

BAM Creatively Speaking series –
Here's what filmmakers had to say...

Michelle,

Thank you again for this great opportunity to share my work. Please keep me in mind if you know of any other venues that would be interested in viewing La Bruja: A Witch from the Bronx and please keep me on the loop of any reviews we may have received. Hope to meet with you again soon.

Felix

On 4/3/07 10:05 AM, "Greg Tate" <gregtate30@hotmail.com> wrote:

> Thank you big time Michelle. Was a great opportunity for our fledgling effort. and tres dope to share an evening with our peeps raquel and karamu.
> look forward to having something ready for next year. much love, greg, brianna, joicelyn.

>Michelle

>

>From: Hugo Perez [<mailto:hugoperez@m30afilms.com>]

>Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 12:27 PM

>To: Michelle Materre

>Subject: hola

>HI Michelle,

I heard that Harlem Stage on Screen went really well. Onel and Chuck Moss both really enjoyed coming out to represent Betty la Flaca.

salud,

Hugo

Hi Michelle,

I heard you got the usually silent member of the household up on stage. Hope it worked, she loved it. How was Josh? He's an amazing editor, hope he had a good time.

Just wanted to make sure that the screening went well, only heard from my mom but she's biased.

Ela

Thanks to you Michelle, for providing such a much needed forum for these films. I look forward to seeing more of your programming throughout the city.

Best,

Michele Stephenson (The Violence)

Michelle and Neyda,

Thanks so much for everything and the support you've offered since before the screening. You guys came in on a terrible day and really made me feel better about my project. And judging by the response of

the audience, I am glad I trusted my instincts. Thank you!!!!!! And let's get together soon Siempre, Raquel and Libby Sent via BlackBerry from Cingular Wireless

Michelle,

Thank you again for programming Al Otro Lado. Always great to have an opportunity to present the film and it was wonderful seeing you.

Natalia

Hi Michelle,

Creatively Speaking was a great success!!!! Content driven, Cohesive, Dynamic...everything in keeping with a Materre production!!! Congratulations!!! I was honored to have my work chosen for this project and for it's placement with the other fantastic films!!! The second film, Homecoming, especially resonated with my mother who is from North Carolina and worked the land as a child, and my Grandfather was a farmer, we still have the land in Raleigh. She plants her tomatoes, collard and green beans in the backyard every summer. My mom wanted me to thank-you for exposing that aspect of Black history that is hushed.

Thank-you for your continued support and encouragement of me and my work. It has been very hard for me to have confidence in myself and the project, which is why it has been difficult to really work to push my ideas for the project. Thanks to you and the audience I have recommitted myself to work to make The Ancestors Walk with Us the tool it needs to be. I will be at your workshop later this month, and we will talk soon. (you know that I will need your guidance!!!)
Thank-you again
dana

Dearest Michelle and Neyda,

Ladies!!!: what more can I say besides the fact that the experience was tremendous: a blessing, a boost--and a true reinvigorator...THANK YOU!

On a creative level, on an audience level, on a collaborative level--and on a professional level, the series was JUST what the doctor ordered!

Every piece I was lucky enough to see was riveting! Can only imagine seeing the whole thing for both days!

Give yourselves a HAND!! The tone, energy and program was such a great reflection of your tastes & nuanced appreciation. Thx for continuing to support this, our, community... as we all know, not many can stay in this tough game!

Also: seeing that 'Tree Shade' and "Miss Ruby's still hold up (?!?), was sort of like magic... Hellooo?! How goooood to know...

And for Mark & me, receiving such a positive reaction for "Oscar's Comeback" was ESSENTIAL, as, of late, we've been strugggling so much w/ it... wondering how much more does it want us to sacrifice for it to thrive... but we felt like this: if Sunday's reaction was any indication of its potential 'out there' in the universe, then we're maybe headed for something righteous... It's easy to lose site of this at times, but so great & refreshing when the vision is restored!

Anyway, more later... just wanted to send this out before more days fly by...

Hugs & Merci Mucho!!,
Lisa

Hello Michelle,

...The Creatively Speaking event was phenomenal! I'm so happy to have been a part of it and to have finally met you. The work that you are doing is so affirming of the work that we do as filmmakers. I really appreciate all your support of LOVE AQUARIUM over the past year +. I can't wait to share the new film K(NO)W DE:TALES with you. I also look forward to talking with you more about the project that we began discussing when you introduced me to your friend,... (her name escapes me). Being from the theatre, the whole idea of blending the cinematic and theatrical medium is an exciting one. Please know that we are definitely interested and would love to hear more about it. I have to get back to NY in the next couple of months to complete post on our most recent film, DEAR ME, so maybe we c

kA'
(karamu kush – Love Aquarium)

What They're Saying about The Harlem Film Festival 2006...

You ladies run such a classy festival, it is an honor to be a part of everytime you program my work. best of luck on the tour!

thank you for your support,
rene Alberta (*filmmaker, The Saint of Avenue B*)
a mental picture

Michelle and Neyda,

Thank you for such a reaffirming experience through my participation in the Harlem Film Festival. Not only was it great to show my film but the audience was wonderful and I met such great people and reconnected with others. Thank you again for selecting me!

Kind regards,
Leslie (*filmmaker, Untold Legacy*)

Thanks for everything! It was a really great event....hope you ladies get some rest!

Best,
Nandini (*filmmaker, In Whose Name?*)

Michelle and Neyda,

Thank you so much, and once again, for a great film festival. I'm so pleased with how its grown and I look forward to putting our heads together as we move into the Gatehouse and a new phase of programming to make it better and better. I think there's a momentum that's been built over the past few years that we can and must build on to make this one of the stellar programs of the Gatehouse and a series that everyone takes note of.

Thanks again and congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

My best, Brad

Brad Learmonth
Director of Programming, Aaron Davis Hall

Hey guys thanks for everything. Lets talk soon.

Love you guys madly,

donnie I. betts (filmmaker, *Music is my Life, Politics my Mistress: The Story of Oscar Brown, Jr.*)
No Credits Productions, LLC

Hi Michelle,
What a Herculean effort!! And a great result!!

Carey Graeber (President of New York Women in Film and Television – audience member)

Dear Michelle,

Thank you so much for including my film "In the Shadow of Little Rock: The Life of Daisy Bates" in the Harlem Film Festival. The three day festival was a wonderful kaleidoscope of films, filmmakers and a warm and embracing audience. The entire event was so well organized that at times it was easy to forget how much work you and your team must have put into it. Thank you for caring about our films and thank you for supporting our art. As you know the journey of a filmmaker can be a very lonely and isolating one at times--it's good to know there are people and events like the Harlem Film Festival out there helping us along the way.

Best of luck in 2007!

Sharon La Cruise
"In the Shadow of Little Rock: The Life of Daisy Bates"
Sakkara Films

Brava, Brava!!

Wow - I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the Harlem Film Festival last weekend. Great programming, wonderful presentation, provocative Q&As, and awesome audiences. I was completely inspired and motivated by attending the festival.

Congratulations on a wildly successful 10th anniversary!!!

best wishes,

Ann (filmmaker/producer – audience member)

Dear Michelle,

All I can say is congratulations with your success at Aaron Davis Hall. As clichéd as this may sound the festival just gets better and better. Increasingly resonating and voicing the concerns, issues, joys and heroism of our Diaspora Community. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and also a welcome surprise of the attendance of so many young people.

As you know I met two friends that were also independent filmmakers at your festival. After the screenings we were so inspired that we spent hours round a kitchen table eating and talking and talking and talking about the films. I can't remember the last time we were all so inspired. Of course we have to applaud the curator Ms Materre because you so carefully crafted the order of the films creating a seamless flow, which offered a greater insight and context to the broader themes.

Keep me informed with your screenings so I can tell EVERYONE!

Thank you

Sindi (filmmaker/producer – audience member)

Hi Neyda,

My friends and I thought it was a wonderful festival. The "Girls Night Out" program was a lot of fun and showcased a nice diversity in subjects and styles. Overall the fest was inspiring and impressive and I hope you got a lot of positive feedback. Good luck touring the program...

Thanks again for a terrific festival!

M. Weimer (filmmaker, *Passing* > *13 Things about Nella Larsen*)

Hello Neyda and Michelle,

I think you and your friendly staff put on a lovely event. What I enjoyed most was the intimate setting/atmosphere. I have received several emails from attendees at the festival who took the time to share their touching feedback on MAMA SAID. The Q+A sessions are so important to me and most filmmakers I know. It's our chance to see how our stories are understood and received. The Q+A sessions are a big part of the reason why I go out of my way to fly out of town and attend a festival. Your festival was different though, I felt an instant draw towards Michelle's energy when I met her at NYLIFF last summer...unaware that she was the curator for the festival. I try to stay open to these rare moments and thank the universe every time she rewards me for being present (in the moment). My reward could not be greater... Meeting you both and sharing our love for telling our unique stories is something I will cherish.

I do hope your festival continues to grow and that outreach opportunities arise from the great body of work you have compiled. I am leaving/moving to Los Angeles next Tuesday. I'll be sure to send you my new contact information once I get settled. Once again, thank you for selecting MAMA SAID to participate in this year's festival and thank you for creating an inviting place for us to share our stories.

Continued success ladies!

Warm regards,

Yasmina Cadiz (filmmaker, *Mama Said*)

Dear Michelle

Good to hear from you and congrats on the harlem film fest accolade. I tell you you have been such a solid fighter/purveyor/supporter/curator over the past x amount of years and you should be given the purple cross medal for programming.... well done Michelle, it can be a thankless task but it wouldn't have been the same without you....

Gaylene (programmer/producer British Film Institute)

We had the best time and you and Michelle were great. Congratulations on the tour and we will keep our fingers and toes crossed for funding to come through.

I enjoyed the filmmakers reception allot. Having the media, press and organizers come together and network was a real treat.

I will most definitely let you know about the progress on the documentary.

Take care and keep in touch,

Sincerely, Paul Barrera

Michelle and Neyda,

Thank you for such a reaffirming experience through my participation in the Harlem Film Festival. Not only was it great to show my film but the audience was wonderful and I met such great people and reconnected with others. Thank you again for selecting me!

Kind reagrds,

Leslie

Good afternoon ladies,

I just wanted to say that it was a pleasure meeting you both on Saturday. The Harlem Film Festival girls night out was fabulous and I enjoyed every film that I viewed. Thank you once again for acknowledging "Ferry Tales"

Continue to do great work

Sincerely yours

Valerie Campbell-Spady (documentary subject, guest, Ferry Tales)
