



THE 34th ANNUAL  
**PAN AFRICAN**  
FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

# SCREENING SCHEDULE

## and Festival Guidebook



**PAFF**  
**SOUL**  
**2026**

*Art***FEST**

**F I L M**  
SCREENINGS

**FEBRUARY 7 -16, 2026**

BALDWIN HILLS CRENSHAW,  
LOS ANGELES

**FEBRUARY 16 -22, 2026**

CULVER THEATERS, CULVER CITY +  
CINEMARK THEATERS, LOS ANGELES

[www.PAFF.org](http://www.PAFF.org)

@PAFFNOW



#PAFFSOUL

# TICKET PRICES *and* GENERAL INFORMATION

| Screening Tickets (Regular)               | Prices  |
|---|---------|
| Adult General Admission                   | \$16.00 |
| Adult Matinee<br>(First screening of day) | \$13.00 |
| Seniors (62+)                             | \$12.50 |
| Students (w/ID)                           | \$12.50 |
| Children (12 years or under)              | \$7.50  |

| Special Event Tickets  | Prices   |
|--|--|
| Opening Night<br>(Includes Red Carpet & Screening)             | \$40.00  |
| Closing Night<br>(Includes Red Carpet Screening & After-Party) | \$40.00  |
| SpokenWordFest   | \$25.00  |
| PAFF Soul Comedy   | For ticket info go to <a href="https://tinyurl.com/LaughPAFF">https://tinyurl.com/LaughPAFF</a>                |
| PAFF Institute Panels & Workshops                              | Free; must RSVP at <a href="https://paff2026.eventive.org/schedule">https://paff2026.eventive.org/schedule</a> |
| Filmmaker Award Brunch   | \$30.00 (Advance)<br>\$40.00 (Door)  |

## FREE PAFF PROGRAMS:

### SATURDAY CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL **FREE**

**February 14** Children's Films at Cineplex B @10:30am

**February 14** Interactive Workshops at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw (Bridge) @12:30pm

### SENIOR CONNECTIONS **FREE (62+)**

Space available; first come, first served. Must RSVP at [paff2026.eventive.org/schedule](https://paff2026.eventive.org/schedule)

## PASS INFORMATION:

### ALL FEST PASS\* **\$625.00**

Enjoy entire PAFF. Access to all PAFF sponsored events, all screenings and PAFF sponsored after-parties and Receptions, panels and workshops, one 2026 PAFF T-shirt, souvenir book. Guaranteed seating up to 15 minutes before movie and panel start time.

### FILM LOVERS/CINEMA ONLY PASS\* **\$350.00**

Access only to all General Admission screenings. Does not include access to Special screenings, Spotlight Screenings or Special Events

### PAFF Six-Tix PAFFport\* **\$78.00**

Six Adult Evening Tickets:  
Restrictions: space available only; only two tickets per screening

### Diplomatic Visa\* **\$90.00**

Six General Admission Tickets; only one ticket per screening, guaranteed seat

*\*Passes can be purchased online or in person at the PAFF Information Table in the Culver Theater during PAFF screening hours.*

## FESTIVAL LOCATIONS:

### STUDENTFEST AND SENIOR CONNECTIONS

- **Cinemark Baldwin Hills Crenshaw**  
4020 Marlon Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90008

### PAFF SOUL COMEDY

- **The Miracle Theater**  
226 S Market St  
Inglewood, CA 90301

### ALL PAFF SCREENINGS, PAFF INSTITUTE PANELS & WORKSHOPS

- **The Culver Theater**  
9500 Culver Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90232

## PRESENTATION INFORMATION

Short films are screened either grouped together or with a feature. All foreign language films are presented with English subtitles. Films are not rated. Starred (\*) titles may contain adult subject matter, nudity, or harsh language. Parental discretion advised for all films.

## ABOUT PAFF

The Pan African Film Festival is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the advancement of cultural diversity and education through the exhibition of positive and realistic media images.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Visit us online for daily updates:  
[www.PAFF.org](http://www.PAFF.org), [Facebook.com/PAFFnow](https://facebook.com/PAFFnow)  
Email: [info@paff.org](mailto:info@paff.org)

\* NOTE: All Ticket and PAFF Sales are final and non-refundable unless screening or event is cancelled and there is no substitution.

# OPENING NIGHT



Tuesday February 17, 2026

## One Spoon of Chocolate

Directed by Rza  
2025/US/112m

An ex-military convict seeks a fresh start in a small town, but his past catches up as he finds love amidst danger and chaos.

Cast: *Brandon Bonilla, Tye Alexander, Caleb Black*

**Location:** Directors Guild of America  
7920 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046

**Time:** 5:30 pm Red Carpet  
7:00 pm Screening

**Tickets:** \$40.00

# CLOSING NIGHT



Sunday, February 22, 2026

## Uncle George: The Music Man

Directed by Pamela J Richardson  
2025/US/105m

This doc shines light on the very influential “unsung hero” and cultural gatekeeper George Daniels, the force behind record retailer George’s Music Room in Chicago. It was a “must stop” for music icons, execs, entertainers, and fans alike for over 50 years.

**Location:** The Culver Theater  
9500 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

**Time:** 3:10 pm Red Carpet  
4:10 pm Screening Followed by Reception

**Tickets:** \$40.00



# SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026

## **Tempted 2 Love**

Directed by Roger Bobb  
Presented by Lifetime Network  
2026 US 120m



A star chef heads to Ireland for a major culinary event with her new love, only to find her much-younger ex there too. As they work side by side with their current partners, old feelings resurface, challenging their hearts and careers.

Cast: Garcelle Beauvais, Boris Kodjoe, Lela Rochon, Vaughn W. Hebron

# *Lifetime*

Fri, Feb 14 @ 8:50p

## **When the Sky Turned Orange**

Directed by B.P. Edwards  
Presented by Color Creative  
2025 US 15m World Premiere



In the aftermath of the Eaton Fire, Altadena residents became the first responders—meeting uncertainty with care, ingenuity, and collective action. Neighbors organized improvised relief efforts that transformed tragedy into mutual aid and solidarity. When the Sky Turned Orange follows these unlikely heroes as they navigate tragedy, revealing how a community came together beneath an orange sky to support one another. Through intimate, ground-level storytelling, the film captures the resilience and compassion that emerge in moments of crisis. *Shortlisted, Best Documentary Feature - 97th Academy Awards - 2025*

Cast: Brandon Lamar, Krystal Lopez, Kerwin Manning, Michelle White, Bruce Palmore IV, Josh McCurry, Amelia Williamson, Desiree Pau

# **COLOR CREATIVE**

*\*All PAFF Institute Programs are Free by registering at [www.paff.org](http://www.paff.org) (Limited Seating)  
All panels are located in the PAFF Institute Lounge @ Culver Theater*

Sat, Feb 22 @ 3:30p

## **Up Close & Personal: Real Estate Seminar**

Interest rates are up, but there are programs that can help you purchase a home. Get the information you need to get your financial life in order: Home Buying & Selling/Probate/Estate Planning/Trusts/Taxes/Retirement/Life Insurance. Meet the experts.

**Moderator:** Linda Bronson-Abbott & Sherri S. Reese

**Location:** Baldwin Hills Cinemark, Theater 4

Sponsored by: 

Thurs, Feb 19 @ 3:00p

## **The Evolution of Black Women in Film**

Black women are redefining power in film, not only as performers and storytellers, but as producers, financiers, and owners shaping the industry's future. This industry-focused panel examines how influence is built, sustained, and transferred across generations, while addressing the systems that impact access, authorship, and equity. A strategic conversation for filmmakers, executives, and cultural leaders invested in the future of the film economy.

**Moderator:** Honora Whitfield (Global Operations Executive | Investor | Philanthropic Founder)

**Panelists:** Sharifa Johka (Funder), Tamara Gregory (Writer), Nicole Tossou (Producer), D'angela Proctor (ShowRunner)

Fri, Feb 20 @ 12:00p

## **Stop Failing in Post: How to successfully finish out feature in 8-12 weeks**

Post-production can make or break your film. From editing and color to sound and final deliverables, quality finishing determines festival acceptance and distribution success. Learn how to complete your feature in 8-12 weeks with a streamlined workflow that avoids costly delays and endless revisions.

**Moderator:** Tim Alexander

Presented by: FilmMastering

Fri, Feb 20 @ 2:00p

## **Diverse Representation: A Conversation with Black Agents, Managers and Attorneys**

Join us for a panel conversation featuring talent agents, managers, and attorneys as they discuss the ins and outs of talent representation.

Panelists will share insight into the evolving role of agents, managers and attorneys and discuss best practices for securing and working alongside representation.

**Moderator:** Jai Thomas (Founder, Diverse Representation)

**Panelists:** Brian Boone (Motion Picture Talent Agent, CAA), Joshua Edwards, Esq. (Partner, Fox Rothschild), James Jolly (Talent Manager, Anonymous Content), Kimberlina McKinney, Esq. (Senior Counsel, Newell Law Group)

Presented by: 

Fri, Feb 20 @ 3:30p

## **Future of Creatives: The Future of Creativity & AI**

Future of Creatives presents a forward-looking conversation on creativity, artificial intelligence, and the new frontier of the creative economy.

This panel explores how next-generation creators are using AI-powered tools to reshape storytelling, production, and ownership, and what creators need to build, protect, and expand their creative power in an AI-driven world

**Moderator:** Shavone C. (Founder of Future of Creatives, Tech Exec, Musician)

**Panelists:** Eric Hamilton (Author, AI Visionary, Technology leader), Kelvyn Colt (International Artist, Entrepreneur, AI Expert), Mike & Keys

Presented by: **Future of Creatives**

Fri, Feb 20 @ 5:30p

## **Behind The Music: Noise to Numbers**


New music is being created and shared every day, yet many artists are making music without making money. This panel shows artists how songs turn into ownership, visibility, and real income through film, TV, and social media.

**Moderator:** SheRise Ford, The Six Foot Publicist

# PAFF INSTITUTE\*

\*All PAFF Institute Programs are Free by registering at [www.paff.org](http://www.paff.org) (Limited Seating)  
All panels are located in the PAFF Institute Lounge @ Culver Theater

**Panelists:** Jarred Causly (VP of Music Supervision and Brand Partnerships), Rashad Richardson (Music Supervisor & President, Creative Music Licensing)

Presented by: 

Sat, Feb 21 @ 12:00p

## **Real Stories, Real Change: The Role of documentaries in Black Political Power and Social Justice**

A timely conversation on the power and responsibility of documentary film, and how true stories reshape the way we see the world. Join TRESPASS Director, Kim Watson and a panel of leading documentary voices as they explore the ethics, influence, and real-world impact of nonfiction storytelling, and why these stories matter now more than ever.

**Moderator:** Sherry Simpson Dean (Emmy Winner, Former Director of IMPACT and Innovation at ITVS)

Presented by: Kim Watson (Writer/Director of TRESPASS)

Sat, Feb 21 @ 1:30p

## **Everything in Entertainment: The State of the Workforce for Women**

The State of the Workforce examines the current realities shaping the professional lives of women working behind and in front of the camera, with a focus on labor conditions, mental and physical wellness, pay equity, career sustainability, and leadership opportunities within the global Pan African film ecosystem.

**Moderator:** J'Tasha St. Cyr (Film Producer | CEO Miss Everything)

Presented by: 

Sat, Feb 21 @ 3:00p

## **Inside The Room: How Films Get Developed, Packaged, and Greenlit (Streaming Panel)**

A rare look into the business and creative process behind bringing a film from concept to production. This conversation demystifies

the journey between a great idea and a funded project, revealing how producers, executives, agents, financiers, and creatives collaborate and negotiate to make a film happen.

**Moderator:** Jaqueline Flemings

Sat. Feb 21 @ 5:00p

## **GLAM: The Power of Visual Identity in Storytelling**

Hair, Makeup & Wardrobe in Action explores the creative forces behind the visual storytelling of film, television, and live performance. This conversation highlights the designers and artists who transform scripts into lived-in worlds through texture, color, silhouette, and cultural detail.

**Moderator:** Chasity Saunders (Actress & TV Host)

**Panelists:** Shirlena Alleen (Emmy & Guild Nominated Hair Stylist), Julie Julies (2x Emmy Winner MUA), Stacey Kutz (Oscar, Emmy, Guild Nominated Celebrity Barber), Michelle Cole (Emmy Nominated Costume Designer), Nena Ross (Emmy Nominated Hair Stylist)

Presented by: 

Sun, Feb 22 @ 5:00p

## **In The Spotlight: Legacy In The Making GEN Z Panel & Mixer**

In the Spotlight Panel is a bold, youth-centered conversation spotlighting the next generation of creatives shaping culture. The panel features young artists, rising actors and actresses, and industry voices leading real dialogue around mental health, staying relevant, balancing life with social media, and navigating pathways into the entertainment industry.

**Hosted By:** Noah Abbott, Libriti Greene, Zoie Brogdon

**Special Guest:** G Perico

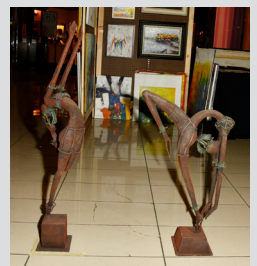
Presented by : Word Onna Street & In My Nature

# PAFF *Art* FEST

**Hours:** Monday -- Saturday, 10:00a-9:00p  
Sunday -- 11:00a-7:00p

**Location:** **Fep 7-16, 2026**  
**Baldwin Hills Crenshaw**  
3650 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90008

- African Art Market Place | Crafts/ Jewelry
- Allohn | Fashion
- Another Phase | Jewelry
- Arts Africains | Crafts
- BaKari Art Studio | Fine Art
- Benin Imports | Jewelry/African Clothing
- Body Butter Lady
- Bogolani Shaka Designs | Leather/Crafts
- Damola Adepoju | Fine Art
- Designs by Ardena | Photo Restoration & Art
- Fidelis Eze Odogwu | Metal Sculpture
- Foo Foo Fashions | Fashion
- Freshgenet | Jewelry/Fashion
- Gypsy Moon House | Fashion
- Jazzy D Creations | Fashion
- Latalove | Fashion
- Moro Yahaya Enterprises | Beads
- Musa | Jewelry
- Nu Lyfe | Crafts/Artifacts
- Porter Ajayi | Fine Art
- Pride Hatz | Fashion
- Quill & Press Studio | Multimedia
- Uncommon Sense | Jewelry
- Unique Design | Jewelry
- Yayi's Hats | Knitted Hats
- Zebi Designs | Ceramics





# SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## SATURDAY FAMILY FILMS

Films and activities for children age 4+ and their parents.

## SATURDAY CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL FREE

**February 14** Films at Cinemark BHC & XD  
@10:30am-12:00pm

**February 14** Activities at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Bridge (2nd floor)  
@12:30pm - 2:30pm

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Coordinators:** Sherrese Moise & Linda Bronson

## YOUTH SHOWCASE

A program of short films created by young filmmakers from Black Girls Film Camp, Kids in the Spotlight, and Teen Creators Academy (Caribbean Film & Media Academy). Reserve your FREE tickets online to confirm your seating in advance.



## PAFF SOUL COMEDY SHOW

Wed, Feb 11 @ 8:00p-10:00pm

**Location:** The Miracle Theater,  
226 S Market St,  
Inglewood, CA 90301

**Tickets:** See website for ticket information.

**Featuring:** Hosted by Tony Rock, featuring headliner Tommy Davidson (In Living Color) and Finesse Mitchell (Saturday Night Live), joined by an all-star roster featuring London Brown, Ron G, John Grimes, and Carmen Barton.



**LENOX&PARKER**

## STUDENTFEST

Tue-Fri, Feb 17-20 @ 10:00a

Selected screenings for students.  
Attendance by reservation only.

See PAFF website for synopses and to make reservations.



**Coordinators:** Sherrese Moise, Melissa Randle, Miki Goral

# SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

## PAFF SPOKENWORD

in Collaboration with Diverse Verses LA

Sat, Feb 14 @ 6:30p - 9:00p

**Location:** **Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Bridge (2nd Floor)**

3650 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90008

**Tickets:** Advance: \$25.00 (on sale @ [www.paff.org](http://www.paff.org))

It's a Special Evening of the Hottest Spoken Word Artists in the Country!  
It's 'The Pan African Film Festival Spoken Word Fest!'

PAFF is excited to bring you an amazing show complete with local and renowned spoken word artists!

Seasoned and emerging poets will be sharing their best poems! Bring the entire family to this HIGH ENERGY, INTERACTIVE SHOW!

Our featured poet is internationally known, 7X HBO Def Poetry Jam and Tony Award Winning POET/PERFORMER Tamika Harper, also known as GEORGIA ME!

Our 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award honoree is the original founder of the poetry night, Griots Café at Shades of Africa and 1st host of the Pan African Film Festival Spoken Word Festival, Isaac Sundiata!

Special Guest Poets include accomplished poets Ravina, Big Arch, Larry Love, Ms. Drea the Poet, Queen Quannie and from Da Poetry Lounge, Blu!

Performing LIVE are poets Kimtone, 2X PAFF Poet - Judge The Teacher, Protected Poet, Pw., Akbar Asiyahsson, Quinoaa, Ocea Lei, Prince of the Ghetto, 2X PAFF Poet - Celia 'Da Poet' Douglas, Maestro DeSean, Askhari Black and Nai Ya Maji.

Dress to impress to win prizes in 'The ShoeGame,' participate in our battle of Old School versus New School music and most importantly experience phenomenal Spoken Word!



**Co-Produced and Hosted by Diverse Verses LA:**

Paul Mabon, Kooki, Philosophy, Dj S.O.U.L.- O,  
Marcheta and Quan the Poet.

# SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



## SENIOR CONNECTIONS

Selected Screenings for Seniors (62+ years)

Tuesday-Friday, Feb 17-20 @1:00p

### FILMS:

- **The Inquisitor and New Jack Fury**  
*Tue, Feb 17 @ 1:00p*
- **Brothers in Blood: Black in Vietnam and Radio Sky**  
*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:00p*
- **Black is Beautiful and New Jack Fury**  
*Thu, Feb 19 @ 1:00p*
- **Brothers in Blood: Black in Vietnam and Radio Sky**  
*Fri, Feb 20 @ @ 1:00p*

**Location:** Cinemark Baldwin Hills XD

**Tickets:** Free, Register Online at [paff2026.eventive.org/schedule](https://paff2026.eventive.org/schedule)



## PAFF FILMMAKERS' AWARDS BRUNCH

Sun, Feb 22 @ 11:00am

Come celebrate with our Filmmakers and be the first to know all the winners of PAFF 2026!

**Location:** TBA

**Tickets:** \$40.00 (Advance)  
\$55.00 (Door)

# SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

## MONDAY, Feb 16

### Screen 1

- 11:05a Paw Paw & Dayja w/  
Beneath the Baobab Tree  
and The Errand
- 1:30p Shorts Series 9
- 4:05p Play It Loud
- 6:25p Trespass
- 8:55p Shorts Series 3

### Screen 3

- 11:10a Brothers in Blood
- 1:45p Radio Sky
- 4:25p The Class Reunion\*
- 7:30p A Better Way

### Screen 6

- 11:00a A Life in Art
- 1:10p Romeo N Juliet 4EVA
- 3:25p Au Revoir w/Finding Myself
- 5:51p Mother's Love
- 8:30p Can You Stand the Rain

## TUESDAY, Feb 17

### Screen 1

- 11:05a Last Meal\*
- 1:55p Carnival, They Can't Steal  
Our Joy
- 4:15p Muganga\*
- 7:00p Black is Beautiful
- 9:20p Shorts Series 16

### Screen 3

- 11:05a Shorts Series 10
- 1:25p Shorts Series 15
- 4:05p Shorts Series 19
- 6:30p New Jack Fury
- 8:55p Billie

### Screen 6

- 11:15a Narciso
- 1:40p Untouchables
- 4:10p Recovering Innocence
- 6:50p Radio Sky
- 9:20p Shyness w/ The Black Bart  
Taco King

## WEDNESDAY, Feb 18

### Screen 1

- 11:15a Shorts Series 3
- 1:50p Shorts Series 6
- 4:10p Shorts Series 11
- 7:00p Sneak Peek
- 10:00p Shorts Series 8

### Screen 3

- 11:10a Shades of Survival
- 1:40p Shorts Series 7
- 4:10p Shorts Series 18
- 6:30p Rise of the Legion
- 9:05p Bankie Banx

### Screen 6

- 11:00a Two Classes of 1968
- 1:25p Black Women and Sex
- 3:50p This is Ballroom
- 6:20p Son of the Soil
- 9:05p Toxic

## THURSDAY, Feb 19

### Screen 1

- 11:00a Shorts Series 2
- 1:30p Shorts Series 5
- 4:00p Muganga\*
- 6:50p Cycle w/Time Setters
- 9:45p Shorts Series 11

### Screen 3

- 12:00p Belonging Beyond Brown w/  
Ruby's Heart
- 2:20p Shorts Series 14
- 4:50p Shorts Series 13
- 7:15p Shorts Series 12
- 9:30p Noseeums w/Don't Hang Up

### Screen 6

- 12:10p Black is Beautiful
- 2:45p Shorts Series 19
- 5:20p A Tribe Called Love
- 7:50p It Comes in Waves\*
- 9:35p SPADURA\* w/The Knife



# SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

## FRIDAY, Feb 20

### Screen 1

- 12:00p Shorts Series 16
- 2:20p Shorts Series 6
- 4:40p Shorts Series 10
- 7:10p Shorts Series 4
- 9:40p On Paper

### Screen 3

- 1:30p Shorts Block 1
- 4:15p Shorts Block 2
- 6:45p BLM Grassroots World Premiere
- 9:30p Shorts Series 8

### Screen 6

- 11:00a 3 Cold Dishes
- 2:05p Rediscovering Fanon
- 4:30p Shorts Series 14
- 7:00p Tales for the Heads w/Trashy People and StarChild
- 9:20p The Miracle of Tonya Pinkins w/Tango

## SATURDAY, Feb 21

### Screen 1

- 11:00a A Better Way
- 1:50p We Are Here w/Heart of Compton
- 4:25p I'm Carl Lewis
- 7:15p TBA
- 9:55p The Class Reunion\*

### Screen 3

- 11:05a Iyanu
- 1:20p The Inquisitor
- 3:50p Amazing Grace w/Quad Life
- 6:20p Montmartre
- 8:55p Godfrey w/Home Girls and The Things We Carry

### Screen 6

- 11:10a Shorts Series 4
- 1:30p Romeo N Juliet 4EVA
- 3:50p Play It Loud!
- 6:15p Tangi Miller's The Handyman
- 8:30p Love the Skin You're In

## SUNDAY, Feb 22

### Screen 1

- 11:10a The Inquisitor
- 1:40p Shorts Series 15
- 4:20p Montmartre
- 7:00p Shorts Series 9
- 9:30p Shorts Series 7

### Screen 3

- 11:00a Paw Paw & Dayja w/ Beneath the Baobab Tree and The Errand
- 1:30p Shorts Series 1
- 4:10p CLOSING NIGHT
- Uncle George
- 6:55p Shorts Series 5
- 9:20p New Jack Fury

### Screen 6

- 11:05a Rediscovering Fanon
- 1:30p For Love, For Land, For Power
- 4:00p Phat Girlz
- 6:40p Tangi Miller's The Handyman
- 8:55p Bankie Banx



# SHORTS SERIES

## Shorts Series 1

CB: Power to the Player /  
Cirilo, A Legacy Untold /  
Sweet Freedom / The Price of  
Resistance

## Shorts Series 2

Just-As-Poetic / Fragile  
/ HomeGoing / Missing  
Rhythms / 117 Years of Movie  
Bullshit / Seeking: Mapping  
Our Gullah Geechee Story

## Shorts Series 3

Children of Water (Ban'a  
Mayi) / Black Aquatic vol 1:  
Searching For Good Trouble /  
Moving Mountains / Beyond  
Tarkwa Bay

## Shorts Series 4

Single AF / Her Right / The  
(M) Factor 2: Before the Pause  
(Perimenopause)

## Shorts Series 5

Legally Black / A Quiet  
Breakfast / Mr. Benjamin's  
Birthday / Forgive Us Our  
Debts

## Shorts Series 6

Rewinded / Something Real /  
The Entertainer / MacBeth in  
Compton / Red Clay

## Shorts Series 7

Food For the Soul / Alta  
Adams / Hard to Swallow /  
The Missing Piece

## Shorts Series 8

Something About Tomorrow  
/ The Other Foot / Baldy: The  
Film / Drugs Are Fun / Price

## Shorts Series 9

Kakomando / Gullah Binyah:  
Aisha Been Watts / My  
Brother, My Brother / Dawn /  
Blinded by the Lights / Yamina  
(The African Warrior Princess)

## Shorts Series 10

Ava / Light Bunny / Laundry /  
Before You Let Go / Go / Blue

## Shorts Series 11

Boil the Cabbage Down /  
Adinkra / Complicated Grief /  
Fort Buku

## Shorts Series 12

Keep On Truckin' / White  
Noise / Keep My Brother / I  
Was Silent Until / I Love This  
Arrangement / Nothin' Good  
& 12th Street

## Shorts Series 13

The Fall / Day of the Dad /  
Manifest Destiny / White Meat  
Appetizer / The Inconvenience  
Store / Spilled Milk /  
Allure

## Shorts Series 14

Two Black Boys in Paradise /  
Orion's Quest / Graduation  
Day / Cuming Out / River  
Mamma

## Shorts Series 15

Pan Gyul / Not Dead / Unalive  
/ King of the Sandcastle /  
Grasping at the Roots

## Shorts Series 16

We Will Be Who We Are /  
Embers of Anger / With Grace

## Shorts Series 17

Heart of Compton /  
We Are Here: A Western  
Heart, An English Saddle

## Shorts Series 18

Ella / Good Home Training /  
Said Out Loud / She Dared to  
Dream: Ayanna Pressley

## Shorts Series 19

Exodus / The Restore  
Fellowship Documentary

## PAIRED FEATURES/SHORTS

Au Revoir w/ Finding Myself  
Amazing Grace YorubaWorlds  
w/ Quad Life  
Trespass w/ Time Setters  
On Paper w/ The Black Bart  
Taco King #17  
NOSEEUMS w/ Don't Hang Up  
Tales for the Heads w/ Trashy  
People & StarChild  
Paw Paw & Dayja w/ Beneath  
the Baobab Tree & The Errand  
Tango w/ The Miracle of Tonya  
Pinkins  
Ruby's Heart w/ Belonging  
Beyond Brown  
The Knife w/ SPADURA



**PAN AFRICAN**  
FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

# FILM SYNOPSES

## **117 Years of Movie Bullsh\*t**

(US/Short Narr/2025/30m)

Dir: Candice Vernon

Frank and Candice, two aspiring Hollywood stars are sent back in time during the Gone With the Wind Era by evil Dick Whitman, an old school studio exec. As they try to get back to the present time, they keep getting stuck in movies of the past as token Black characters.  
*Thu, Feb 19 @ 11:00a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:15p*

## **3 Cold Dishes\***

(Benin/Côte d'Ivoire/Mauritania/Nigeria/  
Feature Narr/2024/115m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Asurf Amuwa Oluseyi

Three women scarred by trafficking reunite years later to execute a calculated revenge across West Africa, confronting power, betrayal, and the true cost of justice  
*Mon, Feb 16 @ 2:00p @ Cinemark BHC; Fri, Feb 20 @ 11:00a*

## **A Better Way: James Lawson, Architect of Nonviolence**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/124m)

World Premiere

Dir: Karen Hayes

A Better Way explores the strategies James Lawson created for 1960s Civil Rights campaigns, including the Nashville Sit-ins and Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike, and their relevance to critical issues today.  
*Mon, Feb 16 @ 7:30p; Sat, Feb 21 @ 11:00a*

## **A Life in Art: Through the Eye of Dr. Leslie King Hammond**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/81m)

World Premiere

Dir: Ben Baker-Lee, Rasaan Hammond  
From studio visits to museums, D. Leslie King Hammond makes ways for artists of color as a maverick troublemaker seeking to open the door to the art world.  
*Mon, Feb 16 @ 11:00a*

## **A Quiet Breakfast**

(US/Short Narr/2025/15m)

World Premiere

Dir: Charles Murray

After deciding to divorce, a couple spend one last night together and make their goodbyes over breakfast

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 6:55p*

## **A Tribe Called Love**

(Canada/Feature Narr/2025/95m)

US Premiere

Dir: Mohamed Ahmed

In this Romeo+Juliet story set in Toronto, sweethearts Farah and Halima fight to overcome traditional cultural divides and preserve their love.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 5:20p*

## **Adinkra**

(UK/Short Narr/2025/8m)

US Premiere

Dir: Golda Kesse

When a reluctant reunion revives her grandmother's Ghanaian Adinkra teachings, a young woman must decide whether the stories she dismissed as folklore are actually clues to a family secret that refuses to stay buried.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 4:10p; Thu, Feb 19 @ 9:45p*

## **Allure**

(US/Short Narr/2025/19m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Élan Murray

A young woman finds her purpose in perfume making after a breakup.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 4:50p*

## **Alta Adams: Now We Can Be Seen**

(US/Short Doc/2025/23m)

World Premiere

Dir: Jonathan Grace

Alta Adams is more than a restaurant. Led by Chef Keith Corbin, it's a space where food, family, and possibility come together to inspire hope and transformation.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:40p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 9:30p*

## **Amazing Grace: Yoruba Worlds**

(Brazil/Nigeria/Feature Doc/2025/64m)

US Premiere

Dir: Raynald Leconte

An exploration of Yoruba culture and its profound global impact on Afro-Brazilian

# FILM SYNOPSES

history and Afro-diaspora culture, highlighting Nigerian Nobel Laureate in Literature, Professor Wole Soyinka—the first Black author to receive this honor—alongside the voices and music of renowned Afrobeat and Afro-Brazilian artists.

Sat, Feb 21 @ 3:50p

## **Au Revoir**

(Dominican Republic/France/Feature Narr/2025/80m)

US Premiere

Dir: Ronni Castillo

A man travels to Bretagne to meet his late wife's former lover and find out about her unknown past.

Mon, Feb 16 @ 3:25p

## **Ava**

(US/Short Narr/2025/11m)

World Premiere

Dir: Leon Lozano

In a toxic near-future, a youthful android becomes an elderly woman's last chance to rediscover joy and dignity in a world changed by environmental and climate injustice.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 11:05a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:40p

## **Baldy The Film**

(US/Short Narr/2024/16m)

Dir: Eddie Griffith

Travis' birthday is upcoming and his friends want to celebrate, can he get a haircut?

Wed, Feb 18 @ 10:00p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 9:30p

## **Bankie Banx: King of the Dune**

(Anguilla/US/Feature Doc/2024/118m)

Dir: Nara Garber

A celebration of the colorful life and music of the trailblazing Anguillian legend known as "the Bob Dylan of the Caribbean."

Wed, Feb 18 @ 9:05p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 8:55p

## **Before You Let Go**

(US/Short Narr/2025/14m)

Dir: Jalen Blot

On the bittersweet morning of her late husband's birthday, a widow's peaceful routine is disrupted by a broken coffee machine and an unexpected guest, unraveling a tender journey through grief, nostalgia, and renewed hope.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 11:05a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:40p

## **Belonging Beyond Brown**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/60m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Nina L. Gilbert, El Sawyer, Jon Kaufman

An exploration of the emotional stories of displacement, resilience, and the enduring quest for justice experienced by Black educators and students before and after the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling.

Thu, Feb 19 @ 12:00p

## **Beneath The Baobab Tree**

(Netherlands/Short Narr/2025/19m)

US Premiere

Dir: Gora Mboup

Haunted by unsettling visions during her pregnancy, May seeks out her estranged father and uncovers a mythological curse; one rooted in generational trauma, silence, and spiritual inheritance.

Mon, Feb 16 @ 11:05a; Sun, Feb 22 @ 11:00a

## **Beyond Tarkwa Bay**

(Nigeria/Short Doc/2025/25m)

World Premiere

Dir: Peter Oghenetega Oke

After the sudden destruction of their homes on Tarkwa Bay Island, teenage surfer Abraham remains to pursue a competition that could take him beyond the only home he's ever known.

Mon, Feb 16 @ 8:55p; Wed, Feb 18 @ 11:15a

## **Billie**

(Germany/Feature Narr/2025/108m)

US Premiere

Dir: Sheri Hagen

Two best-friend mothers are trapped in a bank over 300 euros, mistaken for armed robbers as police close in. Amid panic and chaos, only their bond can get them out alive.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 8:55p

## **Black Aquatic vol. 1: Searching For Good Trouble**

(US/Short Doc/2025/40m)

World Premiere

Dir: Inga Grimmett, Fred Guerrier

A perspective on the African Diaspora's rich aquatic heritage and sailing traditions before and during slavery shared by author and historian Kevin Dawson and US Sailing Director Marie Rogers.

Mon, Feb 16 @ 8:55p; Wed, Feb 18 @ 11:15a



# FILM SYNOPSES

## **Black is Beautiful: The Kwame Brathwaite Story**

(UK/US/Feature Doc/2025/98m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Yemi Bamiro

Everyone knows the phrase "Black is Beautiful," but few know of the man who helped popularize it. Little known Harlem based photographer - freedom fighter and activist - Kwame Brathwaite took 500,000 photos across his 70-year career, always devoted to celebrating the joy and beauty of African American life.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 7:00p; Thu, Feb 19 @ 12:10p*

## **Black Women and Sex**

(Nigeria/South Africa/Zambia/Feature

Doc/2024/90m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Godisamang Khunou

Black Women and Sex explores the tension between Black women and the politics of sex through the sexual realities of three unique women.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:25p*

## **Blinded By The Lights**

(Ghana/Animation/2025/13m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Francis Y. Brown

Set against the backdrop of a nation trapped in the cycle of neocolonialism, the film unpacks the illusions of power, the corruption that festers behind closed doors, and the silent suffering of a people forgotten by those meant to lead them.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 7:00p*

## **Blue**

(US/Short Narr/2025/13m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Dayna Lynne North

As her newfound love grows more distant, a young woman fighting to save her relationship makes a surprising discovery.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 11:05a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:40p*

## **Boil That Cabbage Down**

(US/Short Doc/2024/25m)

Dir: Candace Mae Williamson

After a Black banjoist learns about the instrument's forgotten history, it launches her on a lyrical journey to reclaim the joy that was lost along the way.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 4:10p; Thu, Feb 19 @ 9:45p*

## **Brothers in Blood: Black in Vietnam\***

(US/Feature Doc/2026/85m)

World Premiere

Dir: Joseph Puleo

An in-depth chronicle of the Black experience at home and abroad during and after the Vietnam War, told by those who lived it.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 11:10a*

## **Can You Stand The Rain**

(US/Feature Narr/2025/92m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Eden Albert Marryshow

A group of lifelong friends reunite after the sudden death of their childhood anchor, only to confront buried dreams, hidden tensions, long-held regrets, and the truth about who they've become... and who they still might be.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 8:30p*

## **Carnival: They Can't Steal Our Joy**

(Canada/Ghana/Trinidad and Tobago/Uganda/

UK/Feature Doc/2024/85m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Ian Mark Kimanje

Caribbean Carnival is not just any event. It is liberation, a voice of freedom, people in action, a cultural movement that was birthed out of a place of righteous defiance to become a paradise of colorful street parade.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 1:55p*

## **CB: Power to the Player**

(US/Short Doc/2024/16m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Funmi Ogunro, Javier Wallace

Claudius 'C.B.' Claiborne broke barriers as Duke's first Black basketball player, and as an activist, he changed the game both on and off the court.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:30p*

# FILM SYNOPSES

## **Children of Water (Ban'a Mayi)**

(DRC/Animation/2024/8m)

Dir: Maud-Salomé Ekila Bofunda

Nia, Okelia and Shanti are triplets who live in the Congolese capital, Kinshasa. When they were only 2 years old, all three fell into a river with a very strong current. This incident revealed their connection with the aquatic world.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 8:55p; Wed, Feb 18 @ 11:15a*

## **Cirilo, A Legacy Untold**

(US/Short Doc/2025/26m)

Dir: Justin O'Shea Cooper

Born into poverty in Panama, Cirilo McSween confronts Jim Crow America, rising as an entrepreneur and civil rights activist whose legacy bridges the Americas.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:30p*

## **Complicated Grief**

(Ghana/Switzerland/Short Narr/2025/26m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Julius Amedume

A mysterious gift from beyond crosses continents to a secluded chalet, where the fate of a couple unfolds in an unexpected and unsettling way.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 4:10p; Thu, Feb 19 @ 9:45p*

## **Cuming Out**

(US/Short Narr/2024/19m)

Dir: Jasmine J Johnson

Kennedy's desire for a heteronormative experience sees her embark on a one-night-stand. What could possibly go wrong?

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 2:20p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:30p*

## **Cycle**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/98m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Laura Dyan Kezman, William Howell

When 18-year-old Ty'rese West is killed by police on Juneteenth without cameras or witnesses, his case slips quietly out of view. Cycle exposes how accountability disappears when state violence goes unseen—and what remains when families refuse erasure.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 6:50p*

## **Dawn (Alfajiri)**

(Cameroon/Animation/2024/10m)

Dir: Gary Telly Jeannot

In the depths of the Kenyan savannah, Malaïka, a young Masai warrior, comes face to face with himself and learns the true meaning of courage. Alone with his choices...

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 7:00p*

## **Day of the Dad**

(US/Short Narr/2025/10m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: James III

A dad struggles to keep his daughter asleep while taking a walk during the zombie apocalypse.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 4:50p*

## **Don't Hang Up**

(US/Short Narr/2024/11m)

Dir: Diamond Batiste

A church-going, whiskey-drinking elementary school teacher racing through Hayti, Missouri, must keep a former student on the phone as he plans his final exit, only to learn their pasts are devastatingly linked.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 9:30p*

## **Drugs are Fun**

(US/Short Narr/2025/24m)

Dir: Malcolm J Cook

A Love Letter to L.A.'s Night Life.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 10:00p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 9:30p*

## **Ella**

(US/Short Narr/2026/17m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Nikki Taylor

Ella sings her love songs—scatting through her darkest notes.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 4:10p*

## **Embers of Anger (Les Foyers de la Colère)\***

(Réunion/Short Narr/2024/34m)

US Premiere

Dir: Kenlo Primate

A few hours before the new year, an ambitious woman, a broken man and a young girl yearning for freedom all face implacable truths.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 9:20p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 12:00p*

# FILM SYNOPSES

## **Exodus**

(Panama, US/Short Doc/2025/35m)

Dir: Nimco Sheikhaden

Exodus is an intimate documentary that follows two women as they return home after decades of incarceration, navigating the uncharted terrain of freedom and facing both its promise and its barriers in their efforts to build a dignified life.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 4:05p; Thu, Feb 19 @ 2:45p*

## **Finding Myself**

(US/Short Narr/2025/6m)

World Premiere

Dir: Sydney White

A story about girl trying to find her confidence and love for herself through exposure therapy.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 3:25p*

## **Food for the Soul**

(US/Short Narr/2025/18m)

Dir: Chisom Chieke

A first-generation Nigerian American and her Black American partner must decide between being true to themselves or trying to live up to their families' expectations.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:40p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 9:30p*

## **For Love, For Land, For Power**

(Ethiopia/Feature Narr/2025/105m)

US Premiere

Dir: Theodros Teshome Kebede

*Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:30p*

## **Forgive Us Our Debts**

(US/Short Narr/2025/30m)

World Premiere

Dir: Richard Jackson

A dying pastor drags his estranged brother on a final journey to recover buried money, forcing both men to confront faith, guilt, and forgiveness.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 6:55p*

## **Fort Buku**

(Suriname/Short Narr/2025/35m)

US Premiere

Dir: Loelle Monsanto

Three friends set off into the Surinamese jungle in search of a long-lost fort, uncovering buried histories and awakening ancestral connections

on a journey where adventure and identity intertwine.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 4:10p; Thu, Feb 19 @ 9:45p*

## **Fragile**

(UK/Short Narr/2025/12m)

US Premiere

Dir: Benjamin Cyrus-Clark

When Janet confronts her brother Marvin about how success has changed him, tensions flare. Once close, the siblings now stand worlds apart.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 11:00a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:15p*

## **GO**

(US/Short Narr/2025/15m)

Dir: Dusan Brown

When a perfectionist collegiate wrestler finds himself stumbling through the stages of grief after the tragic death of his parents, a security guard with a similar past secretly coaches him to grow into a champion.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 11:05a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:40p*

## **Godfrey: Rebel With A Cause**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/75m)

Dir: The Audacity

Godfrey's comedy special offers a masterclass in observation. Expect brilliant storytelling, razor-sharp wit, and a fearless embrace of universal experiences... And of course, hilarious impersonations.

*Sat, Feb 21 @ 8:55p*

## **Good Home Training**

(US/Short Doc/2025/12m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Evolyn Brooks, Riche Holmes Grant

Good Home Training is a film about legacy, resistance, and the joy Black women have cultivated in domestic spaces—the kind whispered over dinner, sewn into dresses, and baked into recipes.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 4:10p*

## **Graduation Day**

(US/Short Narr/2025/15m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Jordan Aaron Hall

An edgy coming-of-age dramedy following high school senior Cheech as he navigates

# FILM SYNOPSES

his identity, a love triangle with his best friend Sparkes, longtime crush Jayla, and the bittersweet chaos of growing up.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 2:20p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:30p*

## **Grasping at the Roots**

(US/Short Doc/2024/37m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Keenan Lacy-Rhodes, Leah Derae

A love letter to the Black environmental and climate Justice movement.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 1:25p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:40p*

## **Gullah Binyah: Aisha Been Watts**

(US/Animation/2025/8m)

Dir: Alexander Cecil McNab

A forsaken little girl searches South Central for a Christmas present but instead meets a local elder who teaches her about love and the Watts Riots.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 7:00p*

## **Hard To Swallow**

(France/US/Short Webseries/2024/29m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Tunde Wey, Theo Schear

A food show not about food follows Nigerian chef/writer Tunde Wey across America as he investigates the ways food culture and power are shaped by race and class.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:40p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 9:30p*

## **Heart of Compton**

(US/Short Doc/2025/19m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Isabel Rose Soloaga

Streets raised her. Horses saved her. In Compton, a young show-jumping star rises with the Compton Jr. Equestrians—shattering barriers in elite sport, powered by the family and community that lift her higher.

*Sat, Feb 21 @ 1:50p*

## **Her Right**

(Rwanda/Short Doc/2025/18m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Eric Kabera

Though "Gukuna" (Labia Elongation) has been practiced for centuries and many women still

perceive it as a positive influence on their sex lives, its early introduction violates the sexual rights of young girls.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 7:10p; Sat, Feb 21 @ 11:10a*

## **Homegirls in Outer Space**

(US/Short Doc/2025/12m)

World Premiere

Dir: Ben Guest

Two women from South Central Los Angeles form an improv duo and compete for a residency at the Westside Comedy Theater, where forty teams audition for just twelve spots.

*Sat, Feb 21 @ 8:55p*

## **HomeGoing**

(US/Short Experimental/2025/10m)

Dir: Julie Dash

Through song and stillness, an operatic bass-baritone pays tribute to the nine lives lost during Bible study at Mother Emanuel AME Church in 2015.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 11:00a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:15p*

## **I Love This Arrangement**

(US/Short Narr/2025/19m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Jacquin Deleon

To avoid deportation, an aspiring Haitian chef enters a fraudulent marriage with a passionate Dominican woman drowning in financial hardship.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 7:15p*

## **I Was Silent Until...**

(US/Short Narr/2025/11m)

World Premiere

Dir: Julia Verdin

A bold officer is faced with the ultimate internal struggle between staying quiet and fighting an injustice when she realizes she is not the only one.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 7:15p*

## **I'm Carl Lewis!**

(US/Feature Doc/2024/99m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Julie Anderson, Chris Hay

The uncompromising and extraordinary life



# FILM SYNOPSSES

of legendary athlete Carl Lewis, a nine-time Olympic Gold Medallist, who fought to revolutionize his sport and inspire change on and off the field.

Sat, Feb 21 @ 4:25p

## **It Comes in Waves\***

(Canada/Feature Narr/2025/104m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Fitch Jean

A young man grapples with his family's traumatic past and the weight of intergenerational trauma as he navigates life in the Rwandan diaspora in Canada.

Thu, Feb 19 @ 7:50p

## **Iyanu: The War of Twin Princes**

(US/Feature Animation/2025/64m)

World Premiere

Dir: Roye Okupe

Sat, Feb 21 @ 11:05a

## **Just-As-Poetic** (US/Short Narr/2025/7m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Kalahari Lewis

A teen poet, Justice Hudson, has the opportunity to compete for a scholarship in the prestigious Creative Quill Poetry Competition. To win, she must choose between doing a poem that's safe or one that is true to her voice.

Thu, Feb 19 @ 11:00a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:15p

## **Kakomando** (France/Animation/2023/8m)

Dir: Alexandra Bloch, Delaly Guy Corneille

Tchocodo, Bertil Toby Svanekiaer, Clémence

Collignon, Louis Augustine Lubega

Kakomando is the leader of a group of mischievous kids free running on the streets of New Town. To complete their hideout on top of the old mining hill, the young commander must take a high risk to get the one thing missing to complete their dream.

Mon, Feb 16 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 7:00p

## **Keep My Brother** (US/Short Narr/2025/11m)

World Premiere

Dir: Sharona D'Ornellas

The poignant story of Ava, who struggles to balance her family, career, and health while caring for her younger brother, Darryl, during

his severe manic episode.

Thu, Feb 19 @ 7:15p

## **Keep On Truckin'**

(US/Short Narr/2025/8m)

World Premiere

Dir: Omar Derby

An amateur MMA fighter struggles to cope when the championship match that launches his career falls on the same night as his mother's final hours.

Thu, Feb 19 @ 7:15p

## **King of the Sandcastle**

(UK/Short Narr/2025/10m)

US Premiere

Dir: Dominic Davies

A passionate saxophonist tries to overcome nerves and distractions during a life-changing jazz audition.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 1:25p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:40p

## **Last Meal (Le Dernier Repas)\***

(Canada/Dominican Republic/Feature

Narr/2024/111m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Maryse Legagneur

Reynold is dying of stomach cancer. He uses the occasion of his last meals to share them with his daughter Vanessa, whom he hasn't seen in 20 years. As the meal progresses, a ritual begins to take hold, with traditional dishes acting as reminders of the past.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 11:05a

## **Laundry**

(US/Short Narr/2024/19m)

Dir: Okema T. Moore

After his son's tragic accident, a husband struggles to save his marriage and himself, until a chance encounter at a laundromat shows him that even in grief, hope and healing can all come out in the wash.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 11:05a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:40p

## **Legally Black**

(US/Short Webseries/2025/14m)

World Premiere

Dir: Abai Peace

After her father's death, fashion consultant Jade Black spirals into alcoholism. As her life

# FILM SYNOPSSES

unravels, she must choose whether to keep spiraling or reclaim her spark with humor and resilience.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 6:55p*

## **Light Bunny**

(US/Short Narr/2025/15m)

Dir: Valerian Zamel

Six months after her son's death, a grieving mother receives a late-night call from a voice claiming to be him, forcing her to confront grief, memory, and deception.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 11:05a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:40p*

## **Love The Skin You're In**

(US/Feature Narr/2025/108m)

Dir: Kenn Michael

When Sasha's estranged father resurfaces, old wounds reopen. As anxiety rises, she must face the past, find closure, and summon the strength to say no before losing everything.

*Sat, Feb 21 @ 8:30p*

## **Macbeth in Compton**

(US/Short Narr/2025/20m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Page Kennedy

When an ambitious young rapper in 1990s Compton is told he'll rise to greatness, his hunger for power drives him into a haunting spiral of betrayal, paranoia, and violence in this bold, hip-hop-infused reimagining of Shakespeare's classic tragedy.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:50p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 2:20p*

## **Manifest Destiny**

(US/Short Narr/2024/12m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Timothy Gunatilaka, Kevin Osgood

A new father is forced to face his deepest fears when the supernatural stories from his favorite urban-legend podcast start bleeding into reality.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 4:50p*

## **Missing Rhythms**

(US/Short Narr/2025/16m)

Dir: Regina Hoyles

In a mysterious insane asylum full of missing Black women from all over the country, a

woman must use rhythm to remember her true identity and fight being lost forever behind the ominous Blue Door.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 11:00a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:15p*

## **SPOTLIGHT SCREENING**

### **Montmartre**

(France/US/Feature Narr/2025/103m)

World Premiere

Dir: Leon Hendrix III

WhenJo, restless and alone, takes a vacation to Paris, she collides with Toussaint, a tour guide who believes in love and magic. Together they find love and adventure in the history of Black Paris.

*Sat, Feb 21 @ 6:20p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 4:20p*

### **Mother's Love**

(Nigeria/Feature Narr/2025/103m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Omotola Jalade Ekeinde

When a young woman's life spirals out of control because of her family's extreme control due to fear and past tragedy, a mother has to find the inner strength and wisdom to save what's left of her family in this powerful exploration of family, love, and classism.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 5:51p*

### **Moving Mountains**

(US/Short Doc/2024/23m)

Dir: Jessa Williams

Through the transformative power of big wave surfing, Tre'lan confronts his trauma, embraces healing, and discovers the resilience to reshape his future, finding peace in the ocean's most powerful waves.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 8:55p; Wed, Feb 18 @ 11:15a*

### **Mr. Benjamin's Birthday**

(US/Short Narr/2025/29m)

Dir: Crystle Viviana Dorsey

A caregiver is forever changed when his patient wants to give up on life.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 6:55p*

### **Muganga, The One Who Treats \***

(Gabon/Feature Narr/2025/105m)

US Premiere

Dir: Marie-Hélène Roux

# FILM SYNOPSES

Congolese doctor and future Nobel laureate Denis Mukwege risks everything to treat women victims of sexual violence in the DRC. Meeting Belgian surgeon Guy Cadrière brings renewed hope to his mission.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 4:15p; Thu, Feb 19 @ 4:00p*

## **My Brother, My Brother**

(Egypt/Animation/2025/15m)

Dir: Abdelrahman Dnewar, Saad Dnewar

The complexities of a past shared by two identical twins: Omar and Wesam. A split narrative retells the two sides of their memories—from the instant they were fused together in their mother's womb to the moment they are parted by the tragic death of one of them.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 7:00p*

## **Narciso**

(Brazil/Feature Narr/2024/90m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Jeferson De

Narciso, a Black orphan boy living, dreams of having a family, but has had only disappointments so far. To cheer the boy up, his friend, Alexandre gifts him an old basketball, with the promise that, if he scores three baskets, a genie will appear and make his wishes come true.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 11:15a*

## **New Jack Fury**

(US/Feature Narr/2025/89m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Lanfia Wal

A former detective seeks the help of two R&B eccentrics to help save his girl from a ruthless kingpin in the neon-soaked, synth bumping 1980s.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 6:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 9:20p*

## **Noseeums**

(US/Feature Narr/2025/85m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Raven DeShay Carter

When college student Ember joins a weekend getaway with her white friends, she finds their family estate unsettling, oddly familiar, and plagued with a vengeful ghost. A fresh take on exploring the horror genre around the loss of

Black land rights in the contemporary south.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 9:30p*

## **Not Dead**

(Morto Não) (Brazil/Animation/2025/15m)

Dir: Alex Reis

The birth of a young Black couple's first child brings happiness, but also agony.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 1:25p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:40p*

## **Nothin' Good & 12th Street**

(US/Short Narr/2025/16m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Tone Renee Foster

Over one chaotic night, two teenagers, two crooks, and a hitman collide in a dangerous chase for a bag of stolen cash.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 7:15p*

## **On Paper**

(US/Feature Narr/2025/86m)

World Premiere

Dir: Amanda Nigole

A struggling screenwriter finds his latest script mirroring real-life murders—plunging him into a paranoid spiral where he must untangle whether he's inspired by a killer, haunted by one... or become one.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 9:40p*

## **One Spoon of Chocolate**

(US/Feature Narr/2025/112m)

Dir: RZA

See Opening Night

## **Orion's Quest**

(US/Short Narr/2025/15m)

Dir: Steven Chew

Before a powerful eclipse occurs, an extraterrestrial being must finalize his mission to comprehend love by exploring the romantic relationships between Black gay men.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 2:20p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:30p*

## **Pan Gyul**

(Saint Kitts and Nevis/Short Narr/2025/15m)

US Premiere

Dir: Juliette Jeffers

On the island of Nevis, a determined young girl challenges tradition and her mother's opposition to learn the steel pan, hoping to

# FILM SYNOPSSES

connect with her celebrated musician father and claim her own voice.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 1:25p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:40p*

## **Paw Paw & Dayja**

(US/Feature Narr/2024/59m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Gregory Alan Williams

A bright and beautiful little girl learns that everyone sees the world through their own eyes.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 11:05a; Sun, Feb 22 @ 11:00a*

## **SPOTLIGHT SCREENING**

### **Phat Girlz**

(US/Feature Narr/2006/100m)

Dir: Nnegest Likké

The culturally groundbreaking, body-positive romantic-comedy starring Academy Award Winner Mo'Nique and Jimmy Jean-Louis turns 20, but its timeless message of self-love resonates stronger than ever today.

*Sun, Feb 22 @ 4:00p*

## **Play It Loud! How Toronto Got Soul**

(Canada/Jamaica/US/Feature Doc/2024/83m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Graeme Mathieson

Expat musicians like Jackie Mitoo and Jay Douglas turned Toronto into a Jamaican musical mecca. Their records were forgotten for decades until a Seattle label shared them with the world.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 4:05p; Sat, Feb 21 @ 3:50p*

## **Price\***

(US/Short Narr/2023/13m)

Dir: Byron Lee Mason II

With his career on the line, an ambitious actor loses his grip on reality as he delves into a breakout role.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 10:00p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 9:30p*

## **Quad Life**

(US/Short Doc/2025/36m)

Dir: Joyce Tsang

A young father's world flips upside down after a tragic accident. This is his story of reinvention as he navigates life as a creative

and quadriplegic sound designer.

*Sat, Feb 21 @ 3:50p*

## **Radio Sky**

(US/Feature Narr/2025/91m)

World Premiere

Dir: Carlitos Do Souto

When NASA loses contact with U.S. astronauts, a hacker under house arrest hacks the ISS from his rundown apartment-uncovering a lone survivor and a deadly hostage crisis. Now he must guide her home without violating his probation.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 1:45p; Tue, Feb 17 @ 6:50p*

## **Recovering Innocence**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/100m)

World Premiere

Dir:

A look into the overuse of psychotropic medication within the American Foster Care System.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 4:10p*

## **Red Clay**

(US/Short Narr/2024/22m)

Dir: Christian Nolan Jones

Caught in a rampant cycle of poverty and desperation within his Atlanta community, Nook, a conflicted teenager dreams of a better life, but finds himself ensnared in the very world he envisions escaping.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:50p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 2:20p*

## **Rediscovering Fanon**

(Algeria/France/Martinique/US/Feature Doc/2025/84m)

Dir: Rico Speight

An exploration of Frantz Fanon's radical insights on race, tracing how his analysis of colonial violence and racial alienation resonates in contemporary tragedies from Trayvon Martin to George Floyd.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 2:05p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 11:05a*

# FILM SYNOPSES

## **Rewinded**

(US/Short Narr/2025/7m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Aaliyah Idrissa

A 45-year-old Black woman who gave up on her dreams as a teen embarks on a 2nd chance journey when she is rewinded back in time to live one day with her younger self in the 1990s  
*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:50p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 2:20p*

## **Rise of the Legion**

(US/Short Doc/2025/50m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Adrian S Woodard Sr, Adrian S Woodard II  
"Rise of the Legion!" reveals how Norfolk State's legendary Spartan Legion Band transformed from hometown heroes into cultural influencers who changed the rhythm of HBCU band culture forever.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 6:30p*

## **River Mamma**

(US/Short Narr/2024/30m)

US Premiere

Dir: Arun K. Vir

Set against the harsh realities of Jamaica's cultural landscape, River Mamma follows Jacqueline, a trans mother torn from her son by her fundamentalist father and shaken by the violent death of her lover.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 2:20p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:30p*

## **Romeo N Juliet 4EVA**

(Jamaica/Feature Narr/2024/78m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Paul Bucknor

When Dean's class dive into Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet" for a homework assignment, he imagines himself as Romeo, & Erica, his secret crush, as Juliet, sparking newfound courage.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 1:10p; Sat, Feb 21 @ 1:30p*

## **Ruby's Heart**

(US/Short Narr/2025/20m)

Dir: Obba Babatundé, Millena Gay

After losing his wife, Benjamin finds himself a grieving patriarch. His grandson, in an effort to help him cope, suggests he try going on a dating app. This unleashes a series of comic

misfires and emotional spirals that provides him a journey to self realization.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 12:00p*

## **Said Out Loud: Our Abortion Stories**

(US/Short Doc/2025/26m)

Dir: Donovan J. Gardener, Maiyah Mayhan  
Said Out Loud amplifies Black women's voices as they share intimate abortion experiences, centering bodily autonomy, resilience, and dignity while confronting stigma, racism, and systemic barriers within reproductive justice.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 4:10p*

## **Seeking: Mapping Our Gullah Geechee Story**

(US/Short Narr/2023/15m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Julie Dash

Gullah Geechee children are spiritual travelers in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, guided by ancestral maps and living landscapes to claim collective memory, survival, and continuity at a pivotal moment of change in 1966.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 11:00a; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:15p*

## **Shades of Survival\***

(France/Nigeria/South Africa/UK/US/Feature Doc/2025/96m)

US Premiere

Dir: David Ayeni

Across three continents, Black women's voices rise in a passionate rallying call for health equity in this challenging, intimate and creative portrayal of women with breast cancer.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 11:10a*

## **She Dared to Dream: Ayanna Pressley**

(US/Short Doc/2025/28m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Abby Ginzberg

Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), has been in Congress since 2019, advocating for reproductive freedom, racial justice, and opposing Project 2025.. Her courage in living authentically makes her story resonate far beyond politics.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 4:10p*



# FILM SYNOPSES

## **Shyness (Timidez)**

(Brazil/Feature Narr/2025/83m)

US Premiere

Dir: Susan Kalik, Thiago Gomes

Nigerian soldier Zion Ladejo, haunted by his past, returns home after his sister's death.

Determined to uncover those responsible, he embarks on a vengeful path, seeking redemption for his own actions.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 9:20p*

## **Single AF**

(US/Short Narr/2025/10m)

Dir: Louise Cousins

When Becks learns her biological clock has only six months left, she launches into a frantic race for love, marriage, and motherhood because nothing says romance like a deadline.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 7:10p; Sat, Feb 21 @ 11:10a*

## **Something About Tomorrow\***

(US/Short Narr/2025/29m)

Dir: Carole Murphy Copeland

Addiction stole their peace; recovery became their evolution.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 10:00p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 9:30p*

## **Something Real**

(US/Short Narr/2025/13m)

Dir: Tamara Shogaolu

A perfectionist tries to engineer the perfect breakup, but when her carefully laid plans spin wildly out of control, she's forced to confront the beautifully messy reality of love and connection.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:50p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 2:20p*

## **Son of the Soil**

(Nigeria/Feature Narr/2025/106m)

US Premiere

Dir: Chee Keong Cheung

Nigerian soldier Zion Ladejo, haunted by his past, returns home after his sister's tragic death.

Determined to uncover those responsible, he embarks on a vengeful path, while seeking redemption for his own actions.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 6:20p*

## **SPADURA\***

(US/Feature Doc/2025/66m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Allison Caviness, Dahéli Hall

The unforgettable and hilarious solo show written and performed by acclaimed comedian and writer Dahéli Hall about trying to get 'knocked up' -- it's a film that heals, challenges, and connects us all.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 9:35p*

## **Spilled Milk**

(US/Short Narr/2025/13m)

US Premiere

Dir: Jared Leaf

What happened to all those dads that went to the store to get milk and never came home? A father's late-night trip to the store leads him into an encounter with a mysterious Milk Man, and things quickly go sour.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 4:50p*

## **StarChild**

(US/Short Experimental/2024/16m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Miya Scaggs

When his experiment explodes in his face, an amnesic scientist decides to unlock his memory to save his environment from himself.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 7:00p*

## **Sweet Freedom**

(US/Short Narr/2024/29m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Alyssa Botelho

Underground Railroad station master Polly Johnson confronts the risk of her dearest friend's re-enslavement as encroaching slave-hunters threaten the safety of everyone under her protection.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:30p*

## **SPOTLIGHT SCREENING**

### **Tales For The Heads**

(South Africa/Short Doc/2024/49m)

Dir: Mosese Semenya

Sydney Hall, an American in South Africa, explores his identity outside the confines of America and Prokid, a South African, searches for the American dream in his own backyard.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 7:00p*

# FILM SYNOPSES

## **Tangi Miller's The Handyman**

(US/Feature Narr/2026/75m)

Dir: Tangi Miller

When an undercover detective moves into a quiet suburban neighborhood to investigate suspicious insurance claims, she discovers dangerous and deadly accidents...

Sat, Feb 21 @ 6:15p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 6:40p

## **Tango**

(US/Short Narr/2024/12m)

Dir: Amadou Diallo

Miles' visit to his mother turns when a painful childhood memory forces him to confront their emotional distance.

Fri, Feb 20 @ 9:20p

## **TCA + Carnival Chaos**

(Trinidad and Tobago/Short Narr/2025/6m)

US Premiere

Dir: Liam Daniell, Teen Creators Academy Mentors

A gifted teenage artist must confront generational expectations when her dream of designing Carnival costumes is dismissed, pushing her to find the courage to claim her own voice.

## **TCA + Her Smile was Backwards**

(Trinidad and Tobago/Short Narr/2025/6m)

US Premiere

Dir: Levi Solomon, Teen Creators Academy Mentors

A modern twist on the Caribbean legend of La Diablesse brings an old folktale out of the forest and into a family home, where hidden emotions begin to surface.

## **TCA + Play Date**

(Trinidad and Tobago/Short Narr/2025/6m)

US Premiere

Dir: Deana Roberts, Teen Creators Academy Mentors

Drawn in by sweets and curiosity, two siblings defy their mother's warning and accept an invitation to play, with unsettling consequences.

## **The (M) Factor 2: Before the Pause (Perimenopause)**

(US/Short Doc/2025/57m)

World Premiere

Dir: Jacoba Atlas

The (M) Factor 2: Before the Pause reframes perimenopause from taboo to turning point, spotlighting solutions in healthcare, workplaces, and communities that can transform women's futures.

Fri, Feb 20 @ 7:10p; Sat, Feb 21 @ 11:10a

## **The Black Bart of Taco King #17\***

(US/Short Narr/2024/12m)

Dir: Rickey Larke

A suave larcenist searches for a new partner at a dive bar and finds the perfect Bonnie to his Clyde. He takes her to dinner to put her to the test, yet she has all the answers... and more.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 9:20p

## **The Class Reunion\***

(US/Feature Narr/2025/97m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Chazitear

Five classmates from different social classes are locked in the cafeteria at their ten-year high school reunion.

Mon, Feb 16 @ 4:25p; Sat, Feb 21 @ 9:55p

## **The Entertainer**

(US/Short Narr/2024/17m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Robert Sweeting

Hours before a major show, a musician's self-playing piano vanishes, forcing him to confront the truth about his legacy.

Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:50p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 2:20p

## **The Errand**

(US/Short Narr/2024/10m)

Dir: Hayley Marie Norman

On the precipice of a life-changing event, Hayley is faced with the cost of letting go as she struggles to complete the final errand that will close the door on her past and force her to embrace an uncertain future.

Mon, Feb 16 @ 11:05a; Sun, Feb 22 @ 11:00a

# FILM SYNOPSES

## **The Fall\***

(US/Short Narr/2024/5m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Langston Sessoms

A man haunted by his past survives a near-fatal fall during a confrontation with a ruthless figure from his former life, now must evade a deadly pursuer while confronting the consequences of his choices.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 4:50p*

## **The Inconvenience Store**

(US/Short Narr/2024/12m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Ifeanyi Ezieme

When five unlikely strangers get stuck in a gas station during an alien invasion, they must put their differences aside and work together to survive.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 4:50p*

## **The Inquisitor**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/92m)

Dir: Angela Lynn Tucker

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan's electrifying voice and moral clarity during President Richard Nixon's impeachment captivated the nation. From Houston's 5th Ward to the halls of Congress, Jordan offers a compelling blueprint for uniting a divided America through a turbulent political era.

*Sat, Feb 21 @ 1:20p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 11:10a*

## **The Knife**

(Ireland/Short Narr/2025/15m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Joy Nesbitt

Ife, a Black Irish woman, gets a shock when she goes to her pregnancy scan. She and her partner must navigate the bizarre health care system and hope for a safe delivery.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 9:35p*

## **The Miracle of Tonya Pinkins**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/82m)

World Premiere

Dir: Juney Smith

The life, times and career of Tony Award winner

and Broadway Performing Star Tonya Pinkins.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 9:20p*

## **The Missing Piece**

(US/Short Narr/2025/22m)

World Premiere

Dir: Emanuel Fidalgo

Clarence's failed attempts at recreating his late mother's recipe leads him to Emi, a bodega store owner insistent on helping with the dish but focused on mending his spirit.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 1:40p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 9:30p*

## **The Other Foot\***

(US/Short Narr/2025/15m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Dante J. Bailey

When Tyrell overhears his younger brother's friend JoJo bragging about manipulating a girl into sex, he takes extreme measures to teach the disinterested teen an unforgettable lesson about consent.

*Wed, Feb 18 @ 10:00p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 9:30p*

## **The Price of Resistance: Sala Udin, An American Agitator**

(US/Short Doc/2025/28m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Annette Banks, Ty Cooper

This documentary traces the life of civil rights activist Sala Udin, examining how resistance to injustice during the 1960s and '70s placed him under government scrutiny—and the personal cost of speaking out.

*Fri, Feb 20 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:30p*

## **The Restore Fellowship Documentary**

(Benin/US/Short Doc/2025/59m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Ken Williams Jr

The Restore Fellowship Documentary follows five system-impacted individuals from Chicago on a transformative journey to Benin, West Africa.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 4:05p; Thu, Feb 19 @ 2:45p*

# FILM SYNOPSES

## **The Things We Carry**

(Bagay La Nou Pòtè) (Saint Lucia/Short Narr/2025/15m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Kyvon Edwin

A rising cricket prodigy forgoes his dreams and sets out to bring peace in his home from the clutches of his toxic father.

Sat, Feb 21 @ 8:55p

## **This Is Ballroom (Salão de Baile)**

(Brazil/Feature Doc/2024/92m)

Los Angeles Premiere

Dir: Juru, Vitã

In Rio, LGBTQ+ youth of color recreates Ballroom culture on their own terms.

Wed, Feb 18 @ 3:50p

## **Time Setters**

(US/Short Narr/2025/26m)

World Premiere

Dir: Oliver Mack Calhoun

A group of time traveling vigilantes travel back in time and attempt to rescue Emmett Till.

Thu, Feb 19 @ 6:50p

## **Toxic**

(US/Feature Narr/2024/122m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Ethan Evans

In this dark comedy, a genuinely nice guy's quest for love takes a twisted turn when he falls for the enigmatic and alluring woman of his dreams.

Wed, Feb 18 @ 9:05p

## **Trashy People**

(US/Short Narr/2024/14m)

Dir: Marissa High

Excited to work at a recycling center, Erykah discovers the job is messy and more wasteful than she thought.

Fri, Feb 20 @ 7:00p

## **SPOTLIGHT SCREENING**

### **Trespass**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/63m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Kim Watson

Through intimate access and unguarded storytelling, Trespass reveals the humanity

of Los Angeles' unhoused and reframes homelessness as a shared human experience requiring compassion, empathy and truth.

Mon, Feb 16 @ 6:25p

## **Two Black Boys in Paradise\*** (UK/

Animation/2025/9m)

Dir: Baz Sells

A movingly tender animation, based on Dean Atta's eponymous poem, sees two boys on a journey of self-acceptance and love for each other and themselves.

Thu, Feb 19 @ 2:20p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 4:30p

## **Two Classes of 1968**

(US/Feature Doc/2024/101m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Nichelle Prothro

When a small Black Catholic high school abruptly closes in 1968 Georgia, its seniors are pushed to integrate an exclusive school on the Hill—becoming unlikely changemakers amid the heat of the Civil Rights Movement.

Wed, Feb 18 @ 11:00a

## **Unalive**

(US/Short Narr/2025/24m)

World Premiere

Dir: Kwanza Nicole Gooden

A secretly depressed Hollywood actress plans to through with a fateful plan, only to have it derailed by her younger brother, who finds himself in a similar predicament.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 1:25p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 1:40p

## **Uncle George: The Music Man**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/105m)

See Closing Night

## **Untouchables: The Story of St. Benedict's Fencing**

(US/Feature Doc/2025/96m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Sabbuur Saki Ikhlās

A film about fencing that isn't about fencing at all.

Tue, Feb 17 @ 1:40p

# FILM SYNOPSES

## **SPOTLIGHT SCREENING**

### **We Are Here: A Western Heart, an English Saddle**

(US/Short Doc/2025/27m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Torrance C Hill

A young Black equestrian defies stereotypes and pursues her dreams, highlighting the bond between humans and horses while inspiring future riders.

*Sat, Feb 21 @ 1:50p*

### **We Will Be Who We Are**

(Sierra Leone/Short Experimental/2025/16m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Priscillia Kounkou Hoveyda

In Sierra Leone, best friends Aya and Boi decide to marry each other in an attempt to escape society's pressures to conform.

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 9:20p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 12:00p*

### **White Meat: Appetizer**

(US/Short Narr/2025/12m)

World Premiere

Dir: David Dylan Thomas

What if enslaved people came back from the dead as zombies but only ate white people?

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 4:50p*

### **White Noise**

(US/Short Narr/2025/10m)

World Premiere

Dir: Sara Nesson, Charlie Hannah

A depressed teen who struggles with problems at home and school uses her headphones to drown out the noise and replace it with a perfect world.

*Thu, Feb 19 @ 7:15p*

### **With Grace**

(Kenya/Short Doc/2024/29m)

West Coast Premiere

Dir: Dina Mwendu, Julia Dahr

Grace dreams big, but will she and her family weather the storm?

*Tue, Feb 17 @ 9:20p; Fri, Feb 20 @ 12:00p*

### **Yamina (The African Warrior Princess)**

(Canada, Ghana/Animation/2025/38m)

US Premiere

Dir: Gabriel Odartei

Defying tradition, a prophesied African princess rises as a warrior to protect her kingdom from betrayal and invasion, fulfilling her destiny to unite her people and usher in a new era of peace.

*Mon, Feb 16 @ 1:30p; Sun, Feb 22 @ 7:00p*





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