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Newark Black Film Festival Returns to The Newark Museum of Art

July 12, 2022 - July 17, 2022

NEWARK, NJ – June 30, 2022 – The Newark Museum of Art is pleased to welcome the return of the **Newark Black Film Festival**, the longest-running Black film festival in the United States. This year's festival will feature twelve films and present six awards — Long Narrative Award, Short Narrative Award, Long Documentary Award, Short Documentary Award, Experimental Award, and Best Film Award.

Since 1974, NBFF has presented the work of young, independent, Black filmmakers, showcasing early films by the likes of Spike Lee, Ayoka Chenzira, and Warrington and Reginald Hudlin. Other luminaries that have participated in the festival over the years include James Earl Jones, Danny Glover, Pam Grier, Donald Bogle, Richard Wesley, Euzhan Palcy, Ava DuVernay and S. Epatha Merkerson.

“As the Newark Black Film Festival moves toward its 50th year, we plan to focus more on new films from throughout the African diaspora and the emerging filmmakers who are telling those stories,” said Richard Wesley, Chairman of The Newark Black Film Festival. “America has changed, the world has changed and so have the lives and experiences of millions of African and African-descended people striving daily. How we see these changes, how we define them and interact with them is undergoing change, as well.”

Emerging from the last two years of pandemic-isolation, the Museum is excited for the return of the Newark Black Film Festival and to introduce a new generation of filmmakers exploring themes of gentrification, gender inequality, and oppressive societal structures.

With a focus on younger films and filmmakers, this year's selection process included the input of three new members: director **Ayana Stafford-Morris** and The Newarkive co-founders, **Yvonne Michelle Shirley** and **LeRon Lee**. After receiving more than 150 submissions, the selection

committee was joined by partner organizations— **New Negress Film Society** and **Black Public Media**— to curate the series.

Screenings and events will include:

Faya Dayi, Presented by New Negress Film Society
Tuesday, July 12, 7–9:30pm

The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks
Wednesday, July 13, 7–9:30pm

Beba + Opening Party
Thursday, July 14, 7–10:30pm

Ludi
Friday, July 15, 7–9:30pm

Big Chief Black Hawk
Saturday, July 16, 2–4pm

Just Another Girl on the I.R.T.
Saturday July 16, 4:30–6:30pm

Hazing, Presented by Black Public Media
Saturday, July 16, 7:30–9:30pm

Newark Black Film Festival Shorts
Sunday, July 17, 3:30–5:30pm

Newark Black Film Festival Ceremony + After Party (21+)
Sunday, July 17, 6–10pm

Made possible by Bank of America, the festival will take place over six days, from **Tuesday, July 12 to Sunday, July 17, 2022**. Celebrating films that heighten the historic importance of the Black experience in the United States, the festival features live panel discussions and exclusive screenings of films produced and created in the last three years.

“Newark is home to a vibrant arts and culture community,” said Alberto Garofalo, President, Bank of America New Jersey. “We hope that many will visit the festival and support the next generation of filmmakers.”

Panelists include: *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* director, Yoruba Richen, with Pulitzer Prize winning writer Salamishah Tillet; *Faya Dayi* director **Jessica Beshir**; *Ludi* director **Edson Jean**; *Big Chief Black Hawk* director **Jonathan Isaac Jackson**; *Just Another Girl on the IRT* director **Leslie Harris**; *Hazing* director **Byron Hurt**; and a Q&A with producer **Clarisa Alayeto** and **Michael Donte Jemison**, director of *The Spirit God Gave Us*.

Tickets are \$7 for members, children, and students / \$10 for adults. The opening and closing events are \$12 for members, children and students and \$15 for adults. All-access festival passes are \$50 for members, children, and students / \$60 for adults. For tickets, visit [here](#), and for additional information, visit the Museum's [website](#).

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About the Newark Museum of Art

Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art is the largest art and education institution in New Jersey and one of the most influential museums in the United States. Its renowned global art collections, supported by significant holdings of science, technology and natural history, rank 12th among North America's art museums. The Museum is dedicated to artistic excellence, education and community engagement with an overarching commitment to broadening and diversifying arts participation. As it has for over a century, the Museum responds to the evolving needs and interests of the diverse audiences it serves by providing exhibitions, programming and resources designed to improve and enrich people's lives.

The Museum also encompasses the Victoria Hall of Science, the Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss Planetarium, the 1885 Ballantine House, the MakerSPACE, the Billy Johnson Auditorium, and the Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden. The Newark Museum of Art, a not-for-profit museum of art and science, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State (a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts), the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, PSEG Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Estate of Phyllis and Sanford Bolton, the Estate of David J Sherwood, Wallace Foundation, and other corporations, foundations, and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.