

THE 34th ANNUAL PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL **PAFF SOUL 2026**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 20, 2026

Contact:

press@paff.org

PAN AFRICAN FILM & ARTS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES DYNAMIC CLOSING WEEKEND CELEBRATION

**Awards Brunch, Closing Film Uncle George The Music Man,
and a Powerful Lineup of Special Screenings
and Industry Panels Mark the Final Days of PAFF 2026**

LOS ANGELES — The 34th Annual Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF) will conclude its 2026 season with a vibrant and community-centered Closing Weekend celebration, bringing together filmmakers, artists, industry leaders, and audiences for a final series of screenings, conversations, and honors that reflect the depth and global reach of Black storytelling.

Closing Weekend events will take place today through Sun., Feb. 22 at **The Culver Theater**, culminating in the highly anticipated **PAFF Filmmakers Awards Brunch on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.** followed by the festival's **Closing Film** presentation of *Uncle George "The Music Man"* at The Culver Theater Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

FILMMAKERS AWARDS BRUNCH

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 10:30AM, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw

The annual PAFF Filmmakers Awards Brunch honors outstanding achievements across narrative features, documentaries, short films, and emerging storytellers from across the African diaspora. The celebratory gathering brings together filmmakers, jurors, industry professionals, and community partners to recognize excellence in cinematic craft and cultural impact.

Awards presented during the brunch reflect PAFF's longstanding commitment to elevating stories that challenge, inspire, and expand the global understanding of Black identity.

[Click here to request to cover the red carpet and awards ceremony.](#)

CLOSING: UNCLE GEORGE "THE MUSIC MAN"

Sunday, February 22, 2026, Red Carpet 3:30PM, The Culver Theater

PAFF will close its 2026 festival with a red carpet screening of *Uncle George "The Music Man"*, a powerful and poignant film that embodies the spirit of resilience, legacy, and intergenerational storytelling that has defined this year's program.

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. From Beyonce to rapper Common, he supported generations of talent, often before they became household names. Narrated by TV and radio personality, and podcast host Sway Calloway. The film captures how George's advocacy, industry savvy and style helped elevate Black owned music retail, and transformed careers. It features a host of performers who benefited from George's support including Common, Akon, Deon Cole, Daymond John, LisaRaye McCoy, Paula Newsome, and A. J. Calloway.

The Closing presentation will serve as a celebratory finale, offering audiences one final opportunity to experience the communal energy that makes PAFF one of the most impactful Black film festivals in the world.

[Click here to request to cover red carpet arrivals.](#)

A WEEKEND OF SPECIAL SCREENINGS & INDUSTRY CONVERSATIONS

In addition to the Awards Brunch and Closing Film, PAFF's final weekend will feature:

- Spotlight narrative and documentary screenings
- Encore presentations of audience favorites
- Free industry panel discussions for creatives working behind and in front of the camera
- Conversations exploring distribution, independent financing, wellness in filmmaking, and the evolving global Pan African film ecosystem

These panels and screenings reflect PAFF’s dual mission: to entertain audiences and to serve as a vital professional hub for filmmakers and industry leaders.

[Click here to a list of panel discussions and red carpet film screenings.](#)

A CELEBRATION OF GLOBAL BLACK STORYTELLING

For 34 years, PAFF has served as a cornerstone cultural institution during Black History Month in Los Angeles, showcasing films and art from Africa, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, and North America. The Closing Weekend embodies the festival’s “PAFF Soul” — bold storytelling, intergenerational dialogue, and a space where global Black narratives are centered and celebrated.

Tickets for Closing Weekend events are available at paff.org. Seating is limited and advance reservation is encouraged.

About the Pan African Film & Arts Festival

The Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF) is the nation’s largest and longest-running Black film festival, dedicated to the promotion of cultural understanding and racial tolerance through the exhibition of film, art, and creative expression from the global African diaspora. For more information, visit paff.org.

###

For members of the media interested in covering the 2026 Pan African Film & Arts Festival, please visit the official PAFF Pressroom at paff.org/pressroom for a current list of events where press are invited to cover. The page is updated daily with confirmed red carpets, media photo opportunities, and select coverage invitations as they are added to the festival calendar.

[2026 PAFF Fact Sheet](#)