

DIASPORA

festival

of

BLACK and INDEPENDENT FILM

10TH ANNIVERSARY *of the* STONE CENTER BUILDING 2004-2014

The Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film is the Stone Center's annual series spotlighting film from all corners of the African diaspora. Many screenings are North Carolina premieres and most feature commentary and appearances by the directors and local scholars, as well as post-film discussions. The fall 2014 edition of the festival is presented in cooperation with the following UNC-CH departments: Center for the Study of the American South, Center for Global Initiatives, World View, African Studies Center, American Studies and Institute for the Study of the Americas. The festival opens on September 9 and features a total of 23 films, with three screening dates as a part of the popular *Lunch and Movie Series*. All showings are in the Hitchcock Multipurpose Room.

SEPTEMBER 9 • 7 PM OPENING NIGHT
DOUBLE FEATURE

BLACK PANTHER WOMAN

Dir: Rachel Perkins/Documentary/Australia/English/52 min./2014



In 1972 Marlene Cummins fell in love with the leader of the Australian Black Panther Party. Forty years after the breakup of that relationship, Marlene travels to a gathering of international Black Panthers in New York. The journey takes her back in time. Still struggling with personal issues related to her time as a Panther woman, she reveals the secrets she has held onto as she faces her demons today.

THE GROWN-UPS

Dir: Kaliya Warren/Short/USA/English/17 min./2012

A young revolutionary couple learns to deal with life's struggles. Zadie and Tavio are recent college graduates. As community organizers in their Brooklyn neighborhood, they fight to make it through the ups and downs of everyday life. Frustrated by their troubles, Zadie decides to return to the comfort of her childhood home with her former Civil Rights activist parents. However, Zadie and Tavio begin to understand that life doesn't necessarily grow easier with age, and that there comes a time when you can no longer rely upon your elders to help you through your struggles.

SEPTEMBER 23 • 12 NOON LUNCH AND
MOVIE SERIES*

TROOP 491: THE ADVENTURES OF THE MUDDY LIONS

Dir: Praheme/Feature/USA/English/105 min./2013



Troop 491: The Adventures of the Muddy Lions follows Tristan, a naïve adolescent boy coping with life in the inner city. Tristan's mother enrolls him in the Boy Scouts in an effort to keep him off the streets, but when he witnesses a homicide, the local thug demands the boy's silence. Tristan learns, with the help of his new Scout friends, that doing the right thing isn't always easy. Will he follow the code of the streets or will he follow the code of the Scouts?

SEPTEMBER 25 • 12 NOON LUNCH AND MOVIE SERIES*
SHORT FILM SERIES

WE FOUR QUEENS

Dir: Stefan Dezil/Short/USA/English/7 min.

Four elegant women get together to play a game of poker to compete for the ultimate prize.

THE BRAVEST AND THE BOLDEST

Dir: Moon Molson/Short/USA/English/13 min./2014



Two Army Casualty Notification Officers arrive at the Vivien Thomas projects in Harlem to tell Sayeeda Porter that her son has been killed in the war in the Middle East. The only problem is...Sayeeda isn't ready to hear that message.

THE END AGAIN

Dir: Crystal C. Roberson/Short/USA/English/16 min./2014

Joe and Jane have reached an impasse. It's moving day. But knowing that it's over doesn't make it any easier to walk away. The mood is somber yet routine as Jane prepares their tea like she's done so many times before and Joe helps her pack up the last of her belongings even as she prepares to walk out of his life. Throughout the day they muse on memories shared and rehash old arguments. Still the outcome remains the same. It's over. In the end, their final farewell is emotional yet cold. Jane leaves. Joe is left alone. The end has arrived. Or has it?

THE WAVES

Dir: Venise Stephenson/Short/USA/English/8 min./2013

A woman meets a stranger who entices her for a swim in the deep, dark, seductive waves.

VIVRE

Dir: Maharaki MJ/Short/Guadeloupe/French with English subtitles/13 min./2013

A teacher asks her class, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" While his joyful classmates respond, Tom, a quiet 10-year-old boy, slips away.

RECORD AND PLAY

Dir: Jesse Atlas/Short/USA/Bosnian and English with English subtitles/11 min./2011



An award-winning sci-fi love story where war, fate, and a broken Walkman® transcend space and time. If you could go back in time and rewrite an event that has always haunted you, would you? Mustafa Shakir and Indian actress Deepti Gupta star in Jesse Atlas' time-traveling sci-fi short about a malfunctioning cassette tape that captures more than audio.

SEPTEMBER 30 • 7 PM DOUBLE
FEATURE

MELVIN AND JEAN: AN AMERICAN STORY

Dir: Maia Wechsler/Documentary/USA/English/60 min./2012

Melvin and Jean: An American Story is a poignant tale of two people, the radical '60's, crime in the name of a cause, and second chances. Natives of Winston-Salem, NC, Melvin and Jean McNair made news in 1972 when they hijacked a plane from Detroit to Algeria to join the international section of the Black Panthers. After serving several years in prison in France for the hijacking, the McNairs remained in France and, for 35 years, have lived as model citizens in their adopted country. Forty years after the fact, the two are still coming to terms with their escapade and its consequences as they try to gain the right to return home without spending the rest of their lives behind bars in America.

JAZZ MAMA

Dir: Petna Ndaliko/Documentary/Congo/French and Lingala with English subtitles/30 min./2010

La femme Congolaise—a story of Cogoese gender-based violence and the women who remain courageous and industrious despite the unpredictable turbulence of life. The women continue to fight for themselves, taking on roles previously reserved for men. Demonstrating their incredible strength and their faith in their ability to continue their own advancement, these women stand strong in their communities even as they denounce the rape and the violence they experience. "Both earth and mother, she is the foundation, like Kinshasa herself, scorned and beloved."

OCTOBER 2 • 7 PM

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ASA CARTER

Dir: Douglas Newman/Documentary/USA/English/58 min./2013



Forrest Carter was best known for his autobiography, *The Education of Little Tree* (published in 1976). A memoir about his supposed life as a Cherokee orphan in the Tennessee hills, the book was embraced by critics as a seminal work of Native American literature and became a *New York Times* bestseller. But Forrest Carter was neither Cherokee nor an orphan. He was actually Asa Carter, the notorious white supremacist and KKK leader. He had gained national attention when his followers attacked Nat King Cole on stage, and local

notoriety for his involvement in a shootout. Most notably, he penned George Wallace's famous 1963 'Segregation now, Segregation forever' speech.

OCTOBER 7 • 7 PM

AL HELM (THE DREAM): MARTIN LUTHER KING IN PALESTINE

Dir: Connie Field/Documentary/USA/English/96 min./2014



In March 2011, Clayborne Carson, director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Institute, traveled to the Holy Land to complete a film version of his stage play about King as performed by the Palestinian National Theatre and an African-American gospel choir. The stage play, presented to audiences all over the West Bank, was an experiment in cultural exchange and was creatively exciting, often emotionally charged, and not without tension or tragedy. The project gave both the African American visitors and the Palestinian participants a greater understanding of the other and united them in the common and inspiring bond of artistic endeavor. *Al Helm* illustrates the transformative power of art and how it can move us toward understanding.

OCTOBER 21 • 7 PM

BLACK AND CUBA

Dir: Robin Hayes/Documentary/USA/English/82 min./2013

A diverse group of street-smart students, outcasts at an elite Ivy League university, band together and adventure to Cuba to see if revolution is truly possible. While filming their poignant encounters with Afro-Cuban youth, the American travelers question if either Cuba or the U.S. is post-racial or color blind. This documentary combines edgy archival footage, hip-hop styled narration with exuberant scenes of island life to uncover renewed hope for equality and human rights.

OCTOBER 23 • 7 PM

REEMBARQUE/RESHIPMENT

Dir: Gloria Rolando/Documentary/Cuba/Spanish with French and English subtitles/59 min./2014

The voices of prominent historians are joined with the memories of Haitians and their descendants in Cuba to revisit a forgotten chapter of the complex economic and social history of the Caribbean. This film explores the presence on the island of Cuba of thousands of West Indian laborers, especially from Haiti, who fertilized the fields of Cuba with their sweat from the beginning of the twentieth century. This film is a tribute to the unsung, anonymous heroes who were a bridge between two peoples in the Caribbean: Cubans and Haitians.

OCTOBER 28 • 7 PM DOUBLE
FEATURE

CONCERNING VIOLENCE: NINE SCENES FROM THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST SELF-DEFENSE

Dir: Göran Hugo Olsson/Feature/Sweden, USA, Denmark, Finland/English subtitles/85 min./2014



The newest film from the director of *The Black Power Mixtape*, *Concerning Violence* is narrated by Lauryn Hill with a preface by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. This film offers a compelling visual narrative about African liberation struggles of the 1960s and 1970s.

Concerning Violence combines archival footage of Africa's confrontation with colonial power along with Hill's narrative which is taken from liberation philosopher Frantz Fanon's seminal anticolonial text, *The Wretched of the Earth*.

AGIZO YA LUMUMBA

Dir: Jobson Katondolo/Short/Congo/English subtitles/4 min./2013

On 17 January, 1961, Patrice Emery Lumumba was assassinated by a regime infamous for domination and greed. On 17 January, 2014, we remember him as a hero of a new regime dedicated to peace and empowerment. *Agizo ya Lumumba* was recorded during SKIFF 2013 in a workshop by locally based Congolese film maker Petna Ndaliko. Featured Musicians (in order of appearance): Jobson Madibo, B-Chris, Bin G, Fal G, DJ Couleur. Music produced by Bokande Kataliko MP3. Featured Dance Group: Street Dancers (finalists for 2013 Dance Competition). Video by TD Muhindo, Job Madibo and Ally.

OCTOBER 30 • 7 PM DOUBLE
FEATURE

SOMETHING NECESSARY

Dir: Judy Kibinge/Feature/Kenya/Swahili with English subtitles/85 min./2013

After the unrest surrounding the 2007 elections in Kenya, Anne (Susan Wanjiru) awakens in a hospital bed to discover her young son in a coma, her husband dead at the hands of marauding thugs, and their farm, The Haven, ransacked and desecrated by the mobs that attacked, beat, and killed thousands of innocent Kenyans. Determined to rebuild her house and regain control of her life, Anne meets Joseph (Walter Kipchumba Lagat), a reluctant participant in the violence who is now drenched with guilt and wants to rebuild his own life. But Anne and Joseph have more in common than they know. This is an important and sensitive treatment of those events and the uplifting themes of tolerance and redemption.

SWEET, SWEET COUNTRY

Dir: Dehanza Rogers/Short/USA/English/19 min./2013



Living in a small Southern town, 20-year-old refugee Ndizeye struggles to support herself and the family she left behind in a Kenyan refugee camp. Her burden grows when the family shows up at her doorstep.

NOVEMBER 5 • 12 NOON LUNCH AND
MOVIE SERIES*

SABLE FABLE

Dir: Stephen Jackson/Feature/United Kingdom/English/83 min./2012

Sable Fable is a beautiful story exploring the complex psychology of love, sex and race among four very different couples whose lives intertwine with one another through a series of unfortunate events.

NOVEMBER 18 • 7 PM

BAD HAIR (PELO MALO)

Dir: Mariana Rondon/Feature/Venezuela/Spanish with English subtitles/93 min./2013



Nine-year-old Junior's obsession is to straighten his curls to fit a fantasy image of himself as a long-haired singer. His mother struggles with Junior's insistence on straightening his hair. When she decides that his fixation on his hair means that Junior is likely gay, she sets out to "correct" his behavior before it's too late.

NOVEMBER 20 • 7 PM DOUBLE
FEATURE

UNBOUND

Dir: Darius J. Britt/Feature/USA/English/93 min./2013

An ambitious young filmmaker's plans to produce a documentary about a unique gathering of more than 2000 classic Volkswagens "bugs" is derailed when his mother is struck by yet another episode of psychosis. He must resort to extreme measures to save her from herself and reclaim his life. Based on true events, *Unbound* presents a searing portrait of the impact of schizophrenia in a compelling tale of a loyal son's struggle to get his mother the help she needs.

A DIFFICULT THANK YOU

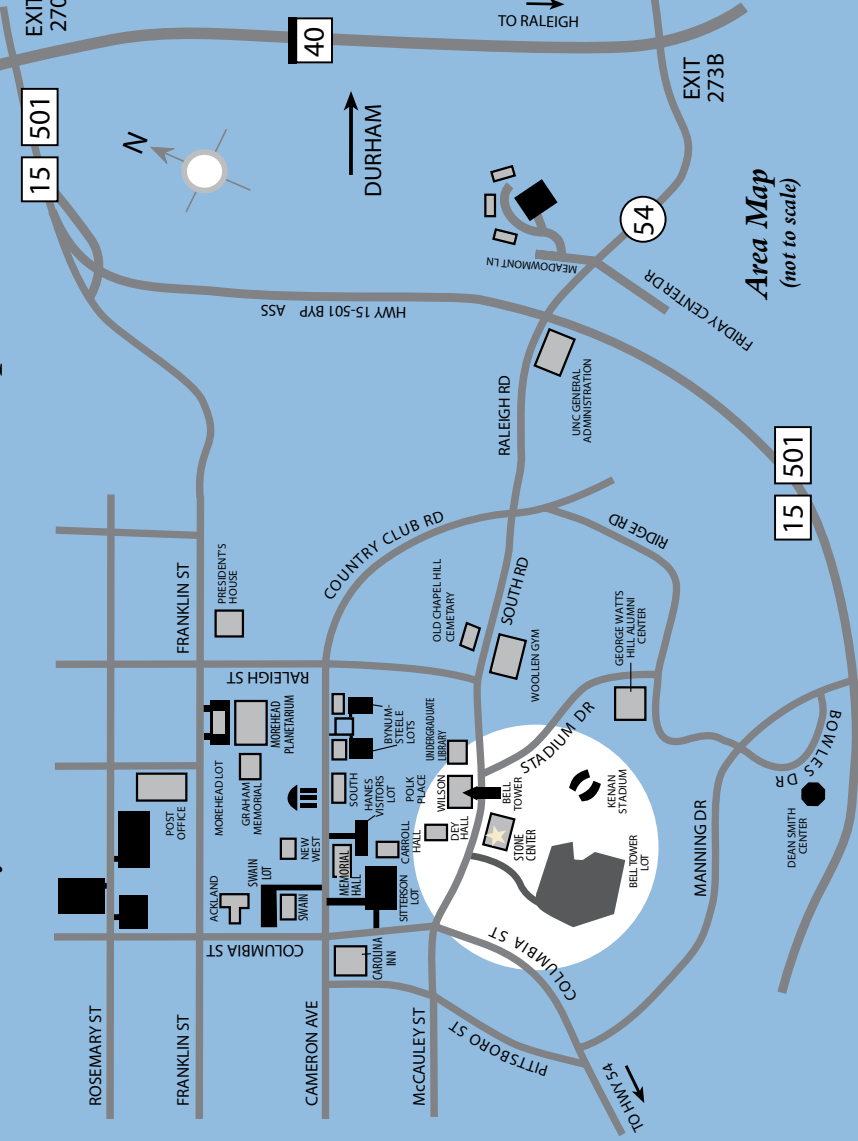
Dir: Edrei Hutson/Short/USA/English/14 min./2012

A family is devoted to find their recently deceased daughter registered as an organ donor. The family is divided: the father and two remaining daughters find comfort in communicating with the organ recipients, while the mother sees it as a betrayal.



* SIGN UP ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE 24 HOURS BEFORE THE SCREENING AND WE'LL HAVE A FREE LUNCH WAITING FOR YOU!

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



This festival and all events associated with it are free and open to the public. The Stone Center is ADA compliant. Free visitor parking is available in the Bell Tower parking deck behind the Stone Center after 5pm. Call for directions and for visitor parking before 5pm.

SONIAHAYNESSTONECTR.UNC.EDU

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center For Black Culture and History
150 South Road Campus Box 5250 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5250
919-962-9001 StoneCenter@unc.edu



UNC
THE SONJA HAYNES STONE
CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE
AND HISTORY

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

150 SOUTH ROAD
CAMPUS BOX 5250
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-5250

The Stone Center works with the campus and the community to explore African American and Diaspora arts, cultures and histories from various interdisciplinary and disciplinary perspectives and promotes focused projects that address key issues in social justice.

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY:

- ▶ Is a center for culture, research, outreach and service
- ▶ Questions what it means to be of African descent in the Americas and how Black identities, cultures and histories in the diaspora are constructed
- ▶ Critically examines the role that culture and identity play in social change and community development



UNC
THE SONJA HAYNES STONE
CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE
AND HISTORY

DIASPORA

festival

of
BLACK and INDEPENDENT FILM

10TH ANNIVERSARY of the STONE CENTER BUILDING 2004-2014

fall 2014