ALMA COMMUNICATIONS

BLACKSTAR PROJECTS RELEASES FULL SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS FOR 2024 FILM FESTIVAL

For press inquiries, please reach out to the team at BLB25.

BlackStar Projects, the premier organization celebrating visionary Black, Brown and Indigenous film and media artists, is thrilled to release the full schedule of programs, jury and award nominees for the 2024 BlackStar Film Festival.

This year's festival will take place from August 1-4, 2024 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, with additional screenings, parties and events at various venues in Center City Philadelphia, marking the 13th annual celebration of the visual and storytelling traditions of Black, Brown and Indigenous creatives from around the world. The 2024 festival is produced with major support from the Open Society Foundations and Black Experience on Xfinity.

Beyond film, the festival is an annual celebration of BlackStar's community of artists and a one-of-a-kind gathering of diverse audiences centered on connection, discussion and learning. Almost every film screened during the 2024 festival will be followed by a Q&A, inviting the audience to participate in the dialogue. On The Daily Jaren Stage, presented by NECN, panels featuring industry experts – including Black in the Frame and Network Diversity Analytics, co-founded by Sundance Director and Network Director, Jacqueline Lambert Sundance Institute Director of Artist Services Kristina Ward and Sundance Institute Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships Shane McSabey and Rochelle Jeffery as moderated by Bashir Salahuddin, and A Library for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde Co-presented by Black Feminist Film School, with Adeola Griffin, JT Takagi and Mabelle Parkerson, etc. moderated by Alexis Pauline Gumbs – will be held throughout the festival to challenge attendees to consider new perspectives as they engage with the film.

"With this year's programming we not only create space for meaningful consideration of the festival's remarkable films, but highlight this work in conversation with broader culture, our shared histories and the ongoing dialect between our communities globally," said founder and Chief Executive Officer, Maori Karmael Holmes.

In addition to feature films, attendees will enjoy curated programs of short films aligned across different themes including Black Futures, Black Queer Joy and Black Feminine Power. Finally, BlackLab, presented in partnership with Blackbird, in which six finalists will present their non-fiction projects in a panel of judges in a live competition for an opportunity to win $75,000 in production funds, with the winner announced on the festival's close.

BlackStar's jury, listed in full below, will consider nominees for Best Experimental Film, Best Feature Documentary, Best Feature Narrative, Best Short Documentary and Best Short Narrative.

BlackStar will also host a mix of parties and community events throughout the weekend including the opening party at World Cafe Live co-presented by Andscape; First Friday at the Barnes Foundation, featuring an evening of cocktails and music by Wayne, co-presented by SoHo House; a Filmmaker Mixer co-presented by American Documentary|POV, Black Public Media, ITVS and WORLD; and this year's closing night party at STARBUS.

"The films, panels and other programs we've curated this year are urgent, thrilling and necessary," said Festival Director Nehad Khader. "I look forward to welcoming all of our brilliant filmmakers, panelists and other guests from around the world to Philadelphia for an enriching, expansive celebration."

All individual program tickets and festival passes are available here.

FULL SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS (ALL LIST)

Left to Right: *Dreams in Nightmares* (w/ Q&A), *Stative Whole Fruit*, *Life is Beautiful*, dir. Mohamed Jebaly (Jury Award), *Bitch*, dir. Dalila Clark Monroe, *The Ballad of Suzanne Cesaire*, dir. Nadeem Kunji-Erlich

MAJOR SPOTLIGHTS

Dreams in Nightmares (w/ Q&A)	Thursday, August 1 @ 7pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Life is Beautiful (Jury Award)	Friday, August 2 @ 7:30pm	Repertoire Theater, Kimmel Center
Dalila, 2016 (w/ Q&A)	Saturday, August 3 @ 1:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
The Ballad of Suzanne Cesaire (w/ Q&A)	Sunday, August 4 @ 4pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

EVENTS & PANELS

BlackStar Pitch	Wednesday, July 31 @ 4pm	Barnes Foundation ~*Pass Required*~
Engines In a Gale Overture: Narrative Co-Presented by Black Feminist Film School	Thursday, August 1 @ 2:30pm	The Daily Jaren Stage, Kimmel Center
Engines In a Gale Overture: Co-presented by Critical Minded	Friday, August 2 @ 2:30pm	The Daily Jaren Stage, Kimmel Center
Black Futures Panel	Friday, August 2 @ 5:30pm	The Daily Jaren Stage, Kimmel Center
Firelight Media's Beyond Resilience series	Saturday, August 3 @ 5:30pm Sunday, August 4 @ 9am	Kimmel Center
Black Star Bazaar	Saturday, August 3 @ 11am	Kimmel Center
Laugh to Keep from Crying	Saturday, August 3 @ 2:30pm	The Daily Jaren Stage, Kimmel Center
Duty of Care	Saturday, August 3 @ 5:30pm	The Daily Jaren Stage, Kimmel Center
Media Making in Time of Genocide	Sunday, August 4 @ 2pm	The Daily Jaren Stage, Kimmel Center
Spotlight Conversation: A Library for Survival Co-Presented by Black Feminist Film School	Sunday, August 4 @ 3:30pm	The Daily Jaren Stage, Kimmel Center

FEATURE FILM SCREENINGS

Ottiwa, The Great Ice (Q&A)	Thursday, August 1 @ 11:30am	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
National Park	Thursday, August 1 @ 2:30pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
The Queen of My Dreams (w/ Q&A)	Thursday, August 1 @ 2:30pm	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
Dir Ease (w/ Q&A)	Thursday, August 1 @ 2:30pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Sankofa (w/ Q&A)	Thursday, August 1 @ 5:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Black Girls (w/ Q&A)	Thursday, August 1 @ 5:30pm	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
Family Tree (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 10:30am	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Bitch (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 11am	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
Seeking Maria Beaver (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 1:30pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Standing Alone (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 5pm	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
Our Land Our Freedom (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 5pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Life is Beautiful (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 5pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Not the Long Name (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 8pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Rising up at Night	Saturday, August 3 @ 10:30am	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
You Don't Have to Go Home, But (w/ Q&A)	Saturday, August 3 @ 11am	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Sankofa (Panel)	Saturday, August 3 @ 11am	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Dalila, 2016 (w/ Q&A)	Saturday, August 3 @ 1:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Bring Them Home (w/ Q&A)	Saturday, August 3 @ 2pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Stolen from the Mother (Panel)	Saturday, August 3 @ 2:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
I Do Not Come To You By Chance (w/ Q&A)	Saturday, August 3 @ 5pm	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
Life Poetry Prose	Saturday, August 3 @ 5pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
The Nile Bite, screening with the short *Ethiopia*	Saturday, August 3 @ 10:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
A Library for Survival (w/ Q&A)	Sunday, August 4 @ 2pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
The Strike (w/ Q&A)	Sunday, August 4 @ 5pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
If Was All a Dream (w/ Q&A)	Sunday, August 4 @ 8pm	Suzanne Roberts Theatre

SHORTS PROGRAMS

Stative (w/ Q&A)	Thursday, August 1 @ 7:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Envisages (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 11am	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Stative (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 2:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Caravansary (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 5pm	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
Anthropogenic (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 8:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Caravansary (w/ Q&A)	Friday, August 2 @ 8:30pm	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
Indomitable (w/ Q&A)	Saturday, August 3 @ 3:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Embedded (w/ Q&A)	Saturday, August 3 @ 4pm	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Indomitable (w/ Q&A)	Saturday, August 3 @ 8pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Anima (w/ Q&A)	Sunday, August 4 @ 11am	Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Spitfire (w/ Q&A)	Sunday, August 4 @ 3pm	Suzanne Roberts Theatre
Blacklab (w/ Q&A)	Sunday, August 4 @ 3:30pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
Blacklab (w/ Q&A)	Sunday, August 4 @ 8pm	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

PARTIES

Opening Night Party	Thursday, August 1 @ 8:30pm	World Cafe Live
First Friday at Wayne	Friday August 2 @ 6pm	Barnes Foundation
Filmmaker Mixer Hosted by ITVS	Friday, August 2 @ 8pm	The Wayward
Closing Night Party	Sunday, August 4 @ 9:30pm	STARBUS

BLACKSTAR JURIED AWARDS CATEGORIES & NOMINEES

Category	Nominees	Jurors
Best Feature Documentary	*A Mother Apart* *Dir Ease* (Q&A Premiere) *Family Tree* (Pre Vue) dir. Contessa Gayles *Life Poetry Prose* dir. Fiona Morton Jean	Asad Muhammad Ciara Cole Nayana Teresa
Best Short Documentary	*And Still, It Remains* dir. Alexis Alexander and Tunde Shah *The Anthrax: Queer Nigeria* dir. Chukwudi Onyejiaku *The People Could Fly* dir. Shaid Demmings *Rise: The Fannie Lou Hamer Story* dir. Nina Alvarado *What Charred Is Love?* dir. Ashley Ellis *Yellow Fever & Any Other Way* dir. Yeon Zhou	Nell Kaplan Nayana Teresa Zaina Bisharat
Best Feature Narrative	*After the Long Rains* dir. Nicolas Pereda *The Ballad of Suzanne Cesaire* dir. Nadeem Kunji-Erlich *Life is Beautiful* dir. Mohamed Jebaly	Aasiya Tamahine Jason Reynolds Sayantani Pria
Best Short Narrative	*Bitch* dir. Dalila Clark Monroe *dir.* Jeanne Mary Park *Dual Reality* dir. Ashley Hunter *The Dawn* dir. Alex Kwong *Dalila, 2016* dir. Mohamed Elshourbe *The Parade Office* dir. Kazuhiro Soda	Cagenan Mockhtol Crosby Pelto Lynnie Denise
Best Experimental Film	*A Stone's Throw* dir. Steven Hillard *Ancestor* dir. Ashley Stanley *Dreams* dir. Lula Ambie *Life Is Beautiful (Ma Yeongcie Gyeolhae Jeolmeoseo)* dir. Sunan Sangun	Alex Kotelle Ciara Cole David Hyde
Additional Awards	Center for Cultural Power Creative Justice Award Philadelphia Filmmaker Award Shine Award for Film Technicians (Voted by Blackstar Members)	

Major support for the festival is provided by the Open Society Foundations and Black Experience on Xfinity. Black Experience on Xfinity is a first-of-its-kind destination that provides Black entertainment, movies, TV shows, news and more. Available at home on Xfinity X1 and Flex and on-the-go with the Xfinity Stream app, Black Experience on Xfinity features original programs that come from Comcast NBCUniversal and other major studios, in addition to content from many of Xfinity's existing network partners, at no additional cost to Xfinity customers.

Additional support for the festival provided by: American Documentary|POV, American Friends Service Committee, Andscape, Annenberg School for Communication University of Pennsylvania, Black Public Media, The Center for Cultural Power, Color Congress, Creative Artists Agency, Critical Minded, Documentary.org, Drexel University Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Eventive, Firelight Media, The Fund for Black Media Institute, Independent Film Festival Alliance, Independent Film Festival Boston, Independent Film Festival Newark, Peace is Loud, PECO, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, Philadelphia Foundation, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Poetry North Institute, PNO Arts Alive, Runway Soho House, StoryCorps, Temple University School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, University of Pennsylvania Department of Cinema & Media Studies, Visit Philadelphia, Win Win Coffee, WHYY, WORLD and WURD.

BlackStar Projects and its year-round programs are generously supported by Critical Minded, Ford Foundation, Heinz Foundation, Independence Public Media Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, McLean Contributorship, Mellon Foundation, Nathan Cummings Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Philadelphia's Cultural Fund, The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, Philadelphia's Cultural Treasures, Pop Culture Collaborative, Pew Center for the Arts, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Surdna Foundation, Wallace Foundation, William Penn Foundation and Wyncote Foundation. In addition to its board of directors, community partners and a host of generous individual donors and organizations.

For more information on the festival, visit https://www.blackstarfest.org/festival.

ABOUT BLACKSTAR PROJECTS

BlackStar Projects, founded in 2012 by Maori Karmael Holmes the BlackStar Film Festival, creates the platform and space it has needed to uplift the work of Black, Brown and Indigenous artists working outside the confines of genre. Beyond the annual film festival the organization produces year-round programs, including a monthly screening series, a filmmaker seminar, a film production lab and a journal of film, art and visual culture.

This August marks the 13th annual BlackStar Film Festival, which features, featuring selections of experimental films, imaginative narrative works and groundbreaking documentaries across various venues in the center of Philadelphia. From August 1-4, the festival will feature artist panels, parties and numerous opportunities for filmmakers and their audiences to engage with a wide network of groundbreaking artists of the global majority.

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