. Both Festivals have been providing a platform for hundreds of creators who are willing to take a risk by making non-commercial choices, which allows them to tell stories and convey realities that would otherwise not have made it to you. We have showcased exceptional work that did not always make it to the silver screen. By giving a voice to the marginalized and showing films that shatter taboos, our festival’s aim is to promote professional collaboration and foster the development of independent film - while celebrating diversity on screen.

But TBFF would not be where it is today without the vision of its board of directors, the audacity and perseverance of its team, the quality of the works selected, the creativity of the artists, the enthusiasm of the press, the conviction of our partners and, above all, the passion and the loyalty of our audiences. Special thanks to the Fabienne Colas Foundation for its tremendous support. I’m grateful for the amazing work of our great team - the very best a festival can hope for. My heart goes out particularly to our programming gurus Emile Castonguay and Joyce Fuerza - without them there would be no Festival - and to Alexe Louisa, our long time promotion and logistics coordinator working behind the scene to make all work.

All of this would not have been possible without our friends at Global News, TBFF’s official partner for the past 5 years, and TD Bank, TBFF co-presenter. We are proud to be part of TD’s 2017 Black History Month Series.

We want to continue being the reflection of a cinema that’s in step with the current realities of a fast-changing world; a Festival that's on the look-out for new trends, new encounters and top-notch original works.

Let’s keep spreading powerful films and stories with impact; films that can move and inspire us to see the world differently and take action!

Enjoy YOUR Festival!!

Fabienne Colas

MESSAGE FROM

Fabienne Colas
The President & Founder

We are so excited to share our line-up of the 5th edition of the Toronto Black Film Festival with you all!!!

We open with the Canadian premiere of the forthcoming documentary Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities directed by Emmy Award Winner director Stanley Nelson. The documentary celebrates the impact historically black colleges and universities have had on American culture. Nelson also directed last year’s The Black Panthers: Vanguard Of The Revolution documentary.

We are honoured to pay tribute to legendary, Oscar winning actor Louis Gossett Jr. with TBFF 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award. The ceremony will be followed by a Q&A and Master class with Mr. Gossett.

We also bring you once again over 40 of the very best films on black realities from 20 countries, most of which are Canadian Premieres, and a variety of breathtaking special events are part of this year’s program! From drama to comedy to classic opera musical, from inspiring documentaries to entertaining narrative/fiction films, from International to Canadian masterpieces, #TBFF17 has something for everyone!

We close the festival with the South African film The Lucky Specials, a North American Premiere, directed by Reg Rangaka. A film that entertains but also educates audiences while raising awareness about Tuberculosis.

Besides the great films and the special events, festival-goers and people from the film industry will also be able to enjoy FREE panel discussions (TBFF Community program) as well as FREE workshops (TBFF Black Market) at Carlton Cinema.

Complete program and line-up as well as passes and tickets are available at www.torontoblackfilm.com.

Enjoy the Festival!

Fabienne Colas

Emile Castonguay
Co-Founder & Programming Director

Joyce Fuerza
Head Coordinator & Programming Coordinator

Enjoy the Festival!

Emile Castonguay
Joyce Fuerza
OPENING FILM
TELL THEM WE ARE RISING:
The story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities
By Stanley Nelson - USA
Isabel Bader Theatre 93 Charles St W, TO

FEB 15
7:30PM
$25

CLOSING FILM
THE LUCKY SPECIALS
By Rea Rangaka - South Africa
Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, TO

FEB 19
9PM
$15

AN INTIMATE NIGHT WITH LOUIS GOSSETT JR.
Film: 10 Minutes by Satie Gosset
* Tribute * MasterClass * Q&A
Jackman Hall - 317 Dundas Street W, TO

FEB 18
9PM
$20

WORKSHOPS - MASTER CLASSES & MOVIE-TALKS
TBFF BLACK MARKET

FEB 18
11AM
FREE MEET THE FILMMAKERS
Free admission
Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, TO

FEB 18
1PM
FREE MAKING WEBSERIES
Panel discussion
Free admission
Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, TO

FEB 19
11AM
FREE MASTER CLASS
$10
With Sudz Sutherland & Jennifer Holness
Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, TO

FEB 19
2PM
FREE PANEL DISCUSSION
TBFF COMMUNITY PROGRAM
A real-talk about Black realities in today’s society.
G98.7FM LIVE AT TBFF
Presented by G98.7FM

Carlton Cinema 20 Carlton Street, TO
Free admission

Fees: All tickets are subject to service charges. Powered by Beavertix
OPENING FILM

Isabel Bader Theatre
93 Charles St W, Toronto

FEB 15
7:30PM
$25

TELL THEM
WE ARE RISING:
The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities

by Stanley Nelson - USA
2016 / 90’ - English
CANADIAN PREMIERE

A haven for Black intellectuals, artists and revolutionaries - and path of promise toward the American dream - Black colleges and universities have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field. They have been unapologetically Black for 150 years. For the first time ever, their story is told.

Stanley Nelson is Emmy-Award-winning documentary filmmaker, MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, and member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal by president Obama in August 2014. Nelson has directed and produced numerous acclaimed films, including FREEDOM SUMMER, THE MURDER OF EMMETT TILL and THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION
The Lucky Specials” are a small-time cover band in a dusty mining town in southern Africa. Mandla (Oros Mampofu) works as a miner by day, but is passionate about playing guitar and dreams of making it big in the music industry. When tragedy strikes, Mandla, his friend (Sivenathi Mabuya), and the band must find the strength to make their dreams a reality. “The Lucky Specials” is slated to entertain millions while also helping to shape attitudes and inform behaviors around tuberculosis.
Introducing the inaugural Halifax Black Film Festival

Saturday, March 4, 2017

Founded by

HalifaxBlackFilm.com
AN INTIMATE NIGHT WITH LOUIS GOSSETT JR.

Jackman Hall (AGO) - 317 Dundas Street W., Toronto

FEB 18
9PM
$20

Presented by

Actors, Louis Gossett, Jr. is one of stage, film and television’s most recognized and lauded talents. With over three hundred titles to his credit, Gossett has earned some of the industry’s highest honors -- including Emmy’s, Golden Globes, NAACP Image Awards, and an Academy Award for his portrayal of Sgt. Emil Foley in An Officer and a Gentleman -- and now adds author, director, and humanitarian to his accomplishments.

With a career spanning six decades, the elder statesman has dedicated this last quadrant of his life to communicate with younger generations and transmit the values of community, self-love, and purpose that have characterized our progress as a people. As such, he established Louis Gossett Jr’s Eracism Foundation (www.eracismfoundation.org), dedicated to providing young adults with the tools they need for living a racially diverse and culturally inclusive life.

Gossett says, “I’m here to do whatever I can as an elder, as a Baba, to the next generation.” (1982) brought him rave reviews, with the latter role earning him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Additionally, he has dedicated this last quadrant of his life to an all-out conscious offensive against racism, violence, ignorance and social apathy. His Louis Gossett, Jr’s Eracism Foundation (www.eracismfoundation.org) was created to support this quest. Through his Foundation, Gossett will establish Shamba Centers (Swahili for “farm”) throughout the United States, that offer instruction in cultural diversity, historical enrichment and antiviolence initiatives for young adults, teens and pre-teens to help them understand and eliminate racism by creating a living environment where racism and injustice has a hard time existing.

See complet bio and more details about Louis Gossett Jr.: TorontoBlackFilm.com

PROGRAM:
Screening of the film 10 MINUTES (18') + TRIBUTE + Master Class & Q&A with Louis Gossett Jr.
#TBFF17 brings back the TBFF Black Market, a series where both locally and internationally renowned industry professionals, experts, thought leaders, visionaries and like-minded people, will share an exciting blend of cutting-edge thinking and real-world experience on today's most critical filmmaking issues. We hope to foster future collaborations, maximize cross-border artistic exchanges and promote entrepreneurship in the field of filmmaking.

See bios and more details at: TorontoBlackFilm.com

**MEET THE FILMMAKERS**

**Saturday, February 18 | 11AM | Free admission**

The TBFF’s Black Market returns with a Masterclass/Workshop that you won't want to miss if you want to succeed in the film industry. Established filmmakers from Canada and abroad will come talk about their experience with filmmaking from creation, to financing, production, distribution/festival circuit.

**MAKING WEBSERIES**

**Saturday, February 18 | 1PM | Free admission**

2017 is the year you take that web series idea written on a napkin and get it made. Using a real web series pitch to guide us, we will walk through the process of creation from pre production to post production. Join a panel of experts (chosen by the ACTRA Toronto Diversity Committee) who have in depth knowledge about casting, hiring, funding, promotion and more. Ask your questions and get motivated.

A union for everyone.

Employed, self-employed or under-employed: everyone deserves fair wages, good benefits and a safe workplace.

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MASTER CLASS: JENNIFER HOLNESS & SUDZ SUTHERLAND

Award-winning writer and producer Jennifer Holness and Award-winning director and writer Sudz Sutherland will take us through their journey in the film / TV industry, obstacles they had to overcome, what keeps them going and their secret for success.

Jennifer Holness is writer and producer of scripted and factual TV and films. She co-created and produced the new drama series, Shoot The Messenger, along with the miniseries Guns for CBC. The latter won five Canadian Screen Awards, including a shared best writing award for Jen. She’s also produced numerous documentaries for TV, including Hispaniola, currently in production with the NFB. Her film credits including the festival winners Home Again and Love and Sex and Eating the Bones, which won the Best First Canadian Feature at TIFF. Jennifer is a member of several Boards including Women in View, pushing for diversity in all things.

Sudz Sutherland works as a freelance writer and director for TV dramas and feature films. Sudz’ episodic work includes Reign, Beauty and the Beast, Murdoch Mysteries and Haven. Sudz’s latest feature film, Home Again, won the prestigious PAFF - BAFTA Festival Choice Award in Los Angeles. Home Again follows up Sudz’ multiple award winning debut feature film Love, Sex and Eating the Bones. Sudz’ next feature is called Operation Red Dog, set to shoot in 2018. He is currently in development for season 2 on CBC’s ‘Shoot the Messenger,’ his first Dramatic series co-created with writer/producer Jennifer Holness that premiered fall 2016.

Hosted by
Fabienne Colas,
Actress, Director and TBFF President & Founder
FREE panel discussion! - See all details and line-up at TorontoBlackFilm.com

G98.7FM LIVE AT TORONTO BLACK FILM FESTIVAL
A REAL-TALK SESSION ABOUT THE REALITIES IN TODAY’S BLACK COMMUNITIES

Join us on Live-On-Location from Carlton Cinema, for Grapevine with Fitzroy Gordon

Topics include:

• #BlackLivesMatter
  What is the social state of our communities today

• #BlackWealthMatters
  How we can attract success and leverage our resources

• #DiversityOnScreen
  Will it ever change? What can be done to speed things up
Narrative Feature Films
NARRATIVE FEATURE FILMS

76'
Feb. 16 | 5PM
CARLTON CINEMA

76’
Izu Ojukwu – Nigeria
2016 / 118’ – English, Igbo
With: Ramsey Nouah, Rita Dominic, Chidi Mokeme, Ibinabo Fiberisima, Larry Williams, Adonija Owiriwa
> DRAMA, HISTORY

The story is told from two points of view: that of a young pregnant woman, and that of her husband, a soldier accused of being involved in the 1976 military coup and assassination of General Murtala Mohammed, the Head-of-State of Nigeria.

Feb. 17 | 6:30PM
JACKMAN HALL (AGO)

COUPLES NIGHT
Mark Harris – USA
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2017 / 92’ – English
With: Charles Malik Whitfield, Reagan Gomez, Tony Rock, Denise Boutte, Clifton Powell, Madelyne Woods
> COMEDY

When a bored but quirky housewife becomes obsessed with her argumentative neighbors, she starts a Couples Night that sends her mild mannered husband into a tailspin.

Feb. 18 | 6:30PM
JACKMAN HALL (AGO)

DESTINED
Qasim Basir – USA
CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 95’ – English
With: Cory Hardrict, Jesse Metcalfe, Margot Bingham, Robert Christopher Riley
> DRAMA

In one world Rasheed Smith is a hardened criminal who has spent years building his drug empire. In another, he is an ambitious architect who has been working his way up the corporate ladder. Uniquely illustrated through parallel lives, Destined explores how one mans future can be changed by a single moment. Facing everything from street violence to corporate corruption, Rasheed navigates his role in each world while demonstrating that on any path, life is never simple in the journey toward fulfilling your destiny.

Feb. 19 | 7PM
CARLTON CINEMA

9 RIDES
Matthew A. Cherry – USA
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2017 / 92’ – English
With: Dorian Missick, Omar J. Dorsey, Robinne Lee
> DRAMA

The film is about an Uber driver who gets life changing news on New Years Eve and the 9 different groups of people he encounters that night that help him work through it. It was the first feature film to shoot on the iPhone 6s in 4K.
NARRATIVE FEATURE FILMS

KATUTURA
Florian Schott
Namibia
CANADIAN PREMIERE
2015 / 114' - English
With: Mara Baumgartner, Obed Emvula, Whilzahn Gelderbloem
> DRAMA
Katutura follows several characters experience the gravity of living in a Township where dreams are poised to die. As they remain hopeful in the face of adversity they are unaware their lives will collide in both hopeful and brutal ways.

LAMBADINA
(NIGHT LIGHT)
Messay Getahun
Ethiopia, USA
2016 / 103' – Amharic, English with english subtitles
> DRAMA
Lambadina is a feature-length film focusing on the journey of a little boy whose story starts in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and ends in Los Angeles, California.

LIFE IS TOO SHORT
Antoine Allen – USA
CANADIAN PREMIERE
2015 / 73' - English
With: Cengiz Dervis, Dawn Noel, Thatcher Johnson-Welde
> DRAMA
A look at the lives of five New Yorkers dealing with a variety of life's challenges and conflicts. Little do they know that all will be over soon. If you knew that the end of the world is about to come, would you do anything differently?

LOVE ISN'T ENOUGH
Saquan Jones, Erin Ryan - USA
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2016 / 73' - English
With: Shadner Ifrene, Ashley Bloom, Bek Markas, Hazel Dolphy, Crystal T. Williams, Sarah Grace Sanders
> DRAMA
An interracial couple's marriage (Charles and Amanda) is being tested by family and societal pressures when they realize that even LOVE may not be enough to save it; but with a child involved, the stakes are higher and their issues more amplified.
OXFORD GARDENS

Obi Emelonye – United Kingdom

CANADIAN PREMIERE
2015 / 83’ - English
With: Ngo Okafor, Savanah Roy, Ngozi Igwebike
> DRAMA

Julius is a broken, down-on-his-luck ex-boxer, in search of redemption. Munachi is a pretty, bubbly young girl with a dark secret. Their chance meeting on a park bench in Oxford Gardens one summer afternoon sets in motion an unlikely friendship and an uplifting journey through their respective fears; and through hope, faith and love; to a stoic acceptance of whatever life throws at them. Stars Ngoli Okafor, (2 time Golden Gloves, Heavyweight champion, top model and Hollywood Actor) Ngozi Thompson Igwebike, Savanah Roy and D Richy Obi-Emelonye.

THE CURSED ONES

Nana Obiri-Yeboah, Maximilian Claussen
United Kingdom, Ghana

CANADIAN PREMIERE
> DRAMA

A series of misfortunes lead a West African village to accuse a young girl, Asabi, of witchcraft. Their Pastor insists that salvation lies in her exorcism and death, using his compelling rhetoric to incite fear into the people and turn Asabi’s mother against her own daughter. Disillusioned reporter, Godwin finds himself swept up in the witch hunt. With the help of a young school teacher, he attempts to save Asabi’s life, fighting back against corruption and false prophets. Based on true events, The Cursed Ones is a story of morality, corruption, and community in the heart of Africa.

PLAY THE DEVIL

Maria Govan
Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 90’ - English
With: Ngo Okafor, Savanah Roy, Ngozi Igwebike
> DRAMA

18-year-old Gregory is caught between repressing his true creative nature and desires and surrendering to society’s dictates of what it means to be a man. An encounter with a successful businessman derails the plans set by his family and community. Play The Devil shatters conventions of sexuality, masculinity, morality and individuality through its unapologetic multi-layered explorations of power dynamics, religion and aspirations.

THE LUCKY SPECIALS

Rea Rangaka – South Africa

NORTH-AMERICAN PREMIERE
2016 / 108’ - English
With: Oros Mampofu, Sivenathi Mabuya, Blondie Makhene, Richard Lukunku, Thomas Gumede, Fulu Mugovhani
> DRAMA

"The Lucky Specials” are a small-time cover band in a dusty mining town in southern Africa. Mandla works as a miner by day, but is passionate about playing guitar and dreams of making it big in the music industry. When tragedy strikes, Mandla, his friend, and the band must find the strength to make their dreams a reality. “The Lucky Specials” is slated to entertain millions while also helping to shape attitudes and inform behaviors around tuberculosis.

CLOSING FILM (also see p. 11)
Feature & Mid-Length Documentaries
Agents of Change examines the untold story of the racial conditions on college campuses and throughout the country, and how they led to these protests. Forty-five years later, many of the same demands are resurfacing in campus protests across the country, revealing how much work remains to be done.

Colour me Black is part two of, “Open Legs With A Closed Mind”. This is the film that brings the problems to the table while shedding light to topics that most African Americans are afraid to discuss and analyze in public. The goal for “Colour meBlack” is to make our community aware that the Black Man is now an endangered species and our race as a whole is headed for extinction, especially given the latest racially-related and racially-charged incidents that have occurred amongst White policeman and young, Black men. If we do nothing, then no one else will.

Ella’s Voice

Kelvin Edwards and Dorothy Lucey
USA
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2015 / 62’ – English
> PORTRAIT, IDENTITY

Ella Fitzgerald’s voice is a phenomenon and unrivalled to this day. She had the perfect pitch and perfect intonation. Ella’s voice spanned three octaves, her phrasing seemed effortless. There is almost no style of music, in which she did not excel, and her numerous - now legendary - recordings of the ‘Great American Songbook’ with pieces of US composers such as George and Ira Gershwin, Harald Arlen, Cole Porter or Duke Ellington, remained a benchmark for the “right” interpretation of those songs for generations of singers. In the film the focus will be on the voice of Ella Fitzgerald. We want to unravel the secret of her voice through many different people (musicians, singers, critics etc.), who will tell about what impact her voice had on them and still has. We want to learn more about Ella’s life to find out what made her sing like she did and only she could.

By Blood

Marcos Barbery, Sam Russell – USA
2015 / 66’ – English
> PORTRAIT, IDENTITY

By Blood chronicles American Indians of African descent as they battle to regain their tribal citizenship. Exploring the impact of this battle, which has manifested into a broader conflict about race, identity, and the sovereign rights of indigenous people, the film demonstrates the shared emotional impact of the issue, and the rising urgency of the debate: a Native American and African American history has been overlooked, and a tribal body feels as though their sovereignty is under siege.
MUSIC IS OUR WEAPON

Taye Balogun
Kenya, Denmark, Hungary, Tanzania, UK

CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 110’ - English
> IDENTITY

A film portraying the philosophy, history and fight-for-justice of the most enthralling band in Kenya, which continues to build a bridge between all different social classes with their music and inspires a population living in abject poverty. ‘Music Is Our Weapon’ is a metaphorical journey of a young vibrant band that never ceases to believe that music is a weapon of change.

SOUND OF REDEMPTION: THE FRANK MORGAN STORY

N.C. Heikin - USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2014 / 84’ - English
> HISTORY/ PORTRAIT

By the age of 15, Frank Morgan was an accomplished saxophonist, playing with the likes of Charlie Parker and Billie Holiday. As his notoriety grew, so too did a steady heroin addiction, landing him in and out of jail for over 30 years. With so much incarcerated musical talent, the San Quentin jailhouse put together one of the country’s leading 16-piece jazz groups during the 1950s.

TELL THEM WE ARE RISING:
The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Stanley Nelson – USA

CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 80’ - English
> HISTORY

OPENING FILM (also see p. 10)

THE HOUSE ON COCO ROAD

Damani Baker
Grenada, USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2016 / 82’ – English
> PORTRAIT, HISTORY

The House on Coco Road is an intimate portrait of Fannie Haughton, an activist and teacher who moves her children from Oakland, California to participate in the Grenada Revolution - only to find her family in harms way of a U.S. military invasion.

WALK ALL NIGHT: A DRUMBEAT JOURNEY

Elilta Tewelde (Executive Producer)
Kate Benzschawel
(Mulay Director/Co-Producer)
Mallory Sohmer (Co-Director/Co-Producer)
USA, Sénégal

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2016 / 86’ - English
> PORTRAIT

An idealistic social worker initiates an ambitious project to take a group of street musicians to West Africa. Fascinated by the sounds of bucket drummers she meets on Chicago’s South Side, Elilta Tewelde aspires to connect the young men to their African heritage through music.
Canada’s Biggest Black Film Festival!

13th Montreal International Black Film Festival

Sept 27 - Oct 1, 2017
MontrealBlackFilm.com
Short Films
NARRATIVE SHORT FILMS

10 MINUTES
Satie Gosset – USA
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 18’ – English
With: Louis Gossett Jr., Glenn Plummer, Kent Faulcon
> DRAMA

A lawyer must convince a serial killer to reveal the location of his last victim 10 minutes before his execution.

A PLACE FOR MYSELF
Marie-Clementine DUSABEJAMBO
Rwanda
NORTH-AMERICAN PREMIERE
2015 / 20’ – English
With: Jacqueline Umubyeyi, Fabiola Ndihokubwayo, Akimana Rizik
> IDENTITY

At a casual elementary school comes a five-year-old albino girl, Elikia. Due to her skin color her classmates make her realize that her being ‘different’ is more a problem than a special trait. While the neighborhood treats her as a stereotype, her mother encourages her. Together, they fight back and raise their voice to find a place for themselves.

ACROSS THE TRACK
Michael Cooke – USA
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 16’ – English
With: Carla McCullough, Thursday Farrar, Brynn Crosby, Berkeley Clayborne
> DRAMA

Two African-American sisters grow up in racially charged 1960s Georgia, but one is born with fair skin. And when schools integrate in their small town, she decides to change her destiny—by passing for white.

ADORN
Elizabeth Melanson, Mouna Traoré
Canada
2015 / 11’ – English
With: Tenika Davis, Jon Cor
> DRAMA

A young woman confronts her emotionally unavailable boyfriend after he stands her up on their anniversary date. As the reality of their loveless relationship destroys her fantasy of how things could be, she is forced to either sacrifice her desire for love or face being alone.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME
Created by Yaz Ali
Directed by Bailey Corneal – USA
2016 / 4’ – English

Using sweet poetic dialogue, Delilah and Fitzgerald remember their love as it was.
FORGIVENESS
Satie Gosset – USA
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 25’ – English
With: Sandra Evers-Manly, Roland Kilumbu
> COMEDY
The President of the United States issues an essay contest to the youth of America asking them how they would fix America. An upstart, African American young man enters the contest suggesting that the President apologizes for America’s role in Slavery.

HOUSEKEEPING
Chris Strikes
Canada
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 15’ – English
With: Madeleine Claude, Brandon McKnight, Alexandra Augustine
> COMEDY
A hotel housekeeper has a habit of frolicking with guests’ belongings as she cleans their rooms. As she is cleaning one specific room, she imagines herself in their lives, discovering an opportunity to really change her life.

HUSTLE AND HEART
Koumbie
Canada
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2016 / 12’ – English
With: Nathan Simmons, Taylor Olson
> DRAMA
Hunter, the new quarterback on a high school football team, falls for the starting quarterback, Nick.

Matriarch
Oyaro Dancurf
Kenya
CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 11’ – Swahili with English subtitles
With: Shirleen Wangare, Shantel Akinyi, Abdi Adan, Mueni Mary, Stephen Njenga, Kipkemoi Korir
> DRAMA
The struggles of a rural Kenyan single mother, who engages in strenuous hustles to earn a living for her four-year-old baby and herself. Through the main character SUBIRA, the viewer gets inside the lives of single mothers who live with the scourge of poverty and lack of basic needs such as food and clean water in the dry lands across the world and learns what makes them tick.

SEE ME NOW
Sharon Lewis
Canada
2016 / 5’ – English
With: Ordena Stephens-Thompson, Jani Lauzon, Ardon Bess, Keeya King
Ambrosia is danger of being extinct from her own life. When a chance encounter with Aung May leaves Ordena inspired, she faces the choice to leap or leave her life for good.
The Boots
Leah Cohen Mays
USA
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2016 / 12’ – English
With: Chase Benymon, Indira Wilson, Erik Mitchell, Paige Noelle, Zenzi Moon
> COMEDY

The Boots is a lighthearted comedy that every parent can relate to and every kid can learn from. Whose child hasn’t had a meltdown in public? Embarrassing, right? In this modern day silent film, an adorable little guy named Donovan goes on a shopping trip with his family and spots a pair of boots that he simply must have. After being told no, he throws an epic tantrum. So, what does mom, Gayle, do? Let’s just say she teaches her son a lesson he will NEVER forget.

The Example
Wyatt Cagle – USA
ONTARIO PREMIERE - USA
2016 / 24’ – English
With: Jeremy Allen, Kedrick Brown, Emma VanLare, Marc Issacs, Kate Robards
> DRAMA

During a race riot in Beaumont, Texas, in June 1943, Officer Miller Harvey, a white police officer, is determined to protect and serve his city and family. Black business owner Carver Jefferson is hell-bent on taking his family far away from the city, as racial hostility has led to the destruction of his home and business. After curfew while Beaumont is under martial law, Harvey, another white officer, and the Jeffereys collide at a roadblock. Tensions explode on that hot summer night, forcing them to make decisions that will question their morals, loyalty, and manhood.

The Suit
Jarryd Coetsee
South Africa
CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 30’ – English
With: Atandwa Kani, Phuthi Nakene, John Kani
> DRAMA

Based on the acclaimed short story by banned South African investigative journalist and author Can Themba, THE SUIT is set in 1950s Sophiatown, Johannesburg, against the backdrop of the apartheid regime’s forced removals under the Group Areas Act.

Trailing a Bond
Oyaro Dancurf
Kenya
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2016 / 7’ – Swahili with English subtitles
With: Abdi Sarwe, Mahmud Salim, Douglas Mdora, Rahim Marjan, Ketai Kipkemoi, Ruth Maingi

Trailing a Bond tells an emotional story of three homeless boys who risk their lives to save the life of a two-week-old infant abandoned by his mother and dumped in an old building. It s a show of selflessness and compassion from urchins who despite lacking material wealth, are rich at heart.
DAT HAAR! (THAT HAIR)
Bibi Fadlalla
The Netherlands
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2016 / 25’ – Dutch with English subtitles
> IDENTITY
Feb. 17 | 9PM | CARLTON CINEMA

ESCRAVOS E SANTOS
Marcio de Abreu
Brazil
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 26’
Portuguese with English subtitles
> IDENTITY
Feb. 17 | 9PM | CARLTON CINEMA

INA
Muffy Levy – Canada
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2016 / 2’ – English
Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

Kaylee (12) was adopted from Lesotho when she was 3 years old and grew up in a small village in the province of Friesland, the Netherlands. She is the only girl at school with afro-textured hair and she's not too happy about that. Kaylee and her mother have no idea how to treat her hair and there is no one around them who can give them good advice. Her hair is getting more and more matted. Kaylee is tired of always being the one with the difficult hair. So she and her mother decide to go looking for someone who can help her.

In the confines of the outback of Bahia, every 12th of October, men and women gather to celebrate the Langa of Our Lady Aparecida. They dance and sing throughout the night to the fervent sounds of prayers and traditional music, expressing their devotion to the black saint. But this mystical scenario conceals sad stories. These are stories of pain and suffering: stories of enslaved men and women told by the black people of the region, as they were heard from their grandparents and great-grandparents.

A daughter retells the story of her mother’s deteriorating health.

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| **ISABEL BADER THEATRE** | 7:30PM | OPENING NIGHT
TELL THEM WE ARE RISING:
The story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (90') | | | |
| **CARLTON CINEMA II** | 11AM | | | | |
| | | 1PM | | | |
| | | 3PM | | | |
| | | 5PM | | | |
| | | 7PM | | | |
| | | 9PM | | | |
| **CARLTON CINEMA I** | | | | | |
| | | 11AM | | | |
| | | 1PM | | | |
| | | 3PM | | | |
| | | 5PM | | | |
| | | 7PM | | | |
| | | 9PM | | | |
| **JACKMAN HALL (AGO)** | 4PM | | | | |
| | | 6:30PM | | | |
| | | 9PM | | | |

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Every day, come enjoy exotic food from our local Caribbean and African restaurants!!! Hmmm, See you there!

#TBFF17 FILM SCHEDULE
Global News believes in a greater Toronto

Global News
Globalnews.ca

Alan Carter  Farah Nasser

Weeknights 5:30 & 6PM
Promoting Diversity through Cinema, Art and Culture

Fondation Fabienne Colas

February
FADE TO BLACK
FadeToBlack.ca

February
TORONTO BLACK FILM FESTIVAL
TorontoBlackFilm.com

March
HALIFAX BLACK FILM FESTIVAL
HalifaxBlackfilm.com

April
FESTIVAL DU FILM QUÉBÉCOIS EN HAÏTI
FestivalQuebecHaiti.com

July / Oct
Haitie En Folie
HaitieEnFolie.com

September
FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL FILM BLACK MONTRÉAL
MontrealBlackFilm.com

Promoting Diversity through
Cinema, Art and Culture

Fondation Fabienne Colas.org