

## **Creatively Speaking™ at BAM Cinématek**

### **Labor Day 2009 – September 7, 2009**

For the third year in a row, the *Creatively Speaking™* film series comes to Brooklyn Academy of Music! Since its inception at Harlem Stage (formerly Aaron Davis Hall) fourteen years ago, *Creatively Speaking™* presents films that speak to the wide-ranging, collective experiences of people across the Diaspora. After its premier international launch this past February at the University of the West Indies in Barbados, *Creatively Speaking™* now returns to Brooklyn with a one-day Labor Day Event featuring a new shorts program; a Sneak Preview of an amazing new documentary by renowned New York filmmakers and professors, Tami Gold and Larry Shore; and the return of two popular Labor Day Carnival films -- *The Other Side of the Water* by Jeremy Robins and Magali Damas, and *Play Mas* by Michele Stephenson. Curated by Michelle Materre and Produced by Neyda Martínez. *All programs followed by Q&As with filmmakers and special guests.*

### **2pm and 9:15pm – The Other Side of the Water - 2008/60 mins.**

by Jeremy Robins and Magali Damas

*The Other Side of the Water* tells the story of DJARARA (JAH-RA-RA), a group of charismatic musicians whose dynamic rara music hit New York City over two decades ago. The band has since become a beacon of cultural pride for a new immigrant community, often only acknowledged by a history of discrimination and shame. The film follows the band members, a group of young immigrants, who take an ancient musical from the hills of Haiti and reinvent it on the streets of Brooklyn to express an alternative view of the Haitian-American experience. *The Other Side of the Water* offers a rare glimpse into a world of roots music, traditional spirituality and cultural activism.

#### **Preceded by**

**Play Mas** by Michele Stephenson – 28 mins.

*Play Mas* takes a tender and lyrical look at the colorful characters who participate in the largest Carnival celebration in the United States, Brooklyn's annual Caribbean Labor Day Parade. A contestant for Queen of the Parade, her costume designer and the High Priestess of the Carnival, reveal their dedication to reinventing this historical and cultural tradition so far from home.

#### **Followed by Q&A with the filmmakers**

**4:30pm – Life Lessons** – A short film program brings to light storytelling at its best -- “life lessons” of style, substance, and creativity.

**A Departure from A Love** directed by Ishmael Islam – 2009/10 mins.

produced by Reel Works Teen Filmmaking program

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 “love-fest” throughout the borough, connecting the people, places and emotions that inspire his poetry.

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

A 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 exposes the influence a teacher can impart on a student's abilities and emphasizes the crucial role parents play in their child's education.

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

In 1712, a British slave owner from the West Indies named William Lynch, wrote a letter with instructions to American slave owners on how to make and keep slaves. Obsessed with this letter, Nix Dunn, a Brooklyn public school teacher/scholar, on the verge of a nervous breakdown, creates a Lesson Plan to teach his students about the psychological damage he believes enslaves African Americans today. In Nix's state of mind, the lesson turns out to be one the students will never forget. The film just returned from its premiere at the Cannes International Film Festival, Short Film Corner, May 2009.

**Premature** by Rashaad Ernesto Green - 2009/15 mins

Tisha, a streetwise teenager from the Bronx, receives unexpected news. When she discovers she's pregnant and her boyfriend rejects her, she has nowhere to turn and is faced with the most difficult decision she will ever make. The world premiere of "Premature" at the 2008 American Black Film Festival won the Grand Prize for Best Short Film in the HBO Short Film Competition.

**65 minutes total running time – Followed by Q&A with the filmmakers**

**Sneak Preview!**

**6:50pm –IN THE LAND OF APARTHEID: A Ripple of Hope – 2009/56 minutes –**

Directed by Tami Gold & Larry Shore/Produced by Larry Shore

Using never seen archival footage, filmmakers Larry Shore and Tami Gold tell the unknown story of Robert F. Kennedy's visit to South Africa during the worst years of Apartheid. This provocative documentary evokes the connections between the simultaneous struggle against white supremacy in the United States in the 1960's and the Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa; and the singular relationship between these two countries. Highlights include RFK's meeting with banned President of the African National Congress, Chief Albert Luthuli, and a subsequent visit to Soweto. Featuring an original sound track written and performed by American Jazz artist, Jason Moran with voices from the University of Cape Town Africa Choir, the film tells a story of a relationship particular to these two countries though global in its application, as told through the words and actions of an American politician whose legacy continues to resonate hope for a more just world.

**Followed by Q&A with the filmmakers**

**Followed by Reception in the BAM gallery.**