

## **Creatively Speaking at BAMcinématek**

**September 24, 25, 26th, 2010 - FINAL**

**Friday:**

2pm – **Life lessons** - *Encore Presentation* - this short film program is storytelling at its best – what experience teaches us -- “life lessons” of style, substance, and creativity.

- **A Departure From a Love** by Ishmael Islam (2009/8 mins) Produced by ReelWorks

A young man takes a walk through his beloved Brooklyn while reciting his spoken word to an unknown lover. His journey takes us on a visual “lovefest” throughout the borough, connecting the people, places and emotions that inspire his poetry.

- **Sticks and Stones** by Rehema Imani Trimiew (2006/9 mins)

Six year old Rehema can read, but her teacher refuses to accept this reality because of her own misperceptions about young black children. Based on the filmmaker’s own experiences in a public school system, this short narrative emphasizes the crucial role parents and teachers play in children’s education.

- **The Lesson Plan** by Eddy Duran (2009/30 mins)

Obsessed with the infamous Willie Lynch letter, Nix Dunn, a Brooklyn school teacher on the verge of a nervous breakdown creates a lesson plan to teach his students about the psychological damage he believes still enslaves African Americans today. The lesson turns out to be one the students will never forget.

- **Premature** by Rashaad Ernesto Green (2008/14 mins)

When Tisha, a streetwise teenager from the Bronx receives some very unexpected news she is faced with the most difficult decision she will ever make. *Premature* premiered at the 2008 American Black Film Festival and won the Grand Prize for Best Short Film in the HBO Short Film Competition.

4:30pm – **Ties that Bind** – shorts program about family ties, relationships and the meaning of community across borders.

- **Exiled in America** by Angela Torres Camarena (2009/10 mins)

*Exiled in America* explores immigration in the United States, focusing on detention and deportation from the point of view of those who are affected the most - children.

- **A Thousand Words** by Melba Williams (2003/8mins) *Encore Presentation*

Through the use of old home movies, photos and interviews, the filmmaker recounts her personal journey. Uncovering family history, and the effects of war and self-imposed silence, this emotionally engaging film stands up to the old saying: "A picture is worth more than a thousand words".

- **Shades of Gray** by Sharon Hill (2009/21 mins)

Can love really conquer all? On the most important night of Jill's career what happens when she's forced to answer that question and if anything ever simply black and white?

- **The Sixth Section** by Alex Rivera (2003/30 mins) *Encore Presentation*

*The Sixth Section* depicts the transnational organizing of a community of Mexican immigrants in New York State called 'Grupo Unión'. This documentary shows how many other hometown associations like theirs are beginning to have a major impact in the politics and economics of both the U.S. and Mexico.

6:50pm - **Moloch Tropical** by Raoul Peck (2009/105 mins) – HD CAM

In a fortress perched on the top of a distant mountain, a democratically elected President and his closest collaborators are getting ready for a state celebration amidst his country in flames with the streets in turmoil, and his citizens violently expressing their dissent. As the day goes on, the rebellion and mayhem worsens.

9:15pm – **Speculative Fiction on Film** – shorts exploring the literary genre where the future is too similar to the present, and the present is filled with unexplained anomalies.

- **Pumzi** by Wanuri Kahiu (2010/20 mins)

Set in the future where nature is extinct, Asha, a museum curator in one of the indoor communities receives a box in the mail containing precious plantable soil. After being denied an exit visa, Asha breaks out of the inside community to go into the dead and derelict outside to plant the growing seedling and possibly find life on the outside.

- **Dark Matters** by Monique Walton (2010/7mins)

A young woman comes to terms with her identity through an obsession with alien abduction and UFO sightings. While working at a pharmacy counter she is approached by a customer who makes her question her ethnic, cultural, and even planetary origins.

- **3** by Alex Rivera (1995 and 1997/36mins)

**Why Cybraceros?** (1997/5 mins) takes the form of a mock promotional film. It is based on a real promotional film produced in the late 1940's by the California

Grower's Council, titled Why Braceros? This film was used by the Grower's Council to defend the use of braceros, or temporary Mexican farmhands.

**Dia De La Independencia** (1997/3 mins) is a satirical movie trailer that mimics the cinematic obsession with "alien invasions" (Men In Black, Starship Troopers, and of course, Independence Day). In making Dia De La Independencia, we inversed the xenophobic undertones of anti-alien sci-fi, by imagining a racialized, righteous, alien invasion from South of the Border.

**Papapapá** (1995/28 mins ) is an experimental documentary about immigration. Looking at the potato, which was first cultivated in Peru as an Inca food staple, Papapapá paints a picture of a vegetable which has traveled, and been transformed. This film takes a humorous look at race and immigration, television and nostalgia and examines how bodies (people and vegetable) are remade within the new societies they encounter.

### **Saturday:**

2pm – **Endangered Species? The Disappearance of The Black Male**

- **I am Sean Bell: Black Boys Speak** by Stacey Muhammad (2009/10 mins.)

Young boys reflect on the Sean Bell tragedy, speaking out about their fears and hopes as they approach manhood in a city where the lives of young black men are often cut short.

**Barack and Curtis** by Byron Hurt (2009/10 mins)

A short documentary film examining the contrasting styles of manhood exhibited by Presidential Candidate Barack Obama and Rapper/Mogul Curtis Jackson, aka 50 Cent. Produced by the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC).

- **Bring Your "A" Game** by Mario Van Peebles/produced by Karen Williams (2009/30 mins)

Using a cinematic style influenced by popular culture and innovative, aesthetic technologies, this film details strategies that have improved the lives of Black men and boys. It underscores how essential educational achievement and high school graduation are to survival and success in today's world. Interviewees include such Black male icons as Richard "Dick" Parsons, Chris Rock, Spike Lee, Dr. Cornel West, Ice Cube, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Kevin Liles, Lou Gossett Jr., Lupe Fiasco, Hill Harper, Damon Dash, Kevin Powell, Melvin Van Peebles, Geoffrey Canada, Bruce Gordon and former NBA star Alan Houston, among others.

**When it Rains** by Amir Adelar Minder (2009/21 mins)

A young man, disillusioned by his underground lifestyle, becomes even more so after his live-in girlfriend takes her own life. His world falls apart and the guilt is suffocating. As he embarks on a final journey through his Bronx neighborhood, only his younger half-brother notices something is going on. Is it too late?

- **Bird Losing Its Feathers** by James Richards (2006/9 mins) *Encore Presentation*

Inspired by the tragic murder of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas, *Bird Losing It's Feathers* is a hard look at race, class, and hate crime in America.

- 4:30pm – **The Lottery** by Madeline Sackler (2010/81 mins.) – HD CAM

*The Lottery* uncovers a vicious debate surrounding the education reform movement. Interviews with politicians and educators explain not only the problems in education reform but also some solutions. A call to action to avert a catastrophe in the education of American children, *The Lottery* makes the case that any child can succeed.

- 6:50pm – **Cuttin' da Mustard** by Reed McCants/Executive Produced by Neema Barnette (2007/94 mins.) – HD CAM

Based in on the real life story of actor/director Reed R. McCants, the film chronicles the lives of young, aspiring actors in a theatre company in New York City. Spirits sour and soar in the face of obstacles like puppy love and its heartbreak, illiteracy, and low-self esteem. "Cuttin Da Mustard" features an impressive all-star cast including Brandon T. Jackson, Keshia Knight Pulliam, award winning actor Charles S. Dutton, and comedian Sinbad.

- 9:15pm – **Katrina: The Untold Stories**

- **Washed Away: Four Years Later** by Paul Gennaro (2009/30 mins)

This film gives an intimate portrait of the trials and tribulations of "Homeless Homeowners" in a post-Katrina New Orleans. In remembrance of the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the city of New Orleans has an unprecedented level of homelessness a three-fold increase in heart attacks, and other medical and psychological issues.

- **Unnatural Disasters** by Diana Boylston (2006/30 mins)

Where are they? Teacher Diana Boylston embarks on a journey to find her lost students following Hurricane Katrina. This documentary puts a face to three of the hurricane's young victims, Johari, Dwan, and Dwight. Their journey is filled with twists and turns, opportunities, and pitfalls, forced relocations and the inevitable return "home".

- Didn't We Ramble On?** Directed by Billy Jackson, (1991/14 mins) *Encore Presentation*

This classic short documentary portrays how the spirit and soul of the West African people has been passed along the generations through the black marching band. Music and movement are an ancient celebration of the passage of the spirit into the next world. With Dizzy Gillespie as narrator, we learn that this contemporary band is a direct descendant of an ageless ancestral idea.

**Sunday:**

2pm – **Endangered Species? The Disappearance of The Black Male - BETASP**

- **I am Sean Bell: Black Boys Speak** by Stacey Muhammad – (2010/10 mins.)

Young boys reflect on the Sean Bell tragedy, speaking out about their fears and hopes as they approach manhood in a city where the lives of young black men are often cut short.
- **The Masculinity Project: Barack and Curtis** by Byron Hurt (2009/10mins)

Byron Hurt turns his lens to an unlikely contrast study – President Barack Obama and the infamous hip hop rapper Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson. What could President Obama and 50 Cent possibly have in common?
- **Bring Your “A” Game** by Mario Van Peebles and Karen Williams – (2009/22 mins.)

Using a cinematic style influenced by popular culture and innovative, aesthetic technologies, the film details strategies that have improved the lives of Black men and boys. It underscores how essential educational achievement and high school graduation are to survival and success in today’s world. Interviewees include such Black male icons as Richard “Dick” Parsons, Chris Rock, Spike Lee, Dr. Cornel West, Ice Cube, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Sean “Diddy” Combs, Kevin Liles, Lou Gossett Jr., Lupe Fiasco, Hill Harper, Damon Dash, Kevin Powell, Melvin Van Peebles, Geoffrey Canada, Bruce Gordon and former NBA star Alan Houston, among others.
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4:30pm – **There’s No Place Like Home – ALL ON BETA SP**

- **Promised Land** by Yoruba Richen (2009/57mins)

This film reveals the most explosive issue in a post-Apartheid South Africa remains the ownership of the land. Following two black communities as they struggle to reclaim land from white owners, we find some whom who have lived there for generations. Amid rising racial tensions and wavering government policies, the land issue remains South Africa’s “ticking time bomb,” with far-

reaching consequences for all sides. A co-production of the National Black Programming Consortium, American Documentary/POV and the Diverse Voices Project. Distributed by Third World Newsreel ([www.twn.org](http://www.twn.org))

- **Sun Come Up** by Jennifer Redfearn and Tim Metzger (2009/8 mins)

*Sun Come Up* follows the relocation of some of the world's first environmental refugees, the Carteret Islanders - a community living on a remote island chain in the South Pacific Ocean. When rising seas threaten their survival, the islanders face a painful decision: they must leave their beloved land in search of a new place to call home.

- **Shades of the Border** by Patrick William Smith (2009/10 mins)

*Shades of the Border* explores a commonly-held notion that race does not play a role in the Haitian-Dominican conflict. This short documentary confirms with no doubt that the shade of someone's skin speaks volumes in relation to racial relations and individual beliefs among those living on the same, discrete island with two distinctive cultures -- Hispaniola.

- 6:50pm – **Pushing the Elephant** – by Beth Davenport and Elizabeth Mandel (2010/84mins)

Rose Mapendo lost family and home to the violence that engulfed the Democratic Republic of Congo yet she emerged from the suffering advocating peace and reconciliation. After helping numerous survivors rebuild their lives, there is one person Rose must still teach to forgive - her daughter Nangabire.

Preceded by **The Wash** by Eve Sandler - (1999/9 mins) - *Encore Presentation*

An autobiographical video narrative, this painterly work examines the artist's own body and memory for scars of childhood sexual abuse.

- 9:15pm – **The Black Op Retrospective** – KA'ramuu Kush and Beatriz Eliza

- **Love Aquarium** by KA'ramuu Kush - (2004/35min)

Three interconnected love stories reveal a web of dark secrets, unbridled passions, and murder, using experimental film techniques to adapt contemporary black literature to the screen.

- **Dear Me** by KA'ramuu Kush - (2007/17 mins)

A gifted writer, Axl Ellington, struggles through a debilitating bout of writers block for reasons that elude her in this stylistic mélange of live and still photography.

- **Salvation Road** by K'aramuu Kush - (2010/18 mins)

Business becomes unusual for an unsuspecting hitman who senses that he's been witnessed murdering his traitorous mentor by a 9 year old boy.