



## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
Andreina Castillo  
Director of Marketing and Communications  
[press@newarkmuseumart.org](mailto:press@newarkmuseumart.org)

### **The Newark Black Film Festival Returns to The Newark Museum of Art this Summer *July 12 – July 16, 2023***



Photo credit: © Chrystofer Davis

**NEWARK, NJ, May 18, 2023—** The Newark Museum of Art is pleased to announce that tickets are on sale for the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Newark Black Film Festival, the longest-running Black film festival in the country. The Festival will take place at the Museum from Wednesday, July 12 through Sunday, July 16, 2023.

With opening and closing parties, live panel discussions, and exclusive screenings of films, the Festival will celebrate and center the experiences and perspectives of a new generation of Black filmmakers.

“As the longest running Black film festival, we pride ourselves in giving Black creators a platform to showcase their work,” said Ayana Morris, filmmaker and NBFF Selection Committee Member. “As the film industry wrestles with the uncertainty of its future, NBFF will remain true to the medium by showcasing culturally important films in front of

an audience. We have an awesome selection of films that highlight the nuances of Black revolution, Black joy, Black trans community and Black humor.”

Since 1974, NBFF has presented the work of young, independent Black filmmakers, showcasing early films by the likes of Spike Lee, Ayoka Chenzira, Warrington Hudlin, Reginald Hudlin, Barry Jenkins, and Ava DuVernay. Past participants include luminaries such as James Earl Jones, Danny Glover, Pam Grier, Donald Bogle, Richard Wesley, Euzhan Palcy, and S. Epatha Merkerson.

“From established voices to emerging talents, this festival showcases diverse perspectives, highlighting the power of storytelling to ignite social change,” said Dr. Silvia Filippini Fantoni, Deputy Director of Learning & Engagement for The Newark Museum of Art. “From established voices to emerging talents, this festival showcases diverse perspectives, highlighting the power of storytelling to ignite social change. We can't wait for you to join us for the latest chapter in the festival's great history.”

2023 screenings and events will include:

**Opening Film & Brazilian Party: *Executive Order*,**

directed by Lázaro Ramos

July 12, 6–10pm

**Documentary: *Locked Out*,**

directed by Kate Davis and Luchina Fisher

July 13, 7–9:30pm

***Black Terror (Work in Progress Screening & Panel Discussion)*,**

directed by Richard Lawson.

July 14, 7–8:45pm

**Documentary: *Kokomo City*,**

directed by D. Smith

**Short: *Look Back at It*,**

directed by Felicia Pride

July 14, 9–11pm

**Documentary: *Invisible Beauty*,**

directed by Bethann Hardison and Frédéric Tcheng.

July 15, 2–4:30pm

Shorts, July 15, 5–7pm

***We Were Meant To*,** directed by Tari Wariebi

***The Love Machine*,** directed by Jasmine Lynea

***Burning Rubber*,** directed by Chris Fequiere

***The Vacation*,** directed by Jarreau Carrillo

**Film: *Juice* (Throwback Screening)**

directed by Ernest Dickerson

July 15, 7:30–9:30pm

Shorts, July 16, 1:30–3:30pm

***Us***, directed by David F. Fortune

***Little Trumpet***, directed by Megan Trufant Tillman

***Ricky***, directed by Rashad Frett ***boju weyín***, directed by Bimpé Fageyinbo

**Film: *Story Ave*,**

directed by Aristotle Torres, with Asante Blackk, Luis Guzman

July 16, 4–6pm

**Black Hollywood: NBFF Award Ceremony + After Party**

July 16, 6–10pm

At the end of the Festival, the **Paul Robeson Awards** will be presented to winners from several categories, including Long Narrative and Short Narrative, Long Documentary, Experimental, etc.

The Museum will also honor Newark native, director, and cinematographer, Earnest Dickerson with the **Newark Black Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award**.

“Ernest Dickerson’s success first as a director has made him an inspiration to successive generations of African American filmmakers, as well as to aspiring film artists of all backgrounds,” said Richard Wesley, NBFF Selection Committee Chair. “We salute him, not only for what he has already accomplished but also for the new cinematic work that still lies ahead.”

Presented as a signature event at the NMOA, the Newark Black Film Festival is part of a growing roster of film programs that seek to elevate local and national filmmakers showcasing powerful stories from underrepresented communities.

For more information about the Festival, please visit

<https://newarkmuseumart.org/2023-newark-black-film-festival/>

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**About The Newark Museum of Art**

Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art (NMOA) is the largest museum in New Jersey and ranks twelfth nationally in collection size, with more than 130,000 artworks and significant holdings of science and natural history. The NMOA is committed to the values of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion by responding to the evolving

needs and interests of diverse audiences through participation, visitor experiences, and community engagement.

From the ancient world to contemporary art, the Museum boasts a renowned collection of exceptional quality and depth, spanning concentrations in the Arts of Global Africa; Arts of Global Asia, featuring a Tibetan Buddhist altar; Arts of the Americas; American Art, with a particular strength in Native American art; Decorative Arts; Arts of the Ancient Mediterranean; and Science.

With a focus on welcoming everyone with inclusive experiences that spark curiosity and foster community, the NMOA offers groundbreaking exhibitions, engaging programming, a research library with 60,000 volumes, paid internships, and impactful local and global partnerships. A four-acre campus includes the Ballantine House (1885), a National Historic Landmark; the Ward Carriage House (1860); the Old Stone School House (1784); the Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden; and Horizon Plaza. Under the leadership of Director and CEO Linda C. Harrison, the NMOA has launched an era of transformation to create an engaged citizenry by reimagining the role of the art museum in the 21st century.