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MEDIA ALERT! | tip

*Three Female Filmmakers Announced as Winners of the John Singleton Short Film Competition
by Los Angeles City Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson Jr.*

WHO: Los Angeles City Councilman President Emeritus Herb Wesson announced the winners of the John Singleton Short Film Competition during a private reception at the Pan African Film Festival (PAFF). In conjunction with PAFF and the city's embRACE LA initiative, the film competition pays tribute to the critically-acclaimed film director John Singleton. Singleton is known for such classic movies as BOYZ N THE HOOD, POETIC JUSTICE and BABY BOY. For helming BOYZ N THE HOOD, he became the first African American and the youngest person to be nominated for Best Director in 1992.

And the winners are ...

- **Jennifer J. Scott and Brandon Hammond** – filmmakers of AMARU.
- **Chelsea Hicks and Mitchell Branden Rogers** – filmmakers of CONTRABAN.
- **Kemiyondo Coutinho and York Walker** – filmmakers THE SÉANCE.

WHAT: The three winners were awarded \$20,000 each for the production and completion of a live-action narrative short film. Under the leadership of President Emeritus Wesson Jr., the embRACE L.A. is an initiative aimed at unifying Angelenos and empowering communities through a citywide conversation about race and racism, challenging and changing inequities. Launched by Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell the initiative seeks to foster understanding, healing and growth throughout L.A.

WHEN: **The winners were announced on Monday, February 17, 2020 during the Pan African Film Festival (Understandably, in light of the news of the sudden death of co-founder Ja'Net Dubois , the release of the winners for the John Singleton Short Film Competition was delayed.)**

WHERE: The private reception was held at the 2020 Lounge (formerly Mexicano Restaurant) | a pop-up lounge at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza

PRESS

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ABOUT THE JOHN SINGLETON SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Inspired by the legacy of the Los Angeles-born and legendary filmmaker, John Singleton, this short film competition is the result of a partnership between the City of Los Angeles, the Pan African Film Festival and embRACE L.A. under the initiative of Los Angeles City Council President, Herb J. Wesson Jr.

As an extension of the City of Los Angeles' embRACE L.A. initiative, this competition will deepen the program's goal to engage a citywide conversation about race and racism while challenging and changing inequities. In honor of the cinematic achievements of John Singleton and his commitment to the South Los Angeles community, we celebrate his unapologetic approach to filmmaking that centralized Black characters in humanizing stories about the often-routine circumstances of individuals in society that were mostly ignored or exploited beyond the point of recognition.

ABOUT THE PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

In its 28th year, the Pan African Film and Arts Festival (PAFF) is America's largest and most prestigious Black film festival. This year, it screened a record-breaking 225 films, representing 52 countries in 26 languages. PAFF holds the distinction of being the largest *Black History Month* event in the country. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) has designated PAFF as an official qualifying film festival for live action and animation short films.

PAFF is a non-profit corporation, founded in 1992 by award-winning actor Danny Glover ("The Color Purple," "Lethal Weapon" movie franchise), Emmy Award-winning actress Ja'Net DuBois (best known for her role as Willona in the TV series, "Good Times") and executive director, Ayuko Babu, an international legal, cultural and political consultant who specializes in Pan African Affairs. PAFF is dedicated to the promotion of ethnic and racial respect and tolerance through the exhibit of films, art and creative expression.

For more information, please visit www.paff.org, email info@paff.org, or call (310) 337-4737.

SPONSORS

PAFF is sponsored by Los Angeles City Council President Emeritus Herb Wesson, Jr.; Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas; Los Angeles City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson (District 8); Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza; Cinemark 15; the Directors Guild of America (DGA); FilmLA; Sony Pictures; Brotherhood Crusade; as well as the City of Los Angeles; the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; the Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture, UMC, Independent Lens, Union Bank, FilmLA, the Los Angeles Lakers, Trinidad & Tobago, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Disney, CAA and Imagine Media.

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