

BAMcinématek and ActNow Arts present the seventh annual *New Voices in Black Cinema*, April 26–30

This year's line-up features three New York premieres and Sundance favorite *Quest*.

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor for BAMcinématek and BAM Rose Cinemas.

March 31, 2017/Brooklyn, NY—From Wednesday, April 26 through Sunday, April 30, BAMcinématek presents the seventh *New Voices in Black Cinema* festival. Reflecting the wide spectrum of views and themes within African diaspora communities in the United States and beyond, the series includes nine feature length films and two shorts programs. *New Voices in Black Cinema*, one of a variety of ActNow programs presented in partnership with BAMcinématek since 2009, provides a showcase for new and established voices in black independent cinema.

The series begins on Wednesday, April 26 with *Burning Sands* (2017—April 26), the feature filmmaking debut of Gerard McMurray. The film follows a freshman fraternity pledge's descent into the violence of underground hazing. *9 Rides* (2016—Apr 26 & 29), the first feature to be shot entirely on an iPhone 6, is the second feature by director Matthew A. Cherry, and follows an Uber driver as he traverses Los Angeles on the busiest night of the year. *Steps* (2016—Apr 27), by co-directors Rock Davis and Jay Rodriguez Jr., becomes a story about forgiveness when a man working as a home health worker is assigned to care for the gang member who shot him years before. On Apr 29 and 30 we also feature two shorts programs.

Looking outside of the United States, director Jean-Claude Flamand-Barny's *Gangs of the French Caribbean* (2016—Apr 28 & 30) is set in 1970s France. The thriller is a hard-nosed look at the West Indian immigrant experience in France. Perivi Katjavivi's *The Unseen* (2016—Apr 28) follows three characters searching for meaning in Namibia, a country also in search of an identity after years of colonization and apartheid; screens with short film *The Suit*. British-Nigerian director, Joseph A. Adesunloye's debut feature *White Colour Black* (2016—Apr 28) follows Leke, a London photographer, who, after his father becomes ill and passes away, returns to Senegal and rediscovers his Senegalese culture.

Three documentaries are featured in this year's series: director Daphne McWilliams's *In a Perfect World* (2016—Apr 30) is an intimate, and at times personal, exploration of the dynamics of sons raised by single mothers. In *Quest* (2017—Apr 27 & 29), director Jonathan Olshefski captures the life of a Philadelphia based African-American family across the eight years of Barack Obama's presidency. Lastly, *Blaxploitalian* (2016—Apr 29) sheds much needed light on the experiences of Afro-Italian and African diasporic actors in Italian cinema; it screens with short film *The Gospel*.

For further press information, please contact:
Maureen Masters at 718.724.8023 / mmasters@BAM.org

New Voices in Black Cinema Schedule

Wed, April 26

7pm: *Burning Sands*

9:30pm: *9 Rides*

Thu, April 27

7pm: *Quest*

9:30pm: *Steps*

Fri, April 28

4:30pm: *The Unseen, The Suit*

7pm: *Gangs of the French Caribbean*

9:30pm: *White Colour Black*

Sat, April 29

2pm: *Blaxploitalian, The Gospel*

4:30pm: *Shorts Program 1*

7:15pm: *Quest*

9:30pm: *9 Rides*

Sun, April 30

2pm: *In A Perfect World*

4:30pm: *Shorts Program 2*

7:30pm: *Gangs of the French Caribbean*

Film Descriptions

9 RIDES (2016) Dir. Matthew A. Cherry. With Dorian Missick, Omar Dorsey, Robinne Lee, Xosha Roquemore. New Year's Eve in Los Angeles, the busiest night of the year. As an Uber driver clocks in to work, he doesn't know that the night will take him all across the city as he transports nine different groups of passengers who help him come to terms with life changing news. The second feature by director Cherry, *9 Rides* is the first film to be shot entirely on an iPhone 6. *86min.* **Wed, Apr 26 at 9:30pm & Sat, Apr 29 at 9:30pm**

BLAXPLOITALIAN (2016) Dir. Fred Kudjo Kuwornu. Spotlighting the careers of a population of entertainers that is seldom acknowledged, black actors in Italian cinema, this documentary film explores the personal struggles and triumphs that Afro-Italian and African diasporic actors have faced across 100 years of cinema history in the Italian film industry. A challenge to the industry worldwide, *Blaxploitalian* is a call to action for diversity in film and media. *65min.* **Sat, Apr 29 at 2pm**
*Screens with *The Gospel*

BURNING SANDS (2017) Dir. Gerard McMurray. With Trevor Jackson, Alfre Woodard, Steve Harris, Tosin Cole. Freshman Zurich seems to have it all: a bright future on campus, a loving girlfriend and pledged to a prestigious fraternity. But deep into Hell Week, he will find his limits tested as the abuse heightens and he must choose between honoring a code of silence or standing up against the intensifying violence of underground hazing. *96min.* **Wed, Apr 26 at 7pm**

GANGS OF THE FRENCH CARIBBEAN (2016) Dir. Jean-Claude Flamand-Barny. With Djedje Apali, Eriq Ebouaney, Adama Niane. In the disillusioned France of the 70s, Jimmy Larivière is struggling to survive with his daughter and find his place. A meeting with the Gang des Antillais, idealist criminals, begins Jimmy's rebellion and soon he is mired in violence, rivalry and betrayal. A gun in hand, easy money calls to him. Based on a true story, this stylish thriller presents an unflinching look at the challenges of West Indian immigrants in France. *90min.* **Fri, Apr 28 at 7pm & Sun, Apr 30 at 7:30pm**

The Gospel Dir. A.V. Rockwell. Four slice-of-life segments depicting Alicia Keys coming of age experience in New York City. 21min. **Sat, Apr 29 at 2pm**
*Screens with *Blaxploitalian*.

IN A PERFECT WORLD (2016) Dir. Daphne McWilliams. In this intimate documentary, filmmaker Daphne McWilliams explores the dynamics of sons raised by single mothers as her own solo-parented son begins to come of age. Interviewing men from various backgrounds and ages, the film explores these lives to see the men they've become in the wake of emotionally turbulent and unsettling periods of their youth. 75min. **Sun, Apr 30 at 2pm**

QUEST (2017) Dir. Jonathan Olsheski. The life of an African-American family in Philadelphia is intimately chronicled across eight years beginning at the dawn of the Obama Presidency. Father Christopher and mother Christine struggle to raise their children against hardship and tragedy; all the while cultivating a creative community in their home recording studio. This resilient family and inspiring film create a vivid portrait of race, class and life in modern America. 90min. **Thu, Apr 27 at 7pm & Sat, Apr 29 at 7:15pm**

Shorts Program 1 90min. **Sat, Apr 29 at 4:30pm**

The First Stone Dir. Kaisan Rei. Reigh returns home to find her family is torn apart at the seams, and it's up to her to put it back together. 14min.

Hell You Talmbout Dir. Tyler Rabinowitz. Documentary about a social justice oriented dance studio. 8min.

Jonah Dir. Andrew Michael Ellis. A subway worker dances through a train station as an archival voice-over of a former slave provides context to his movement. 7min

Mosquito: The Bite of Passage Dir. Brian Vincent Rhodes & Eric Cheng. A mosquito on her first hunting trip with her mother tries to confess that she doesn't like blood. 7min.

Olde E Dir. Xavier Burgin. Demarkus Jackson, a young basketball star, puts his life at risk when he comes home for revenge against his abusive father. 30min.

Ugly Dir. Leron Lee. A coming-of-age story of a boy looking for love in the wrong place...his own environment. 21min.

Waiting on Hassana Dir. Ifunanya Maduka. The story of the Chibok abductions from a single perspective — a voice of one of the fifty-seven escapees. 10min.

Shorts Program 2 90min. **Sun, Apr 30 at 4:30pm**

B Love Dir. Christine List & Shahari Moore. An urban femme fatale finds herself in the midst of an unconventional love triangle. 13min.

Birdskin Dir. Clara Peltier. A Brazilian dancer named Tuane transcends her life in the favelas with dazzling performances in glittering costumes. 19min.

Ca\$h Out Dir. Mary O. One African-American woman's quest to be beautiful. 21min.

He Who Dances on Wood Dir. Jessica Beshir. One man's search for joy has culminated in a constant experience of rhythm in the world around him. 6min.

Night Shift Dir. Marshall Tyler. A glimpse into one night in the life of a bathroom attendant in a Los Angeles nightclub. 15min.

Rabbit Hunt Dir. Patrick Bresnan. Every weekend, 17 year-old Chris and his family hunt rabbits during sugarcane field burning and harvesting in the Florida Everglades. 12min.

See You Yesterday Dir. Stefon Bristol. Two Brooklyn teenage prodigies build a time machine to save one's brother from being wrongfully killed by the police. 15min.

STEPS (2016) Dir. Rock Davis & Jay Rodriguez Jr. With Rob Morgan, Walter Fautleroy, Robert McKay. After a robbery and shooting that almost claimed his life, Brian Coleman survives into a life of hardship – turning to alcohol as his escape. Losing his family and living on the streets, a desperate Brian manages to secure a job as a home health worker, only to find himself assigned to help a paralyzed gang member – the man that shot him all those years before. Desperate to rebuild his life he must confront his patient and start towards a true recovery. 110min. **Thu, Apr 27 at 9:30pm**

The Suit Dir. Jarryd Coetsee. In 1950s apartheid South Africa a husband catches his wife in bed with a lover and devises a cruel punishment. 25min. **Fri, Apr 28 at 4:30pm**
* Screens with *The Unseen*.

THE UNSEEN (2016) Dir. Perivi Katjavivi. With Esther Beukes, Senga Brockerhoff, Mathew Ishitile. African-American actor Marcus, cast as a historical leader of Namibia, embarks on earnest research to unveil the true history of his character. Anu, a talented local musician, has trouble negotiating between influences and identity. Sara is a depressed young woman uncertain that there's anything worth living for. 70min. **Fri, Apr 28 at 4:30pm**
* Screens with *The Suit*.

WHITE COLOUR BLACK (2016) Dir. Joseph A. Adesunloye. With Dudley O'Shaughnessy, Wale Ojo, Alassane Sy. Leke, a successful young photographer, lives a very hedonistic lifestyle in London. He's been estranged from his father for many years and hasn't returned to Senegal since his childhood. When his father becomes ill and suddenly dies, Leke makes the journey back to bury his father and to rediscover a culture he has long forgotten. This debut feature is a subtle and striking look at identity and belonging. 87min. **Fri, Apr 28 at 9:30pm**

About BAMcinématek

The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn's only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAMcinématek has not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective), Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti, and William Friedkin, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinématek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinématek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites

Credits

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor of BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinématek.

Steinberg Screen at the BAM Harvey Theater is made possible by The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust.

Delta is the Official Airline of BAM. Pepsi is the official beverage of BAM.

BAM Rose Cinemas are named in recognition of a major gift in honor of Jonathan F.P. and Diana Calthorpe Rose. BAM Rose Cinemas would also like to acknowledge the generous support of The Peter

Jay Sharp Foundation, The Estate of Richard B. Fisher, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and Bloomberg. Additional support for BAMcinématek is provided by The Grodzins Fund, The Liman Foundation, and the Julian Price Family Foundation.

Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Special Thanks to Jordan Peele; Stacey Zarro/Universal Pictures; Brian Belovarac, Ben Crossley-Marra & Emily Woodburne/Janus Films; David Jennings/Sony Pictures Repertory; Chris Chouinard/Park Circus; Jack Durwood/Paramount Pictures; Kristie Nakamura/WB Classics; Paul Ginsburg/Universal Pictures; Harry Guerro

General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater); D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.