

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWARK BLACK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 40TH SEASON SCREENINGS *Adult Cinema Begins June 25 & Youth Cinema Begins July 7*

NEWARK: The Newark Black Film Festival, the longest running festival of its kind in the United States, kicks off its 40th season on June 25 at the Newark Museum with a film that marks the 50th anniversary of the first Freedom Ride in May 1961. Youth Cinema, the accompanying summer-long series of free children's features and short films, will be held on Mondays at The Newark Public Library starting July 7 and Wednesdays at the Newark Museum starting July 9.

The opening night reception for *Freedom Riders* begins at 5:30 pm; it will be followed by the screening and a discussion with Junius Williams, Director of the Abbott Leadership Institute, Rutgers University/Newark, at 7 pm. The festival will continue with screenings every Wednesday through July 30. Screenings will take place at the Museum unless otherwise noted.

Since its introduction by the Museum in 1974, NBFF has provided a forum for emerging writers, directors, producers, performers and patrons of black cinema. The festival is supported by Bank of America, as it has been for the past 14 years. It is co-presented by New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT); The Newark Public Library; Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience/Rutgers; Rutgers, the State University of NJ/Newark, and CityPlex 12 Newark.

Screenings are free but seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. All speakers are subject to change or cancellation. Pre-registration is required for the opening night reception of *Freedom Riders* and can be made by phone at 973.596.6550 or email at rsvp@newarkmuseum.org.

For additional information, follow the Museum on Facebook at facebook.com/newark.museum; Twitter at twitter.com/newarkmuseum; or visit www.newarkmuseum.org.

NEWARK BLACK FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All screenings begin at 7 pm at the Museum unless otherwise noted.

June 25

Freedom Riders: Chronicles the story of hundreds of civil rights activists called the Freedom Riders who challenged and brought racial segregation to national attention. Speaker: Junius Williams, Director of the Abbott Leadership Institute, Rutgers University/Newark.

July 2

20 Feet From Stardom: Award-winning director Morgan Neville shines a spotlight on the untold true story of the backup singers behind some of the greatest musical legends of the 21st century. 2014 Academy Award winner for Best Documentary.

July 9, CityPlex 12 Theatre

12 Years a Slave: The story of a New York-born free African-American man who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C., in 1841 and sold into slavery. He worked on plantations in Louisiana for 12 years before his release. 2014 Academy Award winner for Best Picture.

July 16

Big Words: Members of a once-promising hip-hop group, now in their late 30s, struggle with regret, disappointment and change on Election Night 2008. Speaker: Neil Drumming, filmmaker, screenwriter and journalist.

July 23

Moms Mabley: I Got Somethin' to Tell You: Whoopi Goldberg takes a look at the work and influence of African-American stand-up comedienne Moms Mabley.

July 30, CityPlex 12 Theatre

Paul Robeson Awards screening. Please visit www.newarkmuseum.org for additional information and winners.

NBFF YOUTH CINEMA SCHEDULE

Youth Cinema will be held on Mondays at The Newark Public Library at 10:30 am and at the Newark Museum on Wednesdays at 1 pm unless otherwise noted.

July 7 and 9

- *Mrs. Katz and Tush*: When Lames, a young African American, presents Mrs. Katz, a lonely Jewish widow, with a kitten without a tail, a lasting friendship develops.
- *Chicken Sunday*: After her grandmother dies, a young Ukrainian-American girl becomes attached to her African-American neighbors.
- *Flossie & The Fox*: Plucy Flossie Finley asks a clever fox to prove that he is a fox before she will be frightened of him on her way to deliver a basket of eggs.

- *Sule And The Case Of The Tiny Sparks*: In this animated film by Rene Rawls, a 10-year old African detective named Sule helps other kids solve the meaning of proverbs.

July 14 and 9

- *Ruby Bridges*: When six-year-old Ruby Bridges entered school in 1960, she stepped straight into history, becoming the first black student to attend an all-white school in New Orleans.

July 21 and 23

- *The Journey Of Henry Box Brown*: Historic true tale of slave Henry Box Brown who mailed himself to freedom in a wooden box from Virginia to Pennsylvania.
- *Roberto: The Insect Architect*: A termite named Roberto follows his dream of becoming an architect and travels to the big city to find success.
- *Honey...Honey...Lion!*: An African honey guide bird teaches a greedy honey badger a lesson about sharing.
- *Yo! Yes?*: Two lonely boys who don't know each other are brought together with a simple "Yo!" answered by the other one's "Yes?" and the bounce of a basketball.

July 28 and July 30

Labour: Three young friends set out to find a centuries-old pirate ship lost in the Louisiana Bayou, and discover adventure beyond their wildest imagination.

August 6

- *The Pied Piper*: Find out if the mysterious Pied Piper has a trick up his sleeve when asked to help the citizens of Hamlyn.
- *Wormhead*: In this animated, award-winning film, young Jessie learns a lesson about accepting people as they are.
- *Lincoln And Douglass*: A story of the unusual friendship between two great American leaders at a time when equality was not yet established.

August 13

- *Pocahontas*: An unforgettable story of how one courageous girl bridged the gap between two cultures and wound up changing history.

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ABOUT THE NEWARK MUSEUM

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street in the heart of the Downtown/Arts District of Newark, New Jersey, between the Rutgers Newark Campus and NJPAC. The Newark Museum is 10 miles west of New York City and easily accessible by NJ Transit and PATH. The Museum is open all year round: Wednesdays through Sundays, from Noon – 5:00 p.m. Suggested Museum admission: Adults, \$12.00; Children, Seniors and Students with valid I.D., \$7.00. Newark Residents and Members are admitted free. The Museum Café is open for lunches Wednesday through Sunday. Convenient parking is available for a fee. The Newark Museum campus, including its collections, facilities, and other resources, is accessible to accommodate the broadest audience possible, including individuals utilizing wheelchairs, with physical impairments, other disabilities, or special needs. For general information, call 973.596.6550 or visit our web site, <http://www.NewarkMuseum.org>.

Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Council on the Arts/Department of State — a partner agency of the National

Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Wallace Foundation and other corporations, foundations and individuals.

ABOUT BANK OF AMERICA

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