



HOLLYWOOD

BLACK FILM

FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 22-26, 2017
MARINA DEL REY, CA

Official Website
www.HBFF.org

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Executive Letter

We're back! The Hollywood Black Film Festival (HBFF) is thrilled to be back in business after a short hiatus. We've missed all of you so much!

I'd like to personally welcome each of you to the 2017 Hollywood Black Film Festival.

It's an exciting time for HBFF. We're screening 100 black films over the next few days. Black film is alive and well! It's extra special that we're taking place during Black History Month, and that it is such a historic year for blacks in film with a record 18 African Americans nominated for Academy Awards. Of course, Hollywood still has a long way to go but the move towards inclusion is promising.

I'd like to give you an idea of what you can expect and what we hope to achieve over the next few days. In addition to the screening of 100 black films, and two dozen Infotainment Conference panels and workshops, you're going to be treated to the Storyteller Competition Live Staged Reading, the brand-new Actors Audition Clinic + Competition hosted by casting director Leah Daniels-Butler, and a host of networking gatherings and parties.

Like you filmmakers, HBFF has faced many challenges but our passion has driven us to the finish line. We are very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are headed. Nothing could have been accomplished without the sacrifice and undying devotion of each and every HBFF Team member. My love and gratitude to you all.

Before I close, I'd like to thank each of you for attending HBFF 2017. Thank you to the speakers for bringing your expertise to our gathering. You, as industry leaders, have the vision, the knowledge, the wherewithal and the experience to help us pave our way into the future. You are truly our greatest asset today and tomorrow, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support and leadership.

Most importantly, thank you to all of you filmmakers for sharing your talent and creative vision. The films you will see over the next few days are truly amazing!

Throughout this festival, I ask all of you to stay engaged, keep us proactive and help us shape the future of black film in Hollywood. My personal respect and thanks goes out to all of you.

Many blessings,

Tanya Kersey
Founder & Executive Director
Hollywood Black Film Festival LLC



Festival At A Glance

Official HBFF 2017 Headquarters & Infotainment Conference:

Hotel MdR

13480 Maxella Ave, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

Official HBFF 2017 Screening Venues:

AMC Marina Marketplace 6,
Villa Marina Marketplace Mall
4335 Glencoe Ave., Marina Del
Rey, CA 90292
Theater #2

Cinemark 18 & XD
The Promenade at Howard
Hughes Center
6081 Center Dr, Los Angeles,
CA 90045
Theater #5

Wednesday, February 22

- 10a - 6p: Registration - Hotel MdR
- 11a: Scheduler's Choice - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
Architects of Crime (14:00)
Photograph (16:21)
- 12:30p: Programmer's Choice - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
Paradise Inn (21:00)
Hollywood Fiction (30:47)
Appassionato (23:51)
- 2p: Sunshine Day (1:39:53) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
- 4p: Almost Amazing (1:55:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
- 6p: One Last Sunset Redux (1:00:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
- 7p: Opening Night Red Carpet opens - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
- 8p: Opening Night Film - - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
The Preacher's Son /110 min
- 10p - until: Opening Night Reception - Hotel MdR



Thursday, February 23

- 9a - 5p: Registration - Hotel MdR
- 10a: In the Name of Justice - Cinemark 18 & XD
All They Know Is Shoot (5:04)
My Name Is Lamar (7:15)
The Homecoming (18:00)
- 11a: Life Is Too Short (1:12:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
- 11:10a: Things We Do For Love (New Media) - Cinemark 18 & XD
Sistah Did What? (14:03)
Funny Married Stuff (20:08)
Sidetracked (42:32)
Makeup x Breakup (16:41)
#DearGeorgette (12:05)
- 12:30p: Project BayGanda (1:01:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
- 1:15p: Short Docs - Cinemark 18 & XD
The Revenge of Emmett Till (34:00)
Forest Anderson: The Black Oklahoma Millionaire (13:00)
#NonaHendryx Transformation (6:30)
Invisible Women: Being A Black Woman In Corporate America
(32.28:00)
A Cut Above (00:13:25)
- 3:15p: Change For a Penny (50:51) - Cinemark 18 & XD
- 3-4:30p: From Concept to Completion. - Hotel MdR
Sponsored by Tri-Destined Studios

Filmmakers and producers will share their stories of how they took their projects from concept to completion overcoming the obstacles and challenges often faced by indie filmmakers.

Speakers:

ND Brown - CEO, Tri Destined Studios

Veronica Nichols - VP Prod. & Develop Tri Destined Studios

Darren Grant - Director 'Saints & Sinners' / 'Diary of a Mad Black Woman'

Carl Seaton - Director 'Bad Dad Rehab' (rcvd a NAACP Nom. Best Director)

Moderator:

Trey Haley, President, Tri Destined Studios

2017 HBFF PROGRAM

3:45p: Confused...by Love (1:10:23) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

5-6:30p: Trailblazing New Voices on TV and Cable: The Creators, Producers & Showrunners Panel - Hotel MdR

Confirmed speakers:

Brian Dobbins, Blackish

Dee Harris Lawrence; Chicago PD

Datari Turner, Growing Up Hip Hop

This panel discussion will help filmmakers understand the creative process and how to tackle the daunting task of creating a television show. How do producers and industry gatekeepers decide to take on a project? How do you assemble the right team? How to polish a script? How do actors interpret the story? The questions can be endless for a new filmmaker. This panel serves to answer some of those questions with practical answers.

5:15 p.m. Oscar (1:20:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

6:30-8p: HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING MIXER - Hotel MdR

7p; Beyond Silence (1:40:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

9p. My B.F.F (1:50:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

9p: EVENING EVENT TBA

Friday, February 24

9a - 5p: Registration - Hotel MdR

9a - 10:30a: Distribution Wheelin' and Dealin' - Hotel MdR

The Marketing & Distributing Independent Films panel is a lively discussion by a panel of successful producers' reps, publicists, sales agents, critics, and distributors. They reveal how they work with filmmakers and festivals, and provide specific advice on creating a strategy to build a buzz and maximize your chances of selling your film. This panel will teach filmmakers how to launch a film—from marketing materials, ad agencies, and guerilla tactics to getting press attention, evaluating buyers, and taking the next step when their films did not sell at a festival. How to use internet-based blogs, social networking sites and buddy lists to build an audience.

Speakers:

Angela Northington, General Manager, Urban Movie Channel

Brett Dismuke, Owner, So Chi Entertainment

Quincy Newell, Executive Vice President, CodeBlack Entertainment

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Raymond Tambe, Esq., Cohen Gardner LLP Law Firm

Moderator: Leon Hendrix

10a: Shorts Program - Cinemark 18 & XD
 Moving Express (9:40)
 Tales from the Blood Fairies (27:20)

11a Not Black Enough (1:22:28)- AMC Marina Marketplace 6

11a - 1a: Screenwriting Masterclass with Jeff Gordon,
The Writers Boot Camp - Hotel MdR
Sponsored by The Writers Boot Camp

In this informative and enlightening workshop, Writers Boot Camp Founder Jeffrey Gordon (JG) will identify the common mistakes writers of all experience levels make on early drafts, and explain the need for at least 10 specific drafts on your script prior to its submission to industry friends and contacts. By definition, first drafts are just a start. They lack the explicit “audience experience” and cultivated seamlessness expected in a viable script. Yet too often, motivated by the drive for approval and the desire for feedback, a writer will send out a script too soon. Entering its 28th anniversary this March year, Writers Boot Camp’s short session will help you avoid common mistakes and steer your projects toward industry relevance. Join JG and learn some of the tools that Writers Boot Camp alumni have learned that have helped them have 70 major movies produced in just the past five years (SPOTLIGHT, DUE DATE, FRIGHT NIGHT, CELESTE AND JESSE FOREVER, RUNNER RUNNER) and get staffed on the hottest TV series (This Is Us, Billion\$, UnReal), as well as 500 books and novels published.

11:30: In the Mirror - Cinemark 18 & XD
 The Closet (14:00)
 Behind Closed Doors (9:34)
 CARRIE CASH (20:51)
 C’est Moi (27:29)

12:45p: Machel Montano: Journey of a Soca King (1:16:27)
- AMC Marina Marketplace 6

1p: Intern’s Choice - Cinemark 18 & XD
 Raptors (15:30)
 Dating and Waiting (25:46)
 Late late (4:59)

1:30p - 3:30p: How to Pitch Your Project and Get Financiers, Producers
and Talent to Say “Yes” - Hotel MdR
Sponsored by Mozell Entertainment

Moderator:
Richard Willis Jr., President, Mozell Entertainment

2017 HBFF PROGRAM

2:15p: Where's the Love - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
Me, Myself & Them (19:30)
Sexless After 45 (20:00)
Brazilian Wavy (21:00)

2:15p: Crazy Love - Cinemark 18 & XD
Hope For Dating In LA (26:30)
Oops! (3:48)
The Gram (14:00)
90 Days (19:30)

3:15p: 59 Seconds (1:32:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

3:30 p.m. Power Play - Cinemark 18 & XD
On Time (8:16)
"Gila Monster" Episode: Cold, Ruthless and Unstoppable (15:00)
The Untimely End of Ms. Xiang (25:01)
Shadows (16:23)

4p - 6p: Music in Film - Hotel MdR

Learn how to get the most out of any music budget for your indie film. Find out how to get A-list musicians to work on your film, how to hire music supervisors and composers, and how to make the music in your film drive the effectiveness of your film promotion and advertising campaigns.. Tips, tricks and strategies on how to get music licensed for your film.

Speakers:

Jerome Spence

Miche'le Vice- Maslin

Qiana Conley

5p: Kansas St. (1:32:09) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

5-7p: HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING MIXER - Hotel MdR

6:45p: Title VII (1:12:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

7p - 10p: HBFF Actors' Audition Clinic + Competition - Hotel MdR
Hosted by Veteran Casting Director Leah Daniels-Butler

8:15 p.m. Grandma's House (1:34:04) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

10:00 p.m. Programmer's Choice II - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
Make America Great? (12:37)
Third Timothy (15:00)
Ori Inu: In Search of Self (28:47)

2017 HBFF PROGRAM

Blackface (6:43)
LOVE (13:53)
Black Magic (11:10)
A Good Day of Hustling (5:27)
The Jump (7:11)

Saturday, February 25

8a - 5p: Registration - Hotel MdR

9a - 10:30a: Marketing and Publicity For Your Film - Hotel MdR

Marketing, promoting and publicizing your film to build your audience and sell your film. Discover opportunities to reach new audiences, get publicity and promote your projects on your own.

Speakers

Sheila Marmon, CEO, Mirror Digital

Tatiana El Khouri

Edna Sims, CEO and .Publicist, ESPR

Sharon Liggins

Moderator; Darlene Donloe

10a - 4p: INVITATION ONLY Storyteller Competition Workshops
- Hotel MdR

10:30-11:30a: Creating Adapting and Novelizing Books For Film,
Television & Stage - Hotel MdR

New York Times' best-selling author Dr. LaJoyce Brookshire is the first Black woman to novelize a major motion picture ("Soul Food"). In this intimate workshop you will learn how to get a book created, adapted and novelized for TV, film and the stage.

11a: Through the Eyes of a Child - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
Pangaea (6:12)
Rebel Child (7:45)
Angela's Sacred Heart (24:01)
The Boots (11:57)

11:30a - 1:30a: Directors & Producers Speak Out - Hotel MdR

This session will give you an insider view into the lives of directors and producers, and their personal stories.

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Speakers:

Neema Barnette, Director,
Preston Whitmore, Director, This Christmas
Re'Shaun Frear, Producer
Kaylon Hunt, Producer, Juvee Productions
Dan Garcia, Producer

Moderator:

Carol Ann Shine

12:15p: Black Fatherhood: Trials & Tribulations, Testimony & Triumph
(1:20.40) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

2p - 3:30p: Successfully Crowdfunding Your Film - Hotel MdR

Moderated by Tanya Kersey, Founder/Executive Director, HBFF

2p: Defining Strength - AMC Marina Marketplace 6
Last Stop (24:21)
Bail (6:40)
The StickUp (8:03)
B.B.O (6:10)
Curse of War (16:36)

3:30p: Hav Faith (2:07:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

4p - 6p: How To Get Your Film Financed Using Strategies
That Actually Work - Hotel MdR
Sponsored by Tri-Destined Studios

How To Get Your Film Financed Using Strategies That Actually Work is a lively discussion amongst executives and producers who will to share the different strategies to get your film financed that is changing as the industry embraces an explosion of new and unconventional resources for financing, producing and distributing independent films

Speakers:

Corey Grant - Director 'Illicit'
Rashad El Amin - Producer/Writer '48 Hours To Live'
Datari Turner - Producer '9 Rides'
Trey Haley - Director 'The Man In 3B'

Moderator:

ND Brown, CEO, Tri Destined Studios

5-7p: HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING MIXER - Hotel MdR

6p: Executor (1:36:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

2017 HBFF PROGRAM

6:30p - 8:30p: Storyteller Live Staged Reading Showcase - Hotel MdR

Director: Patricia Cuffie-Jones

Producer: Alexia Peebles

Actors: TBA

7:45p: Things My Daddy Should've Told Me (1:10:12) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

8p: Closing Night Red Carpet - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

9p: Award Ceremony & Closing Night Film - Everything But A Man (1:10:00)
- AMC Marina Marketplace 6

9p: Closing Night After Party

Hosted by J. Anthony Brown at the J Spot Comedy Club

5581 W. Manchester Avenue; Los Angeles, California 90045

Sunday, February 26

11a: Shorts Program - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

The Putdown (12:00)

Anacostia (25:38)

The Birthright Project (28:00)

DROP (4:58)

12:15p: Jesus Christ: Man or Myth? (1:33:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

2p: First Step: A Kids Family Away From Family (50:00)

- AMC Marina Marketplace 6

3:15p: Our Amazing Stories - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

Gospel Radio Man (26:10)

The Lowrider Tradition (9:14)

Soup Joumou (12:14)

The Sara Spencer Washington Story (28:05)

The 30th of May (39:46)

5:30p: When Justice isn't Enough (40:00) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

6:30p: The Health in Hope (49:51) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

7:30p: Oracabessa (1:53) - AMC Marina Marketplace 6

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- TANYA KERSEY
The Filmmaker's Success Mentor

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👤 Celebrity Makeup Artist Niehla O

🐦 @NiehlaO

📷 @NiehlaO

Screening Schedule

(Schedule subject to change, Please refer back to website: HBFF.org)

Wednesday, February 22

AMC Marina Marketplace 6 – Theater #2

- 11:00 a.m. Scheduler's Choice
 Caps (15:15)
 Architects of Crime (14:00)
 Photograph (16:21)
 Nutcracker (21:00)
- 12:30 p.m. Programmer's Choice
 Paradise Inn (21:00)
 Hollywood Fiction (9:05)
 New Neighbors (8:00)
 Appassionato (23:51)
- 2:00 p.m. Sunshine Day (1:39:53)
- 3:00 p.m. Almost Amazing (1:55)
- 5:30 pm One Last Sunset Redux (1:00:00)
- 6:00 p.m. Red Carpet Arrival
- 7:00 p.m. Opening Night Film
 The Preacher's Son /110 min

Thursday, February 23

AMC Marina Marketplace 6 – Theater #2

- 11:00 a.m. Life Is Too Short (1:12:00)

2017 HBFF PROGRAM

- 12:30 p.m. Project BayGanda (1:01:00)
- 1:45 p.m. Forever Yours (1:45:00)
- 3:45 p.m. Confused...by Love (1:10:23)
- 5:15 p.m. Oscar (1:20:00)
- 7:00 p.m. Beyond Silence (1:40:00)
- 9:00 p.m. My B.F.F (1:50:00)
- 11:00 p.m. Where's the Love
Me, Myself & Them (19:30)
Sexless After 45 (20:00)
Brazilian Wavy (21:00)

Cinemark 18 & XD Theatre – Theater #5

- 10:00 a.m. In the Name of Justice
Sandra: Say Her Name (7:00)
All They Know Is Shoot (5:04)
My Name Is Lamar (7:15)
The Homecoming (18:00)
- 11:10 a.m. Things We Do For Love (New Media)
Sistah Did What? (14:03)
Funny Married Stuff (20:08)
Sidetracked (42:32)
Makeup x Breakup (16:41)
#DearGeorgette (12:05)

The Hollywood sign is visible in the background, set against a clear blue sky and a hillside. The sign is white and made of large letters, with some letters appearing to be under construction or repair.

1:00 p.m. **Short Docs**
 The Revenge of Emmett Till (34:00)
 Forest Anderson: The Black Oklahoma Millionaire
 (13:00)
 #NonaHendryx Transformation (6:30)
 Invisible Women: Being A Black Woman In
 Corporate America (32.28:00)
 A Cut Above (00:13:25)

2:50 p.m. **Change For a Penny (50:51)**

Friday, February 24
AMC Marina Marketplace 6 – Theater #2

11:00 a.m. **Not Black Enough (1:22:28)**

12:45 p.m. **Machel Montano: Journey of a Soca King (1:16:27)**

2:15 p.m. **A Way Out (52:46)**

3:15 p.m. **59 Seconds (1:32:00)**

5:00 p.m. **Kansas St. (1:32:09)**

6:45 p.m. **Title VII (1:12:00)**

8:15 p.m. **Grandma's House (1:34:04)**

9:45 p.m. **Programmer's Choice II**
 Make America Great? (12:37)
 Third Timothy (15:00)
 Ori Inu: In Search of Self (28:47)
 Blackface (6:43)
 LOVE (13:53)
 Black Magic (11:10)
 A Good Day of Hustling (5:27)
 The Jump (7:11)

Cinemark 18 & XD Theatre – Theater #5

10:00 a.m.

Shorts Program

Black Cop (10:27)

Moving Express (9:40)

Tales from the Blood Fairies (27:20)

11:30 a.m.

In the Mirror

The Closet (14:00)

Behind Closed Doors (9:34)

CARRIE CASH (20:51)

C'est Moi (27:29)

1:00 p.m.

Intern's Choice

Chasing Denzel (24:00)

Raptors (15:30)

Dating and Waiting (25:46)

Late late (4:59)

2:15 p.m.

Crazy Love

Hope For Dating In LA (26:30)

Oops! (3:48)

The Gram (14:00)

90 Days (19:30)

3:30 p.m.

Power Play

On Time (8:16)

“Gila Monster” Episode: Cold, Ruthless and
Unstoppable (15:00)

The Untimely End of Ms. Xiang (25:01)

Shadows (16:23)



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Pangaea (6:12)
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Angela's Sacred Heart (24:01)
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- 6:00 p.m. Executor (1:36:00)
- 7: 45 p.m. Things My Daddy Should've Told Me (1:10:12)
- 8:00 p.m. Closing Night Red Carpet
- 9:00 p.m. Closing Night Film -
Everything But A Man (1:10:00) & Afterparty

The Hollywood sign is shown in white, block letters on a hillside. The background is a hazy, blue-tinted view of the Hollywood Hills and the city of Los Angeles.

Sunday, February 26

AMC Marina Marketplace 6 – Theater #2

- 11:00 a.m. **The Putdown**
 Anacostia (25:38)
 The Birthright Project (28:00)
 DROP (4:58)
- 12:15 p.m. **Jesus Christ: Man or Myth? (1:33:00)**
- 2:00 p.m. **First Step: A Kids Family Away From Family (50:00)**
- 3:15 p.m. **Our Amazing Stories**
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 The Sara Spencer Washington Story (28:05)
 The 30th of May (39:46)
- 5:30 p.m. **Justice isn't enough (40:00)**
- 6:30 p.m. **The Health in Hope (49:51)**
- 7:30 p.m. **Oracabessa (1:53)**
- 9:45 p.m. **Dirty South House Arrest (1:43:00)**





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Infotainment Schedule

Hotel MdR

13480 Maxella Ave, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

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Brett Dismuke, Owner, So Chi Entertainment

Quincy Newell, Executive Vice President, Code Black Entertainment

Robert Thambe, Esq., Cohen Gardner LLP Law Firm

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2017 HBFF PROGRAM

Camp alumni have learned that have helped them have 30 major movies produced in just the past two years (DUE DATE, FRIGHT NIGHT, THE FIFTH ESTATE, RUNNER RUNNER) and get staffed on the hottest TV series (Orange is the New Black, House of Cards, Girls, American Horror Story, Modern Family).

1:30p - 3:30p: How to Pitch Your Project and Get Financiers, Producers and Talent to Say “Yes” - Hotel MdR

Sponsored by Mozzell Entertainment

Moderator:

Richard Willis Jr., President, Mozzell Entertainment

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Confirmed speakers:

Jerome Spence

Miche'le Vice- Maslin

Qiana Conley

7p - 10p: HBFF Actors' Audition Clinic + Competition - Hotel MdR

Hosted by Veteran Casting Director Leah Daniels-Butler (The Butler, Precious)

Jury to be announced

Saturday, February 25

The image shows the iconic Hollywood sign, with the word "HOLLYWOOD" in large, white, block letters mounted on a hillside. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds.

2017 HBFF PROGRAM

9a - 10:30a: Marketing and Publicity For Your Film - Hotel MdR

Marketing, promoting and publicizing your film to build your audience and sell your film. Discover opportunities to reach new audiences, get publicity and promote your projects on your own.

Speakers

Sheila Marmon, CEO, Mirror Digital

Tatiana El Khouri

Moderator

TBA

10:30-11:30a: Creating Adapting and Novelizing Books For Film, Television & Stage

- Hotel MdR

New York Times' best-selling author Dr. LaJoyce Brookshire is the first Black woman to novelize a major motion picture ("Soul Food"). In this intimate workshop you will learn how to get a book created, adapted and novelized for TV, film and the stage.

11:30a - 1:30a: Directors & Producers Speak Out - Hotel MdR

This session will give you an insider view into the lives of directors and producers, and their personal stories.

Speakers:

Neema Barnette

Preston Whitmore

Re'Shaun Frear

Kaylon Hunt

Dan Garcia

2p - 3:30p: "A Conversation with..." TBA - Hotel MdR

Moderated by Tanya Kersey, Founder/Executive Director, HBFF

4p - 6p: How To Get Your Film Financed Using Strategies That Actually Work - Hotel MdR

2017 HBFF PROGRAM

Sponsored by Tri-Destined Studios

How To Get Your Film Financed Using Strategies That Actually Work is a lively discussion amongst executives and producers who will to share the different strategies to get your film financed that is changing as the industry embraces an explosion of new and unconventional resources for financing, producing and distributing independent films

Speakers:

Corey Grant - Director 'Illicit'

Rashad El Amin - Producer/Writer '48 Hours To Live'

Datari Turner - Producer '9 Rides'

Trey Haley - Director 'The Man In 3B'

Moderator:

ND Brown, CEO, Tri Destined Studios

6:30p - 8:30p Storyteller Live Staged Reading Showcase - Hotel MdR

Director: Patricia Cuffie-Jones

Producer: Alexia Peebles

Actors: TBA

The image shows the iconic Hollywood sign, with the word "HOLLYWOOD" in large, white, block letters. The sign is set against a backdrop of a hilly, dry landscape under a clear blue sky. The sign is mounted on a hillside, and the letters are slightly weathered and spaced out.

2017 HBFF PROGRAM

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Storyteller Semi-Finalists

Bring That Beat Back (120 pages)– Elle Verne, Glendale CA

Three middle aged female rappers obsessed with the Golden Age of Hip Hop, work to fulfill their childhood dream of becoming a successful rap group despite issues with their age, gender, and present day trends of the music industry.

Better Than I Know Myself (108 pages)– Nneka Samuel, Los Angeles CA

Just like Black Girl Magic, there's something to be said for the power of Black women's friendship. Just ask Carmen, Regina and Jewell. But maintaining their sisterhood won't be easy, not with all the secrets between them... and the fact that one of them won't survive. Better Than I Know Myself is a feature film adaptation of the Essence best-selling novel.

Fulfillment (63 pages)– Derege Harding, Los Angeles CA

In an attempt to abolish the death penalty, a radical new approach is introduced into law: appointing a member of the victim's family to act as a state-sanctioned executioner. Politics and ethics clash as a new inmate enters the system, whose high-profile status might grant him some protection, while simultaneously attracting dangerous attention.

Son Of A Billionaire (117pages) – Dayne Jefferson, East Pittsburg, PA

A dead billionaire's 37-year-old slacker son must contend with a ruthless C.E.O, and his father coming back as a meddling angel, in order to save the family empire.

Shades of Thema (111 pages) – Nathaniel Kweku, Los Angeles CA

An insecure, dark-skinned, first-generation Ghanaian-American teen, consumed with her quest to be lighter-skinned, struggles to find her voice while competing in a national spoken word competition.

Houston: The Man Who Lynched Jim Crow (111 pages)– Gregory Lemmons, Concord CA and Marc Theriault, Louisville KY

Charles Hamilton Houston, the black attorney & political mastermind behind many of the Civil Rights Movement's greatest victories, has an, as yet, untold and overlooked - story. Based on actual events of his life, this is his tale.

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The Descent Of Man (And Other Unpredictable Journeys In The Study Of Nature) (117 pages) – Marquis Ewing, Canoga Park CA

THE DESCENT OF MAN is a non-linear set of tales as seen through the mind's eye of a 10 year old black boy named Charlie. Charlie envisions (through letters) his father away at war, and the tales of his idol, the Naturalist Charles Darwin on his voyages at sea. All the while, Charlie tries to cope with the real world's onslaught of racism when his family moves to a better, but segregated, neighborhood of a Chicago suburb in order to get their son a better education.

Mr and Mrs Santa (100 pages)– Thomas Ferguson, Pasadena CA

It's Mr. and Mrs. Smith... minus Brangelina. One of the world's most famous couples is having domestic issues. On Christmas Eve, Kris Kringle struggles to find a way back to the North Pole after an incident instigated by his unhappy wife finds him stranded in inner city Los Angeles.

The Last Will and Testament of Jesse James (103 pages)– Prentice Dupins, Little Rock AR

Jesse James, III (or Trey) lives a great but lonely life in Jamaica with his parents. Trey receives the unfortunate news that his grandfather, Jesse James Sr., has died. Mr. James left his immense fortune and billion dollar invention to one of his heirs. The terms of the will state the children of all the heirs must solve a riddle left by the eccentric Mr. James to determine which family and grandchild will inherit the fortune, the company, and the billion dollar invention. If no grandchild is able to solve the riddle in time, the staff will inherit all. Trey must navigate an upset family to solve the riddle and find a way to connect with his family while the household staff schemes to seize the family fortune by any means necessary.

Starr of David (99 pages)– Monet Gray

Starr James is an ambitious African American Filmmaker with hopes of making her first film despite the many setbacks that have occurred during her journey. She meets and befriends David Goldstein, a potential investor, who promises to help make her dreams come true. However, David is an amateur himself, with baggage that puts her in an even worse position.

The Hollywood sign is visible in the background, with the word "HOLLYWOOD" written in large, white, block letters on a hillside. The sign is partially obscured by the text of the page.