Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film

The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film is the Stone Center's twice a year series spotlighting film from all corners of the African diaspora. Many screenings feature commentary by the directors, scholars and performers. The fall 2007 Festival opens on September 13 with a special series entitled Blackness Inside/Out that explores alternative constructions of Black identities and the ways 'Blackness' is seen in cross-cultural contexts.

BLACKNESS SINSIDE/OUT



Follow Me Home
September 13, 2007 // 7pm

The Stone Center Theatre and Auditorium

Follow Me Home, directed by Peter Bratt is a poetic tale exploring intercultural race relations through the lives of four artists, one African-American, one Native American, and two Latino cousins, who embark on a cross-country road trip to paint a mural on the White House. Along the way, they meet a mysterious African-American woman, played by Alfre Woodard, bearing a deep secret. During the trip, they each learn things about themselves as well as each other. The film stars Benjamin Bratt and Jesse Borrega and features an appearance by Salma Hayek. Lakota Harden, a Native American activist and diversity trainer will moderate the discussion following the film.

Naming Number Two September 20, 2007 // 7pm

The Stone Center Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Naming Number Two explores the challenges that families endure to stay connected to one another. In the film, a Fijian family's bond has grown worn and tattered through the years, which leaves Nanna Marie, the family matriarch, wondering what has happened to the elaborate feasts and gatherings once common in her family. Nanna Marie decides to force her self-absorbed family members to throw a traditional Fijian party, so that she can name her successor as head of the family. The film challenges and goes against casting norms by featuring celebrated African-American actor Ruby Dee as Nanna Marie.



Skin Complex October 2, 2007 // 7pm

The Stone Center Theatre and Auditorium

Skin Complex is a fascinating film that deals with race and cultural issues from a unique perspective. Chris Harrison, a Harvard educated professor, is fed up with the judgments and limitations of being black. As such, he considers undergoing a controversial race-change operation. First, he must reluctantly confront his dying father and the rest of his family about his decision. Along the way, he is forced to contend with his fiancé, who is white, and with an 'advisor' who has undergone the reverse transformation from white to black. Craig Harris, the director of the film, will lead a discussion following the screening. This screening is co-sponsored by the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Son of Man (Jezile) November 1, 2007 // 7pm

The Stone Center Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Son of Man is a retelling of the story of Jesus, set in contemporary Africa. In the film, Jezile is born in Judea, a troubled country in Southern Africa. After civil war breaks out, Jezile travels the country preaching against political and government corruption. Before long, government officials grow suspicious of his teachings, ultimately deciding to restore order by eliminating the opposition—Jezile. Son of Man was the first South African film to be featured in the Sundance Film Festival. A discussion will follow the film.





THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

All film screenings are free and open to the public. If you have any questions, call the Stone Center at 962-9001.

