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in collaboration with



TORONTO **BLACK FILM** FESTIVAL

5TH ANNUAL

FEBRUARY 15 - 19, 2017

Founded by



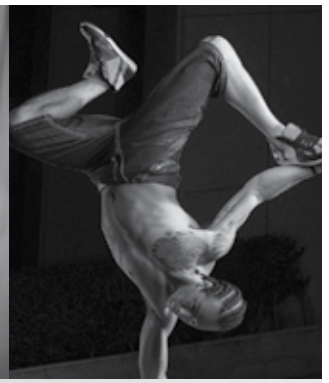
TorontoBlackFilm.com

#TBFF17

Isabel Bader Theatre

Carlton Cinema

Jackman Hall (AGO)



Many cultures.
One celebration.



Come celebrate
Black History Month with us.

For years TD has sponsored artistic projects as well as historical and cultural events that celebrate the rich cultural contributions of Black Canadians. Learn more by checking out an event near you.

Join us at td.com/blackhistorymonth



TORONTO BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

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VISION

Cool, international, independent, politically incorrect and eye-opening, the Toronto Black Film Festival (TBFF) is about DISCOVERY & DIVERSITY! TBFF brings you the most outstanding and most powerful Black films while creating a space to debate major cultural, social and socio-economic issues.

MISSION

The Toronto Black Film Festival is dedicated to giving unique voices in cinema the opportunity to provide audiences with new ways of looking at the world. We are a dynamic, refreshing and audacious festival, whose ambition is to encourage the development of the independent film industry and to promote more films highlighting the reality of Black people and communities around the globe.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“Greater knowledge leads to greater understanding”. TBFF is glad to celebrate **diversity within the Black communities** through films that matter. Films illuminate, entertain and invite audiences to see the world from another person’s experience. In connecting Black films with viewers of all colours and ethnic origins we recognize the differences that make us unique and celebrate the shared values that bring us together. Coming together through art allows members of all cultural communities to better understand one another.

#TBFF17 TEAM

FOUNDING & ORGANIZING BODY

Fabienne Colas Foundation

OVERALL ORGANIZATION & COORDINATION

Zaza Production

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fabienne Colas, President, Founder and CEO

Réal Barnabé, Vice President

Emile Castonguay, Treasurer and Operations Director

PROGRAMMING TEAM

Emile Castonguay, Programming Director

Joyce Fuerza, Programming Coordinator

Imanol Arias, Assistant Programmer

COMMUNICATIONS & SPONSORSHIP

Fabienne Colas, Communications & Funding Director

Sarah Vulcain, Communications Coordinator

Alexe Louisa, Promotions & Box-Office Coordinator

Imanol Arias, Partnerships & Theatre Coordinator

Joy Bullen, Sponsorship Coordinator

Daniela Kelloway, Head Publicist (ClutchPR)

Amy Saunders, Publicist (ClutchPR)

Karlene Nation, Community relations Coordinator

COORDINATION & LOGISTICS TEAM

Joyce Fuerza, Head Coordinator

Sarah Vulcain, Overall Logistics Coordinator

Alexe Louisa, Ground Coordinator

Dominique Argant, Guests Coordinator

Frederica Black, Logistics & Volunteers Coordinator

Julie Christian, Logistics Advisor

Richard Bonnick, Guests Logistic Facilitator

Sharon Lovelace, Guests Logistic Facilitator

WEBSITE, GRAPHIC DESIGN & EDITING

Zaza Production:

David Fortuné, Webmaster

Géraldine Entiope, Graphic Designer

Camilo Sorto-Cazaux, Trailers & Video Ads

Rose Kivellote, Photographer

SPECIAL THANKS TO

All our generous and devoted volunteers!

The entire team at **Global News (Toronto & Montreal)** and **TD Bank**.

#TBFF17 PARTNERS

CO-PRESENTER



IN COLLABORATION WITH



FOUNDER



COORDINATOR



AFFILIATE FESTIVAL



MEDIA PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



VENUES

Isabel Bader Theatre • Carlton Cinema • Art Gallery of Ontario

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Around 30 community partners. Please see complete list at www.TorontoBlackFilm.com/about-us/our-partners

#TBFF17 INFO

TorontoBlackFilm.com
416-888-7208

PRICES*

- **Passport card** \$140
(Priority access to all events)
- **Opening Night** \$25
- **Closing Night** \$15
- **Tribute & Master Class**
with **Louis Gossett Jr.** \$20
- **Regular tickets** \$10
- **Community program:** Free Admission
- **TBFF Black Market:** See pages 14 & 15

*Fees: All tickets are subject to service charges
Powered by Beavertix

BOX OFFICE & VENUES

Passport cards & Individual tickets
available at:

• **Online:** TorontoBlackFilm.com

• **In person** (Only day of events) :

ISABEL BADER THEATRE

93 Charles St W, Toronto

CARLTON CINEMA

20 Carlton Street, Toronto
416-598-5454

JACKMAN HALL,

Art Gallery of Ontario

317 Dundas Street West, Toronto
(McCaul Street entrance)
416-979-6648

HOW TO SUPPORT

#TBFF17 wouldn't be the same without
your strong support. Here are some ways
to get involved in your Festival:

- **Attend the Festival:**
Buy tickets & passes.
- **Help the Festival grow:**
Make a donation.
- **Be cool while supporting:**
Buy the Festival T-Shirt.
- **Get involved:**
Volunteer & become an Ambassador.
- **Tell your friends:**
Help spread the word.

Make sure you get the news first:
subscribe to our newsletter through
the Festival's website!

Join us on Social Media - See below

STAY IN TOUCH #TBFF17

TorontoBlackFilm.com

Find out all about films, trailers,
directors & special guests attending,
and buy your tickets / passes.

 : @TOBlackFilmFest

 : TorontoBlackFilmFestival

 : TorontoBlackFilmFest

Join us, love us, follow us! Take part in
real time conversation, get engaged,
share and support!

#TBFF17

Use it everywhere and each time you
want to mention the Festival.

FABIENNE COLAS FOUNDATION

The Toronto Black Film Festival was founded by the Fabienne Colas Foundation.
Its board of directors wish you all a wonderful festival!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Réal Barnabé
Vice President
Journalist



Fabienne Colas
President
Director, actress, producer



Emile Castonguay
Treasurer
Actor, producer, and CEO
of Castonguay Cycles et Sports

DIRECTORS



Danielle Champoux
Line producer



Lewis Cohen
Director, writer



Robert Cohen
Lawyer, housing consultant



Dominique Dionne
Vice President, Communications
and Government relations at PSP Investments



Helen Fotopulos
Strategic advisor, political
practitioner



Rhoudini Joseph
Entrepreneur, founder, and CEO of
Quixtrade Financial



Manuel Tadros
Actor, Singer-songwriter



Mahalia Verna
Manager, Marketing, and Commu-
nications at Ometz

HONORARY MEMBER



**Monique
Jérôme-Forget**
C.M., O.Q., Ph.D.
Conseillère spéciale, Osler

FondationFabienneColas.org



MESSAGE FROM

Fabienne Colas
The President & Founder

Happy **TBFF 5th anniversary** to all its festivalgoers, partners, volunteers & devoted staff!!!

It all started in 2005 with the Montreal Haitian Film Festival which expanded into the **Montreal International Black Film Festival** (MIBFF), Canada's largest Black Film Festival. And in 2013, the Toronto Black Film Festival (TBFF) was born.

Both Festivals have been providing a platform for hundreds of creators who are willing to take a risk by making non-commercial choices, which allows them to tell stories and convey realities that would otherwise not have made it to you. We have showcased exceptional work that did not always make it to the silver screen. By giving a voice to the marginalized and showing films that shatter taboos, our festival's aim is to promote professional collaboration and foster the development of independent film – while celebrating diversity on screen.

But TBFF would not be where it is today without the vision of its board of directors, the audacity and perseverance of its team, the quality of the works selected, the creativity of the artists, the enthusiasm of the press, the conviction of our partners and, above all, the passion and the loyalty

of our audiences. Special thanks to the Fabienne Colas Foundation for its tremendous support. I'm grateful for the amazing work of our great team – the very best a festival can hope for. My heart goes out particularly to our programming gurus **Emile Castonguay** and **Joyce Fuerza** – without them there would be no Festival – and to **Alexe Louisa**, our long time promotion and logistics coordinator working behind the scene to make all work.

All of this would not have been possible without our friends at **Global News**, TBFF's official partner for the past 5 years, and **TD Bank**, TBFF co-presenter. We are proud to be part of **TD's 2017 Black History Month Series**.

We want to continue being the reflection of a cinema that's in step with the current realities of a fast-changing world; a Festival that's on the look-out for new trends, new encounters and top-notch original works.

Let's keep spreading powerful films and stories with impact; films that can move and inspire us to see the world differently and take action!

Enjoy YOUR Festival!!

Fabienne Colas



We are so excited to share our line-up of the 5th edition of the Toronto Black Film Festival with you all!!!

We open with the Canadian premiere of the forthcoming documentary **Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities** directed by Emmy Award Winner director **Stanley Nelson**. The documentary celebrates the impact historically black colleges and universities have had on American culture. Nelson also directed last year's *The Black Panthers: Vanguard Of The Revolution* documentary.

We are honoured to pay tribute to legendary, Oscar winning actor **Louis Gossett Jr.** with **TBFF 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award**. The ceremony will be followed by a Q&A and Master class with Mr. Gossett.

We also bring you once again over **40 of the very best films** on black realities from **20 countries**, most of which are Canadian Premieres, and a variety of breathtaking special events are part of this year's program! From drama to comedy to classic opera musical, from inspiring documentaries to entertaining narrative/fiction films, from

Emile Castonguay
Co-Founder & Programming Director
Joyce Fuerza
Head Coordinator & Programming Coordinator

International to Canadian masterpieces, #TBFF17 has something for everyone!

We close the festival with the South African film **The Lucky Specials**, a North American Premiere, directed by Reg Rangaka. A film that entertains but also educates audiences while raising awareness about Tuberculosis.

Besides the great films and the special events, festivalgoers and people from the film industry will also be able to enjoy **FREE** panel discussions (TBFF Community program) as well as **FREE** workshops (TBFF Black Market) at Carlton Cinema.

Complete program and line-up as well as passes and tickets are available at www.torontoblackfilm.com.

Enjoy the Festival!

Emile Castonguay

Joyce Fuerza



G98.7 FM

THE WAY WE GROOVE

R&B - Soul - Reggae - Soca

Hip Hop - Gospel

Worldbeat - Smooth Jazz

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ON!

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TBFFSPECIAL EVENTS

FEB
15

OPENING FILM TELL THEM WE ARE RISING:

The story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities

By **Stanley Nelson** - USA



See
p.10

7:30PM

\$25

.....
Isabel Bader Theatre 93 Charles St W, TO

FEB
19

CLOSING FILM THE LUCKY SPECIALS

By **Rea Rangaka** - South Africa



See
p. 11

9PM

\$15

.....
Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, TO

FEB
18

AN INTIMATE NIGHT WITH **LOUIS GOSSETT JR.**

Film: **10 Minutes** by Satie Gosset
+ Tribute + MasterClass + Q&A



See
p. 13

9PM

\$20

.....
Jackman Hall - 317 Dundas Street W, TO

WORKSHOPS - MASTER CLASSES & MOVIE-TALKS TBFF BLACK MARKET

FEB
18
19

MEET THE FILMMAKERS | Feb 18 - 11AM

Free admission

MAKING WEBSERIES | Feb 18 - 1PM
Panel discussion

Free admission

MASTER CLASS | Feb 19 - 11AM
With **Sudz Sutherland & Jennifer Holness**

\$10

.....
Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, TO

See
p. 14

FEB
19
2PM

FREE PANEL DISCUSSION

TBFF COMMUNITY PROGRAM

A real-talk about Black realities in today's society.

G98.7FM LIVE AT TBFF

Presented by **G98.7FM**

• **Carlton Cinema**
• 20 Carlton Street, TO
• Free admission

See
p. 15

*Fees: All tickets are subject to service charges. Powered by Beavertix

FEB
15
7:30PM
\$25

OPENING FILM

Presented by

Isabel Bader Theatre
93 Charles St W, Toronto



TELL THEM WE ARE RISING:

The Story of Historically Black Colleges
and Universities

by **Stanley Nelson - USA**

2016 / 90' - English

CANADIAN PREMIERE

A haven for Black intellectuals, artists and revolutionaries - and path of promise toward the American dream - Black colleges and universities have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field. They have been unapologetically Black for 150 years. For the first time ever, their story is told.



Stanley Nelson is Emmy-Award-winning documentary filmmaker, MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, and member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He was awarded the **National Humanities Medal by president Obama** in August 2014. Nelson has directed and produced numerous acclaimed films, including **FREEDOM SUMMER**, **THE MURDER OF EMMETT TILL** and **THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION**

FEB
19
9PM
\$15

CLOSING FILM

.....

Carlton Cinema
20 Carlton Street, Toronto

Presented by



THE LUCKY SPECIALS

by **Rea Rangaka**
South Africa

2016 / 108' - English

With: Oros Mampofu, Sivenathi Mabuya, Blondie Makhene, Richard Lukunku, Thomas Gumede, Fulu Mugovhani

NORTH-AMERICAN PREMIERE

"The Lucky Specials" are a small-time cover band in a dusty mining town in southern Africa. Mandla (Oros Mampofu) works as a miner by day, but is passionate about playing guitar and dreams of making it big in the music industry. When tragedy strikes, Mandla, his friend (Sivenathi Mabuya), and the band must find the strength to make their dreams a reality. "The Lucky Specials" is slated to entertain millions while also helping to shape attitudes and inform behaviors around tuberculosis.

Co-presented by



Introducing the inaugural

**HALIFAX
BLACK FILM
FESTIVAL**

Saturday, March 4, 2017

Founded by



HalifaxBlackFilm.com

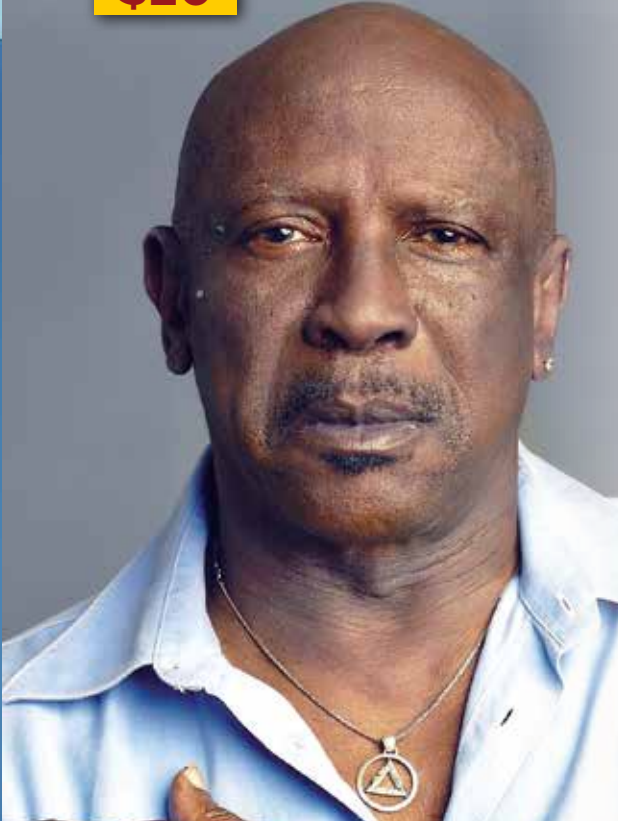
**FEB
18
9PM
\$20**

**AN INTIMATE NIGHT WITH
LOUIS GOSSETT JR.**

Presented by



Jackman Hall (AGO) - 317 Dundas Street W., Toronto



Actor, Louis Gossett, Jr. is one of stage, film and television's most recognized and lauded talents. With over three hundred titles to his credit, Gossett has earned some of the industry's highest honors -- including Emmy's, Golden Globes, NAACP Image Awards, and an Academy Award for his portrayal of Sgt. Emil Foley in *An Officer and a Gentleman* -- and now adds author, director, and humanitarian to his accomplishments.

With a career spanning six decades, the elder statesman has dedicated this last quadrant of his life to communicate with younger generations and transmit the values of community, self-love, and purpose that have characterized our progress as a people. As such, he established Louis Gossett Jr's Eracism Foundation (www.eracismfoundation.org), dedicated to providing young adults with the tools they need for living a racially diverse and culturally inclusive life.

Gossett says, "I'm here to do whatever I can as an elder, as a Baba, to the next generation."n (1982) brought him rave reviews, with the latter role earning him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Additionally, he has dedicated this last quadrant of his life to an all-out conscious offensive against racism, violence, ignorance and social apathy. His Louis Gossett, Jr's Eracism Foundation (www.eracismfoundation.org) was created to support this quest. Through his Foundation, Gossett will establish Shamba Centers (Swahili for "farm") throughout the United States, that offer instruction in cultural diversity, historical enrichment and antiviolence initiatives for young adults, teens and pre-teens to help them understand and eliminate racism by creating a living environment where racism and injustice has a hard time existing.

**2017 TBFF
LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

PROGRAM:

Screening of the film **10 MINUTES** (18)
+ **TRIBUTE + Master Class & Q&A**
with **Louis Gossett Jr.**

**See complet bio and more details about Louis Gossett Jr.:
TorontoBlackFilm.com**

FEB
18

TBFF BLACK MARKET

TBFF WORKSHOPS AND MASTER CLASSES

Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, Toronto

Presented by



#TBFF17 brings back the TBFF Black Market, a series where both locally and internationally renowned industry professionals, experts, thought leaders, visionaries and like-minded people, will share an exciting blend of cutting-edge thinking and real-world experience on today's most critical filmmaking issues. We hope to foster future collaborations, maximize cross-border artistic exchanges and promote entrepreneurship in the field of filmmaking.

See bios and more details at: TorontoBlackFilm.com

MEET THE FILMMAKERS

Saturday, February 18 | 11AM | Free admission

The TBFF's Black Market returns with a Masterclass/Workshop that you won't want to miss if you want to succeed in the film industry. Established filmmakers from Canada and abroad will come talk about their experience with filmmaking from creation, to financing, production, distribution/festival circuit.

MAKING WEBSERIES

Saturday, February 18 | 1PM | Free admission

2017 is the year you take that web series idea written on a napkin and get it made. Using a real web series pitch to guide us, we will walk through the process of creation from pre production to post production. Join a panel of experts (chosen by the ACTRA Toronto Diversity Committee) who have in depth knowledge about casting, hiring, funding, promotion and more. Ask your questions and get motivated.

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A union for everyone.

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everyone deserves fair wages, good benefits
and a safe workplace.



Get to know us at unifor.org

[@Unifortheunion](https://twitter.com/Unifortheunion)

FEB
19
11AM
\$10

TBFF BLACK MARKET

MASTER CLASSES

Presented by



.....
Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, Toronto

MASTER CLASS: JENNIFER HOLNESS & SUDZ SUTHERLAND

Award-winning writer and producer Jennifer Holness and Award-winning director and writer Sudz Sutherland will take us through their journey in the film / TV industry, obstacles they had to overcome, what keeps them going and their secret for success.



Jennifer Holness is writer and producer of scripted and factual TV and films. She co-created and produced the new drama series, *Shoot The Messenger*, along with the miniseries *Guns for CBC*. The latter won five Canadian Screen Awards, including a shared best writing award for Jen. She's also produced numerous documentaries for TV, including *Hispaniola*, currently in production with the NFB. Her film credits including the festival winners *Home Again* and *Love and Sex and Eating the Bones*, which won the Best First Canadian Feature at TIFF. Jennifer is a member of several Boards including *Women in View*, pushing for diversity in all things.

Sudz Sutherland works as a freelance writer and director for TV dramas and feature films. Sudz' episodic work includes *Reign*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Murdoch Mysteries* and *Haven*. Sudz's latest feature film, *Home Again*, won the prestigious PAFF - BAFTA Festival Choice Award in Los Angeles. *Home Again* follows up Sudz' multiple award winning debut feature film *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones*. Sudz' next feature is called *Operation Red Dog*, set to shoot in 2018. He is currently in development for season 2 on CBC's '*Shoot the Messenger*,' his first Dramatic series co-created with writer/producer Jennifer Holness that premiered fall 2016.



Hosted by
Fabienne Colas,
Actress, Director and TBFF President & Founder

FEB
19
2PM

TBFF COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Carlton Cinema - 20 Carlton Street, Toronto

Presented by



FREE panel discussion! - See all details and line-up at TorontoBlackFilm.com

G98.7FM LIVE AT TORONTO BLACK FILM FESTIVAL A REAL-TALK SESSION ABOUT THE REALITIES IN TODAY'S BLACK COMMUNITIES

Join us on Live-On-Location from Carlton Cinema, for Grapevine with **Fitzroy Gordon**

Topics include:

- **#BlackLivesMatter**

What is the social state of our communities today

- **#BlackWealthMatters**

How we can attract success and leverage our resources

- **#DiversityOnScreen**

Will it ever change? What can be done to speed things up

Join the biggest multidisciplinary Festival outside of Haiti
to be entirely devoted to Haitian Culture!

Festival

Haiti
Enfolie™

Montreal
July 2017

NYC
October 2017

HaitiEnFolie.com

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Narrative Feature Films





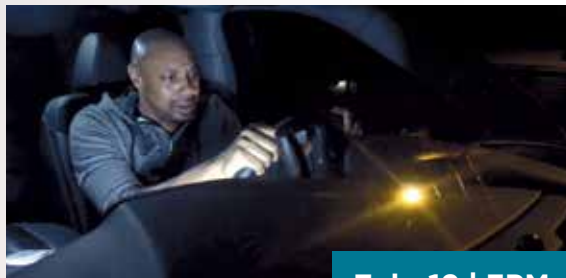
76'

Feb. 16 | 5PM
CARLTON CINEMA

Izu Ojukwu - Nigeria

2016 / 118' - English, Igbo
With: Ramsey Nouah, Rita Dominic, Chidi Mokeme, Ibinabo Fiberesima, Larry Williams, Adonija Owiriwa
> DRAMA, HISTORY

The story is told from two points of view: that of a young pregnant woman, and that of her husband, a soldier accused of being involved in the 1976 military coup and assassination of General Murtala Mohammed, the Head-of-State of Nigeria.



9 RIDES

Feb. 19 | 7PM
CARLTON CINEMA

Matthew A. Cherry - USA

CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 86' - English
With: Dorian Missick, Omar J. Dorsey, Robinne Lee
> DRAMA

The film is about an Uber driver who gets life changing news on New Years Eve and the 9 different groups of people he encounters that night that help him work through it. It was the first feature film to shoot on the iPhone 6s in 4K.



COUPLES NIGHT

Mark Harris - USA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2017 / 92' - English
With: Charles Malik Whitfield, Reagan Gomez, Tony Rock, Denise Boutte, Clifton Powell, Madelyne Woods
> COMEDY

When a bored but quirky housewife becomes obsessed with her argumentative neighbors, she starts a Couples Night that sends her mild mannered husband into a tailspin.



DESTINED

Qasim Basir - USA

CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 95' - English
With: Cory Hardrict, Jesse Metcalfe, Margot Bingham, Robert Christopher Riley
> DRAMA

In one world Rasheed Smith is a hardened criminal who has spent years building his drug empire. In another, he is an ambitious architect who has been working his way up the corporate ladder. Uniquely illustrated through parallel lives, Destined explores how one mans future can be changed by a single moment. Facing everything from street violence to corporate corruption, Rasheed navigates his role in each world while demonstrating that on any path, life is never simple in the journey toward fulfilling your destiny.



ILLCIT

Corey Grant - USA
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
 2016 / 112' - English
 With: David Ramsey, Shireen Crutchfield, McKinley Freeman, Vivica A. Fox
 > DRAMA

A couple finds out that starting an extra marital affair is a lot easier to do than ending one when they both are seduced into outside situations.

Feb. 17 | 9PM | JACKMAN HALL (AGO)



KATUTURA

Florian Schott Namibia
CANADIAN PREMIERE
 2015 / 114' - English
 With: Mara Baumgartner, Obed Emvula, Whilzahn Gelderbloem
 > DRAMA

Katutura follows several characters experience the gravity of living in a Township where dreams are poised to die. As they remain hopeful in the face of adversity they are unaware their lives will collide in both hopeful and brutal ways.

Feb. 18 | 9PM | CARLTON CINEMA



LAMBADINA (NIGHT LIGHT)

Messay Getahun Ethiopia, USA
 2016 / 103' - Amharic, English with english subtitles
 With: Bersabeh Samson, Tsion Mekonnen, Addis Kidane, Messay Getahun, Michael Yimesgen.
 > DRAMA

Lambadina is a feature-length film focusing on the journey of a little boy whose story starts in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and ends in Los Angeles, California.

Feb. 18 | 5PM | CARLTON CINEMA



LIFE IS TOO SHORT

Antoine Allen - USA
CANADIAN PREMIERE
 2015 / 73' - English
 With: Cengiz Dervis, Dawn Noel, Thatcher Johnson-Welden
 > DRAMA

A look at the lives of five New Yorkers dealing with a variety of life's challenges and conflicts. Little do they know that all will be over soon. If you knew that the end of the world is about to come, would you do anything differently?

Feb. 18 | 1PM | CARLTON CINEMA

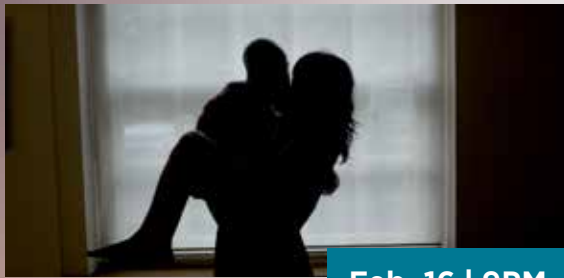


LOVE ISN'T ENOUGH

Saquan Jones, Erin Ryan - USA
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
 2016 / 73' - English
 With: Shadner Ifrene, Ashley Bloom, Bek Markas, Hazel Dolphy, Crystal T. Williams, Sarah Grace Sanders
 > DRAMA

An interracial couple's marriage (Charles and Amanda) is being tested by family and societal pressures when they realize that even LOVE may not be enough to save it; but with a child involved, the stakes are higher and their issues more amplified.

Feb. 17 | 5PM | CARLTON CINEMA



Feb. 16 | 9PM
CARLTON CINEMA

OXFORD GARDENS

Obi Emelonye – United Kingdom

CANADIAN PREMIERE

2015 / 83' - English

With: Ngo Okafor, Savannah Roy, Ngozi Igwebike

> DRAMA

Julius is a broken, down-on-his-luck ex-boxer, in search of redemption. Munachi is a pretty, bubbly young girl with a dark secret. Their chance meeting on a park bench in Oxford Gardens one summer afternoon sets in motion an unlikely friendship and an uplifting journey through their respective fears; and through hope, faith and love; to a stoic acceptance of whatever life throws at them. Stars Ngozi Okafor, (2 time Golden Gloves, Heavyweight champion, top model and Hollywood Actor) Ngozi Thompson Igwebike, Savannah Roy and D Richy Obi-Emelonye.



Feb. 19 | 11AM
CARLTON CINEMA

PLAY THE DEVIL

Maria Govan

Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE

2015 / 90' - English

With: Ngo Okafor, Savannah Roy, Ngozi Igwebike

> DRAMA

18-year-old Gregory is caught between repressing his true creative nature and desiring to surrender to society's dictates of what it means to be a man. An encounter with a successful businessman derails the plans set by his family and community. Play The Devil shatters conventions of sexuality, masculinity, morality and individuality through its unapologetic multi-layered explorations of power dynamics, religion and aspirations.



Feb. 18 | 11AM
CARLTON CINEMA

THE CURSED ONES

Nana Obiri-Yeboah, Maximilian Claussen
United Kingdom, Ghana

CANADIAN PREMIERE

2015 / 110' - English - With: Oris Erhuero,

Jimmy Jean-Louis, Ama K. Abebrese, Fred Amugi

> DRAMA

A series of misfortunes lead a West African village to accuse a young girl, Asabi, of witchcraft. Their Pastor insists that salvation lies in her exorcism and death, using his compelling rhetoric to incite fear into the people and turn Asabi's mother against her own daughter. Disillusioned reporter, Godwin finds himself swept up in the witch hunt. With the help of a young school teacher, he attempts to save Asabi's life, fighting back against corruption and false prophets. Based on true events, The Cursed Ones is a story of morality, corruption, and community in the heart of Africa.



Feb. 19 | 9PM
CARLTON CINEMA

THE LUCKY SPECIALS

Rea Rangaka – South Africa

NORTH-AMERICAN PREMIERE


2016 / 108' - English

With: Oros Mampofu, Sivenathi Mabuya, Blondie Makhene, Richard Lukunku, Thomas Gumede, Fulu Mugovhani

> DRAMA

"The Lucky Specials" are a small-time cover band in a dusty mining town in southern Africa. Mandla works as a miner by day, but is passionate about playing guitar and dreams of making it big in the music industry. When tragedy strikes, Mandla, his friend, and the band must find the strength to make their dreams a reality. "The Lucky Specials" is slated to entertain millions while also helping to shape attitudes and inform behaviors around tuberculosis.

CLOSING FILM (also see p. 11)

A night-time photograph of the Toronto skyline, featuring the CN Tower prominently in the center. The city lights are visible against a dark sky, with a warm, reddish-pink gradient overlaying the entire image. The text is centered over the upper half of the image.

Feature & Mid-Length Documentaries



AGENTS OF CHANGE

**Feb. 18 | 3PM
CARLTON CINEMA**

Co-Produced and Directed by
Frank Dawson and Abby Ginzberg - USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE

2016 / 66' - English - With: Danny Glover, Jimmy Garrett, Ramona Tascoe, Benny Stewart, Harry Edwards, Ed Whitfield and Zachary Carter

> HISTORY

Agents of Change examines the untold story of the racial conditions on college campuses and throughout the country, and how they led to these protests. Forty-five years later, many of the same demands are resurfacing in campus protests across the country, revealing how much work remains to be done.



COLOUR ME BLACK

**Feb. 18 | 7PM
CARLTON CINEMA**

Kelvin Edwards and Dorothy Lucey
USA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

2015 / 62' - English

> PORTRAIT, IDENTITY

Colour me Black is part two of, "Open Legs With A Closed Mind". This is the film that brings the problems to the table while shedding light to topics that most African Americans are afraid to discuss and analyze in public. The goal for "Colour meBlack" is to make our community aware that the Black Man is now an endangered species and our race as a whole is headed for extinction, especially given the latest racially-related and racially-charged incidents that have occurred amongst White policeman and young, Black men. If we do nothing, then no one else will.



**Feb. 17 | 9PM
CARLTON CINEMA**

BY BLOOD

Marcos Barbery, Sam Russell - USA

2015 / 66' - English

> PORTRAIT, IDENTITY

By Blood chronicles American Indians of African descent as they battle to regain their tribal citizenship. Exploring the impact of this battle, which has manifested into a broader conflict about race, identity, and the sovereign rights of indigenous people, the film demonstrates the shared emotional impact of the issue, and the rising urgency of the debate: a Native American and African American history has been overlooked, and a tribal body feels as though their sovereignty is under siege.



**Feb. 19 | 1PM
CARLTON CINEMA**

ELLA'S VOICE

Katja Duregger - Germany

WORLD PREMIERE - Katja Duregger - Germany - 2016 / 53' English

> PORTRAIT

Ella Fitzgerald's voice is a phenomenon and unrivalled to this day. She had the perfect pitch and perfect intonation. Ella's voice spanned three octaves, her phrasing seemed effortless. There is almost no style of music, in which she did not excel, and her numerous - now legendary - recordings of the 'Great American Songbook' with pieces of US composers such as George and Ira Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Cole Porter or Duke Ellington, remained a benchmark for the "right" interpretation of those songs for generations of singers. In the film the focus will be on the voice of Ella Fitzgerald. We want to unravel the secret of her voice through many different people (musicians, singers, critics etc.), who will tell about what impact her voice had on them and still has. We want to learn more about Ella's life to find out what made her sing like she did and only she could.



Feb. 17 | 7PM | CARLTON CINEMA

MUSIC IS OUR WEAPON

Taye Balogun
Kenya, Denmark,
Hungary, Tanzania,
UK

CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 110' - English
> IDENTITY

A film portraying the philosophy, history and fight-for-justice of the most enthralling band in Kenya, which continues to build a bridge between all different social classes with their music and inspires a population living in abject poverty. 'Music Is Our Weapon' is a metaphorical journey of a young vibrant band that never ceases to believe that music is a weapon of change.



Feb. 16 | 7PM | CARLTON CINEMA

SOUND OF REDEMPTION: THE FRANK MORGAN STORY

N.C. Heikin - USA
ONTARIO PREMIERE
2014 / 84' - English
> HISTORY/ PORTRAIT

By the age of 15, Frank Morgan was an accomplished saxophonist, playing with the likes of Charlie Parker and Billie Holiday. As his notoriety grew, so too did a steady heroin addiction, landing him in and out of jail for over 30 years. With so much incarcerated musical talent, the San Quentin jailhouse put together one of the country's leading 16-piece jazz groups during the 1950s.

TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Stanley Nelson - USA CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 80' - English > HISTORY

OPENING FILM (also see p. 10)

A haven for Black intellectuals, artists and revolutionaries—and path of promise toward the American dream—Black colleges and universities have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field. They have been unapologetically Black for 150 years. For the first time ever, their story is told.

Feb. 15 | 7:30PM | ISABEL BADER THEATRE



Feb. 18 | 4PM | JACKMAN HALL (AGO)

THE HOUSE ON COCO ROAD

Damani Baker
Grenada, USA

CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 82' -English
> PORTRAIT, HISTORY

The House on Coco Road is an intimate portrait of Fannie Haughton, an activist and teacher who moves her children from Oakland, California to participate in the Grenada Revolution - only to find her family in harms way of a U.S. military invasion.



Feb. 19 | 5PM | CARLTON CINEMA

WALK ALL NIGHT: A DRUMBEAT JOURNEY

Elilta Tewelde (Executive Producer)
Kate Benzschawel
(Co-Director/Co-Producer)

Mallory Sohmer (Co-Director/Co-Producer)
USA, Sénégal

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2016 / 86' - English
> PORTRAIT

An idealistic social worker initiates an ambitious project to take a group of street musicians to West Africa. Fascinated by the sounds of bucket drummers she meets on Chicago's South Side, Elilta Tewelde aspires to connect the young men to their African heritage through music.



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Short Films





Feb. 18 | 9PM | JACKMAN HALL (AGO)

10 MINUTES

Satie Gosset - USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 18' - English
With: Louis Gossett Jr., Glenn Plummer,
Kent Faulcon
> DRAMA

A lawyer must convince a serial killer to reveal the location of his last victim 10 minutes before his execution.

SPECIAL EVENT (also see p. 13)



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

A PLACE FOR MYSELF

Marie-Clementine DUSABEJAMBO
Rwanda

NORTH-AMERICAN PREMIERE
2015 / 20' - English
With: Jacqueline Umubyeyi,
Fabiola Ndihekubwayo, Akimana Rizik
> IDENTITY

At a casual elementary school comes a five-year-old albino girl, Elikia. Due to her skin color her classmates make her realize that her being 'different' is more a problem than a special trait. While the neighborhood treats her as a stereotype, her mother encourages her. Together, they fight back and raise their voice to find a place for themselves.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

ACROSS THE TRACK

Michael Cooke - USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 16' - English
With: Carla McCullough, Thursday Farrar,
Brynn Crosby, Berkeley Clayborne
> DRAMA

Two African-American sisters grow up in racially charged 1960s Georgia, but one is born with fair skin. And when schools integrate in their small town, she decides to change her destiny—by passing for white.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

ADORN

**Elizabeth Melanson,
Mouna Traoré**
Canada

2015 / 11' - English
With: Tenika Davis, Jon Cor
> DRAMA

A young woman confronts her emotionally unavailable boyfriend after he stands her up on their anniversary date. As the reality of their loveless relationship destroys her fantasy of how things could be, she is forced to either sacrifice her desire for love or face being alone.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

DO YOU REMEMBER ME

Created by Yaz Ali
Directed by Bailey
Corneal - USA
2016 / 4' - English

Using sweet poetic dialogue, Delilah and Fitzgerald remember their love as it was.



Feb. 19 | 1PM | CARLTON CINEMA

FORGIVENESS

Satie Gosset - USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE

2015 / 25' - English
With: Sandra Evers-Manly,
Roland Kilumbu

> DRAMA

The President of the United States issues an essay contest to the youth of America asking them how they would fix America. An upstart, African American young man enters the contest suggesting that the President apologizes for America's role in Slavery.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

HOUSEKEEPING

Chris Strikes
Canada

ONTARIO PREMIERE

2015 / 15' - English
With: Madeleine Claude, Brandon
McKnight, Alexandra Augustine

> COMEDY

A hotel housekeeper has a habit of frolicking with guests' belongings as she cleans their rooms. As she is cleaning one specific room, she imagines herself in their lives, discovering an opportunity to really change her life.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

HUSTLE AND HEART

Koumbie
Canada

ONTARIO PREMIERE

2016 / 12' - English
With: Nathan Simmons, Taylor Olson

> DRAMA

Hunter, the new quarterback on a high school football team, falls for the starting quarterback, Nick.



Feb. 16 | 9PM | CARLTON CINEMA

MTRIARCH

Oyaro Dancurf
Kenya

CANADIAN PREMIERE

2016 / 11' - Swahili with English
subtitles

With: Shirleen Wangare, Shantel Akinyi,
Abdi Adan, Mueni Mary, Stephen
Njenga, Kipkemoi Korir > DRAMA

The struggles of a rural Kenyan single mother: who engages in strenuous hustles to earn a living for her four-year-old baby and herself. Through the main character SUBIRA, the viewer gets inside the lives of single mothers who live with the scourge of poverty and lack of basic needs such as food and clean water in the dry lands across the world and learns what makes them tick.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

SEE ME NOW

Sharon Lewis
Canada

2016 / 5' - English

With : Ordena Stephens-Thompson,
Jani Lauzon, Ardon Bess, Keeya King

Ambrosia is danger of being extinct from her own life. When a chance encounter with Aung May leaves Ordena inspired, she faces the choice to leap or leave her life for good.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

STRANGER

Barbara Mamabolo
Canada

2016 / 12' - English
With : Barbara Mamabolo,
Nicole DeBoer, Rob Stewart
> DRAMA

Cinema studies graduate student Nina Harper is overwhelmed by the task of completing her major paper on D.W. Griffith's Birth of a Nation. As a black woman, she feels torn in two directions. She's been taught to appreciate the film's artistry, but she can't ignore three hours of racist propaganda. Her mind has been racing, she can't sleep and her thoughts are becoming fragmented.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

THE BOOTS

Leah Cohen Mays
USA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2016 / 12' - English
With: Chase Benymon, Indira Wilson,
Erik Mitchell, Paige Noelle, Zeni Moon
> COMEDY

The Boots is a lighthearted comedy that every parent can relate to and every kid can learn from. Whose child hasn't had a meltdown in public? Embarrassing, right? In this modern day silent film, an adorable little guy named Donovan goes on a shopping trip with his family and spots a pair of boots that he simply must have. After being told no, he throws an epic tantrum. So, what does mom, Gayle, do? Let's just say she teaches her son a lesson he will NEVER forget.



Feb. 18 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

THE EXAMPLE

Wyatt Cagle - USA

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2016 / 24' - English
With: Jeremy Allen, Kedrick Brown,
Emma VanLare, Marc Issacs,
Kate Robards
> DRAMA

During a race riot in Beaumont, Texas, in June 1943, Officer Miller Harvey, a white police officer, is determined to protect and serve his city and family. Black business owner Carver Jefferson is hell-bent on taking his family far away from the city, as racial hostility has led to the destruction of his home and business. After curfew while Beaumont is under martial law, Harvey, another white officer, and the Jeffersons collide at a roadblock. Tensions explode on that hot summer night, forcing them to make decisions that will question their morals, loyalty, and manhood.



Feb. 19 | 7PM | CARLTON CINEMA

THE SUIT

Jarryd Coetsee
South Africa

CANADIAN PREMIERE
2016 / 30' - English
With: Atandwa Kani, Phuthi Nakene,
John Kani
> DRAMA

Based on the acclaimed short story by banned South African investigative journalist and author Can Themba, THE SUIT is set in 1950s Sophiatown, Johannesburg, against the backdrop of the apartheid regime's forced removals under the Group Areas Act.



Feb. 17 | 5PM | CARLTON CINEMA

TRAILING A BOND

Oyaro Dancurf
Kenya

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
2016 / 7' - Swahili with English subtitles
With: Abdi Sarowe, Mahmud Salim,
Dougous Mdora, Rahim Marjan, Ketai
Kipkemoi, Ruth Maingi

Trailing a Bond tells an emotional story of three homeless boys who risk their lives to save the life of a two-week-old infant abandoned by his mother and dumped in an old building. It is a show of selflessness and compassion from urchins who despite lacking material wealth, are rich at heart.



Feb. 18 | 7PM | CARLTON CINEMA

DAT HAAR ! (THAT HAIR)

Bibi Fadlalla
The Netherlands

NORTH-AMERICA PREMIERE
2016 / 25' - Dutch with English subtitles
> PORTRAIT, IDENTITY

Kaylee (12) was adopted from Lesotho when she was 3 years old and grew up in a small village in the province of Friesland, the Netherlands. She is the only girl at school with afro-textured hair and she's not too happy about that. Kaylee and her mother have no idea how to treat her hair and there is no one around them who can give them good advice. Her hair is getting more and more matted. Kaylee is tired of always being the one with the difficult hair. So she and her mother decide to go looking for someone who can help her.



Feb. 17 | 9PM | CARLTON CINEMA

ESCRAVOS E SANTOS

Marcio de Abreu
Brazil

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2015 / 26'
Portuguese with English subtitles
> IDENTITY

In the confines of the outback of Bahia, every 12th of October, men and women gather to celebrate the Langa of Our Lady Aparecida. They dance and sing throughout the night to the fervent sounds of prayers and traditional music, expressing their devotion to the black saint. But this mystical scenario conceals sad stories. These are stories of pain and suffering: stories of enslaved men and women told by the black people of the region, as they were heard from their grandparents and great-grandparents.



Feb. 19 | 3PM | CARLTON CINEMA

INA

Muffy Levy - Canada

ONTARIO PREMIERE
2016 / 2' - English

A daughter retells the story of her mother's deteriorating health.



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#TBFF17 FILM SCHEDULE

	Wednesday - 15	Thursday - 16	Friday - 17	Saturday - 18	Sunday - 19
ISABEL BADER THEATRE	7:30PM OPENING NIGHT TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: The story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (90')				
CARLTON	11AM TBFF Black Market Meet the Filmmakers (Discussion Room)				TBFF Black Market Master Class: Jennifer Holness & Sudz Sutherland
CARLTON CINEMA II				TBFF Black Market 1PM Making Weaseries Presented by Actra	TBFF Community Program (Hall) 2PM - 6PM 698.7FM Live at TBFF
CARLTON CINEMA I	11AM The Cursed Ones (110')				Play the Devil (90')
	1PM Life is too short (73')				Forgiveness (25) Ella's Voice (53)
	3PM The example (24') Agents of Change (66')				Across the tracks (16)/ Adorn (11) / Housekeeping (15)/ Ina (2) / Hustle and heart (12) / See me now (5) / The boots (12) / Do you remember me (4) / A place for myself (20) / Stranger (12)
	5PM 76' (118') Trailing a bond (7') Love isn't enough (75')				Walk all Night : A drum beat journey (86)
7PM Sound of Redemption: The Frank Morgan Story (84')				That Hair (25) Colour Me Black (62')	The Suit (30) 9 Rides (86)
9PM Matriarch (11) Oxford Gardens (83')				Katurata (114') Escravos e Santos (26') By Blood (66')	CLOSING NIGHT The Lucky Specials (108')
JACKMAN HALL (AGO)	4PM The House on Coco road (62')				
	6:30PM Couples Night (92')				DESTINED (95')
	9PM Illicit (112)				Film: 10 Minutes (18') Tribute to Louis Gossett Jr. + Master Class & Q&A

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February

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FESTIVAL

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April

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