

In Order by Film Title

**12th Annual Pan African Film & Arts Festival
Screening Guide**



**Magic Johnson Theatres
Baldwin Hills-Crenshaw Plaza**

FEBRUARY 5-16, 2004

WWW.PAFF.ORG

In Order by Film Title

5 Sides of a Coin (2003) US/Canada

Dir: Paul Kell 70 min

Doc

An electric documentary exploring the myth of the "Five Sided Coin" through the eyes and voices of those within Hip-Hop_-featuring Afrika Bambaataa, Phase Too, Grandmaster Flash, Gil Scott-Heron, Run DMC, The Rock Steady Crew, Jurassic 5, Prince Paul, Del Tha Funky Homosapien, Q-Bert, Mix Master Mike, Kool Keith, Rahzel, The Pharcyde, Spearhead, Supernatural, The Automator, DJ Krush, DJ Craze, Scratch Perverts and more.

Friday, 2/13, 6:05pm; Saturday, 2/14, 10:45pm

6 Numbers (2002) South Africa

Dir: Lungile Dolamo 15 min

US Premiere Short

Three impoverished, under-aged orphans discover that their recently deceased grandmother has won the lottery. A lonely haunting tale of the reaches of poverty .

MNET EDIT Award 2002

Sunday, 2/8, 1:40pm; Monday, 2/16, 2:05pm

8 Wheels and Some Soul Brotha Music (2003) US

Dir: Tyrone Dixon 70 min

West Coast Premiere Doc

Great music, spectacular skating and lots of positive attitude let us know that the urban roller skating movement is alive and well.

Friday, 2/13, 5:45pm Q&A

A Kalahari Family (2002) Namibia

Dir: John Marshall 150 min

Doc

This unique series represents the culmination of over 50 years of documentation and research on the Ju/'hoansi of the Kalahari who were exploited in the film "The Gods Must be Crazy".

Marshall's continuing activism, as well as his lifelong friendships with many of the mythologized "bushmen" allow a point of view unlike any other visual documentation on similarly indigenous people.

Wednesday, 2/11, 1:00pm

A Lover for My Husband* (2002) US

Dir: Brandon Finney 72 min

Feature

Romantic comedy in which Lacy would seem to have it all--an adoring husband, a career on the fast track, and an upwardly mobile lifestyle. But giving into her yen for exciting, dangerous sex, she coaxes her husband into answering a partner-swapping ad.

Best Romantic Comedy, New York Independent International Film & Video Festival 2003

Friday, 2/6, 8:45pm; Sunday, 2/15, 10:00pm

A Minute Less Sunshine (Une Minute de Soleil en Moins)* (2002) Morocco/France

Dir: Nabil Ayouch 99 min

US Premiere Feature

A tense thriller/detective tale about a police captain who investigates the murder of a scion of a wealthy family suspected of being major drug traffickers. The number-one suspect is Touria the murdered man's employee and live-in mistress.

Friday, 2/6, 9:30pm; Wednesday, 2/11, 9:00pm

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A Place of Our Own (2003) US

Dir: Stanley Nelson 60 min

LA Premiere Doc

A powerfully told personal story of Filmmaker Nelson's experiences over the last 40 summers on the shores of Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard, an enclave and summer sanctuary for affluent, well-educated African Americans. A stirring commentary on race and class utilising vintage footage and interviews including that of Dr. Henry Louis "Skip" Gates who shares his reactions to racism.

Wednesday, 2/11, 7:10pm; Sunday, 2/15, 11:00am

A Single Rose (2003) US

Dir: Hanelle M. Culpepper 20 min

Short

A haunting visual blues song about an African American beauty who finds her soul singing at a nearby juke joint.

Sunday, 2/15, 3:00pm

Afro-Punk: the "Rock n Roll Nigger" Experience (2003) US

Dir: James Spooner 73 min

LA Premiere Doc

An exploration of the African American experience within the punk scene, tackling issues such as loneliness, interracial dating, black power, and alienation felt by being a member of a mostly white community.

Friday, 2/13, 10:30pm; Saturday, 2/14, 2:00pm

Aftermath (2002) Kenya

Dir: Judy Kibinge 29 min

Short

Set in post-war Sierra Leone, a young man, who was abducted and forced to fight by the rebels as a boy, returns to his village only to be greeted with hostility.

Friday, 2/6, 7:15pm

All Our Sons (2003) US

Dir: Lillian Benson 28 min

Doc Short

The untold story of the 12 Black firefighters who died on 9/11 at the World Trade Center.

Thursday, 2/12, 3:20pm

Allergic to Nuts (2003) US

Dir: Rosalyn Coleman Williams 26 min

LA Premiere Short

Newly divorced LaVita has invited her best friends to her first dinner party in her new home. With friends like these, who needs allergies?

Sunday, 2/15, 3:00pm; Monday, 2/16, 1:30pm Q&A

Alma's Jazzy Marriage (2003) US

Dir: Elizabeth Sher, Mal Sharpe & Sandra Sharpe 27 min

World Premiere Doc

Alma Foster, jazz lover and wife of seminal jazz bassist Pops Foster, recalls their life together during the Golden Age of Jazz while providing an insider's glimpse of the giants who created the music.

Wednesday, 2/11, 7:10pm; Sunday, 2/15, 11:00am Q&A

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Anansi (2002) Germany

Dir: Fritz Baumann 80 min

Feature

Out of desperate need and in a quest for survival, a group of West Africans dare the perilous journey to Germany, hoping to find the promised land of satellite dishes and a better life.

One Future Award, Munich Filmfest 2002

Saturday, 2/14, 3:10pm; Monday, 2/16, 7:40pm

Andre Royo's Big Scene* (2003) US

Dir: Christopher Cherot 17 min

World Premiere Short

The amazingly true (and increasingly familiar) story of one independent film actor's first day working on a big movie set.

Sunday, 2/8, 12pm; Wednesday, 2/11, 6:30pm

Beah: A Black Woman Speaks (2003) US

Dir: LisaGaye Hamilton 90 min

Doc

A stylishly smart film revealing the remarkable life of the distinguished African American actress, teacher, poet and social activist.

Sunday, 2/8, 4:45pm

Because My Stand Up is Not Enough (2003) US

Dir: David A. Arnold 26 min

LA Premiere Short

Laugh-out loud funny tale of David Arnold at the crossroads of his life and career. Unable to afford a hair transplant on his salary as a male nurse, he desperately looks for a promotion.

Saturday, 2/7, 3:30pm; Sunday, 2/15, 11:30am

Bedwin Hacker (2002) Tunisia/Morocco

Dir: Nadia El Fani 103 min

Feature

A modern portrayal of North African women and culture is created through the escapades of a genius female computer hacker on the run from French Intelligence for using her computer skills to hijack French television frequencies. An energetic, warmhearted thriller.

Thursday, 2/12, 6:05pm; Sunday, 2/15, 2:15pm

Bessie, Billie & Ruth (2003) US

Dir: Renee Sotile & Mary Jo Godges 9 min

Short

Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Ruth Brown come alive teaching the roots of music! Stars Sweet Baby J'ai.

Saturday, 2/7, 3:30pm Q&A

Bessie's Blues (2003) US

Dir: Marsha Battee 8 min

World Premiere Short

A jazz lover has a run of bad luck after misunderstanding her boyfriend.

Saturday, 2/14, 11:00am Q&A

Beware of Time (2003) Uganda

Dir: Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine 73 min

US Premiere Doc

From the rolling hills of Kampala to the internally displaced people's camps in Gulu, a haunting glimpse into modern day Uganda.

Friday, 2/6, 5:05pm

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Bilalian (2001) US/Senegal/Gambia

Dir: Aminah Abdul Jabbaar 87 min

Doc

A journey through the history of the more than two million Black Muslims in America and Africa
Saturday, 2/7, 7:00pm Q&A

Bird-Man Tale (2002) Indonesia

Dir: Garin Nugroho 90 min

LA Premiere Feature

Thriller set in Papua New Guinea. A dance instructor and political activist has to go into hiding. At the same time, his 15-year old son becomes obsessed with an older woman. Beautiful imagery is set off with a celestial score.

Saturday, 2/7, 5:00pm; Thursday, 2/12, 1:45pm; Monday, 2/16, 11:15am

Bola de Nieve (2003) Spain/Cuba

Dir: José Sánchez-Montes 73 min

Doc

Little known in the US but a world-renown musician all the same, Bola de Nieve (1911-1971) was Cuban, black, revolutionary and homosexual.

Sunday, 2/8, 11:30am

Bush Bikes! (2002) Australia

Dir: DS Vadiveloo 6 min

Short

In remote communities of central Australia aboriginal kids make Bush Bikes! An international crowd pleaser celebrating youth, creativity and a cultural heritage that lives deep within the spirit.

Best Short Film, Music & Film Independent Artist Awards, Australia 2003; Golden Rocket Award, Woodford Film Festival 2003; People's Choice Award, Wollombi Film Festival 2003

Friday, 2/6, 7:15pm

Butch Mystique (2003) US

Dir: Debra A. Wilson 35 min

Doc Short

African American butch identified lesbians from varying backgrounds share powerful and intimate thoughts on being outside the norm and being themselves.

Best Short, San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival 2003

Saturday, 2/7, 11:30am; Monday, 2/16, 6:45pm

Calypso Dreams (2003) US

Dir: Geoffrey Dunn & Michael Horne 85 min

LA Premiere Doc

Filmed on location in Trinidad and Tobago, a musical extravaganza that captures acoustic performances by a host of legendary performers, including the Mighty Sparrow, Calypso Rose, Lord Superior, Mighty Duke, Black Stalin, Lord Blakie and more. Narrated by Chalkdust, David Rudder and Brother Resistance.

Saturday, 2/7, 7:30pm

Casa de la Musica (2003) South Africa/Cuba

Dir: Jonathan De Vries 52 min

US Premiere Doc Short

Filmed in Cuba, an extraordinary musical reflection on how slavery and colonization produced related but distinctive cultural expressions and formed a common Creole culture linking Cape Town and the Caribbean.

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Audience Award, Durban International Film Festival 2003; Audience Award, Encounters Documentary Film Festival 2003
Thursday, 2/12, 3:55pm; Sunday, 2/15, 2:15pm

City of God (2003) Brazil/France/US

Dir: Kátia Lund & Fernando Meirelles 130 min

Feature

A cinema masterpiece rising far above the conventional gangster film genre, this story of violence and survival in a Brazilian favela weaves back and forth through time to generate an exacting portrait of young lives caught in the dehumanizing grip of seemingly inescapable and overwhelming poverty and crime. A transcendent movie experience!

Best Picture, British Independent Film Awards; Best Cinematography, Havana Film Festival
Sunday, 2/8, 7:50pm; Monday, 2/16, 5:20pm

Closure (2003) Canada

Dir: Ed Amsterdam Jr. 15 min

West Coast Premiere Short

Soon to be married, Kevin is trying to put his "playa" days behind him. Comic consequences arise as his guilty conscience forces him to apologize to dozens of ex-lovers.

Friday, 2/6, 7:15pm Q&A

Comrade Sister: Voices of Women in the Black Panther Party (1995) US

Dir: Phyllis J. Jackson & Christine L. Minor 53 min

Doc Short

A group of female Black Panthers recount their experiences with their families, the community, the police and male party members during the 1960s and 70s.

Thursday, 2/12, 3:20pm

Creating the Phantasy* (2003) US

Dir: André Lavelle 63 min

World Premiere Experimental

Sensual, sexy and always tasteful photographer André Lavelle and his nude models prove that "Black is Beautiful".

Friday, 2/13, 8:05pm; Monday, 2/16, 8:50pm

Critter Island (2003) US

Dir: Althea Brown 3 min

West Coast Premiere Animation

A hydrophobic water bug learns that his family faces fumigation in three days, but before he can deliver the news, he gets washed down a drain.

Wednesday, 2/11, 3:40pm

Crude Awakening* (2003) US

Dir: Eric Elder 5 min

World Premiere Animation

Al is awakened from a wonderful dream only to realize he is homeless and living in an alley with real and imagined dangers around every corner.

Friday, 2/6, 6:00pm; Thursday, 2/12, 9:30pm; Sunday, 2/15, 10:00pm

Damaged Goods (2003) US

Dir: Nadia Buckmire 62 min

Doc

A truly candid, raw and yet humorous look at HIV/AIDS through the eyes of five infected men and women and those afraid to get it.

Friday, 2/6, 2:55pm

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Dangerous Affair (2002) Kenya

Dir: Judy Kibinge 117 min

Feature

A womanizer suffering from commitment-phobia, meets a "been-to" (the US). To the shock of his friends he decides to settle down with her. On the eve of his wedding however, he meets an old girlfriend which places him in a serious dilemma.

Silver Dhow Award, Zanzibar International Film Festival

Friday, 2/6, 10:00pm; Thursday, 2/12, 1:30pm

Dark (2003) US

Dir: D.A. Bullock 101 min

West Coast Premiere Feature

Student Dark Freeman lives between two vastly opposed worlds. One is that of privilege and opportunity--the University of Chicago-- and the other of violence, fear and negative potential--the South Side of Chicago.

Mecca Award for Best Feature, Urbanworld Film Festival 2003

Sunday, 2/15, 7:15pm

Dirty Pretty Things (2002) UK

Dir: Stephen Frears 107 min

Feature

A kind-hearted Nigerian doctor works at a West London hotel frequented by drug dealers and prostitutes. Like himself, the hotel's personnel are mostly immigrants. When he finds a human heart in one of the hotel toilets, he uncovers something far more sinister than just a common crime.

Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay, British Independent Film Awards; Best Picture & Best Actor, London Evening Standard Awards

Sunday, 2/8, 11:00am; Saturday, 2/14, 5:30pm

Don't Play Us Cheap (1973) US

Dir: Melvin Van Peebles 90 min

Feature

A humorous Van Peebles musical that follows the exploits of two devils who specialize in breaking up parties. But when they turn their attention to a raucous birthday party in Harlem, they find they have their work cut out for them.

Friday, 2/6, 3:30pm

Down Under (2002) South Africa

Dir: Neil Sonnekus 26 min

LA Premiere Short

When a black man's car breaks down on a country road, he is rescued by a white farmer with a grudge to pick. Tense thriller.

Friday, 2/13, 8:00pm

Dragon of Love (2003) US

Dir: Doan La 11 min

Short

Joel and Sally seem like the perfect lusty match until Joel recognizes a peculiar pattern to what Sally wants from him.

Saturday, 2/14, 11:00am Q&A

El Baile (2003) US/Puerto Rico

Dir: Yazmin Ortiz 20 min

US Premiere Short

A young woman finds a dark secret through the magic and passion of flamenco dancing.

Wednesday, 2/11, 3:40pm Q&A

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El Kotbia (The Bookstore) (2002) Tunisia

Dir: Nawfel Saheb-Ettaba 103 min

Feature

The lives of four people living and working in a bookstore provide a rich glimpse into love, marriage and ambition in modern-day Tunisia.

Golden Zenith for Best African Film, Montreal World Film Festival 2003

Wednesday, 2/11, 1:40pm

Emotional Backgammon* (2003) UK

Dir: Leon Herbert 93 min

US Premiere Feature

John is in love and wants to marry Mary. Mary wants out of the relationship "to find herself". On the advice of their meddling best friends, they embark on a game of one-upmanship, emotional conquest and ultimately, revenge.

Achievement in Production, bfm (Black Filmmaker Magazine) 2003

Wednesday, 2/11, 7:00pm; Saturday, 2/14, 8:20pm

Empress of Carnival (Imperatriz do Carnaval) (2001) Brazil/US

Dir: Medeiros Schultz 100 min

Doc

An inside look at the 9-month preparation for the world famous carnival parade in Rio as seen through the eyes and work of a major samba school featuring never-before-seen parade images and surround-sound music.

Best Feature Documentary, Jornada de Cinema da Bahia 2001; Best Documentary, San Paulo International Film Festival

Wednesday, 2/11, 4:20pm; Saturday, 2/14, 10:00am

Enchanté (Pleased to Meet You) (2003) US

Dir: Dan Adjokatcher 7 min

West Coast Premiere Short

A teenager thinks he has met the girl of his dreams. Despite his best efforts, she sees him as just a pesky boy trying to hit on her.

Saturday, 2/14, 11:00am

Every Child Born a Poet: The Life & Work of Piri Thomas (2003) US

Dir: Jonathan Robinson 59 min

Doc Short

Poetry, stories, and performance are used by Afro-Cuban-Puerto Rican author, Piri Thomas, ("Down These Mean Streets") to recount his childhood in New York and his metamorphosis from gang member and addict, to writer and educator.

Opera Prima Award, Los Angeles International Latino Film Festival 2003

Wednesday, 2/11, 1:10pm

Fat Albert (12 episodes) US

Animation

Footcops (2004) US

Dir: Anastasia Torrent 25 min

World Premiere Short

A hilarious buddy-cop story starring comedian Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Sunday, 2/8, 12pm; Sunday, 2/15, 11:30am

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Four Rent Boys and a Sangoma (2003) South Africa

Dir: Catherine Muller 60 min

US Premiere Doc

A provocative, intimate glimpse into the inner lives of five men looking for love and money on the mean streets of inner-city Johannesburg.

Sunday, 2/8, 1:40pm; Friday, 2/13, 10:30pm; Monday, 2/16, 6:45pm

Free Wheels (Roues Libres) (2002/1998) Ivory Coast

Dir: Sidiki Bakaba 85 min

Feature

In the stress and congestion of a capital city, two physically-challenged individuals mastermind a series of heists and hijack a taxi driver to become their arms and legs. A tribute to the rising movement for equal rights for the handicapped in Africa.

Sunday, 2/8, 5:50pm; Thursday, 2/12, 3:00pm

Hang Time (2000) Zimbabwe/UK/Nigeria

Dir: Ngozi Onwurah 31min

Short

A young, poor but talented West African basketball player, whose desperation to wear the right shoes sets him on a tragic course.

Friday, 2/6, 1:30pm; Saturday, 2/14, 12:15pm; Monday, 2/16, 1:40pm

Higher Ground: Voices of Contemporary Gospel Music (2004) US

Dir: Marci Kenon & Damon Stout 97 min

West Coast Premiere Doc

Cutting edge gospel music has historically put young performers on the outs with the Church traditionalists. Yet, their innovative sounds catapult gospel to the forefront of the mainstream. Embrace the intriguing stories of gospel giants such as Mahalia Jackson, Thomas Dorsey, Edwin Hawkins, the Clark Sisters and Kirk Franklin. Interviews with Tonéx, Brent Jones, Deitrick Haddon, Out of Eden, The Cross Movement Donnie McClurkin, Mary Mary, Vickie Winans, Yolanda Adams, Andrae Crouch, Dr. Bobby Jones, Richard Smallwood, and many more.

Friday, 2/6, 7:00pm

Hip Hop Immortals: We Got Your Kids (2003) US

Dir: Kris Palestrini 81 min

Doc

When did the bottom-line become more important than art? If the market is young people, does hip-hop have an obligation to depict truth? Do we remember what truth is? Not as much about the music, as it's about the connections between beats, sneakers, jewelry, girls & money.

Appearances by Busta Rhymes, Black Eyed Peas, Big Boy, Cam'ron, Coolio, Common, Dilated Peoples, Enyce, Fubu, L.A. Reid, Lil' Kim, MC Lyte, Mos Def, Snoop Dogg, Treach, Tyson Beckford, Warren G, Wyclef Jean, Xzibit, and more.

Friday, 2/13, 1:10pm; Monday, 2/16, 4:20pm

Hip-Hop Resurrection: From NY to NZ (2003) New Zealand

Dir: Michael Deet 70 min

LA Premiere Doc

Hip-Hop in New Zealand? A feature documenting the talent-rich Hip-Hop community of South Pacific Islanders living in New Zealand. It is a fresh, colorful and visual exploration into the unique individual lifestyles of the country's best and brightest musical artists, performers and professionals as well as an exploration of the distinct parallel between their remote island communities and the inner-city cultures of the US.

Friday, 2/13, 3:30pm; Sunday, 2/15, 10:40pm Q&A

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His/Herstory (2003) US

Dir: Nzinga Kemp 20 min

LA Premiere Short

A talented journalist reclaims her identity after her fanatically Afrocentric and chauvinistic husband decides to take a second wife. Starring Atlanta-based poet and artist Jessica Care Moore.

Friday, 2/13, 5:00pm

Hooked: The Legend of Demetrius 'Hook' Mitchell (2003) US

Dir: Michael Skolnik & William O'Neill 66 min

Doc

Best Documentary, San Francisco Black Film Festival 2003

Jacob's Sound (2002) US

Dir: Anna Dudley 15 min

Short

A circus clown falls in love with a woman he sees year after year at one of the circus stops. The only problem is he is deaf and dumb and must find a way to communicate his love.

Emerging Filmmaker Award, Cine Noir 2003; Best Professional Short, Real to Reel 2003

Saturday, 2/14, 11:00am Q&A

James' Journey to Jerusalem (2003) Israel

Dir: Ra'anan Alexandrowicz 87 min

Feature

A young African man on a spiritual pilgrimage to Jerusalem is mistaken for an illegal immigrant and detained at the airport, released on bail to a manpower agent in exchange for employment at hard labor. Despite the intertwining themes of exploitation of immigrant labor, Western commercialism and the corruption of money, this charming fable-like tale manages to remain entertaining and optimistic.

Sunday, 2/15, 5:00pm

Justice (2003) US

Dir: Jeanne-Marie Almonar & John Shulman 109 min

Feature

A public defender exposes racism and corruption in the criminal justice system threatening the well-being of gov't officials who in turn try to discredit the him and his supporters.

Saturday, 2/14, 3:00pm; Sunday, 2/15, 7:15pm

Kevin's Room 2: Trust* (2003) US

Dir: Lora Branch & Sharon Zurek 60 min

West Coast Premiere Short

Kevin leads a support group for gay men of color whose lives are tested by the big-ticket trust items: honesty, fidelity, barebacking, living with HIV and more. The second installment of the highly successful Kevin's Room series answers questions that left viewers of the first episode hanging on to the edge of their seats.

Saturday, 2/7, 4:45pm; Sunday, 2/8, 9:30pm

Kevin's Room* (2001) US

Dir: Sharon Zurek 62 min

Short

Five African American gay men struggle with common issues related to their community, family and each other. Through participation in a support group, each of the men learn valuable lessons and change in ways that will forever impact their lives.

Saturday, 2/7, 12pm; Sunday, 2/8, 9:30pm

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Keys of Life (2003) US

Dir: Jeremy Rall 12 1/2 min

Short

An engaging tale of a young man who comes to terms with the truth after enduring a series of disappointments, ultimately finding solace in key-making. Featuring the music of Talib Kweli and Sigur Ros.

Friday, 2/6, 1:30pm; Saturday, 2/14, 12:15pm; Monday, 2/16, 1:40pm Q&A

Kounandi (2003) Burkina Faso

Dir: Apolline Traoré 49 min

US Premiere Short

A pregnant woman arrives in a village and dies giving birth to a baby girl. The girl grows up to be a dwarf who is rejected by the villagers except for Karim, a married man, with whom she falls in love. Unable to win his heart, she will sacrifice herself to save Karim's wife.

Wednesday, 2/11, 6:30pm; Saturday, 2/14, 4:30pm Q&A

Last Chair (2003) US

Dir: Leona Whitney Beatty 30 min

West Coast Premiere Short

A young girl learns to stand up for herself when she is forced to attend an all-white Midwestern high school in the late 1960s.

Sunday, 2/8, 12pm; Wednesday, 2/11, 9:00pm Q&A

Let the Church Say Amen (2003) US

Dir: David Petersen 87 min

West Coast Premiere Doc

Weaving song and soul, a tiny storefront church combats public miseducation, homelessness, drug abuse and street violence. Church members gather broken and lost sheep addressing the needs the city can't or won't meet.

Wednesday, 2/11, 1:15pm; Sunday, 2/15, 2:00pm

Living Memory (2003) US

Dir: Susan Vogel 53 min

World Premiere Doc Short

Although one of the world's poorest nations, Mali is paradoxically rich in culture. Mali's ancient and contemporary cultures are examined through the window of six sketches offering an alluring mosaic of perspectives.

Thursday, 2/12, 3:55pm

Lost in the USA (2001) US

Dir: Rafi Girgis 104 min

US Premiere Feature

Two Egyptian men arrive in the United States and have their identities inadvertently switched.

One came to meet a bride he never met and the other to seek a better future.

Friday, 2/13, 3:45pm; Saturday, 2/14, 6:55pm

Love, Sex and Eating Bones* (2003) Canada

Dir: Sudz Sutherland 100 min

Feature

An intelligent, sexy romantic comedy about Michael, an aspiring photographer, who moonlights as a security guard and is addicted to porno films. Michael falls for the sexy and sophisticated Jasmine whose roommate Peaches knows Michael as her best customer at Pornucopia Video Rentals. His voyeuristic obsession with pornography presents a bizarre roadblock to their relationship. Stars Hill Harper and Marlyne Afflack.

Best First Feature, 2003 Toronto

Saturday, 2/14, 6:35pm; Monday, 2/16, 11:00am

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Madame Brouette (2002) Senegal

Dir: Moussa Sene Absa 104 min

LA Premiere Feature

Visual splendor and lively music counterpoint this tale of an independent, strong-willed woman who has had enough of narrow-minded men.

Friday, 2/13, 9:15pm; Sunday, 2/15, 4:30pm

Madame Satã* (2002) Brazil/France

Dir: Karim Ainouz 105 min

Feature

Legendary criminal. Proud homosexual. Passionate lover. Killer. Devoted father of seven adopted children. Jet-black, six feet tall, 180 pounds of proud muscle in silk shirts and tight pants, with a razor in his back pocket. Saint or devil? A vivid and violent portrait of the paradoxical personality with a desperate dream of becoming the most famous Cabaret star in Rio de Janeiro.

Sunday, 2/8, 1:00pm; Saturday, 2/14, 7:50pm

Making the Rent* (2003) US

Dir: Zelig Dember-Slack 10 min

World Premiere Short

24-year-old Dexter impulsively quits his job to search for a better, more fulfilling career. However poor planning, causes him to fall on hard times, thus he has to resort to making some fast cash.

Friday, 2/13, 8:05pm

Mambo Rap (2003) Cuba

Dir: Detdrich McClure 22 min

World Premiere Doc

Hip Hop Cuban style. Amazing!!!

Friday, 2/13, 6:05pm; Sunday, 2/15, 2:15pm

Me and My White Friend (Moi et Mon Blanc) (2003) Burkina Faso/France

Dir: S. Pierre Yameogo 99 min

LA Premiere Feature

While working at a garage, an African student living in Paris finds an abandoned bag full of money and drugs. When his white friend convinces him that they can move the drugs and become rich, they decide to keep the bag, getting more than they bargained for.

RFI Audience Award at FESPACO

Saturday, 2/7, 7:40pm; Sunday, 2/8, 1:40pm

Memorial Street (2003) US

Dir: Andy Chapman 23 min

World Premiere Short

Inspired by a real life story of a young man who lost his mother to a drug induced coma, trying to come to terms with their relationship.

Friday, 2/6, 6:00pm

Mogzitwa (The Nanny) (2003) Ethiopia

Dir: Nicodimos Fikru 142 min

West Coast Premiere Feature

Mimi flees Ethiopia and emigrates to America to work as a nanny. The perfect American life she envisioned turns into a nightmare as she is faced with immigration problems.

Saturday, 2/7, 9:30pm; Friday, 2/13, 1:30pm Q&A

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Notebooks & Unladylike Thoughts: A Rap!Sody (2003) Netherlands

Dir: Paloma Etienne 12 min

US Premiere Short

An imaginative journey through the main events in the life of a young writer exploring issues surrounding her sexual independence and creative identity.

Friday, 2/6, 7:15pm

One Flight Stand (2003) US

Dir: Saladin K. Patterson 12 min

Short

Ben and Alexis find romance in flight. After their first date, Ben walks Alexis home, well, to her seat. He spends the night and they decide he should move in. His carry-on luggage fits just fine overhead but did he move in too fast? Is Alexis a one flight stand?

Wednesday, 2/11, 6:30pm; Saturday, 2/14, 12:15pm; Monday, 2/16, 1:40pm

One Love (2003) UK/Jamaica

Dir: Rick Elgood 100 min

West Coast Premiere Feature

A young Rasta reggae musician falls in love with the gospel singing daughter of a Pentecostal preacher, when they are brought together through their mutual love of music. Stars Ky Mani Marley and features music by Sean Paul, Shaggy and the Marleys.

Best Film, Jamerican Film Festival 2002

Monday, 2/16, 5:00pm

Out-of-Body Experience (2003) US

Dir: Van Elder 14 min

World Premiere Short

A clever, fresh comedy about a couple whose marriage is tested when the subject of having children comes up.

Saturday, 2/14, 11:00am Q&A

Path Altered (2003) US

Dir: Ali Jackson 23 min

LA Premiere Docudrama

Uncompromising journey into the lives of 3 women confronting the long-term effects of sexual abuse from early childhood into adulthood.

Wednesday, 2/11, 3:40pm

Pink (2003) Canada

Dir: Ed Gass-Donnelly 9 min

Short

In apartheid South Africa, a 10-year-old white girl attends the funeral of her Black nanny. A poignant examination of how politics are truly lived.

Friday, 2/6, 1:30pm; Saturday, 2/14, 12:15pm; Monday, 2/16, 2:05pm

Positive Attitude (2003) US

Dir: Deborah Marcano 7 1/2 min

LA Premiere Short

A young woman answers a personals ad to find who she thinks is her perfect mate.

Audience Favorite & Best Comedy, Through Her Eyes: Women of Color Film Festival 2003

Friday, 2/6, 2:55pm; Saturday, 2/7, 3:30pm Q&A

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Preying on the Hunter (2001) US

Dir: Andrea J. Smith 30 min

Short

A dark comedy unfolds as legal secretary Nila, an aspiring writer by night, seeks revenge against her incompetent, arrogant boss.

Friday, 2/6, 6:00pm Q&A

Punks* (1999) US

Dir: Patrik-Ian Polk 103 min

Feature

A tight-knit group of four Black and Hispanic gay men look for love in West Hollywood.

Saturday, 2/7, 11:15am Q&A

Ravishing Raspberry (2003) US

Dir: Shawnee Gibbs & Shawnelle Gibbs 10 min

LA Premiere Animation

An ordinary tube of lipstick and a night on the town teach a materialistic young woman a lesson she may never forget.

Friday, 2/13, 1:20pm

Rebound: The Legend of Earl 'The Goat' Manigault (1996) US

Dir: Eriq La Salle 120 min

Feature

Red Eye (2003) US

Dir: Kevin Gordon 17 min

US Premiere Experimental

A black man's carefree walk to the local grocery store puts him in the middle of much heated drama that he is virtually unaware of.

Best Experimental Short and Audience Favorite, Jamerican Film Festival 2003

Wednesday, 2/11, 3:40pm

Redemption (2003) US

Dir: Vondie Curtis Hall 95 min

LA Premiere Feature

The inspiring true-life story of Stan "Tookie" Williams, the co-founder of the infamous Crips street gang, whose time in jail inspired him to pen numerous books and institute programs that steer inner-city youth away from violence. His efforts have earned him nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize and the Nobel Prize for Literature. Stars Jamie Foxx, Lynn Whitfield and CCH Pounder.

Thursday, 2/5, 7:00pm; Monday, 2/16, 2:45pm

Restraining Order (2004) US

Dir: Reggie Gaskins 25 min

World Premiere Experimental

Being a friend is sometimes hazardous, especially to a couple going through a divorce.

Friday, 2/13, 5:00pm

Scent of Oak (Roble de Olor) (2003) Cuba

Dir: Rigoberto López Pego 127 min

LA Premiere Feature

Set in early 19th century Cuba, a free Black woman and her German lover challenge the taboos and power structure when they establish a coffee plantation free from the cruelty and inhumanity of the slave-system.

Saturday, 2/7, 10:40pm; Thursday, 2/12, 8:45pm; Monday, 2/16, 8:40pm

In Order by Film Title

September 11 (2003) Various

Dir: 11 Directors 135 min

Feature

Eleven filmmakers from eleven countries, each contribute an episode to this creative montage responding to the September 11 attack on the World Trade.

Sunday, 2/8, 8:30pm; Sunday, 2/15, 9:55pm

Sex and the Green Card* (2003) US

Dir: John Marshall Jones 15 min

US Premiere Short

A woman anticipating her wedding proposal is surprised when her best friend begins having sexual fantasies about her fiancé-to-be.

Final Draft Screenwriters Award, Jamerican Film Festival 2003

Sunday, 2/8, 12pm; Thursday, 2/12, 9:30pm Q&A

Shooting Bokkie* (2003) South Africa

Dir: Rob de Mezieres 74 min

US Premiere Feature

Young criminals, too young to be prosecuted, work as ideal assassins for adult gangsters.

Saturday, 2/7, 10:15pm

Sister Somayah & Her Folk Remedy of Choice (2002) US

Dir: Wennifer Lin-Curry 16 min

Doc

A Negritian woman tells how medical marijuana helps her to overcome the ravages of sickle cell anemia.

Wednesday, 2/11, 3:40pm

Soldiers of the Rock (2003) South Africa

Dir: Norman Maake 98 min

LA Premiere Feature

A powerful statement on fear of the vulnerability of freedom set four miles beneath the earth in a South African gold mine. Vuyo, a business student, has taken a job in the mine. In the spirit of the New South Africa's Black Empowerment policy, Vuyo tries to convince his fellow workers to combine their pay and buy their own mine. Some miners who have been unable to achieve liberation mentally after years of apartheid has fractured their spirits, fiercely oppose the plan.

Special Jury Mention, Apollo Film Festival 2003

Thursday, 2/12, 6:45pm; Sunday, 2/15, 7:25pm

Something for Nothing* (2003) US

Dir: Montae Russell 42 min

World Premiere Short

A huge emotional price tag results when family bad boy JoJo reluctantly agrees to donate one of his kidneys to his younger and successful adopted brother.

Friday, 2/13, 5:00pm; Sunday, 2/15, 8:20pm

Sophiatown (2003) South Africa

Dir: Pascale Lamche 82 min

LA Premiere Doc

A "docu-musical" about Johannesburg's Harlem of the late 1940s and 1950s: a multicultural melting pot of extraordinary musical, intellectual and political talent, which was destroyed by apartheid. Featuring Nelson Mandela, Abdullah Ibrahim, Hugh Masekela, Don Mattera, The Manhattan Brothers, Dolly Rathebe, Dorothy Masuka, The African Inkspots, and many others.

Sunday, 2/8, 3:00pm; Thursday, 2/12, 4:20pm

In Order by Film Title

SOS (2003) US

Dir: Guillermo Céspedes & Dominique DiPrima 17 min

World Premiere Doc

Baldwin Village, aka "The Jungle", has one of the highest homicide rates in L.A. Residents, community organizations, politicians, police and gang peace activists unite to provide the Jungle's young people an alternative to the violence surrounding them.

Saturday, 2/7, 1:50pm Q&A

Soundz of Spirit (2003) US

Dir: Joslyn Rose Lyons 52 min

Doc Short

A riveting exploration of the relationship between the creative process and the spiritual connection in hip-hop culture. Featuring performances and interviews with KRS-One, Talib Kweli, Andre 3000, Blackalicious, Jurassic 5, Saul Williams and others.

Friday, 2/13, 8:35pm Q&A

Standing On My Sisters' Shoulders (2002) US

Dir: Laura Lipson 60 min

Doc

Award-winning documentary follows the Mississippi women who became grassroots leaders of the Civil Rights Movement.

Audience Award, Atlanta Film Festival 2003; Savannah Jury Prize; Documentary Audience Award, Dances With Films 2003; Long Island Humanitarian Award

Sunday, 2/8, 5:15pm; Monday, 2/16, 1:30pm

State of Denial (2003) South Africa

Dir: Elaine Epstein 83 min

Doc

An unprecedented and unflinching look at how the citizens of South Africa are living with the AIDS epidemic.

Friday, 2/6, 1:00pm

Stone Mansion (2003) US

Dir: JJ Goldberger 14 min

West Coast Premiere Short

A human face is placed upon the 1921 Tulsa, Oklahoma race riots as a prominent black doctor and his wife are forced to make difficult choices during the most heinous race riot in US history.

Saturday, 2/7, 3:30pm; Wednesday, 2/11, 9:00pm Q&A

Strange as Angels* (2003) US

Dir: Steven J. Foley 96 min

Feature

In a love story about sex and longing, a beautiful young artist decides to leave her ordinary life behind until she meets a sympathetic stranger.

Saturday, 2/14, 9:40pm Q&A

Sweet Hideaway (2002) US

Dir: Patrick McKnight 96 min

LA Premiere Feature

A funny, light-hearted comedy. When a petty thief gets into a sticky situation with a credit card scheme he turns to his cousin for help, unaware that the cousin is gay and living in a gay "frat house". Has he found the perfect hideaway?

Sunday, 2/15, 5:30pm; Monday, 2/16, 11:45am Q&A

Sweet Sweetback's Baad Asssss Song (1971) US

Dir: Melvin Van Peebles 97 min

Feature

Van Peebles' 1971 racially charged film classic focusing on the problems of police brutality and the undermining of African American people. Dedicated to: "All the Brothers and Sisters who had enough of the Man" it has become a part of African American folklore. A must-see for those who have not seen it (especially for you young Brothers!). For those who have, a rare opportunity to savor the experience on the big screen once more. Soundtrack by "Earth, Wind and Fire".

Friday, 2/6, 9:45pm; Sunday, 2/15, 11:45am

The Adventures of Aaron Willows in Cyberspace* (2003) US

Dir: Jason VanVeen 20 min

LA Premiere Short

The comedic dating adventures of Aaron, a neurotic brother, who finds dates online and is excited when propositioned with a ménage a trois until he finds out it includes another man.

Thursday, 2/12, 9:30pm

The Agronomist (2003) US

Dir: Jonathan Demme 90 min

Doc

The true story of Jean Dominique, Haiti's freedom-fighting radio journalist, who led a crusade for Haitian human rights reform and was the founder of Radio Haiti International. Interviews with family, friends and associates as well as documentary footage are used to tell Dominique's spellbinding story. What emerges is the picture of a man who early in life was an agronomist before he became a national icon and hero for exposing government corruption and impropriety, and used his broadcast platform to endlessly take on all manner of governmental crime, exploitation and demoralization of Haitian citizens. In the end it cost him his life.

Sunday, 2/15, 4:30pm

The Appointment (2003) US

Dir: Earl A. Hibbert 15 min

LA Premiere Short

A work-obsessed businessman gets into a horrific car accident which forces him to look at his life in a new light.

Honorable Mention, DragonCon Film Festival 2003

Friday, 2/6, 1:30pm; Saturday, 2/14, 12:15pm; Monday, 2/16, 1:40pm

The Black Composers (2004) US

Dir: Justin Bryant 75 min

World Premiere Doc

The legendary relationship between music, film and television is explored by the composers and directors who have created memorable Black images. Includes profiles of Stanley Clarke, Terence Blanchard, QD3, Kurt Farquahar, Camara Kambon, Quincy Jones, Curtis Mayfield, Isaac Hayes, Herbie Hancock and Patrice Rushen.

Saturday, 2/7, 6:45pm Q&A

The Cookie Project* (2003) US

Dir: Stephanie Wynne 60 min

LA Premiere Doc

The harsh reality of gender identification motivates a black man as he ushers the viewer through his odyssey from father, police officer, marine and army sergeant to transsexual lesbian in graphic detail.

Friday, 2/13, 10:30pm Q&A

In Order by Film Title

The Edge of Each Other's Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde (2002) US

Dir: Jennifer Abod 60 min

Doc

An extraordinary testimonial to the visionary and legendary black lesbian feminist poet Audre Lorde (1934-1992) whose work and life contributed profoundly to the black arts movement, Black, women's, lesbian and gay liberation.

2nd Place, Best Documentary, San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Festival

Saturday, 2/7, 11:30am Q&A

The Epicureans* (2003) US

Dir: Brandon Broussard 85 min

Feature

The friendship and conversations of four middle-class men reveal how much their lives are shaped by sex and their relationships with women. A Black male "Sex in the City".

Audience Award, Motor City International Film Festival 2003; 3rd Place Best Feature, Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame 2003

Sunday, 2/8, 6:30pm; Sunday, 2/15, 10:15pm

The Furious Force of Rhymes (2002) US

Dir: Joshua Atesh Little 23 min

West Coast Premiere Doc Short

From hip-hop's US origins in the 1970s, the furious force travels into today's ghettos of Europe and the third world cities of Africa and Arabia. The socio-political dynamics on peoples' lives are explored, forming a powerful portrait of poverty, racism, struggle and hope.

Friday, 2/13, 8:35pm; Sunday, 2/15, 10:40pm

The Letter (2003) US

Dir: Ziad H. Hamzeh 75 min

Doc

Somalis fleeing the harshness of Urban America move to virtually all white Lewiston, Maine. Hard hit by factory closings, many town residents are resentful that, as refugees, the Somalis receive gov't assistance. Being both Black and Muslim in a post-9-11 society aggravates tensions, and when the mayor publishes an open letter asking Somalis to stop moving there all hell breaks loose. Racism or economics? You be the judge.

Friday, 2/13, 3:30pm; Saturday, 2/14, 3:40pm

The Meeting (2002) UK

Dir: Julius Amedume 13 min

World Premiere Short

Two people meet in a train station and enter into a mysterious conversation.

Sunday, 2/15, 8:20pm

The Memo (2003) US

Dir: Daheli Hall 9 min

World Premiere Short

The revolution will start once the memo arrives. As Felicia gets ready to join the revolution, she is shocked that her co-worker, Ted, does not even know about it because--he didn't get the memo!

Wednesday, 2/11, 9:00pm; Sunday, 2/15, 11:30am Q&A

The Phone Call (2003) UK

Dir: Julius Amedume 25 min

US Premiere Short

Quentin is awakened one morning by a phone call from his old friend, who asks him for a favor. Grave repercussions from the request follow.

Friday, 2/6, 7:15pm; Sunday, 2/15, 8:20pm

In Order by Film Title

The Price of Forgiveness (Ndeysaan) (2001) Senegal

Dir: Mansour Sora Wade 90 min

Feature

In a fishing village on the south coast of Senegal, an unearthly fog sets in motion a chain of events leading a jealous man to murder his rival and boyhood friend. A beautifully shot, allegorical fable.

Saturday, 2/7, 4:30pm; Thursday, 2/12, 1:00pm; Saturday, 2/14, 12:35pm

The Real Eve (2002) US

Dir: Andrew Fiddington 92 min

Doc

An informative and in-depth expose of the scientific discovery of the Eve gene which indicates that the ancestry of all humankind can be traced to a few-- and maybe only one-- African woman.

Friday, 2/6, 1:15pm

The Return of Sara Baartman (2003) South Africa

Dir: Zola Maseko 55 min

LA Premiere Doc Short

A closure on a tragic episode of racism and imperialism. Sara Baartman was taken to London in 1810. For the next five years, she was a popular freak show attraction. When she died in Paris in 1816, at age 26, she was dissected by French scientists and her body parts placed on display. Speaking at her repatriation and interment in South Africa, President Thabo Mbeki said Sara's story "is the story of the loss of our ancient freedom... It is the story of our reduction to the status of objects that could be owned, used and disposed of by others."

Friday, 2/13, 8:00pm; Monday, 2/16, 2:05pm

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised (2003) Ireland

Dir: Kim Bartley & Donnacha O'Briain 74 min

Doc

Beloved by his nation's working-class and a tough-as-nails opponent to the power structure, democratically-elected President Hugo Chavez is the first Venezuelan president of African and indigenous descent. On April 11, 2002 two independent filmmakers were inside the presidential palace during a coup which forcibly removed him from office. They were also present 48 hours later when, remarkably, and triumphantly, he returned to power amid cheering aides. This dramatic "You Are There" cinema records the actual events.

Sunday, 2/8, 3:45pm; Saturday, 2/14, 5:40pm

The Right Questions (2002) US

Dir: Benjamin David Smith 106 min

Feature

When a sociology grad student spends his last semester living on the street in order to write his thesis on the homeless he realizes he has bitten off more than he can chew. He struggles with objectivity as he is pulled into the lives of the very people he is trying to study.

Wednesday, 2/11, 6:05pm

The Sensi (1999) US

Dir: Marcus Salgado 60 min

LA Premiere Short

A Sensi, a highly ranked martial arts teacher, helps a young man renounce his life of crime but an old friend, newly out of prison, threatens to force him back to the past.

Friday, 2/13, 1:20pm

In Order by Film Title

The Slowdown* (2003) US

Dir: Leon Lozano 13 1/2 min

West Coast Premiere Short

An aspiring hip-hop artist who catches her husband cheating must dig deep within to find a way to put her life back on track.

4th Place, SMPTE Festival, Rochester 2003

Thursday, 2/12, 9:30pm Q&A

The Story of a Three-Day Pass (1968) US

Dir: Melvin Van Peebles 87 min

Feature

A Black GI stationed in France receives a 3-day pass. On his first night out he meets a White Parisian shop clerk at a club. They dance, talk and fantasize. He invites her to go to a beach resort for the remaining weekend. She accepts and a romance ensues only to be interrupted by racial misunderstanding and prejudice.

Saturday, 2/7, 2:30pm

The Sunday Morning Stripper (2003) US

Dir: Sheldon Collins 25 min

Short

A pastor of a failing church needs a miracle to repair its main building. He gets it when a choir member strips during a service, bringing new tips (make that tithes) into the church. Stars Bruce Bruce, Renaldo Rey and Jenifer Lewis.

Best Narrative Short, Jamaican Film & Music Fest 2003

Wednesday, 2/11, 9:00pm; Thursday, 2/12, 9:30pm; Sunday, 2/15, 11:30am

The Velvet Cuffs (2003) US

Dir: Lou Charles 30 min

World Premiere Short

A young woman takes matters into her own hands while grieving the tragic, untimely murder of her husband, a victim of street violence.

Saturday, 2/7, 3:30pm

Then I'll Be Free to Travel Home (2001) US

Dir: Eric V. Tait Jr. 86 min & 56 min

LA Premiere Doc

A two-part documentary chronicles the discovery of an African Burial Ground in Manhattan. The engaging story of the survival and historical contributions of the original Africans and their descendants are told with a frank, in-depth look at the significance and impact of Northern Slavery. It is the remarkable story of the struggle of those buried in the cemetery as well as those who struggled to preserve it in present times.

Saturday, 2/7, 12:20pm

Thursday's Child (2003) US

Dir: Frances G. Pinnock 34 min

World Premiere Experimental

A man who suffers from clinical depression struggles to overcome his fear of confronting life.

Wednesday, 2/11, 1:10pm

Time Out (2003) US

Dir: Xelinda Yancy 19 min

Short

Since the death of her mother, Lauren has been raised by her aunt and carries a painful secret.

Friday, 2/6, 1:30pm; Sunday, 2/8, 5:15pm; Saturday, 2/14, 12:15pm; Monday, 2/16, 1:40pm Q&A

In Order by Film Title

Transit Café (2003) South Africa

Dir: Catherine Stewart 26 min

US Premiere Short

A good-for-nothing travels to the city to find his brother's widow and child. He cheats a poor woman and child out of their money, only to discover they are the ones he is looking for. In his efforts to win back their trust he finds himself losing his heart.

Saturday, 2/14, 4:30pm

Trumpetistically Clora Bryant (2004) US

Dir: Zeinabu Davis 75 min

World/LA (depending on Sundance) Doc

The story of 76-year old trumpet player Clora Bryant who throughout her 59-year career was never afraid to play in a man's world. A veteran of the Central Avenue Jazz scene, Clora played with the likes of Dexter Gordon, Frank Morgan, Teddy Edwards and the great Charlie Parker.

Thursday, 2/12, 6:30pm

Tsha Tsha (2002) South Africa

Dir: Tim Greene 78 min

US Premiere Feature

Episodes of the popular award-winning television series set in the dusty streets of Lubusi, an impoverished rural town in the Eastern Cape. Four 20-somethings negotiating the bumpy path to adulthood deal with big issues: love, death, relationships, and sex and its consequences.

Duku Duku

Thursday, 2/12, 1:15pm

Up Against the 8-Ball (2003) US

Dir: Troy Curvey Jr. 96 min

LA Premiere Feature

Two co-eds at a Black college are suddenly strapped for cash to pay for their last year of tuition. In a pinch, they rely on their pool-hustling skills to earn money and wind up on the journey of their lives.

Wednesday, 2/11, 4:30pm; Thursday, 2/12, 9:00pm Q&A

Valley of the Innocent (2003) Germany/Ghana

Dir: Branwen Okpako 85 min

US Premiere Feature

A dark story of loss, remembering and confused identities. On her return to her hometown of Dresden, lonely, mixed-race Eva visits the orphanage where she was an alienated little girl yearning for the golden plaits of her Aryan sisters. The journey into her past takes her straight into the heart of the East German secret police and reveals a convoluted plot to hide her birth, protect a family name and attract recruits to a spy ring. A thriller with a twist!

Thursday, 2/12, 6:15pm; Monday, 2/16, 7:50pm

Virgin Again (2003) US

Dir: Francisco Newman 90 min

LA Premiere Feature

A 49 year old woman has yet to know love is forever changed when she meets LOVE himself in the form of a Black Jesus in blue jeans.

Sunday, 2/8, 7:45pm

Vote for Me! (2003) US

Dir: Nelson Antonio Denis 78 min

Feature

All hell breaks loose when a 70-year-old Puerto Rican super runs for Congress in East Harlem. A political comedy based on real life, real people and real events.

Sunday, 2/8, 3:55pm Q&A

In Order by Film Title

Wandering Thoughts (2002) US

Dir: Christel S. Miller 4 min

LA Premiere Short

A visual collage of the effect heterosexual media has on a young African American female.

Saturday, 2/7, 11:30am

Wariko, the Jackpot (1993) Ivory Coast

Dir: Fadika Kramo-Lanciné 95 min

Feature

When Ali wins the lottery his relatives and friends want their share. There's only one problem -- the winning ticket has disappeared. As Ali looks high and low his quest turns hilariously allegorical in this pure satire on the African dream of socio-economic success.

Friday, 2/6, 4:15pm

Wet Sand: Voices from L.A. Ten Years Later (2003) US

Dir: Dai Sil Kim-Gibson 59 min

Doc Short

Issues of racism and race relationships in the US, especially between Blacks and Koreans, 10 years after the LA rebellion, are explored.

Saturday, 2/7, 1:50pm

Whale Rider (2002) New Zealand/Germany

Dir: Niki Caro 105 min

Feature

Present-day fable about a 12-year-old tomboy in a Maori community on the rugged coast of New Zealand. The girl's grandfather is searching among the boys of the community for the next tribal leader, but excludes his own granddaughter from the search. A moving story of female empowerment and the rebirth of dormant cultural traditions, the story weaves the realities of modern life with the power of mysticism to create a unique cinematic experience.

Saturday, 2/14, 12:25pm; Monday, 2/16, 11:30am

When the Spirits Dance Mambo (Cuando los Espíritus Bailan Mambo) (2002) Cuba/US

Dir: Marta Moreno Vega 91 min

LA Premiere Doc

The journey of sacred practices and traditions is traced from Africa to Cuba in this examination of their influence on Cuban popular music, from the mambo craze of 1950s to contemporary Latin Jazz and hip-hop.

Wednesday, 2/11, 3:50pm; Thursday, 2/12, 9:00pm

White Teeth (2003) UK

Dir: Zadie Smith 4 hrs

Feature

A two-part adaptation of the sophisticated award-winning novel by Zadie Smith set in multiracial, multi-cultural northwest London. The funny, sassy story of three families from the hippy-to-hiphop era of 1974 to 1992.

Friday, 2/6, 2:00pm

Within the Wall (2003) US

Dir: Paula Neiman 15 1/2 min

World Premiere Short

A gap in the wall of the neighborhood store hosts anonymous drug transactions. Through his poetry, a boy depicts the lives of those who reside on both sides of the wall.

Saturday, 2/7, 3:30pm Q&A

In Order by Film Title

Women's Love (Hob El Banat) (2003) Egypt

Dir: Khaled El Hagar 115 min

US Premiere Feature

A rich man dies, leaving his money to his three daughters by different mothers. Never having met, they must live together for a year to receive their inheritance.

Friday, 2/13, 6:40pm; Sunday, 2/15, 12:15pm

Yes Madame!* (2003) US

Dir: Magaly Colimon 15 min

LA Premiere Short

In a world where money equals power, Madeline, a maid with a wild past, is yearning for a more traditional future while trying to define her own rules.

Friday, 2/6, 6:00pm; Monday, 2/16, 8:50pm Q&A

You (2003) US

Dir: Roderick Rosby 30 min

Short

Woman has two-timing boxer boyfriend and a poet friend who loves her.

Saturday, 2/14, 11:00am

Za'Aka (Outcry) (2003) Israel

Dir: Destau Damtou 30 min

West Coast Premiere Docudrama

An attempt to arrest a young Ethiopian suspected of shooting a policeman leads to a chain of violence highlighting the cultural limbo in which Ethiopian immigrants find themselves in Israel.

Official selection, Toronto Film Festival 2003

Saturday, 2/14, 3:40pm