

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER *for* BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

in association with THE SOUTHERN BLACK FILM AND MEDIA CONSORTIUM (SB-FMC)

DIASPORA

FALL

festival

2013

of
BLACK *and* INDEPENDENT FILM

20th
ANNIVERSARY EDITION

THE DIASPORA FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT FILM IS THE STONE CENTER'S ANNUAL SERIES SPOTLIGHTING FILM FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA. THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE FESTIVAL OPENS ON SEPTEMBER 19 AND FEATURES A TOTAL OF 9 FILMS.



SEPTEMBER 19 • 7 PM **DOUBLE FEATURE**
HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

CLARA COMO EL AGUA

Dir: Fernanda Rossi / Short / US / Spanish with English Subtitles / 12 min. / 2012

Clara como el Agua, is a twelve-minute short fiction film about Clara, a light-skinned Puerto Rican girl with kinky, blond hair and gray eyes. Tired of being teased by her darker-skinned peers, she ventures into the magical waters of the bioluminescent bay to change her skin color and possibly herself.

AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION OF HER BEAUTY

Dir: Terence Nance / Feature / US / English / 93 min. / 2012

With arresting insight, vulnerability, and a delightful sense of humor, Terence Nance's explosively creative debut feature, *An Oversimplification of Her Beauty*, documents the relationship between Nance and a lovely young woman as it teeters on the divide between platonic and romantic. Utilizing a tapestry of live action and various styles of animation, Nance explores the fantasies, emotions, and memories that race through his mind during a singular moment in time.

SEPTEMBER 26 • 7 PM **STONE CENTER AUDITORIUM**

TOUSSAINT L'OUVETURE, PARTS 1&2*

Dir: Philippe Niang / Feature / France / French with English Subtitles / Part 1: 90 min., Part 2: 90 min. / 2012

Toussaint L'Ouverture is the long-awaited, two-part action-packed epic film, depicting the life of the Haitian leader. L'Ouverture led the first successful slave revolt in world history, defeating Napoleon Bonaparte and winning independence from France. Known for his military genius and political acumen, L'Ouverture established Haiti as the first free black nation in the western hemisphere.

* CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN AND DIASPORA STUDIES AT UNC-CH.

OCTOBER 3 • 7 PM **HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

THE SAPPHIRES

Dir: Wayne Blair / Feature / Australia / English / 103 min. / 2012

The Sapphires is an inspirational tale set in the heady days of the late '60s about a quartet of young, talented singers from a remote Aboriginal mission, discovered and guided by a kind-hearted, soul-loving manager. Catapulted onto the world stage as Australia's answer to The Supremes, their journey of discovery offers them the chance to show off their musical skills, find love and grow as women.

OCTOBER 8 • 7 PM **HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

STUDLIFE*

Dir: Campbell X / Feature / Trinidad + Tobago, UK / English / 90 min. / 2012

JJ, a Black British lesbian, is best friends with Seb, who is white and gay. The two are practically inseparable, but when JJ falls head over heels for the beautiful and bewitching Elle, jealousy rears its head and the friendship comes under threat.

* CO-SPONSORED BY THE CAROLINA WOMEN'S CENTER AND THE LGBTQ CENTER AT UNC-CH.

OCTOBER 10 • 7 PM **HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Dir: Ava DuVernay / Feature / US / English / 100 min. / 2012

As Ruby (Emayatzy Corinealdi) rides a bus through the inner city streets, she wills herself to push away memories that crowd her. Four years earlier, she was a vibrant medical student married to the love of her life, Derek (Omari Hardwick). Now, she makes her way to the maximum security prison on the outskirts of town where her love currently resides. As the couple stares into the shallow end of an eight-year prison sentence, Ruby must learn to live another life, one marked by shame and separation, by guilt and grief.

NOVEMBER 5 • 7 PM **HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

A BAND CALLED DEATH*

Dir: Jeff Howlett and Mark Covino / Documentary / US / English / 98 min. / 2013

Punk before punk existed; three teenage brothers in the early '70s formed a band in their spare bedroom, began playing a few local gigs and even pressed a single in the hopes of getting signed. Record companies found Death's music—and band name—too intimidating, and the group were never given a fair shot, disbanding before they even completed one album. *A Band Called Death* chronicles the incredible fairy-tale journey of what happened almost three decades later, when a dusty 1974 demo tape made its way out of the attic and found an audience several generations younger.

* FOLLOWING SCREENING, FILM DISCUSSION WITH UNC-CH PROFESSOR PRISCILLA LAYNE.

NOVEMBER 14 • 12 PM **HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

ZANZIBAR SOCCER QUEENS*

Dir: Florence Ayisi / Feature / Africa, Zanzibar / Swahili with English subtitles / 52 min. / 2007

This powerful documentary film shows how Muslim women use soccer as their vehicle for liberation and creativity in a conservative society. While the film focuses on women, their desire for self-fulfillment and empowerment speaks to marginalized people everywhere.

* CO-SPONSORED BY THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER AT UNC-CH AND THE CAROLINA WOMEN'S CENTER.

NOVEMBER 21 • 7 PM **HITCHCOCK MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

RE-EMERGING: THE JEWS OF NIGERIA*

Dir: Jeff Lieberman / Documentary / US, Nigeria / English / 93 min. / 2012

RE-EMERGING: The Jews of Nigeria is a journey into the heart of Igboland and into the lives and culture of the Igbo people. Like many in Nigeria, Shmuel consistently heard that the Igbo people were once Jews. When an internet café opens in his town, he begins to research this further and starts a journey that eventually leads him to a community of thousands of Jews.

* FOLLOWING SCREENING, FILM DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR, JEFF LIEBERMAN. CO-SPONSORED BY THE CAROLINA CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES.



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