

BAMcinématek presents *Women at Work: Radical Creativity*, Aug 10—16, spotlighting women's work as artists, activists and intellectuals

July 10, 2018/Brooklyn, NY—From Friday, August 10 through Thursday, August 16, BAMcinématek presents *Women at Work: Radical Creativity*. The Women at Work series—which launched in March with *Women at Work: Labor Activism*—continues in August, guest-programmed by curator Dessane Lopez Cassell. Lopez Cassell explains, “Though often overlooked, the creative expression of women has had a profound and continuous effect on our cultural and political landscape. Highlighting seminal figures such as Audre Lorde, Angela Davis, Pina Bausch, and Marsha P. Johnson, this selection of historical portraits, narratives, and experimental video works offers a cross-section of accounts by and about women who have refused to be second-guessed or silenced.” *Women at Work: Radical Creativity* will also include special guests Nina Collins, daughter of Kathleen Collins, and filmmakers Reina Gossett, Sasha Wortzel and Shirin Neshat for post-screening Q&As.

The series kicks off August 10 with Kathleen Collins' seminal *Losing Ground* (1982). One of the first films to explore relationships and sexuality from the perspective of a black female director, this revelatory comedic drama follows a philosophy professor (Seret Scott) and her artist husband (Bill Gunn) on a life-changing summer in upstate New York. Julie Dash's short dance film *Four Women* (1975) plays with *Losing Ground*. Saturday, August 11 highlights the work of Shirley Chisholm and Angela Davis through the eyes of director Shola Lynch with *Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed* (2004) and *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners* (2012). *Radical Creativity* showcases three critically acclaimed features including Deniz Gamze Erguven's *Mustang* (2015—Aug 12), a heartbreaking film following five, Turkish teen sisters' coming-of-age in an oppressive Turkish home; *Persepolis* (2007, Satrapi & Paranaud—Aug 12), an animated fable chronicling a woman's life (from age eight to 24) during Iran's Islamic revolution; and Wim Wenders' *Pina* (2011—Aug 12), an ecstatic tribute to choreographer Pina Bausch.

Women at Work: Radical Creativity also includes *Looking for Oum Kulthum* (Shirin Neshat & Shoja Azari, 2017—Aug 13) and *Audre Lorde: A Litany for Survival* (Ada Gay Griffin & Michelle Parkerson, 1995—Aug 14). In *Looking for Oum Kulthum*, Iranian art star Shirin Neshat crafts a spellbinding, multilayered reflection on the sacrifices required of a female artist working within a patriarchal society. In *Audre Lorde: A Litany for Survival*, self-described “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet” Audre Lorde—one of the godmothers of intersectional feminism whose work gives voice to society's most marginalized—speaks about her extraordinary life. *A Litany for Survival* plays with short *Me Gritaron Negra* (1978, Torgeir Wethal).

The series concludes Thursday, August 16 with *An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel*, including six quietly radical short films by the two directors, including the New York premiere of *Happy Birthday, Marsha!* (Gossett & Wortzel—2018), a portrait of iconic transgender artist and activist Marsha ‘Pay it No Mind’ Johnson in the hours before she ignited the Stonewall Riots. Other shorts in the program include Gossett's *Personal Things* (2017) and *Atlantic is a Sea of Bones* (2017), and Wortzel's *River of Grass* (2018), *Paint it Again* (2011) and *Grit and Grind* (2014), co-directed by Wortzel and Felix Endara.

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Women at Work: Radical Creativity Schedule

Fri, Aug 10

7pm: *Losing Ground + Four Women*

*Q&A with *Nina Collins (the director's daughter)* following screening

Sat, Aug 11

4:30pm: *Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed*

7pm: *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*

Sun, Aug 12

2pm: *Mustang*

4:30pm: *Persepolis*

7pm: *Pina*

Mon, Aug 13

7pm: *Looking for Oum Kulthum*

*Q&A with director following screening

Tue, Aug 14

7pm: *A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde + Me Gritaron Negra*

Thu, Aug 16

7pm: *An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel*

*Q&A with directors following screening

Film Descriptions

A LITANY FOR SURVIVAL: THE LIFE AND WORK OF AUDRE LORDE (1995) *Dirs. Ada Gay Griffin & Michelle Parkerson.* Self-described “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet” Audre Lorde speaks about her extraordinary life and career, from her fearless work to advance womanist and civil rights causes to her poetry, which gives voice to society’s most marginalized. As one of the first figures to argue for the importance of intersectional feminism, Lorde was an ahead-of-her-time thinker whose ideas resonate as strongly as ever. *Digital. 83m.* Tue, Aug 14 at 7pm.

CHISHOLM '72: UNBOUGHT & UNBOSSED (2004) *Dir. Shola Lynch.* Already the first black woman elected to Congress, Brooklyn politician Shirley Chisholm made history once again when she launched her 1972 campaign for president. This timely documentary recounts her bold challenge to establishment power structures as she pushed a defiantly progressive platform that energized a coalition of feminists, people of color, and young voters while raising the question: in American politics, whose voices get to be heard? *Digital. 76min.* Sat, Aug 11 at 4:30pm.

FREE ANGELA AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS (2012) *Dir. Shola Lynch.* Revolutionary icon Angela Davis is profiled in this galvanizing time capsule of 1960s-70s leftist political action. Through a wealth of archival materials and an interview with Davis herself, director Shola Lynch traces the communist intellectual’s rise from student radical to one of the most outspoken voices of the Black Power era, while offering a chilling look at the ways in which the US government works to silence its perceived enemies. *DCP. 102min.* Sat, Aug 11 at 7pm.

MUSTANG (2015) *Dir. Deniz Gamze Ergüven. With Güneş Şensoy, Doğa Doğuşlu, Elit İşcan.* One of the most unique and powerful portraits of growing up in recent memory, this bracing coming-of-age saga follows five teenage sisters who, confined to an oppressive Turkish household, push back against the rigid patriarchal structures imposed on them. A window into the rich inner world created by its spirited heroines, Deniz Gamze Ergüven’s acclaimed debut feature is an alternately heartrending and joyous celebration of sisterhood. *DCP. 97min.* Sun, Aug 12 at 2pm.

LOOKING FOR OUM KULTHUM (2017) *Dirs. Shirin Neshat & Shoja Azari. With Neda Rahmanian, Yasmin Raeis, Mehdi Moinzadeh.* Iranian art star Shirin Neshat crafts a spellbinding, multilayered reflection on the sacrifices required of a female artist working within a patriarchal society. It centers on an Iranian woman director (Rahmanian) as she sets out to make a film about legendary Egyptian singer Oum Kulthum. The parallels between Kulthum's story and the director's own struggles open up a provocative consideration of art, history, gender, and Arab culture. *DCP. 90min.* Mon, Aug 13 at 7pm. *Q&A with director following screening

LOSING GROUND (1982) *Dir. Kathleen Collins. With Seret Scott, Bill Gunn, Duane Jones.* Kathleen Collins' wonderfully smart, complex exploration of relationships and sexuality—one of the first from the perspective of a black female director—centers on a cerebral philosophy professor (Scott) and her free-spirited artist husband (Gunn) as they get in touch with their inner desires on a summer idyll in upstate New York. The effortlessly breezy style belies a nuanced understanding of the ways in which gender, race, and class shape our relationships. *DCP. 86min.* Fri, Aug 10. 7pm. *Q&A with director's daughter following screening

PERSEPOLIS (2007) *Dirs. Marjane Satrapi & Vincent Paronnaud.* Marjane Satrapi adapted her acclaimed graphic novels—based on her experiences growing up amid Iran's Islamic Revolution—into this masterfully moving animated fable, which finds irreverent humor in the darkest of circumstances. Inked in striking monochrome, it follows the precocious Marjane from age eight to 24 as she rebels against the increasingly oppressive conservatism infiltrating Iranian society, finding liberation in rock 'n' roll and an adventurous life of the mind. *35mm. 96min.* Sun, Aug 12 at 4:30pm.

PINA (2011) *Dir. Wim Wenders.* No one saw the world quite like Pina Bausch, the groundbreaking choreographer who channelled her unique vision into visceral, fearlessly human masterworks of modern dance. In this ecstatic tribute to her genius, Wim Wenders presents some of Bausch's most iconic works—including *Kontakthof*, *Café Müller*, and the water-splashed spectacle *Vollmond*—with dazzling, you-are-there immediacy. *DCP. 103min.* Sun, Aug 12 at 7pm.

An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel

On the occasion of the New York premiere of their new collaboration *Happy Birthday, Marsha!*—about legendary transgender activist Marsha P. Johnson—this program brings together a selection of quietly radical short films by Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel, which offer moving considerations of queer and trans identity both past and present. *Total runtime of program: 45min.* Thu, Aug 16, 7pm. *Q&A with directors following screenings

RIVER OF GRASS (2018) *Dir. Sasha Wortzel.* A poetic meditation on the Florida Everglades' fugitive past, present, and future inspired by the writings of feminist environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas. *7min, work-in-progress.* Thu, Aug 16, 7pm.

Part of An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel

PAINT IT AGAIN (2011) *Dir. Sasha Wortzel.* In this ruminative consideration of love and loss, a home shared for forty years becomes a museum of memories for the partner who remains. *5min.* Thu, Aug 16, 7pm. Part of An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel

THE PERSONAL THINGS (2017) *Dir. Reina Gossett.* In this animated short, legendary black trans activist Miss Major Griffin-Gracy describes her philosophy of resistance. *3min.* Thu, Aug 16, 7pm. Part of An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel

ATLANTIC IS A SEA OF BONES (2017) *Dir. Reina Gossett.* Inspired by the eponymous poem by Lucille Clifton, this striking experimental work evokes the memories and experiences of performer Egypt LaBejia in a wash of entrancing, neon-saturated images. *7min.* Thu, Aug 16, 7pm. Part of An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel

GRIT AND GRIND (2014) Co-directed by Sasha Wortzel and Felix Endara. A fond look back at Clit Club, a lesbian nightclub and bastion for queer sexual expression in the then-gritty Meatpacking District of the early 1990s. *10min.* Thu, Aug 16, 7pm. Part of An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARSHA! (2018) *Dirs. Reina Gossett & Sasha Wortzel.* A portrait of iconic transgender artist and activist Marsha “Pay it No Mind” Johnson in the hours before she ignited the 1969 Stonewall Riots. *D.C.P. 13min.* Thu, Aug 16, 7pm. ***New York Premiere.** Part of An Evening with Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel

About BAMcinématek

Since 1998 BAM Rose Cinemas has been Brooklyn’s home for alternative, documentary, art-house, and independent films. Combining new releases with BAMcinématek year-round repertory program, the four-screen venue hosts 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 hosted major retrospectives of filmmakers like Spike Lee, Chantal Akerman, John Carpenter, Manoel de Oliveira, Luis Buñuel, King Hu, and Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics’ Circle Award prize for the retrospective), and hosted the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Hong Sang-soo, Andrzej Zulawski, and Jiang Wen. Since 2009 the program has also produced BAMcinemaFest, New York’s home for American independent film, and has championed the work of filmmakers like Janicza Bravo, Andrew Dosunmu, Lena Dunham, and Boots Riley. The 12-day festival of New York premieres will be in its 11th year in 2019.

Credits

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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 varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

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: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

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