



GARY
INTERNATIONAL
BLACK FILM FESTIVAL
GET INSIDE FILM. GET OUTSIDE YOURSELF.

OCTOBER 12-14, 2018

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BERGLAND AUDITORIUM, GARY, IN

WWW.GARYBLACKFILMFEST.COM

2018 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Please note: schedule subject to change

WELCOME

We're glad you are here. It's been an incredible journey to this weekend and we are grateful for your presence. So are the filmmakers. Let's spend this weekend immersed in film, story and conversation. We've all worked hard for this. Let's dive in!

HIGHLIGHTS

FESTIVAL FUNKY PREFUNK PARTY - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 @ 6PM
ARTHOUSE: A SOCIAL KITCHEN, 411 BROADWAY

OPENING NIGHT RED CARPET - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 @ 6PM
INDIANA UNIVERSITY NW, 3400 BROADWAY

OPENING NIGHT FILM - 1 ANGRY BLACK MAN DIRECTED BY MENELEK LUMUMBA FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12 @ 7:30PM, INDIANA UNIVERSITY NW

YOUTH FILM SHOWCASE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 @ 12 NOON - ARTHOUSE: A SOCIAL KITCHEN

BLACK FILM NOW: OUR TIME, OUR CULTURE, OUR STORIES FILM AND PANEL DISCUSSION SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 @ 2PM - ARTHOUSE: A SOCIAL KITCHEN

SATURDAY NIGHT SPOTLIGHT - VAYA - DIRECTED BY AKIN OMOTOSO
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 @ 6PM INDIANA UNIVERSITY NW

CLOSING NIGHT DISCONNECTION NOTICE - DIRECTED BY RUBIN WHITMORE II SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ 6PM

We would like to thank all of our volunteers, collaborators, supporters and the individual and in-kind donors who believed enough in us to lend their support.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 11

FUNKY PRE-FUNK PARTY 11-Oct 6:00 PM 11-Oct 6:00 PM
ARTHOUSE: A SOCIAL KITCHEN, 411 E. 5TH AVE, GARY, IN 46402

Kick off the festival with music, cocktails and small bites with DJ MIKE FLEXX
Born and raised in the city of Gary, Indiana, DJ Mike Flexx began spinning at the age of 12 years old. In his 21 years in the business, he has been the chosen dj for many celebrities and known for creating some of the hottest remixes in Chicago.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

11AM RECKONING: FACING OURSELVES – Short Film Showcase

Shorts that explore the ways deal with our internal selves

THIS GREAT NATION Dir, Hector Anderson USA 2018 2 min



Opening Night - 1 ANGRY BLACK MAN

Based on current events, This Great Nation is a raw, unflinching look at two men with opposing views that cross paths in the racially charged climate of President Trump's America.

My Black Is... Dir. Miguel Valdez & Eunice Beato USA 2018
Young women of color set out to redefine what black is to them.

FÔRRA Dir. Felipe Mondoni Brazil 2018 20 minutes
Bastião, son of a slave, and Inácio, the future heir to a sugar mill, are friends until their social conditions separate them. A love triangle between the two and Elza twenty years later culminates in a struggle for survival.

Nana Roxie's Revenge Dir. Bobby Huntley USA 2018 7 minutes

Quincy is an Up and coming DJ. Inspired by the success of a young female rapper by the name of Roxanne Shante with a hit record called 'Roxanne's Revenge'. He conspires, along with his two younger brothers, to join in on the latest hip hop trend of the 'Roxanne Wars' by making a response record. Only this time the rhymes come from an unexpected source.

Blueberry Dir. Martina Lee USA 2018 20 minutes
Blueberry is Short Film about an Afrocentric podcast host, Lyric Hayes in search to find his greatest idol and best-selling author, Harambe Cornell. Lyric is in middle of seducing a hippie yoga instructor on his show when he learns she has information that will help him find Harambe Cornell. Unfortunately, he is forced to take care of his six-year-old son Jacob, dressed in a blueberry costume.

Jabari Keating Dir. Stacy Larkins USA 2018 10 minutes
Upon making a life altering decision, Jabari Keating is a candid first person narrative film that explores his personal reflections, life experiences and trials and tribulations as an African American in present day America.

Thinking of the West Dir. Nnamdi Simon USA 2018 18 minutes

On a fateful night, three teens celebrating their best friends acceptance into college, encounter a crazed woman with a sinister revenge plot to get back at her abusive husband.

Femi Dir. Arnold Peters Dir. Arnold Peters United Kingdom 2018 11 minutes
A young white girl and a young Black man form a special bond

FESTIVAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Jill Freidberg
David Vogel
Ashley and Lance Leasure
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Elanor Watts
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GIBFF FESTIVAL TEAM

Sydney Chatman
Pr. Lisette Celochia
Saidah Holt
Lester Lowe
Walter N. Jones
Ludeen Kilgore
Jeanette Riley
Toni Simpson
Karen Toering

GIBFF ADVISORY COUNCIL

Alyce Emory
Charles Murray
Anthony Riddle
Floyd Webb

FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the city of Gary, Indiana and congratulations to the Gary International Black Film Festival (GIBFF) on your 8th year of presenting film in our great city. Movies are magical windows to the past, present, and future of the human condition. They provide a pleasant escape from reality or a glimpse into the way things are or should be as seen through the eyes of talented directors, writers, actors, and technicians. Once again the GIBFF will showcase outstanding examples of motion picture arts and sciences. For three days, audiences will be treated to an enticing menu of power-packed dramas, insightful documentaries, delightful and thought provoking shorts, and many opportunities to network with actors, filmmakers, producers, and screenwriters. Many may not be aware that the City of Gary has hosted hundreds of film and television productions. Since 1997, the Gary Film and Television Office under the direction of Ben Clement, has been the official liaison and resource for filmmakers from Spike Lee and Michael Bay to Kely McClung and Gary's own, Mark Spencer. A special salute to GIBFF Founder, Karen Toering, Walter Jones, Toni Simpson, Ludeen Kilgore, Sydney Chatman, Saidah Holt, Lester Lowe, and the entire festival team for bringing movie magic to Gary...and we continue to honor the legacy of dedicated filmmaker and artist Kelechukwu Brnfre, a beautiful soul who will never be forgotten.

On behalf of the city of Gary, thank you to the Organizers of the GIBFF for blessing our city with your vision for this event and the partners; Indiana University, the Indiana University Northwest Office of Diversity, Equity and Multicultural Affairs, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, Knight Foundation, Legacy Foundation, DSH Entertainment, Inc. and Gary Arthouse: A Social Kitchen. Enjoy this special event that keeps getting better!

Sincerely,
Karen Freeman-Wilson Mayor of Gary



8TH ANNUAL GARY INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL | OCT. 12-14, 2018

INDIANA UNIVERSITY NW BERGLAND AUDITORIUM | SAVANNAH HALL 3400 BROADWAY, GARY, IN 46408



KNIGHT
FOUNDATION



OFFICE OF
DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND
MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
NORTHWEST

Urban League
of Northwest Indiana, Inc.

www.garyblackfilmfest.com | @garyblackfilm #GIBFF2018

le Robinson Jr., whose father was one of the 1st interns to graduate in 1939, from one of the nations pre-eminent African-American medical training hospitals, Homer G. Phillips, in St. Louis Missouri.

8PM LATE NIGHT LADIES NIGHT FILM - IUN

This One's For The Ladies Dir. Gene Graham USA 2018 83 mins
THIS ONE'S FOR THE LADIES explores the sexual and social identity of contemporary black America through intimate, eye opening and often hilarious accounts from women and men who find love and community in the underground world of exotic dancing. Screens with:

SILKS FUNK FACTORY Dir. Timeca Seretti USA 2018 4 mins

An homage to back in the day when Silk's Funk Factory was a radio talk show that was the talk of the town.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 14 ALL FILMS SCREEN AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY NW

11AM The Possibility of Her Dir. William Feagins, Jr. USA 2017 86 mins

The Possibility of Her is a feature-length documentary which highlights 12 women of color who are actively involved in non-traditional careers or passions. The film delves into each woman's personal and professional life discussing their beginnings, challenges, their take on gender norms as well as addressing some myths and misconceptions about women in their respective fields.

1PM Spilled Milk Dir. Jaqai Mickelsen USA 2018 28 mins

Two lifelong friends. One blood disease. Follow their journey as one suffers from Sickle Cell, an often stigmatized and excruciatingly painful disorder that mostly affects African Americans.

4PM Triumph: The Untold Story of Perry Wallace Dir. Rich Gentile USA 2017 95 mins

GIBFF HONORS Presentation - The GIBFF celebrates the legacy of festival founding member, Kelechukwu Brnfre by taking a moment to honor Gary's best by presenting the Kelechukwu Brnfre Vanguard Award.

Followed by the powerful documentary,

Perry Wallace was a mere teenager when he stood all alone at center court in such hotbeds of rabid racism as Starkville, Mississippi and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It was the turbulent 1960s, and even then, athletes in the entire SEC were restricted by 'whites only' segregation.

Narrated by Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker, TRI-UMPH is not a sports film as much as it is a unique window on America's civil rights movement (with never-before-seen footage of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Stokely Carmichael) that chronicles Perry Wallace's evolution from a reluctant pioneer in the final throes of the Jim Crow era to a determined game-changer, whose actions altered the way of life throughout the South.

Featuring Ambassador Andrew Young, former U.S. Attorney



My Life: Interrupted

General Eric Holder, sports sociologist Dr. Harry Edwards, Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson, and civil rights pioneer Rev. James Lawson. Also features songs by the Roots and Nina Simone.

6PM CLOSING NIGHT FILM Dir. Rubin Whitmore II USA 2018 101 mins

Disconnection Notice Disconnection Notice is a hilarious feature length comedy about Rochelle (Kelly Kellz) and Mike (Wildcat) struggling to keep their relationship afloat and the lights from getting turned off by the electric company.

Dear, Ms. Karen Toering,

As the State Senator representing Indiana Senate District 3, it is my pleasure to provide support for the Gary International Black Film Festival Program (GIBFF). The GIBFF supports community building by bringing audiences and artists together through film.

This 3-day festival, is Gary's hometown cultural event that provides an opportunity to recognize local contributions by industry professionals, community leaders, and local film artists living in NW Indiana.

I would like to congratulate the Gary International Black Film Festival for hosting this event and providing an opportunity for the community to learn about the film industry. It is with highest honor, that I support the efforts of the committee and the community partners that are able to host this event.

Sincerely,
Eddie Melton Indiana State Senate
Senate District 3



that sets them both free

The Reckoning Dir. Christopher Malcolm Reese USA 2018 13 minutes

In order to save his own life, a gangbanger being held hostage must appeal to the empathy of his kidnapper. a young man named Q tries to rob it cashier.

1PM STANDING YOUR GROUND: Short Film Showcase Exploring the ways we stand up and stand out.

'63 Boycott Dir. Gordon Quinn USA 2017 29 minutes

In 1963, 250,000 students boycotted the Chicago Public Schools to protest racial segregation. Unseen 16mm footage of the boycott is combined with insights from the original participants and present-day protesters against school closings. '63 Boycott connects the forgotten story of one of the largest northern civil rights demonstrations to contemporary issues around race, education, and youth activism.

Take Me Home Dir. Willie O Ford USA 2018 13 minutes

A home foreclosure crisis has gripped Detroit Michigan for over a decade. Illegally inflated property taxes have caused more than 100,000 working families to lose their homes. The last time Americans experienced anything near this alarming rate of foreclosures was during the great Depression. While headlines read of the so called rebirth of the Motor City, many Detroit neighborhoods have been devastated. With African-Americans communities hit hardest of all.

Riding with Aunt D. Dot Dir. Bree Grant USA 2018 7 minutes

A young artist takes a bus ride that makes her question reality as several eclectic characters take her to task on where she's going with her life.

Midnight Dir. Amiya Harris USA 2018 12 minutes

A short drama film about family and the encounter of racism.

Under The Law Dir. Bill Anaya

Adriel (Malachi Beasley), a qualified and determined individual, is looking for employment at a law firm, but a blemish on his record holds him back. However, everything changes when Karen (Christina Schulz) finds out what his motive was on the night of his incident.

Padlock Men Dir. Mitsu Miyashima USA 2018 10 minutes

86 yr. old Walter Posey Fodrell, shares one of his youthful memoirs of the historically secret band of vigilante civil rights soldiers known as the Padlock Men Blood for Blood Knuckles Dirty the Civil Rights movement will never be viewed the same. A History Never Spoke A Bond Never Broken

FESTIVAL RED CARPET RECEPTION - 6PM IUN
Music, Red Carpet Experience food and great folks!



Jabari Keating

7:30PM OPENING NIGHT FEATURE FILM INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST (IUN)

1 Angry Black Man Dir. Menelek Lumumba USA 2018 92mins

Mike Anderson is a senior at the quintessential New-England liberal arts school, Frost College. And Mike is eight weeks away from graduation. On this particular day he has his African-American Literature class with his favorite professor. But today, Mike is feeling sadness. He's feeling isolated. He's feeling Angry.

Taking place in real time, 1 Angry Black Man provides a voyeuristic view of the difficult conversations young people engage in. As they navigate the society in which they live, the students draw from the intellect of master writers such as James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston, August Wilson and Ta-Nehisi Coates. Through their old books they find modern solutions, uncover new questions, and push the political boundaries, forcing each other to reckon with the truths they keep hidden in the dark.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

12 PM YOUTH SHORT FILM SHOWCASE – ARTHOUSE: A SOCIAL KITCHEN

When Wrong Is Right Dir. Kevin Caulfield USA 2018 6 minutes
When a scrappy teen faces struggle at home, he must invent a series of games in order to keep his younger brother distracted.

Crescent Dir. Edward Worthy USA 2018 14 minutes

A black teenager transfers from his predominantly white school to an all black school.

Soci Circle Dir. Cindy Baer USA 2018 20 minutes

After dealing with drama, bullies, demanding parents, cultural differences, and whatever else life throws her way, a tween girl seeks advice from friends before she makes a bad choice.

Reflect Dir. Nia Applewhite USA 2018 3 minutes

A student film about a different perspective of a challenging

topic.

Chosen Foe Life Dir. **Montel Williams** USA 2017 33 minutes

Chosen Foe Life tells the story of a young man named Dashawn Miles and his struggle with trying to find comfort in his poverty stricken circumstance, while trying to survive in the violent streets of Chicago. Choosing the right or wrong path is his challenge, a challenge that will either make or break him. The decision is his. What will he choose? Whatever that decision may be, it will ultimately alter his life.



The Anthem of Our Souls

The Wicked Imagination of A Teenage Kid Dir.

Tasha Neal-Harris, Candace Wright USA 2018 38 minutes
This creepy comedy features J.C., a teenager who has a supernatural trait—he can't eat before he goes to sleep, or his imagination comes to life in a creepy way! But, uh oh! There is a creepy new teacher at school who has a craving for more than apples! Will his imagination come to life and make him the teacher's snack?

12:30 PM MATINEE SHORT FILM SHOWCASE: NAVIGATION: THE WAYS WE MOVE IN THE WORLD - IUN

My Life, Interrupted Dir. **Alana Devich Cyril** USA 2018 9 minutes

Alana Devich Cyril is on a quest to figure out how to navigate life following a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. In this comical, poignant documentary, she wants to show the world what her life looks like, but things like 3 million doctors appointments and a fear of travel get in her way.

Grrrl Justice Dir. **Shontina Vernon** USA 2018 16 minutes

Grrrl Justice is a short narrative film exploring the pathways of girls and queer youth of color into the juvenile justice system. It uses gender and sexuality as a framework for understanding their rising rates of incarceration. Through the lead characters in this powerful triptych, we also come to understand the power of story and the necessity of art and youth led community spaces in their healing and liberation. Written and directed by Shontina Vernon.

Femme Queen Chronicles - Episode One: The Clock Dir. **Ahya Simone** USA 2018 11 minutes

Femme Queen Chronicles is a web-series about the lives of four black trans women as they navigate through love, life, trade, and shade in the city of Detroit; written, directed, and brought to life by black trans women themselves. In Episode One, the four friends just try to make it through the day without getting clocked as trans women or clocking someone else over the head instead.

A beloved Pastor works to serve his 'flock' and save his 100 year old church. In his dedication and desire to do so, he crosses boundaries that are not to be crossed. Stars RICHARD T. JONES, Adam Lazarre-White, Robinne Lee, Maya Dunbar, Inny Clemons.

AJE IJO SERIES (3RD INSTALLMENT): RIVERS OF NINE Dir. **Kiana Harris** USA 2018 20 mins

AJE IJO Short Dance Film Series centers the humanity, resiliency, vulnerability of black & african diasporic people [of all genders], interrogating the western gender binary and interrupting accompanying notions of masculinity and femininity. Our individual and collective complexity, survival, thriving, and ultimately our healing as a people are at stake, and compel the elaboration of this narrative. To this end, the film elicits elements of spiritual cosmologies of the african diaspora, particularly those that emerge from the Yoruba divine consciousness, Ifa, and the Orisa (deities) that comprise it.

Totally Becky Dir. **Dre Robinson** USA 2018 20 mins

Becky Mason-Happ is a super revolutionary Black woman who gets in trouble because she has no filter when injustice surfaces. People are apprehensive to hire her and her professional career and family suffer from it. Yet, she knows how to code switch like a mug.

Sincerely, The Black Kids Dir. **Miles Iton** USA 2018 35 mins

Sincerely, The Black Kids is a documentary on the institutional challenges black student government leaders face in primarily white institutions nationwide.

Across the country, universities everywhere are becoming battlegrounds for racial politics and agendas. For every loud proponent of 'agreeing to disagree' that surfaces, there's a group of black students who don't enjoy the privilege of choosing to be moderate. Follow the stories of black student leaders from American University, Cornell University, Clemson and New College of Florida in Sincerely, the Black Kids, a documentary of triumphs and tribulations that prove sometimes it IS because you're black.

2PM BLACK FILM NOW:OUR TIME, OUR CULTURE, OUR STORIES – Film and Panel – ARTHOUSE: A SOCIAL KITCHEN

Our stories have long been in the hands of an industry that has often misrepresented us. Despite decades of power controlled by a few corporations, Black artists have continued to find their voice. From Oscar Micheaux to Donald Glover, Black artists find a way. Filmmaker Michael Dennis MikeD founder Reelblack.com joins Gary's own Angela Crook, and radio and television industry veteran Paul Porter BlackOut: My 40 Years in the Music Industry, Industry Ears, RapRehab.com in a lively and very timely exploration of Blacks in film, television and radio.

2PM YOUTH FILMMAKING WORKSHOP – IUN

Hands on! Youth explore filmmaking from the inside out, featuring tips and techniques for making your best film using the tools you have.

3PM SHORT FILM SHOWCASE: LIVING AND LOVING WHILE BLACK – IUN

The Anthem of Our Souls Dir. **Jahmal Holland** USA 2017 12 mins

The Anthem of Our Souls is a film which combines the creative process of a community collaborative mural, with stories depicting the issues on the hearts of the collaborators. The stories arise from individual experiences, community concerns and reflections on cultural history.

Louisiana 1961 Dir. **Bobby Huntley** USA 2016 13 mins

A rousing love story set against a backwoods honky tonk blues performance. Starring Bryan Earl and Ashley John as Louis and Nora. We follow a simple boy meets girl story with intense intercut passionate scenes.

The Dress of Myriam Dir. **Lucas H. Rossi** Brazil 18 mins

In a quiet house, an old couple share a life in silence.

Homesick Dir. **Jupiter Leo** USA 2018 8 mins

A vivid look at modern life where the city, nature and obligations come to a crossroads.

FÔRRA Dir. **Felipe Mondoni** Brazil 2018 14 mins

Bastião, son of a slave, and Inácio, the future heir to a sugar mill, are friends until their social conditions separate them. A love triangle between the two and Elza twenty years later culminates in a struggle for survival.

Generation Dir. **Pamela Woolford** USA 2018 20 mins

An elderly narrator revisits her youth, telling the story of her sister Mable, a poor farm girl who reads classic literature to their abusive father, struggling mother, and family of seven brothers and sisters, helping to forge a new existence for them for generations to come.

Living Dir. **Marcellus Cox** USA 2017 13 mins

A Award Winning Drama about an Angel's descent from Heaven to Brooklyn looking too clear the air, bridging a Gap finding common ground addressing an important key of life between Law Enforcement and Minorities.

4PM BLACK MAGIC: BLACK FUTURE- Short Film Showcase – ARTHOUSE: A SOCIAL KITCHEN

Magical realism and Afro science fiction take the stage in this short film collection.

The Gift Dir. **Denise Olusala** USA 2018 18 mins

Jade and Lizzy are sisters and ever since their mom died a year ago they have worked as maids for the Lincoln family. Jade has the power to heal people but never uses it. Lizzy has no powers of her own but wishes Jade would embrace her power. When the Lincoln family's chronically ill child takes a turn for the worse, Jade and Lizzy face some tough deci-



Triumph: The Untold Story of Perry Wallace

sions.

Prototype Dir. **Christopher Ortega** USA 19 mins

Afrofuturist Sci-Fi: A reluctant black woman scientist trapped in her mother's lab seeks to program an android with human-like empathy.

PAWG - Day12 Pretty Ass White Girl 2.1 Dir. **John Eddins** USA 2017 19 mins

The uniqueness at the very end of this tale gives birth to a strange beginning as lovers reunite 12 days after one of them gets a whole new lease on love.

The Wicked Imagination of Teenage Kid Dir. **Tasha Neal-Harris, Candace Wright** USA 2018 38 mins

This creepy comedy features J.C., a teenager who has a supernatural trait—he can't eat before he goes to sleep, or his imagination comes to life in a creepy way!

6PM SATURDAY SPOTLIGHT FILM - IUN

VAYA Dir. **Akin Omotoso** South Africa 2017 111 mins
VAYA pays homage to the Tsotsitaal namesake meaning 'to go'. VAYA chronicles the innocence lost by three young South Africans who journey away from their rural homes on a train bound for Johannesburg. Stirring and suspenseful, VAYA culminates in an explosive moment based on real accounts. Omotoso's collaboration with first time feature cinematographer Kabelo Thathe pairs stunning aerial shots with fast paced images in Johannesburg to intertwine the stories of strangers struggling to survive. Screens with:

Grey Walls Dir. **Michael Kunke** Ghana 2018 6 mins

Grey Walls is a short narrative video about the complex story of slave trade and the Elmina Castle. The videorty which is a blend of video and poetry relies on powerful narrative to tell the story of the harrowing experience of slaves at the Elmina Castle. Elmina Castle was built by the Portuguese in 1482, it had the distinction of being the first of many permanent slave factories dotted along the coast of West Africa.

6PM THE COLOR OF MEDICINE – Dir. Joyce Fitzpatrick USA 2018

An absorbing and historic recollection of a 2nd generation physician and alumnus of Homer G. Phillips in 1963, Dr. Ear-