

2010

Fall

PROGRAM CALENDAR

Thursday Sept. 9 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Beauty of the Fight

This documentary film captures the heart and soul of two of Panama's most historic barrios as they face modern day struggles against poverty, urbanization and violence while attempting to maintain the dignity, joy and spirit of their communities. Director John Urbano/US/2009/69 mins

Thursday Sept. 23 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum
Opening Reception

Corapeake

On display thru December 3, 2010

Photographer Kendall Messick shares his personal accounts of life and identity from the small community of Corapeake, NC. The exhibit showcases the memoirs of both Messick and the primarily elderly black townspeople through intimate photographs, a documentary film and shared stories that connect us all. The night will open with Messick delivering an artist talk about his work and experiences and will continue with the unveiling of the exhibit in the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery.

Wednesday Oct. 6 | Noon (lunch provided)
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Shy | Life on Earth

Shy

Lewis, a 12 year-old, agoraphobic, African-American boy lives in the Crenshaw district of Los Angeles, with his Grandmother. We find him living alone, refusing to admit that his Grandmother has died. He goes outside to find a store and makes an unlikely friend, in the form of 16-year-old petty thief, Javi. Lewis and Javi forge an unlikely friendship as two troubled kids trying to make good with life as they know it. Director April Rouveyrol/USA/2008/12 mins

Life on Earth

This short is a coming of age story about Lea, an 18-year-old in foster care who is soon to age out of the system and the group home she calls home. Lea begins a journey to find her own place in the world in spite of her odds and forges her own path of self discovery. Director Jeff Keith/USA/2009/19 mins

Thursday Oct. 14 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

The Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture
Guest Lecturer: Melissa Harris-Lacewell

Melissa Harris-Lacewell is an Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University, columnist for *The Nation*, frequent politics and race commentator on MSNBC, and the author of *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought* (Princeton 2004).

Thursday Nov. 11 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Afro-Iranian Lives

This work provides a historical survey of the trade in enslaved Africans as well as current Afro-Iranian communities in various rural and urban areas of Baluchistan, Hurmozgan, and Khuzestan. It also focuses on the rituals practiced by Iranians of African descent, including interviews about African traditions and spirit possessions in Iran. Director Dr. Behnaz A. Mirzai/Canada/2007/46 mins

Tuesday Nov. 16 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
The Importance of Being Elegant

This film documents the story of one of the most unusual clubs in the world: La SAPE. Its members, the Sapeurs, come from the Democratic Republic of Congo and have elevated fashion to the status of a religion. Despite extreme economic hardship, the Sapeurs will only wear ultra-premium labels—Roberto Cavalli, Versace, Issey Miyake, Burberry. How do they afford these luxury items? The film gently unravels the secrets of the flamboyant cult, following the group's spiritual leader, Papa Wemba, the world-famous musician known as "The King of la Sape" who was released on bail in July 2003 from French prison after being charged with smuggling illegal immigrants into Europe. Threatened with legal fees and an upcoming trial, he records a new album and prepares for an extravagant come-back concert in Paris. Directors George Amponsah and Cosima Spender/UK/2004/70 mins

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film

Beginning September 9, 2010
IS CULTURAL IDENTITY
(REALLY ONLY) RACIAL POLITICS?



Clockwise, from top: Miss Virginia by Kendall Messick, *Beauty of the Fight* (2009), *Shy* (2008)

