

THE 34th ANNUAL PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL PAFF SOUL 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

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RZA Ignites Opening Night at the 34th Annual Pan African Film Festival with One Spoon of Chocolate

LOS ANGELES — The 34th Annual **Pan African Film Festival** launched in electrifying fashion on February 17 at the **Directors Guild of America** in Los Angeles, as filmmaker and cultural icon **RZA** offered a special preview of his upcoming action thriller *One Spoon of Chocolate* as the festival's official Opening Night film.

RZA was in attendance alongside cast members and Black Hollywood, who joined festival leadership on the red carpet before a packed theater of filmmakers, industry executives, press, and community leaders.

The high-impact thriller, which follows an ex-military convict seeking a fresh start in a small town only to find himself pulled into a vortex of escalating danger, delivered exactly what Opening Night audiences expect from PAFF: bold storytelling, cinematic style, and cultural resonance. The screening was met with sustained applause and an enthusiastic post-screening discussion highlighting the film's visual language, themes of redemption and survival, and RZA's continued evolution as a filmmaker.

"Opening Night sets the tone for the entire festival," said PAFF Executive Director Oduduwa. "*One Spoon of Chocolate* embodies the ambition, craft, and global Black storytelling that define PAFF. RZA brought vision, intensity, and authenticity to the screen, and our audience responded in kind."

Opening Night at PAFF remains one of Los Angeles' signature Black History Month cultural moments—bringing together artists, industry leaders, and audiences for a celebration of film that spans the African diaspora. The energy inside the DGA signaled a strong start to the 34th annual festival, which continues through February 22 with

screenings, panels, and arts programming at The Culver Theater and Cinemark Baldwin Hills Crenshaw & XD.

For tickets, schedules, and festival updates, visit paff.org.

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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](#)