



Film

BAM presents *Purpose and Passion: The Cinema of John Singleton*, Sep 13—20, a tribute to the groundbreaking late filmmaker

August 16, 2019/Brooklyn, NY—From Friday, September 13 through Friday, September 20, BAM presents *Purpose and Passion: The Cinema of John Singleton*, a career retrospective dedicated to the trailblazing late director. "The sudden, shocking death of John Singleton at the age of just 51 in April 2019 robbed the world of a trailblazing, influential and, arguably, somewhat underrated chronicler of Black life on film," says series programmer Ashley Clark. "This is both a full retrospective of the late director's characteristically muscular, thought-provoking cinematic output, and a chance to pay tribute to a singular talent."

When Singleton (1968–2019) was nominated for a Best Director Oscar for his groundbreaking debut feature *Boyz n the Hood* (1991), he became both the first African-American filmmaker and the youngest person ever, at age 24, to be nominated for the award. It was an auspicious start to a trailblazing career that saw Singleton bring stories of Black urban life to the screen with never-before-seen depth and launch the film careers of superstars like Janet Jackson, Ice Cube, Taraji P. Henson, and Regina King. Writ with searing intensity, his films grapple with big picture ideas—racism, masculinity, and the American Dream—with profound humanity.

The series opens with Singleton's most iconic film and granddaddy of the 90s hood drama, *Boyz n the Hood*, with an introduction by celebrated novelist—and friend to Singleton—Walter Mosley. The series continues with Singleton's follow-up, the romantic road movie *Poetic Justice* (1993), starring music superstars Tupac Shakur and Janet Jackson; the explosive ensemble drama *Higher Learning* (1995), introduced by writer and scholar Lavelle Porter; and *Rosewood* (1997), a historical portrait of the horrors of American racial violence and African-American perseverance, starring Ving Rhames, Don Cheadle, and Jon Voight.

The retrospective continues with Singleton's work in the 2000s, including his stylish reboot of *Shaft* (2000), starring Samuel L. Jackson; *Baby Boy* (2001), an incisive portrait of Black masculinity, which Singleton described as his proudest achievement as a filmmaker, introduced by *Just Another Girl on the IRT* director Leslie Harris; the revenge thriller, *Four Brothers* (2005), starring Tyrese Gibson, Andre Benjamin, Mark Wahlberg, and Garrett Hedlund; *2 Fast 2 Furious* (2003), the most successful installment of the mega-hit franchise; and the delightfully goofy thriller *Abduction* (2011), starring *Twilight* alum Taylor Lautner, Lily Collins, and Alfred Molina. The series also includes a program of Singleton's television work, including the masterfully-directed episode of *The People v. O.J. Simpson*, "The Race Card" (2016) and a *30 for 30* (2009) profile of Olympic track and field star Marion Jones, as well as Craig Brewer's gritty neo-Blaxploitation *Hustle & Flow* (2005), produced by Singleton.

For further press information, please contact:
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Purpose and Passion: The Cinema of John Singleton Schedule:

Fri, Sep 13

7pm: *Boyz n the Hood*
 9:40pm: *Poetic Justice*

Sat, Sep 14

6:45pm: *Rosewood*
 9:40pm: *2 Fast 2 Furious*

Sun, Sep 15



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2pm: *Baby Boy*
 4:45pm: *Higher Learning*
 7:30pm: *Four Brothers*

Mon, Sep 16

9:15pm: *Abduction*

Tue, Sep 17

7pm: *John Singleton TV Program*
 9:15pm: *Poetic Justice*

Wed, Sep 18

7pm: *Hustle and Flow*
 9:30pm: *Boyz n the Hood*

Thu, Sep 19

7pm: *Shaft*
 9:15pm: *Higher Learning*

Fri, Sep 20

4:30pm, 9:15pm: *Boyz n the Hood*

About BAM Film

Since 1998 BAM Rose Cinemas has been Brooklyn's home for film. Combining new releases with year-round repertory and specialty programming, the mission of BAM Film is to present nimble, responsive, and engaged film programming that centers marginalized artists and challenges prevailing narratives. The program continues BAM's tradition of presenting bold and adventurous work from adventurous artists to adventurous audiences. The four screen venue hosts festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAM has programmed major retrospectives of filmmakers like Spike Lee, Chantal Akerman, Marlon Riggs, Jonathan Demme, and Claire Denis. Since 2009 the program has also produced BAMcinemaFest, New York's home for vital new work in American independent film.

Credits:

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Support for A Year of Resistance, amplifying marginalized voices in cinema, provided by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

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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 (between Lafayette Ave and Hanson Place), houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas features first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming.

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

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

