

THE BLACKEST MOMENT... IS OUR DAWN

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SOUTHERN BLACK FILM AND MEDIA CONSORTIUM (SB-FMC)

The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film spotlights film from all corners of the African diaspora. Most screenings are North Carolina Premieres and feature commentary by the directors and scholars, as well as post-film discussions. Look for the popular Lunch and a Movie offerings on September 26 and October 1.

— ELZA



SEPTEMBER 6
7 PM HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM
NORTH CAROLINA PREMIERE

ELZA

Dir: Mariette Monpierre / Feature / France, Guadeloupe / French w/ English Subtitles / 82 min. / 2011

Bernadette, a single mother in Paris is thrilled when her eldest daughter, Elza is the first in the family to graduate from college. But when Elza runs away to their native Guadeloupe in search of her father, she learns about race, love and alienation. Discussion follows with UNC Professor, Tanya Shields, Sheila Smith-McKoy, NCSU and Yvonne Welbon, Bennett College

SEPTEMBER 20
7 PM HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM
NORTH CAROLINA PREMIERE

GIRLS IN THE BAND

Dir: Judy Chaikin / Documentary / US / English / 86 min. / 2010

The Girls in the Band is a new documentary on female jazz and big band instrumentalists from the late 30's to the present day and their struggles to elevate their talents as they battled against sexism, racism and diminished opportunities. Discussion follows with director, Judy Chaikin

SEPTEMBER 25
7 PM HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM

DIASPORA FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT FILM: NIGHT OF PRIZED SHORT FILMS

BILLY AND AARON

Dir: Rodney Evans / Feature Short / US, Netherlands / English / 11 min. / 2010

Billy and Aaron is the story of composer and Duke Ellington side-man Billy Strayhorn, and the personal and professional consequences of his decision to live as an openly gay man in the anti-gay jazz milieu of the 1940's. This short film is homage to Billy in the form of a sensual, poetic love note.

BROOKLYN SHAKARA

Dir: Femi Agbayewa / Comedy Short / US / English / 23 min. / 2011

Emeka Nwandu (played by HBO *The Wire*'s Gbenga Akinnagbe) thinks he has his "American Dream" all figured out. He is in line for a promotion and his girlfriend, Jumoke, has agreed to marry him but the wedding is jeopardized when Jumoke's father refuses to allow her to marry outside their ethnic group.



PUMZI

Dir: Wanuri Kahiu / Sci-fi Short / South Africa, Kenya / English / 21 min. / 2009

In a futuristic Africa, 35 years after World War III, or *The Water War*, Asha is a curator at a virtual natural history museum in the Maitu Community in the Eastern African territory. In a post-apocalyptic world where water scarcity has extinguished life above ground, Asha struggles to nurture seedlings and defy Nairobi's repressive subterranean culture.

UMKHUNGO ("THE GIFT")

Dir: Matthew Jankas / Feature Short / South Africa / English / 29 min. / 2010

Umkhungo is the story of Themba, a young boy shrouded since birth by paranormal events; most say haunted by the ancestors. When his mother is murdered, he is rescued by Mthunzi, a criminal, who reluctantly takes responsibility for this extraordinary boy. Themba and Mthunzi soon learn that the curse is actually a remarkable and powerful gift. Discussion follows with UNC Professor Donato Fhunu

SEPTEMBER 26
12 NOON HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM

DIASPORA FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT FILM: LUNCH AND A MOVIE SERIES

FACING ALI

Dir: Peter McCormack / Documentary / US / English / 100 min. / 2009

The life and career of Muhammad Ali through the eyes of the men he faced. Boxers who fought him describe their encounters and offer personal revelations. They discuss Ali's quickness, cunning, and recuperative powers — and how fighting him changed their lives.

SEPTEMBER 27
7 PM HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM

VENUS NOIRE (BLACK VENUS)

Dir: Abdellatif Kechiche / Feature / France, Belgium / French, Afrikaans, English / 159 min. / 2010

The story of Saartjes Bartman, a KhoiKhoi woman made famous as the Hottentot Venus. In 1808 she was taken to Europe and exhibited as a freak. This story follows her struggle to maintain her humanity before dying at 27 from pneumonia and venereal disease. Discussion follows with Natalie Bullock-Brown, St. Augustine's College; Carol Magee, UNC at Chapel Hill; Charlene Regester, UNC at Chapel Hill



OCTOBER 11
7 PM HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM

DIASPORA FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT FILM: LUNCH AND A MOVIE SERIES

ELEVATE

Dir: Anne Buford / Documentary / US / English / 81 min. / 2011

From a basketball academy in West Africa to the high-pressure world of American prep schools, *Elevate* documents the journeys of four particularly tall West African teenagers with big hearts and NBA dreams.

OCTOBER 23
7 PM HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM

THE FIRST RASTA

Dir: Helene Lee and Christophe Farnarier / Documentary / France, Jamaica / English / 86 min. / 2010

Filmmaker Christophe Farnarier and researcher Hélène Lee trace and document the political, ideological and spiritual origins of the Rastafari movement to its founder: Leonard Percival Howell, a.k.a. *The Gong*.

OCTOBER 25
7 PM HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM

SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT AND SNEAK PREVIEW SCREENING

THE ROSENWALD SCHOOLS

Dir: Aviva Kempner / Work-in-Progress / US / English

The Rosenwald Schools is a documentary (in final production phase) about Jewish businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, who rose to become one of the

wealthiest men in America. Rosenwald helped to establish 25 YMCA-YWCA's that served African Americans, and established a program, that helped create more than 5,500 schools for poor, rural African American children, with 800 built in North Carolina. From 1915 to 1932, 660,000 rural African American children across the south benefited from this initiative. This special fundraising event features director, Aviva Kempner and is co-sponsored by Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for the Study of the American South at UNC, and the UNC African and African American Studies Department.



NOVEMBER 1
12 PM HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE RM

DIASPORA FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT FILM: LUNCH AND A MOVIE SERIES

THE LOVING STORY

Dir: Nancy Buirski / Documentary / US / English / 77 min. / 2011

In 1958, the marriage of Mildred (who was part-Black and part-Native American) and Richard (who was white) Loving was declared illegal by the state of Virginia. This documentary follows their pursuit of their right to happiness. Culminates in 1967 at the Supreme Court when all laws against interracial marriage were struck down. Discussion follows with UNC Professor Charlene Regester



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AND HISTORY

— UMKHUNGO

