



OAK PARK

BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

October 11-15, 2023

The Second Annual Oak Park Black Film Festival

A celebration of African-
American stories and history
through cinema.

Welcome



It is an honor to welcome you to the second annual Oak Park Black Film Festival, a celebration of African-American stories and history through cinema, showcasing independent features, documentaries, and short films by African-American filmmakers.

After attending the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival (MVA AFF), I was inspired to bring the same talent, visionaries, expressions of culture, and history home to Sacramento. I am pleased to showcase such an amazing collection of films from such a talented group of visionary artists of color at the historic Guild Theater in Oak Park.

I appreciate the Sacramento community for coming together to embrace the opportunity to expand our reach, inspire our thinking and support the creativity of filmmakers from near and far. I also want to thank the founders of MVA AFF, Floyd and Stephanie Rance, and a special thanks to Kindra Parker, MVA AFF Festival Director. Their perseverance and commitment to excellence have now stretched across the nation to Sacramento, and we are forever grateful.

Let's celebrate!

Kevin Johnson
55th Mayor of Sacramento



Featured Films

Wednesday, October 11, 5-9pm

Short Film: We Were Meant To



27 min

In a world where Black men have wings and their first flight is a rite of passage, Akil must defy fears, insecurities, and societal barriers while discovering his perfect launch into manhood.

Discussion: Tari Wariebi **Director**

Short Film: ARTiculate ATL



25 min

This short documentary tells the story of how ARTiculate ATL came to be, and its mission to promote artistic expression and connect emerging artists to collectors.

Discussion: Esohe & George Galbreath
Co-Founders

Featured Film: Honor Student



82 min

After losing his twin brother in a mass shooting, a teenage scholar at an elite Washington prep school takes matters into his own hands and proves to America a lesson it will never forget.

Discussion: Tamika Miller **Director**

Short Film: Pretty Boy*



31 min

Elon must navigate the traumatic world of homelessness while confronting loneliness, desperation, and the harsh reality of survival sex in order to face an uncertain future.

Discussion: Kevin Coleman-Cohn **Director**

Short Film: One Shot



30 min

A captivating docuseries that explores the lives of aspiring basketball stars in the Overtime Elite league, shedding light on their dedication, challenges, and pursuit of a pro career, all while redefining the NBA's traditional path.

Discussion: Damien Wilkins **Lead Actor**

Featured Films

Thursday, October 12, 5–9pm

Short Film: Own the 8 Count



25 min

This film highlights equity and copyright challenges in the dance community. Featuring legendary choreographers and contemporary creators, the film addresses the quest for recognition and authenticity in viral dance creation.

Discussion: Dawn Manning
Executive in Charge of Production

Documentary: Hampton University: One of the Wonders of the World



50 min

This documentary introduces us to the historical significance of Hampton University and celebrates the 40-year legacy of Dr. William R. Harvey.

Discussion: Phill Branch Director

Short Film: Regret to Inform You



13 min

The story tracks a challenging day in the life of an aging male performer facing imminent retirement and obscurity. Amidst numerous rejections, setbacks, and societal pressures, he escapes into a captivating dance fantasy as a source of solace and self-expression.

Discussion: Yasir Nasir Director

Documentary Film: Gaining Ground: The Fight for Black Land



92 min

This documentary puts the spotlight on the legacy of Black farming in America, the devastating impact of heirs' property, and how landowners are reclaiming their agricultural rights, and their paths to generational wealth.

Eternal Polk Director

Featured Author: Victor Luckerson



Built From the Fire: The Epic Story of Tulsa's Greenwood District

This book tells the story of an aspirant black neighborhood that, like so many others, has long been buffeted by racist government policies.

Discussion: Victor Luckerson Author

Featured Films

Thursday, October 12, 5–9pm

Short Film: Somewhere in America: Presidents, Protests and a Race Massacre

20 min



A raw and sobering four-part documentary series that explores the political, moral, and cultural fault lines that divide modern-day America.

Discussion: Brian Schodorf, **Producer**

Short Film: Ifine

30 min



Set in the Kono district of Sierra Leone, this docu-choreopoem captures the beauty of Blackness through the lens of the youth coming of age amid a skin bleaching epidemic.

Discussion: Adisa, Ebony Gilbert
Co-Directors

Featured Films

Friday, October 13, 5–9pm

Feature Film: Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project

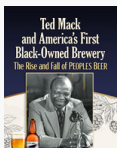


102 min

Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project explores the enduring influence of America's great artist Nikki Giovanni, tracing her journey from the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter through innovative storytelling and captivating performances.

Joe Brewster & Michèle Stephenson **Directors**

Author Talk: Clint Lanier



Ted Mack and America's First Black-Owned Brewery

Born in rural Alabama in 1930, Ted Mack, Sr. fought in the Korean War and played college football before acquiring Peoples Brewing Company in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. His journey highlights Black entrepreneurship, innovation, and pride during a critical time in America's racial justice history.

Discussion: Clint Lanier **Author**

Ted Mack II **Son of Ted Mack**

Feature Documentary: One Pint at a Time



89 min

Craft beer, a multi-billion-dollar industry in the US, often overlooks its African roots. Black-owned breweries represent less than 1% of the total, but Black brewers and influencers across the nation are reshaping the industry and its perception.

Discussion: Aaron Hosé **Director**

Oral History: Patsy Young



The Fugitive Brewer

Patsy Young escaped slavery and became a fugitive brewer in Rock Landing, an underwater ghost town which may have played a role in the Underground Railroad.

Discussion: Jackie Ruffin-Pittman **Educator**

Feature Documentary: Black is Beautiful



32 min

This documentary showcases a man's efforts to support his community through the Black is Beautiful initiative, which seeks to raise awareness about racial injustices within the brewing community and promote inclusivity for people of all colors.

Discussion: Marco Ortega **Director**

Marcus Baskerville **Weathered Souls Brewing Co**

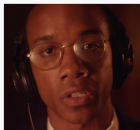
Featured Films

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIP HOP

Saturday, October 14, 5–9pm

Short Film: Keep Pushing

15 min



On a summer day in 1990, Bronx high schooler Billy has just enlisted in the military when he meets hip-hop journalist Taye, who tries to convince him to pursue his dream of being a rapper.

Timour Gregory **Director**

Short Film: Who Am I?

13 min



A short musical film featuring Petey Pablo's journey through his first therapy session. Watch as he embraces vulnerability, confronts his past, and begins the healing process, all while promoting the importance of therapy and mental well-being.

Christine Lakin **Director**

Feature Film: Eve After Dark

89 min



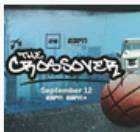
Eve's After Dark: Iconic L.A. teen club since '79, nurturing stars like DJ Yella, Dr. Dre, Eazy E, Ice Cube, and hosting East Coast legends. A haven for Compton's youth, earning Super Bowl LVI recognition.

Discussion: Alonzo Williams

Executive Producer & Owner

Feature Film: The Crossover: 50 Years of Hip Hop and Sports

60 min



Documentary exploring the relationship between sports and hip hop culture and how the two have become intertwined over the last 50 years.

Julian Gooden **Director**

ICON CYPHER

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIP HOP

Saturday, October 14, 5–9pm

Alonzo Williams



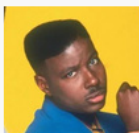
Alonzo "Lonzo" Williams is a powerful force in the music industry with a career spanning over 30 years. Known to the hip hop community as "Grand Master Lonzo" and leader of the legendary R&B/Rap group World Class Wreckin Cru, Lonzo is also credited with launching the careers of Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, D.J. Yella and Eazy-E, formerly known as N.W.A.

Khalil Kain



Khalil Kain is an American actor and film producer known for his role as Raheem Porter in the 1992 crime thriller film *Juice* and as the second Darnell Wilkes on the UPN/CW sitcom *Girlfriends*. He is also known for his role as Patrick Peet in the 2001 horror film *Bones*.

Christopher Martin



Known as "Play," one half of the American hip-hop duo Kid 'n Play, Martin is a musician, actor, and comedian. Kid 'n Play was popular in the late 1980s and early 1990s, known for their music and appearances in hip-hop-themed movies like "House Party."

CR Capers



CR Capers is the Founder and CEO of Harlem Film House, a 501(c)(3) corporation, that creates and produces film & music festivals, operates year-round workshops, theatre productions and live events, while also offering business consulting to filmmakers and content creators in underserved communities around the world.

Featured Films

Sunday, October 15, 1-5pm

Feature Film: King of Kings: Chasing Edward Jones



99 min

Descendant of slaves, Edward Jones became incredibly wealthy in the 1930s and 1940s through the illegal numbers game, despite segregation challenges. This documentary by his granddaughter delves into his extraordinary life.

Discussion: Harriet Marin Jones **Director**

Short Film: A Real One



16 min

A bright teenager on Chicago's south side learns the power and persistence of true friendship when a closely-held secret is discovered amid the final weeks of her senior year in high school.

McKenzie Chinn **Director**

Documentary Film: Black Barbie: A Documentary



99 min

Barbie: Love her or not, we all have a story. This film uncovers the origin of the first Black Barbie, sparked by a question from the filmmaker's 83-year-old aunt: "Why not a Barbie that looks like me?"

Lagueria Davis **Director**

Our Sponsors

LEAD SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



SPONSORS

- Guild Theater
- Underground Books
- Fixins Soul Kitchen
- Slim & Husky's
- Oak Park Brewery

MEDIA SPONSORS

- Sacramento Observer
- KDEE Radio
- Sac Cultural Hub
- Neighborhood Innovation



OCTOBER
12-15



SCAN FOR TICKETS

CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST BLACK BEER FESTIVAL

OAK PARK • SACRAMENTO



OAK PARK

BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

"The importance and beauty of Black cinema lies not only within its storytelling, but also in the visibility of its creators, both on- and off-camera, as models of what is possible" - Cady Lang, *TIME*



The Guild Theater
2828 35th Street
Sacramento, CA

*Viewer's discretion may be advised. For ages 18+