



MARCH ON
WASHINGTON
FILM FESTIVAL

PULPITS, PROTEST, & POWER:

THE CHURCH & THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 1, 2023



**congratulations
MOWFF**
as you honor
THE CHURCH & THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

— Tiffeny F. Sanchez
& Family

A new command I give you:
Love one another.
As I have loved you,
so you must love one another.

— JOHN 13:34



DEAR FRIENDS



THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF POWERFUL MOMENTS,

living historical moments, for the March on Washington Festival.

We were there at the White House for the designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument. We witnessed Emmett's first cousin, Reverend Wheeler Parker, in the oval office with President Biden and Vice President Harris, an overwhelming moment for the Reverend as he reflected on being the last remaining witness in the cabin with Emmett when he was abducted, to this moment in the White House, the nation marking Emmett's experience to be preserved for the ages.

We were at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL on the 60th anniversary of the bombing, alongside Sarah Collins Rudolph, the 5th little girl who survived, as Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson reflected on the moment, and the importance of accurate education about our history.

The Festival launched the nation's first ever public school curriculum for social justice filmmaking. What started as an idea from our (now) board member Joseph Olchefske, has become, under his leadership, a year-long curriculum for 200 high school students at three Los Angeles schools. The students are learning about narrative form, content, and actual filmmaking. With your help, Imagining Equity will expand to three cities and 1,000 kids in the next year, and over the next five years to be a course offered throughout the nation.

We were with Rev. Sharpton and the NAACP and the ADL, hosting dozens of organizations as they prepared to mark the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington, and hearing Dr. King's child and grandchild reflect on where we are today as a nation.

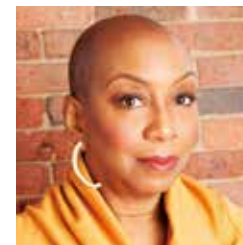
The Festival has achieved well beyond what those of us who helped found this platform could ever have imagined.

With your support, your stories, your ideas, and your partnership, this is only the beginning.

WITH GRATITUDE,



ROBERT RABEN
FOUNDER
March On Washington
Film Festival



ISISARA BEY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
March On Washington
Film Festival



JOANNE IRBY
ACTING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
March On Washington
Film Festival

WITH GREAT
APPRECIATION

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, & FESTIVAL AUDIENCES
WISH TO THANK THESE GENEROUS DONORS WHOSE SUPPORT HAS MADE
THE 2023 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL
& OUR YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS POSSIBLE:

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**MARCH ON
WASHINGTON
FILM FESTIVAL**

AWARDS CONVERSATIONS & EVENTS

“ We need, in every
community, a group of
angelic troublemakers.”

— **BAYARD RUSTIN**

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 24

3:00PM

SNEAK PREVIEW EVENT

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 24

5:00PM

SNEAK PREVIEW

EATON HOTEL SCREENING ROOM

FILM SCREENING: AFTER SHERMAN

88 MINS | 2022 | USA

DIRECTED BY JON-SESRIE GOFF

Print Source: The Film Collaborative



When the real estate of the southern U.S. coast is eyed by the wealthy, tax hikes and land auctions threaten the homes

of the Gullah people who live there and have been stewards of the region for generations. Told through personal narratives, the documentary After Sherman is the story of a community that endures in the lowcountry — despite how the effects of systemic racism have led to recent threats of gentrification and a horrific hate crime. It is a meditation, rich and warm, on what exactly makes a home: the land, the people on it, and the community created together through tradition and shared history.

FROM THE GULLAH FRONT PORCH: AFTERNOON SOIREE

WILD DAYS ROOFTOP | EATON HOTEL

The After Sherman film screening will be followed by a conversation with three artist friends who are Sea Island progeny, on the rich legacy of land, culture and community.

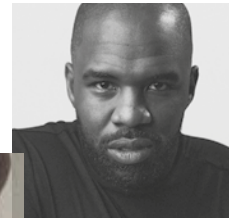
Enjoy an afternoon of music by DJ Jahsonic. Explore Gullah Geechee culinary delights, which will be available for sale.

FEATURING:

Elijah Heyward III, producer, After Sherman

Tamar-kali, musician, composer, After Sherman and Little Richard I Am Everything

Sheldon Scott, visual artist and Global Head of Purpose, Eaton Workshop



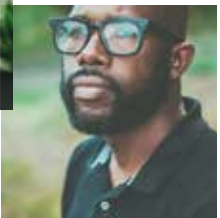
ELIJAH HEYWARD III



TAMAR-KALI



SHELDON SCOTT



DJ JAHSONIC



TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 26

5:00PM/6:00PM

OPENING NIGHT FILM

DC PREMIERE

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 26

6:30PM/7:00PM

OPENING NIGHT

MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION

The March on Washington Film Festival will kick off its weeklong run with our opening night film *Silver Dollar Road*.

5:00PM | PRE-RECEPTION

6:00PM | FILM SCREENING:
SILVER DOLLAR ROAD

100 MINS | 2023 | USA

DIRECTED BY **RAOUL PECK**

Print Source: Amazon Prime Video

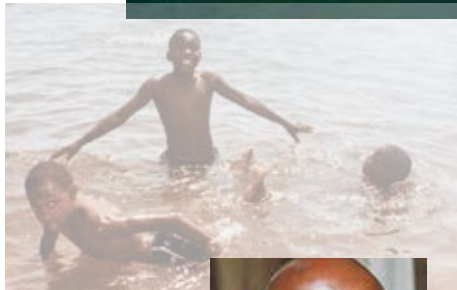
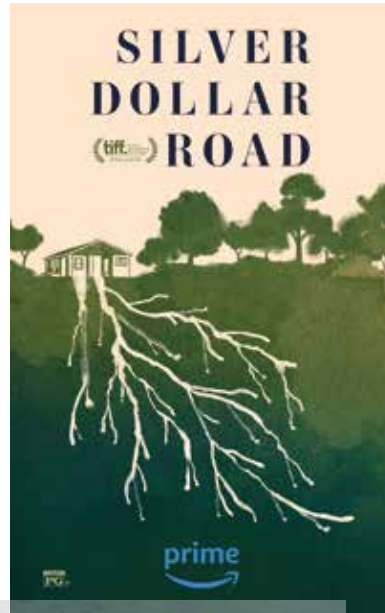
Silver Dollar Road follows the story of the Reels family, as told by two fierce and clear-eyed family members valiantly safeguarding their ancestors' land, after their relatives were wrongfully imprisoned for eight years — the longest sentence for civil contempt in North Carolina history. This documentary, based on the 2019 ProPublica article, highlights the covert ways the legal system keeps Black land ownership fragile and the racial wealth gap growing.

A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY WITH OSCAR-NOMINATED DIRECTOR

RAOUL PECK & THE REELS FAMILY
FOLLOWS THE FILM

MODERATED BY CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR
JAMAL SIMMONS

ADMITTANCE BY INVITATION OR
VIP ALL-ACCESS PASS



JAMAL SIMMONS



RAOUL PECK

MOWFF STUDIO INAUGURAL PRODUCTION

EDLAVITCH JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



6:30PM | PRE-RECEPTION

7:00PM | FILM SCREENING:
ONE STRUGGLE

58 MINS | 2023 | USA

DIRECTED BY **ROKHAYA DIALLO**

Print Source: Tamara Films

If African-American and Jewish people have had a complex and ambivalent relationship in the United States, they have also shown that unity against adversity is possible. This was especially true during the Civil Rights Movement.



Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington, Franz Boas and Zora Neale Hurston, Abel Meerapal and Billie Holiday, and Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King, Jr. understood that fighting segregation or antisemitism was like fighting the same evil. Together, they showed the strength of empathy, cooperation and solidarity.

From the French filmmaker **Rokhaya Diallo** with David Rybojad, *One Struggle* explores this commonality in the struggle for justice and equality.

PANELISTS:

Rokhaya Diallo, filmmaker, author, broadcaster and opinion columnist, *The Washington Post*

Peter Geffen, Founder of The Abraham Joshua Heschel School, New York

LaNitra Berger, Associate Professor of History and Art History and director of African and African American Studies, George Mason University



YOCHI DREAZEN

MODERATOR:

Yochi Dreazen, Principal, Media & Communications, The Raben Group; former managing and foreign editor, VOX; former journalist, *The Wall Street Journal*

SIGNATURE EVENT



AWARDS GALA



SEPTEMBER 27 • 6PM

DOCK 5 @ UNION MARKET
WASHINGTON, DC

EVENING PROGRAM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

INVOCATION

BISHOP MARIANN EDGAR BUDDE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

WELCOME

LAWRENCE DUNCAN III & NICOLE VENABLE
AWARDS GALA CO-CHAIRS

JODIE W. MCLEAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
EDENS

OTIS ROLLEY
PRESIDENT,
WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION

PERFORMANCE

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR

DINNER

REMARKS

JONATHAN CAPEHART
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

ROBERT RABEN
FOUNDER,
MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL

ISISARA BEY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL

PERFORMANCE

WAYNA

AWARDS

MARCH ON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

REVEREND AL SHARPTON
PRESENTED BY SYMONE SANDERS TOWNSEND

JOHN ROBERT LEWIS LIFETIME LEGACY AWARD

SENATOR REVEREND RAPHAEL WARNOCK
PRESENTED BY CONGRESSWOMAN AYANNA PRESSLEY

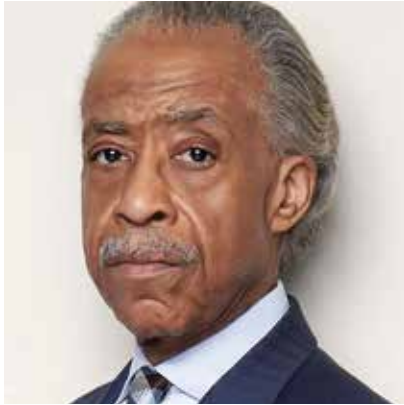
CLOSING SONG

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH GOSPEL CHOIR

2023 AWARD

RECIPIENTS

THE MARCH ON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD has been created to recognize leaders whose devotion to the advancement of civil rights is unwavering. Through their actions, and with courage, our Honorees have consistently ignited national conversations, compelled progress, and have used their platforms as instruments for social change.



**REVEREND
AL SHARPTON**

As head of NAN, Rev. Sharpton has taken the teachings of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and applied them to a modern civil rights agenda. He has been a tireless advocate for everything from police reform and accountability, to protection of voting rights and education, registration campaigns, economic support for small community businesses and confronting corporate racism.

Reverend Sharpton has been at the forefront of the modern civil rights movement for nearly a half century. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Reverend Alfred "Al" Sharpton has been preaching since age four. He was licensed and ordained at age nine.

In 1971, he founded the National Youth Movement and for seventeen years he led the organization, registering young people to vote and giving them job opportunities. His direct-action and civil disobedience campaigns have brought attention to injustice in many areas.

As an internationally renowned civil rights leader, founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), Sharpton has dedicated his life to the fight for justice and equality, turning the power of dissent and protest into tangible legislation impacting the lives of the disenfranchised.

THE JOHN ROBERT LEWIS LIFETIME LEGACY AWARD is presented annually to an individual whose life's work has sought to advance the dignity of all humans, no matter their circumstance. Through grit, determination and, often, personal and physical sacrifice, they, like the Award's namesake, have fought tirelessly on behalf of our better angels.



**SENATOR REVEREND
RAPHAEL WARNOCK**

For over 16 years, Senator Warnock has served as Senior Pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the former pulpit of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is the youngest pastor selected to serve in that leadership role at the historic church.

Senator Warnock was elected to the United States Senate on January 5, 2021, in a special election runoff for the term ending January 3, 2023, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Johnny Isakson, a seat previously held by appointed Senator Kelly Loeffler. He took the oath of office on January 20, 2021.

Currently, Senator Warnock serves on the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, as well as the Special Committee on Aging and the Joint Economic Committee.

Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock grew up in Kayton Homes public housing in Savannah, born one of twelve brothers and sisters raised in coastal Georgia.

His father, a veteran, small businessman and preacher, grew up in Burke and Screven County, Georgia. Senator Warnock's mother grew up in Waycross, Georgia, where she spent summers picking tobacco and cotton. A graduate of Savannah's Sol C. Johnson High School, Senator Warnock's mother and extended family still live in the Savannah area.

Senator Warnock is a proud graduate of Morehouse College; after graduating from Morehouse, he went on to earn a PhD and begin his career ordained in the ministry.

PRESENTERS, SPEAKERS, & PERFORMERS



Jonathan Capehart

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jonathan Capehart is anchor of *The Sunday Show* on MSNBC. This year, he was named an Associate Editor at *The Washington Post*,

where he is also an opinion writer, on the editorial board, hosts the *Capehart* podcast, and anchors *Washington Post Live's First Look*. He is also a commentator on *The PBS Newshour*.

Capehart was deputy editorial page editor of the *New York Daily News* (2002 - 2004) and served on its editorial board from 1993 to 2000. In 1999, his editorial campaign to save the Apollo Theater earned him and the board the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing. His MSNBC special "A Promised Land: A Conversation with Barack Obama" was nominated for an Emmy in 2020.



Mariann Edgar Budde

serves as spiritual leader for 86 Episcopal congregations and ten Episcopal schools in the District of Columbia and four Maryland counties.

The first woman

elected to this position, she also serves as chair of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, overseeing the ministries of the Washington National Cathedral and Cathedral schools.

A passionate believer in the gospel of Jesus and the Episcopal Church's particular witness, She is an advocate and organizer in support of justice concerns, including racial equity, gun violence prevention, immigration reform, the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons, and the care of creation.

Bishop Budde is the author of three books, including her most recent, *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*.



Lawrence Duncan III

is a Democratic government affairs expert, strategic advisor, and corporate attorney representing Fortune 500 companies and national trade associations in D.C.

He is a partner at Monument Advocacy where he provides strategic advice, legislative advocacy, and counsel to clients across multiple business sectors. He leads Monument's DEI practice, advising clients and C-Suite executives on diversity and inclusion issues, crisis management, and strategic engagement.

Before Monument, Larry was founder and president of Potomac Policy Advisors, worked for more than 15 years in the defense aerospace industry, and practiced for 7 years at two major D.C. law firms. He holds a B.A. in Government from Harvard University and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.



Nicole Venable

With more than two decades of experience in the private sector, on Capitol Hill, and in the executive branch, Democratic strategist Nicole Venable serves as a liaison to the Biden-Harris

Administration, House and Senate Democratic leadership, the CBC, and several key committees. She works closely with the House Ways and Means Committee; Senate Finance Committee; House Education and Labor Committee; and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

She provides politically astute, forward-leaning, and coalition-based legislative and public affairs solutions to Invariant's clients.

Nicole's proven track record in Washington makes her a leader and a trusted counsel to top-level executives, associations, nonprofits, and coalitions.



Jodie W. McLean

is Chief Executive Officer of EDENS, one of the nation's leading private owners, operators, and developers of retail real estate. With a

tenuence of more than 25 years, she has established herself as a key player in EDENS' growth and expansion.

McLean passionately believes that retail should evolve beyond a shopping experience, and advocates for connectivity to the communities surrounding the company's retail centers. Each EDENS development is crafted to serve as a gathering place, with a unique merchandising mix and welcoming design elements, fostering a sense of engagement with its neighbors.

A native of Chicago, IL, Jodie McLean holds a B.S. in Finance and Management from the Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina, and a degree from South Carolina Honors College.



Otis Rolley

is the head of Philanthropy and Community Impact at Wells Fargo & Company and president of the Wells Fargo Foundation, guiding the company's strategic vision for social impact strategies with an

emphasis on housing affordability, small business growth, financial health and a low-carbon future.

Prior to this, Otis was the Senior VP, U.S. Equity and Economic Opportunity Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation, and President and CEO of the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation (now Invest Newark). He spent 10 years advancing housing affordability and community and economic development policy with the City of Baltimore, and has held cabinet roles with five U.S. mayors.

Otis serves on the boards of the Stonewall Community Foundation, and Asset Funders Network. He has a Masters in City Planning from MIT and a B.A. from Rutgers University.



Isisara Bey

is Artistic Director, curating themes, panels, performances and exhibits at the intersection of history, culture and the arts. She has worked with the Apollo Theater, Women of the World

Festival, V-WISE, NY Public Radio, Count Me In, NY SummerStage, NJ PAC, the State Department's Pathways to Prosperity, and Vital Voices.

She leads workshops and retreats in mindset, leadership, culture and communications. She is certified with The Empowerment Institute, and has trained extensively with Pathways, LRT, Pax, School of Womanly Arts, Landmark, The Moorish School, Chopra Center and Dispenza Unlimited.

Isisara was a corporate executive for Sony Pictures and Sony Music. She began as a radio personality and TV news producer. She has a BA in Theater and an MA in Media from Antioch University.



Robert Raben

works to drive public policy in a humane and sensible direction; to bring diversity and equity to the boardrooms, think tanks, and corporations of America. Through the

private sector and civil society, he sees his job as the shifting of power to women, people of color, the disabled, and others too often left out.

With a career spanning counsel to the House Judiciary Committee, running a division of the Department of Justice, and now 20 years in the private sector growing The Raben Group, he is a leader with the intellect, capacity, and courage to make things happen.

He launched the March on Washington Film Festival in 2013, as a national platform to tell our history more honestly, and to connect students to our past and future.



Symone Sanders Townsend is an author, Democratic strategist and host of *Symone on MSNBC* and *MSNBC on Peacock*.

In 2016 she was the national press secretary for U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders's then-presidential campaign, and at 25, she became the youngest presidential press secretary on record. At 29, she published her first book, *No, You Shut Up: Speaking Truth to Power and Reclaiming America* and served as a senior advisor for President Joe Biden's 2020 presidential campaign. She later served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor and Chief Spokesperson to Vice President Kamala Harris.

She served as the national chair of the Coalition of Juvenile Justice Emerging Leaders Committee and a member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. She is a former political commentator for CNN and resident fellow of Harvard's Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School and at the University of Southern California's Center for the Political Future.



Ayanna Pressley is an activist, a legislator, a survivor, and the first woman of color to be elected to Congress from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In Congress, Congresswoman Pressley she has been a champion for justice and healing: reproductive justice, justice for immigrants, consumer justice, justice for seniors, justice for workers, justice for survivors of sexual violence, justice for formerly and currently incarcerated individuals, and healing for those who have experienced trauma. She has also turned her experience living with alopecia into action, becoming a leading voice fighting to raise awareness and support for the alopecia community across the nation.

Congresswoman Pressley currently serves on the House Committee on Financial Services. Prior to being elected to Congress, she served on the Boston City Council for eight years, and was the first woman of color elected to the council in its 100-year history.



Shiloh Baptist Church Gospel Choir made its debut as a singing aggregation of Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, DC, on Palm Sunday, March 1979, and has been under the direction

of Chester L. Burke, Jr., since 2017.

The Gospel Choir is an integral part of the total music ministry of Shiloh. It has performed throughout the Washington metropolitan area, in other cities and townships and has also performed for community, corporate, and national celebrations, including the NAACP Convention, NBC's Annual "Christmas in Washington", the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Birthday Celebration, President William Jefferson Clinton's Inaugural Prayer Service, and The American Baptist Churches Biennial Meetings.

The Gospel Choir is blessed to have dedicated members who give their time and talent to share the Good News to a world in need through the ministry of music.



Wayna is an Ethiopian-born, Grammy-nominated singer, former White House writer, and actress, who celebrates the cultural influences of her background through her performances on

screen and on stage. She is a two-time All Africa Music Awards Nominee, an elected National Trustee of the Grammy Awards, and the co-creator of the Grammy Award for Best Song for Social Change.

Wayna has performed around the world at renowned venues including the White House, the Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and the Apollo Theatre, and has joined icons such as Stevie Wonder, Dave Chapelle, Common, the Legendary Roots, Janelle Monae, Chuck Brown, India.Arie, and others in performances internationally.

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NICOLE VENABLE

GALA HOST COMMITTEE

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JOYCE BRAYBOY

KENDRA BROWN

A'LELIA BUNDLES

MICHAEL COLLINS

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JOSEPH OLCHEFSKE

DENIELLE PEMBERTON-HEARD

ROBERT RABEN

ALICIN WILLIAMSON

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 28

6:00PM/7:15PM

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

SIGNATURE EVENT

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 29

7:00PM

DINNER & A MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

HI-LAWN, UNION MARKET

SUNSET SCREENING: Bring your blanket and cushions and join us for this free community event and outdoor screening of the new documentary on the larger than life, chart-topping musical artist, Little Richard.

6:00PM | MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

DJ Tanz

7:15PM | CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTOR LISA CORTES AND MOWFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ISISARA BEY

FILM SCREENING TO FOLLOW: **LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING**

98 MINS | 2023 | USA

DIRECTED BY LISA CORTES

Print Source: Magnolia Pictures

Produced by Bungalow Media + Entertainment for CNN Films and HBO Max, in association with Rolling Stone Films, director Lisa Cortés' Sundance opening night documentary *Little Richard: I Am Everything* tells the story of the Black queer origins of rock n' roll, exploding the whitewashed canon of American pop music to reveal the innovator – the originator – Richard Penniman. Through a wealth of archive and performance that brings us into Richard's complicated inner world, the film unspools the icon's life story with all its switchbacks and contradictions. In interviews with family, musicians, and cutting-edge Black and queer scholars, the film reveals how Richard created an art form for ultimate self-expression, yet what he gave to the world he was never able to give to himself.



LISA CORTES



DJ TANZ

THE VIVIAN MALONE COURAGE AWARD HONORING MICHELLE BROWDER

DOCK 5 AT UNION MARKET



The award is named in honor of the late Vivian Malone, who defied segregationist Governor George Wallace by enrolling at the University of Alabama and becoming its first African American graduate.

This year's award is presented to **Michelle Browder**, American artist and activist known for her historical tours, murals and sculptures in Montgomery, particularly the Mothers of Gynecology Monument.

Join us for an evening that honors the courage and tenacity of the late Vivian Malone.

6:00PM | PROGRAM BEGINS:

60 Minutes *Where Are They Now?*

Dance performance by **Adaku Utah**

Awards presentation

Fireside chat with **Michelle Browder** and **Dr. Sharon Malone**, OB/GYN & Chief Medical Advisor, Alloy



ADAKU UTAH



DR. SHARON MALONE

THIS YEAR'S VIVIAN MALONE COURAGE AWARD IS A PRINT OF AN ORIGINAL PAINTING BY AWARD-WINNING ABSTRACT AND FIGURATIVE ARTIST AVIS COLLINS ROBINSON.

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 30

10:00AM/1:15PM

**MOWFF STUDENT & EMERGING FILMMAKER COMPETITION
FINALIST SHORTS**

EATON WORKSHOP

Debating in 2016, this shorts competition gives filmmakers the opportunity to use cinematic storytelling to answer important themes like “What’s your civil right?” and “speaking truth to power.” The competition receives scores of submissions from around the world. An esteemed jury of civil rights and industry leaders and established filmmakers select the winners and all of the shortlisted films are screened in person and on our virtual platform.

10:00AM | FILM SCREENINGS

1:15PM | FINALISTS + ALUMNI LUNCHEON

**GRAND PRIZE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT 7:00PM AT THE
PULPITS, PROTEST & POWER LIVE EVENT, DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**



JURORS:

STUDENT COMPETITIONS

- Nana Adwoa Frimpong**, Chief of Staff, Breakwater Studios
- DJ Johnson**, Associate Professor, USC
- Jon-Sesrie Goff**, multidisciplinary artist, curator, & arts administrator

EMERGING COMPETITIONS

- Yael Bridge**, Filmmaker
- Yoni Golijov**, Filmmaker
- Nevo Shinar**, Producer
- Denae Peters**, Program Officer, Perspective Fund

PRIZES FOR THIS COMPETITION ARE FUNDED IN PART BY THE GENEROSITY OF DEBORAH ZIPSER & CRAIG EMANUEL

SIGNATURE EVENT

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 30

6:00PM

PULPITS, PROTEST & POWER LIVE EVENT

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

There is perhaps no institution with a more profound influence on the civil rights movement than the Black church. During the 1950s and 1960s, churches in the Black community – especially those in the South – served as the backbone of the movement. This feature event will explore the role of the church in the past, and the implications for how we can think about movement building for the fights that lie ahead.



PRESENTERS:

- Rev. Delman Coates, Ph.D.**, Senior Pastor, Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, and founder, Black Church Center for Justice & Equality
- Min. Rahiel Tesfamariam**, activist, theologian, writer, speaker, and founder of Urban Cusp
- Rev. Stephen A. Green**, activist, podcast host, Chair of Faith for Black Lives and pastor, St. Luke A.M.E. Church, NYC

PERFORMANCES BY:

- Hip Hop dancer **Isryel PTG**,
- Patrick Lundy & the Ministers of Music**, and the **Duke Ellington School of the Arts Concert Choir**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
GOSPEL RECORDING ARTIST

YOLANDA ADAMS

Musical Director:

Dr. Patrick Lundy with
Bonita V. White



YOLANDA ADAMS

THE EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU IN COLLABORATION WITH
DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF TIFFENY SANCHEZ

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 1

1:00PM

CLOSING EVENT

WATCH

ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

AFTER WORDS — SPECIAL FESTIVAL SCREENING

EATON WORKSHOP

FREE WITH RESERVATION

FILM SCREENING:
THE SPACE RACE

91 MINS | 2023 | USA

DIRECTED BY LISA CORTES
& DIEGO HURTADO DE MENDOZA

Print Source: National Geographic Films

This probing and moving documentary explores the experiences of the first African American astronauts. Through decades of archived film and interviews, it is a reflective illumination on the burden of breaking barriers.



HOMILETICS: THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

Preaching does at least three things: it mediates God's activity to transform church and society based on the principles of justice; it encourages listeners to enhance themselves morally and ethically; and it confers biblical wisdom and realistic hope for future generations. This virtual presentation will explore how homiletics – the theology and rhetorical art of preaching – is a Christian sacred discourse that speaks works of justice, recovery and hope.

FEATURING:

Rev. Kenyatta Gilbert, Dean, Howard University School of Divinity



DR. KENYATTA GILBERT



WATCH ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

NPR MUSIC TINY DESK CONCERT: REV. SEKOU & THE SEAL BREAKERS

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

The soundtrack at the intersection of social justice and faith. **Rev. Sekou** tours with Brooklyn-based The Seal Breakers, a twelve-piece ensemble that includes four horns, two backup singers, and a Hammond B3 organ. Their concerts invoke the spirit of the southern Tent Revival where all are welcome regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation.

SET LIST INCLUDES:

Resist
Bury Me
The Devil Finds Work

FEATURING:

Osagyefo Sekou — Vocals
William Gamble — Keys
Reggie Parker — Bass
Cory Simpson — Guitar
James Robinson Jr. — Drums
Gil Defay — Trumpet
Chris McBride — Saxophone
Brianna Turner — Background Vocals
Rasul A Salaam — Background Vocals
Craig Williams — Percussions



YOUR CAREER IN GOSPEL MUSIC

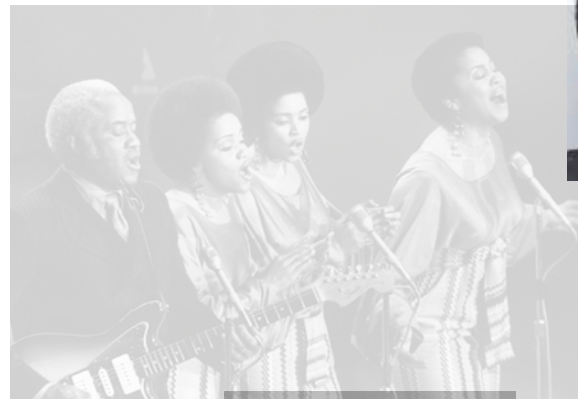
VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

Gospel music has been the balm to the soul, conveyor of secret messages, raiser of hopes, and rallying cry of resistance for centuries. During the 1950s and 60s, movement songs were created from repurposed spirituals, from speeches by movement activists, and texts from preachers' sermons. Some turned into gospel hits, others to R&B and pop hits. Some of the performers who sang those songs became top recording artists.

This panel of music veterans unpacks the legacy of Gospel music and highlights the key factors for a successful career in the industry.

FEATURING:

Jacque Gales Webb, WHUR.FM Gospel Show
Jackie Patillo, Pres. Gospel Music Association
Mike Chandler, Rejoice Musical Soulfood Radio
Eboni Funderburk, EFG Promotions + Consulting



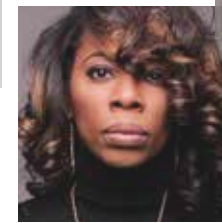
JACKIE PATILLO



JACQUE GALES
WEBB



MIKE CHANDLER



EBONI FUNDERBURK



WATCH

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

FROM MARCUS TO MALCOLM

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

This year's festival theme acknowledges the role of the Christian Church in the foundation of many of the movement's chief organizations. Parallel to the Church were other schools of thought that galvanized tens of thousands of the formerly enslaved Africans in America.

This panel probes the roles of Marcus Garvey, Timothy Drew Ali, Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X, and the impact of their organizations, from 1913 to the present. Their orientation to Pan Africanism, Islamism, self-determination, nation-building and human rights contributed substantially to the fight for racial equality in the 20th century, and helped shape today's Black political thought.

FEATURING:

Jose' V. Pimenta-Bey, PhD, Cosby Jubilee Chair of Interracial Education, Chair, Professor of African & African American Studies and Professor of General Studies, Berea College

Dr. Zain Abdullah, Associate Professor, Race, Religion and Social Justice, Temple University

Tamara Payne, Pulitzer Prize-winning co-author, *The Dead are Arising*



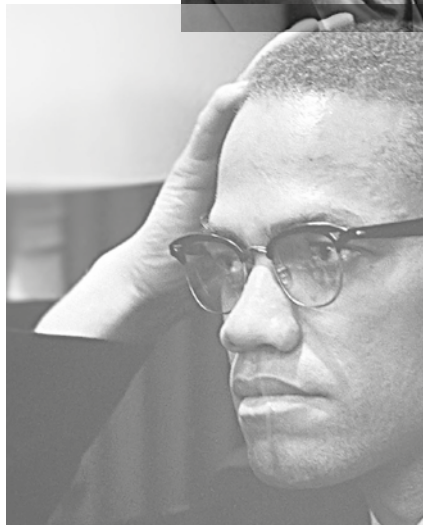
JOSE' V. PIMENTA-BEY, PHD



DR. ZAIN ABDULLAH



TAMARA PAYNE



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Scan now to bring this design to life.



“ Hope is a song
in a weary throat.”

— PAULI MURRAY

FILMS & SHORTS PROGRAM



**MARCH ON
WASHINGTON
FILM FESTIVAL**

WATCH ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

WATCH ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1



A STILL SMALL VOICE

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

93 MINS | 2022 | USA

DIRECTED BY LUKE LORENTZEN

An aspiring hospital chaplain begins a yearlong residency in spiritual care, only to discover that to successfully tend to her patients, she must look deep within herself. *A Still Small Voice* is a meditation on faith, loss, and professional sustainability, that successfully finds hope and meaning in seemingly hopeless situations.

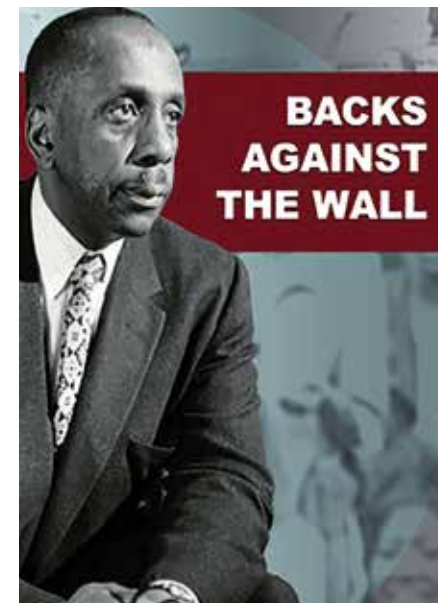
BACKS AGAINST THE WALL : THE HOWARD THURMAN STORY

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

57 MINS | 2019 | USA

DIRECTED BY MARTIN DOBLMEIER

This film explores the extraordinary life of a man who, in his heart, was a poet and “mystic.” Yet through his religious expression, Thurman helped ignite sweeping social change. Though he was born the grandson of slaves, Howard Thurman went on to become one of the great spiritual and religious pioneers of the 20th century whose words and influence continues to echo today.



WATCH

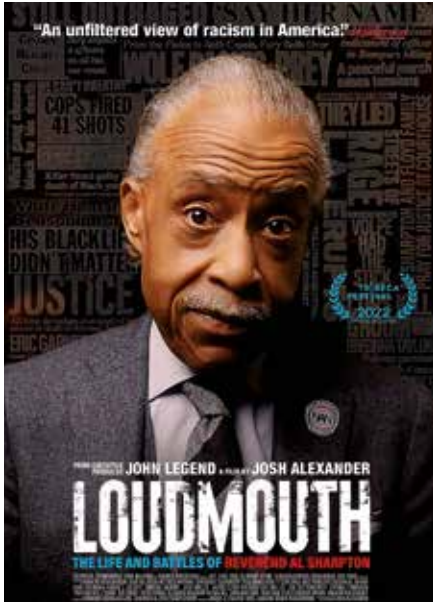
ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

WATCH

ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1



LOUDMOUTH

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

2021 | USA

DIRECTED BY JOSH ALEXANDER

Ordained at age 10, mentored in his youth by James Brown, Reverend Al Sharpton's life story as an iconic activist and spiritual leader was forged early on. This documentary on his life paints an intimate portrait of a tireless warrior who has never ducked a fight in his mission to transform the status quo. Interviews and never-before-seen footage provide insight into this polarizing civil rights activist who has spent decades fighting for social change.

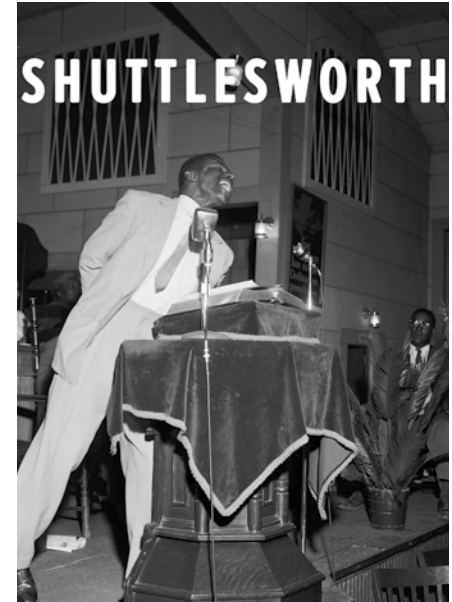
SHUTTLESWORTH

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

2021 | USA

DIRECTED BY J. WHITSON
& T. MARIE KING

Forged by fire. Guided by faith. Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth was raised in the crucible of segregated Birmingham, and further molded by its attempt to kill him. When the KKK planted a bomb underneath his bed, he emerged unharmed, certain he was saved by God to lead a Movement. His work not only ended legal segregation but led directly to the Civil and Voting Rights Acts - and inspired freedom movements around the world.



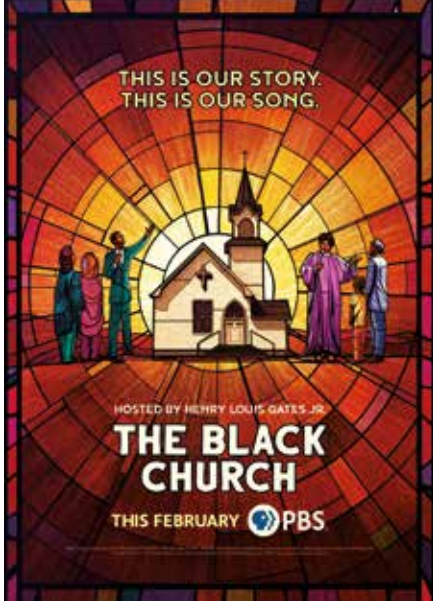
WATCH ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

FILMS FROM REEL SOUTH

WATCH ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1



THE BLACK CHURCH — THIS IS OUR STORY THIS IS OUR SONG

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

PART I: 119 MINS | PART II: 110 MINS
2021 | USA

DIRECTED BY STACEY L. HOLMAN

The Black church has been a living institution at the epicenter of civil rights and the freedom struggle for centuries. Beginning with the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the Jim Crow South, this intimate two-part series, from executive producer, host and writer, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. traces the 400-year-old story of the Black church in America.

PBS and WETA have announced a new documentary *Gospel* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Coming February 2024.

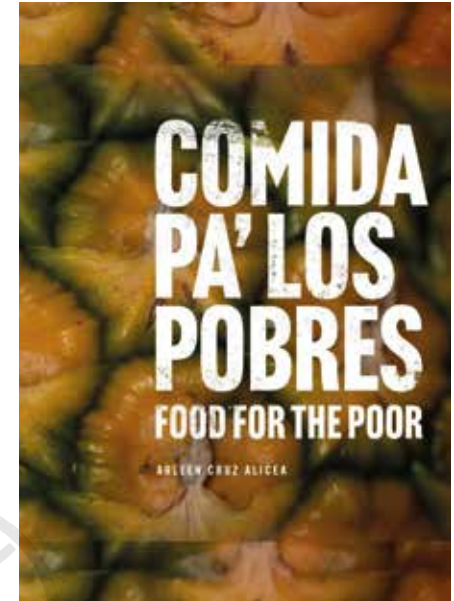
COMIDA PA' LOS POBRES

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

2021 | USA

DIRECTED BY ARLEEN CRUZ-ALICEA

Comida pa' los Pobres follows Giovanni, a young Puerto Rican activist, as he confronts the island's persistent crisis of food insecurity. Motivated by his childhood struggle with hunger, he seeks to inspire his fellow citizens to join a movement of solidarity-oriented work by feeding families and college students through mutual aid efforts – all while facing challenges from local authorities.



ABOUT REEL SOUTH

REEL SOUTH IS A PLATFORM FOR NON-FICTION FILMMAKERS IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH THAT REVEALS ITS PROUD YET COMPLICATED HERITAGE THROUGH THE CURATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FEATURE-LENGTH AND SHORT DOCUMENTARIES, AS TOLD BY A DIVERSITY OF VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES.

OUR THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS AT REEL SOUTH FOR CURATING AND CONTRIBUTING THESE POWERFUL SHORT FILMS TO THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL SCHEDULE.

WATCH

ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

FILMS FROM REEL SOUTH

FILMS FROM REEL SOUTH

WATCH

ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1



MISSING MAGIC

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

2021 | USA

DIRECTED BY ANISSA LATHAM

As uprisings spread across the country, a young poet in Birmingham, Alabama becomes involved in local protests against decades of police brutality. As he tries to reconcile the city's modern image as a diverse and welcoming metropolis with its violent and complex civil rights history, he suddenly becomes a part of the story when he's arrested at a demonstration.



NOW LET US SING

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

2021 | USA

DIRECTED BY DILSEY DAVIS

An interfaith, interracial choir in Durham, North Carolina is forced to take a new direction during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the choir, which is dedicated to racial unity, must grapple with the dual crises of the coronavirus pandemic and police killings of African Americans, all while trying to sing as one unit while living miles apart.



WATCH ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

FILMS FROM REEL SOUTH

FILMS FROM REEL SOUTH

WATCH ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1



STAY PRAYED UP

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

2021 | USA

DIRECTED BY D.L. ANDERSON
& MATTHEW DURNING

The only thing mightier than Lena Mae Perry's electrifying voice is her faith. She's spent the last 50 years sharing and honing both as the steadfast frontwoman of The Branchettes, a legendary North Carolina gospel group that has packed churches and lifted weary hearts throughout the South.



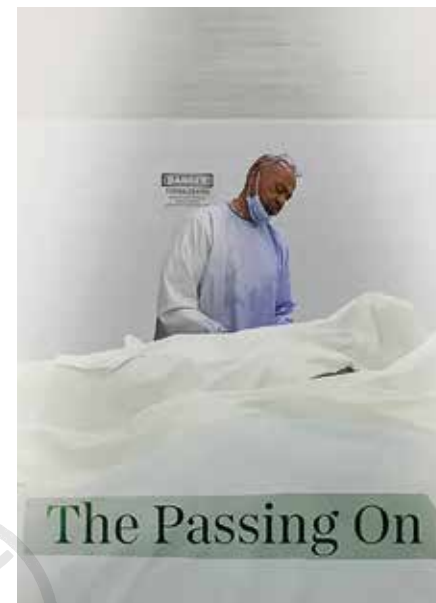
THE PASSING ON

VIRTUAL ON EVENTIVE

2021 | USA

DIRECTED BY NATHAN CLARKE

Renowned African American embalmer, James Bryant, puts his faith in a new generation to continue the legacy of Black funeral homes in San Antonio, Texas. But his young intern, Clarence Pierre, is conflicted about his commitment due to the judgment he receives as a queer, Christian man.



MARCH ON @ DESA

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS A WEEK OF ACTIVITIES AT DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS ESPECIALLY FOR ITS STUDENTS, FACULTY, & STAFF.

FILM SCREENING: GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT

102 MINS | 2023 | USA

DIRECTED BY JOE BREWSTER
& MICHELE STEPHENSON

Print Source: Rada Studio

"The trip to Mars can only be understood through Black Americans." - Nikki Giovanni

This creatively produced documentary film covers American poet Nikki Giovanni's life and the historical periods she lived through, from the civil rights movement and Black Arts Movement to Black Lives Matter.



EVENTS: VR SALON

For two days, members of the DESA family can immerse themselves in the works of three virtual and extended reality creators, interact with them, and explore the intersection of art, storytelling, cutting-edge technology, and social justice.

FEATURED ARE:

The Augmented Reality experience, *Kinfolk AR*, Created by Idris Brewster
The Virtual Reality documentary, *The Wall*, Created by Katja Esson, Ron Baez, and Corinna Sager
The Virtual Reality animated story, *Reimagined Volume II: Mahal*, Directed by Michaela Ternasky-Holland

The Salon is curated by Aja Q. Evans and coordinated by Vivian Duru

PULPITS, PROTEST, & POWER LIVE EVENT

DESA's state of the art performance space plays host to this MOWFF signature event, featuring powerful speakers and performers highlighting the role of the Black Church and its people as Movement preachers, activists and organizers for the past 75 years. DESA students will participate as dancers and singers in this dynamic evening.

DESA Students will also serve as interns and production assistants in all facets of the process for all MARCH ON @ DESA events.

MOWFF IS GRATEFUL FOR AND PROUD OF THIS STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL. SPECIAL THANKS TO PRINCIPAL SANDI M. LOGAN AND ALL THE STAFF, FACULTY, & STUDENTS THAT HELPED TO PRODUCE THESE EVENTS.

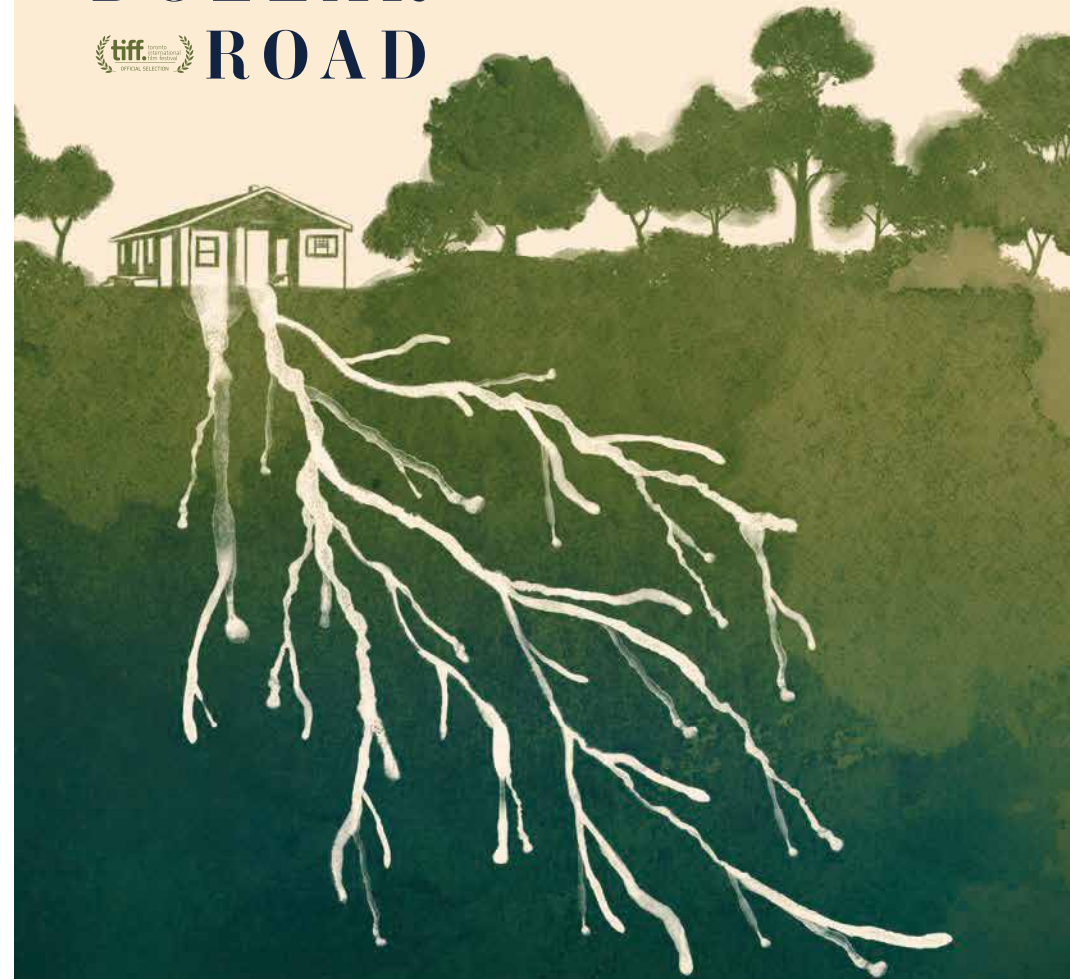
A FAMILY'S LAND IS ITS LEGACY

directed by RAOUL PECK

SILVER DOLLAR ROAD



AMAZON MGM STUDIOS PRESENTS A VELVET FILM PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH PROPUBLICA FILMS JOVEE PRODUCTIONS A FILM BY RAOUL PECK "SILVER DOLLAR ROAD" WRITTEN BY ALEXANDRA STRAUSS PRODUCED BY HENRY ABERNOLDO ANTONIO ROSSI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VIOLA DAVIS JULIUS TENNION ROB WILLIAMS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LIZZIE PRESSER ALONDRA TORAL ROBIN SPARKMAN STEPHEN ENGELBERG PRODUCED BY RYAN GRELLETY BLAIR FOSTER HERBERT PECK RAOUL PECK BASED ON THE PROPERTIES IN COLLABORATION WITH LIZZIE PRESSER WITH HONORARY MARY ELA CLARK PRODUCED BY RAOUL PECK AMAZON MGM STUDIOS



IN SELECT THEATERS OCTOBER 13



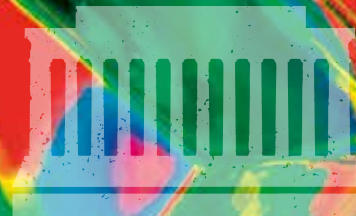
OCTOBER 20
New Documentary



“ When we speak,
we are afraid our words
will not be heard or welcomed.
But when we are silent,
we are still afraid.
So it is better to speak.”

— AUDRE LORDE

EMERGING & STUDENT FILMMAKER COMPETITIONS



MARCH ON
WASHINGTON
FILM FESTIVAL

WATCH ON DEMAND

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STUDENT NARRATIVE SHORTS

GO DANI GO 11 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY CHELSEA PATRICIA RAMIREZ

A spunky girl helping her mother in the fields must choose between putting soccer or family first.



OF SILENCE AND SONG 13 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY LEYI DAI

An Asian American single mother seeks a way of abortion in Texas after her recent divorce.



PROJECT & SERVE 15 MIN | USA

DIRECTED ESPIE RANDOLPH

When a Black teen is pulled over by an angry cop, he must use his father's advice to navigate the struggle and quiet his own rage in order to survive the traffic stop that threatens to put an end to his night and possibly his life.



STUDENT DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

ON LANGUAGE 6 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY CAMERON JOY GRAY

An essay film that combines archival footage, video, and on-screen text to discuss the intersections of language and culture and race in everyday life.



I AM MORE DANGEROUS DEAD 24 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY MAJIYE UCHIBEKE

A poetic tribute to writer, poet and environmental activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa, who was executed alongside eight other activists for opposing the environmental damage done in their oil-rich homeland, Ogoni.



GRANDPA CHERRY BLOSSOM 8 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY MADDOX CHEN

Francis Uyematsu created a successful flower nursery, owning over 130 acres of land, until the Japanese Internment during WWII, when he was forced to sell his land. Entire neighborhoods now sit on his former land, and the flowers he created are no longer his.



WATCH ON DEMAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24 – MONDAY OCTOBER 1

EMERGING NARRATIVE SHORTS

HERE 14 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY JAMES ANTHONY

Eleven-year-old Meskerem, with the help of her immigrant Ethiopian family, finds the courage to act bravely when confronted with cultural bias.



SUEÑOS DE MI HIJA (DREAMS OF MY DAUGHTER) 13 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY CECILIA ROMO

Samantha, a strong-willed first-generation Latina daughter, is passionate about alternative punk rock. Will Rosa, her stoic immigrant mother, a laborer who holds traditional Mexican values, ultimately accept and support her daughter's journey?



JULY 4TH, 2020 29 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY JOE JUANYAO ZHENG

At the peak of the pandemic in Los Angeles, misunderstandings and conflicts between a Chinese immigrant father, a white restaurant owner, and a young black man escalate.



EMERGING DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

BLACK STRINGS 12 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY MARQUISE MAYS

The Black String Triage Ensemble, an all-African American string orchestra in Milwaukee, performs on the scene in the immediate aftermath of incidents of gun violence, altering the notion of "first responders."



DECIDING VOTE 20 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY JEREMY WORKMAN & ROBERT LYONS

Over 50 years ago, New York State assemblyman George Michaels cast a single vote that changed the course of American history but destroyed his political career in the process.



TROUBLED WATERS 5 MIN | USA

DIRECTED BY SYDNIE HESLOP

An experimental short that examines the relationship between the black community and water, how it has both been weaponized against us and employed by us to empower and resist oppression.



WE
NEED
YOU



**WE, THE TEAM BEHIND THE
MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL,
ARE HONORED TO DO THIS WORK.**

Every year we're moved by these stories of history, and by the audiences who tell us how much this work means to them.

It's why we come back, year after year, to support the Festival.

But we need YOU.

Without you, we can't make early programming commitments that allow us to go bigger and deeper in telling these stories

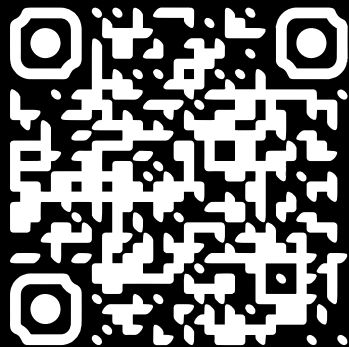
Without you, we can't build the partnerships that will bring this content to thousands more schools, corporations, and community organizations.

Without you, we can't break down the barriers, financial and otherwise, that can keep this content away from so many others.

We need your support.

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WITH YOU IN SOME WAY,
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GoFundMe remains committed to justice and equality, and we regularly fund the undoing of systemic racism through GoFundMe.org's Justice and Equality Fund. But we believe that true equality makes space for joy.

That's why we created a space dedicated to uplifting fundraisers for Black creatives, activists, educators, and more. We're proud to be a place where Black joy is funded every day.

Get involved at
gofundme.com/blackjoy



We March for the Movement.

We are a proud sponsor of the **2023 March on Washington Film Festival** and celebrate its diversity in storytelling.



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Google is proud to support the **March on Washington Film Festival**

Verizon is proud to help illuminate the untold events and unsung heroes of the American civil rights movement.

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Bringing the stories of the Civil Rights Movement to life:



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**TO SUPPORT MOWFF
who for a decade have
helped bring recognition
to so many of the unsung
luminaries who have been
integral to the impact of
the civil rights movement**

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Reverend Sharpton for a lifetime
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in pursuit of a more just and
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activism.



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CityBridge Education salutes the
**March on Washington Film
Festival 2023**

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Duane Morris proudly supports the **March on Washington Film Festival**

Duane Morris manages its diversity, equity and inclusion program with the objective of utilizing the best talent worldwide in solving legal problems.

For more information, please contact:

JOSEPH K. WEST

Partner and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

202.776.7806 | jkwest@duanemorris.com

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Black EmPowered

The Edison Electric Institute's Black EmPowered Employee Resource Group recognizes the importance of Black voices.

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VR SALON CURATOR

AJA Q. EVANS

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NICOLE M. BACKUS

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CYAN SHREVE



MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL



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