

Press Release



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2018 Newark Black Film Festival Announces Paul Robeson Award Winners

NEWARK: The Newark Museum has announced the winners of the Newark Black Film Festival 2018 Paul Robeson Awards, a biennial competition that recognizes excellence in independent filmmaking. The competition, established in 1985 in honor of the late activist, performer and athlete, is the longest running festival of its kind in the United States. It is made possible through the support of Bank of America.

“The Newark Museum’s Black Film Festival has brought stories of diversity and inclusion to local residents through cinema for four decades,” said Robert Doherty, President, Bank of America-New Jersey. “Because diverse perspectives help communities thrive, we applaud and support the Paul Robeson Award winners’ achievements in filmmaking and their contributions to New Jersey’s cultural vibrancy.”

The winners will be honored at a reception and award ceremony at the Museum, 49 Washington St., Newark, on Wednesday, August 8, beginning at 4:30 pm, followed by a screening at CityPlex 12, 360-394 Springfield Ave., Newark, at 7:30 pm. The event will be hosted by Richard Wesley, NBFF Chair, playwright and screenwriter; and Doherty. The reception, ceremony and screenings are free to the public but pre-registration is required for the reception. To register, call 973.596.6544, or email at rsvp@newarkmuseum.org.

“We are committed to providing a forum for filmmakers who reflect on the African-American experience in a way that goes beyond what is shown in mainstream cinema,” Wesley said. “The caliber of films submitted to the Paul Robeson Awards is always astounding.”

Films are judged in the categories of Long and Short Documentary, Long and Short Narrative, Animation and Experimental.

The 2018 Paul Robeson Awards winners are:

LONG DOCUMENTARY

Winner: *Maynard*

Filmmaker/Director: Sam Pollard

Producers: Wendy Eley Jackson, Maynard Jackson III

Portrait of charismatic trailblazer Maynard Jackson, who became Atlanta’s first black Mayor.

Honorable Mention: *Agents of Change*

Filmmakers/Producers/Directors: Frank Dawson and Abby Ginzberg

Students at over a thousand colleges and universities organized to demand the increased admission of black students.

SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Winner: *The Sara Spencer Washington Story*

Filmmaker/Producer/Director: Royston Scott

Interviewees recall the life of a black woman who became a success selling her hair products door-to-door in the 1920s.

Honorable Mention: *Profiled*

Filmmaker/Director/Producer: Kathleen Foster

This film knits the stories of families of Black and Latin youth murdered by the NYPD.

LONG NARRATIVE

Winner: *Millie & The Lords*

Filmmaker/Director: Jennica Carmona

Producer: Si Se Puedo Productions, LLC

Fictional narrative inspired by the Young Lords Party tells the story of a young woman who changes her life for the better.

Honorable Mention: *Ambition's Debt*

Filmmaker/Director: Devin E. Haqq

Producers: Josh Wick and Brandt Adams

Follow the downfall of Rome's most honored citizen, Marcus Brutus, as he conspires to assassinate Julius Caesar.

SHORT NARRATIVE

Winner: *Myself When I Am Real*

Filmmaker/Director: Nefertite Nguvu

Producer: Lisa Thrasher

This film explores the psychic terrain of two people struggling to rebuild a marriage.

Honorable Mention: *Jabari Keating*

Filmmaker: Stacey Larkins

Producers: Stacey Larkins and Ronald Pokryska

Director: Stacey Larkins

An African-American male reflects on his life after making a life-altering decision.

Tito's Handmade Vodka is the official spirit sponsor of the NBFF. The schedule for the Adult and Youth screenings for the 2018 Newark Black Film Festival is available online at www.newarkmuseum.org.

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