



DIASPORA

FESTIVAL

of BLACK and INDEPENDENT FILM

MEETINGS AND JOURNEYS
IN THE AFRICAN DIASPORA | *fall 2015*



UNC

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE
CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE
AND HISTORY

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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 2015 edition of the festival includes a special collection of films about poet, activist and playwright Amiri Baraka as part of the "Amiri Baraka – Meetings and Remarkable Journeys" exhibition and symposium on September 16 and 17. The festival opens on September 3 and features a total of 28 films, including our popular "Lunch and Movie" screening on October 1.



September 3 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

OPENING NIGHT

LITTLE WHITE LIE

Dir: Lacey Schwartz, James Adolphus/Documentary/USA/English/65 minutes/2014

Little White Lie tells Lacey Schwartz's story of growing up in a typical upper-middle-class Jewish household in Woodstock, NY – despite the open questions about how a white girl could have such dark skin. She believes her family's explanation that her looks were inherited from her dark-skinned Sicilian grandfather. But when her parents abruptly split, her gut starts to tell her something different.



September 8 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION

Dir: Stanley Nelson/Documentary/USA/English/113 min/2015

The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution is the first feature length documentary to showcase the Black Panther Party, its significance to the broader American culture, its cultural and political awakening for black people, and the painful lessons wrought when a movement derails. Master documentarian Stanley Nelson goes straight to the source, weaving a treasure of rare archival footage with the voices of the people who were there: police, FBI informants, journalists, white supporters and detractors, and Black Panthers who remained loyal to the party and those who left it.



September 10 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

(T)ERROR

Dir: Lyric R. Cabral, David Felix Sutcliffe/Documentary/USA/English/83 min/2014

(T)ERROR is the first documentary to place filmmakers on the ground during an active FBI counterterrorism sting operation. Through the perspective of "Shariff," a 63-year-old Black revolutionary turned informant, viewers get an unfettered glimpse of the government's counterterrorism tactics and the murky justifications behind them. Taut, stark and controversial, *(T)ERROR* illuminates the fragile relationships between individual and surveillance state in modern America, and asks who is watching the watchers?

Discussion with director Lyric Cabral directly following screening.



September 16 | 7pm • September 17 | 8:30am to 8:30pm

Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Amiri Baraka Exhibition Opening Reception and Symposium

AMIRI BARAKA – MEETINGS AND REMARKABLE JOURNEYS

Meetings and Remarkable Journeys examines the life, work and legacy of Amiri Baraka. The event kicks off on Wednesday, September 16 with an opening reception at 6pm in the lobby of the Stone Center. The opening includes a screening of a filmed version of Baraka's seminal drama, *Dutchman*. The symposium continues on Thursday, September 17 from 8:30am to 8:30pm with a day of film screenings and sessions with panelist including: Woodie King, Jr., Sonia Sanchez, John Bracey Jr., Alex Carter, Mae Henderson, Lita Hooper, E. Ethelbert Miller, Mark Anthony Neal, Amy Abugo Ongiri, Michael Simanga, James Smethurst, and Komozi Woodard.

Symposium Film Screenings:

The following films will be screened on September 16 and 17 as part of the Baraka Symposium. Please check symposium schedule on the Stone Center website for screening times.

Baadd Sonia Sanchez, Norman Mailer vs. LeRoi Jones, The Breath Courses Through Us, The New Ark, Soul! Baraka the Artist, The Baraka Statement, One P.M., Dutchman, Medea

Please RSVP:

stonecenter.unc.edu • 919-962-9001 • sonjahaynesstonectr.unc.edu



September 24 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

FOR THE CAUSE

Dir: Katherine Nero/Feature/USA/English/85 min/2013

Upon her recent victory in winning the release of a wrongfully convicted man, Miral Scott (Charlette Speigner), a Chicago civil rights attorney, is contacted by her estranged father, Rolly Spencer (Eugene Parker), a former Black Panther who went underground 30 years earlier to avoid prosecution. Recently captured and extradited, Rolly is charged with the attempted murder of a policeman. Believing this to be an opportunity to fill in some blanks about the past and perhaps address some of her own relationship and trust issues, Miral decides to take her father's case.



September 29 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

MOTHER OF GEORGE

Dir: Andrew Dosunmu/Feature/USA/English/107 min./2013

Adenike and Ayodele, a Nigerian couple living in Brooklyn, are having trouble conceiving a child – a problem that defies cultural expectations and leads Adenike to make a shocking decision that could either save or destroy her family.

Discussion with director Andrew Dosunmu following screening.



October 1 | 12pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

LUNCH AND MOVIE

FIVE STAR

Dir: Keith Miller/Feature/USA/English/83 min/2014

After John's absent father is struck by a stray bullet, Primo takes it upon himself to verse the young boy in the code of the streets – one founded on respect and upheld by fear. A member of the Bloods since the age of twelve – both in the film and in reality – the streets of Brooklyn are all Primo has ever known. While John questions whether or not to enter into this life, Primo must decide whether to leave it all behind as he vows to become a better husband and father.

***Sign up on Facebook 24 hours before the screening for a free lunch!**



October 6 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

NIGHT OF SHORTS

ONE PAST

Dir: Juli S. Kobayashi/Short/USA/English/20 min/2014

One Past follows a young woman, Charlie Style, as she arrives home one evening to find her sister Lyla dead from a freak accident. Charlie's world is shattered until Lyla returns as a spirit, but when forces beyond their control begin to pull Lyla away again, Charlie is forced to face a difficult choice.

ALL THAT'S LEFT UNSAID

Dir: Michèle Pearson Clarke/Short/Canada/English/2.5 min/2014

With Audre Lorde acting as both subject and surrogate, *All That is Left Unsaid* is a daughter's elegy for her mother. Both women lived with cancer for 14 years, and the absence of their wisdom, guidance and love is experienced as an ongoing loss.

UNTITLED

Dir: Merawi Gerima/Short/USA/English/10 min/2014

A young man's life is set on a new trajectory with a new unspoken purpose after the sudden loss of a family member.

BUSTED ON BRIGHAM LANE

Dir: Talibah Newman/Short/USA/English/24 min/2012

A young teenage girl takes precariously creative measures to reconcile her relationship with her estranged father for her 18th birthday and discovers that he is a different man than she remembers.

SWEET HONEY CHILE'

Dir: Talibah Newman/Short/USA/English/19 min/2013

A young boy, Honey, explores identity and grief with his mystical neighbor, while in the midst of the struggle to help his mother lay his grandfather to rest. Natalie Bullock Brown leads a discussion with Talibah Newman, director of *Sweet Honey Chile'* and *Busted on Brigham Lane* immediately following the screenings.

October 8 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

NIGHT OF SHORTS

LONGING

Dir: Zoe Sailsman Asghar/Short/United Kingdom/English/7 min/2013

Dawn has recently lost her husband. She is finding it difficult to let go and longs for her husband's presence. In order to see him she delves into her subconscious and imagination; unfortunately the more she sees the more her reality becomes distorted.

KASITA

Dir: Gabri Christa/Short/USA/English/21 min/2014

When a young girl, Luna, can't keep the dog she rescued, she knows just what to do. Together with her cousin Sol, she sets off to house him in the empty slave huts, but things don't go as planned.

HOMECOMING

Dir: Jim Chuchu/Short/United Kingdom/English, Kiswahili with English subtitles/83 min/2012

Fantasy, science fiction and infatuation fuse as an obsessed neighbor invents ever stranger scenarios for wooing the girl of his dreams. Nairobi is being threatened with imminent extinction; this is Max's last chance to save the girl next door, Alina, and win her affections. However, a mysterious stranger stands in the way of his happiness.

NATSANAT

Dir: Cheryl Halpern and Mitchell Stuart/Short/USA and Ethiopia/English/26 min/2012

'Natsanat' (meaning freedom) documents the heroic stories of young female freedom fighters in Ethiopia during the 20th century. These women have left their families and homes to join the struggle to bring freedom, peace and democracy to their country. They serve as role models for leadership and courage for women.

Discussion with director Cheryl Halpern following screening.



November 3 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

LUCKY

Dir: Avie Luthra/Feature/South Africa/English /100 min/2014

How could a recently orphaned, 10-year old homeless South African boy ever be called Lucky? Over the grave of his dead mother, Lucky makes a promise to make something of himself. Leaving the security of his remote Zulu village for the big city, he arrives on the doorstep of an uncle who has no use for him. Lucky then falls in with Padme, an elderly Indian woman with an inherent fear of Africans, who takes him in. Together, unable to speak each other's language, they develop an unlikely bond. Through an odyssey marked by greed, violence, and ultimately, belonging, Lucky shows how a child's spirit can bring out decency, humility and even love in adults struggling to survive in the new South Africa.

November 5 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

BETWEEN FRIENDS

Dir: M. Omari Jackson/Feature/Trinidad and Tobago/English/95 min/2012

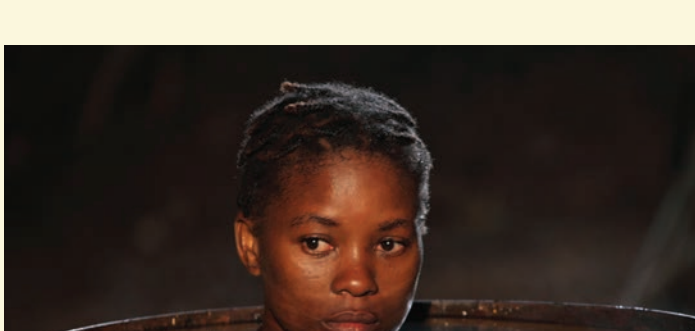
Between Friends follows a group of people through their trials and triumphs in their romantic relationships. Some are at a crossroads in life, having just graduated University, while others are either still in high school or are trying to establish stable family lives. Delightfully playful in the beginning, the film ends on a more somber note as revelations of infidelity, betrayal, and over idealized relationships come to the fore.

November 10 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

NJINGA: QUEEN OF ANGOLA

Dir: Sergio Graciano/Feature/Angola/Portuguese with English subtitles/109 min/2013

In 17th-century Angola, a woman leads her kingdom in a 40-year struggle for freedom and independence. Her name is Njinga. She will be known as Queen Njinga. Born into a patriarchal society, Njinga defied tradition to become queen at the age of 50 with the aim of ensuring her people were kept safe from the Portuguese slave traders. A true story of unrivalled determination, Njinga stands today as a symbol of resistance, fully embodying the motto: "those who fight, fight to win".



November 12 | 7pm • Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

VIRGIN MARGARIDA

Dir: Licio Azevedo/Feature/Mozambique, France, Portugal/French, Portuguese with English subtitles/90 min/2012

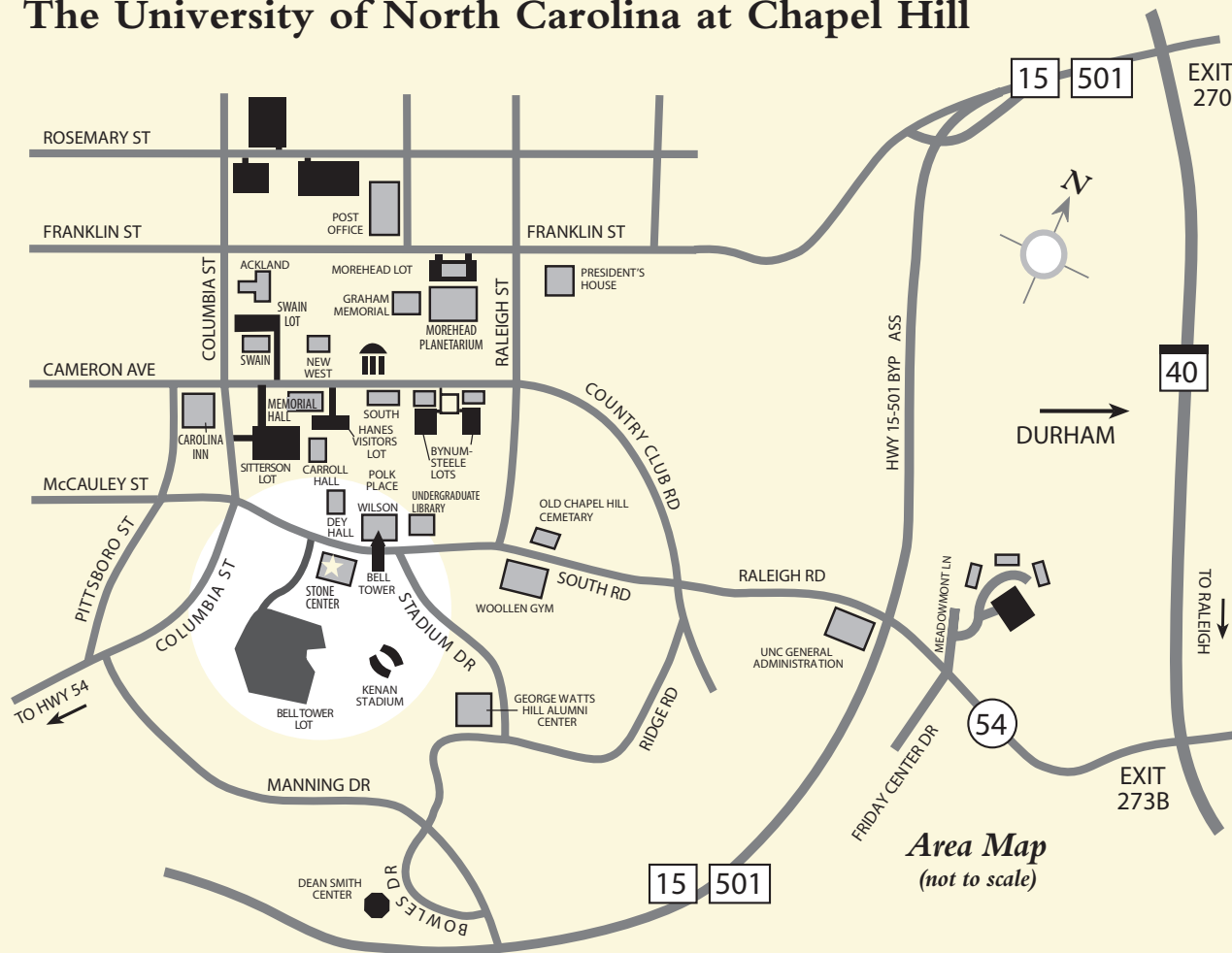
Set in Mozambique in 1975, *Virgin Margarida* is a thought-provoking film that tells the story of a group of female sex workers who are captured by revolutionary soldiers and sent deep into the countryside to be 're-educated'. Although Maria João, the officer in charge of the program, is driven by idealistic notions, she is perfectly willing to subject her prisoners to torture. In spite of their suffering, members of the captured group of women take it upon themselves to look out for Margarida, a 16-year-old girl who stands falsely accused of prostitution and transpires to be a virgin.



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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



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

The exhibition 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.

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