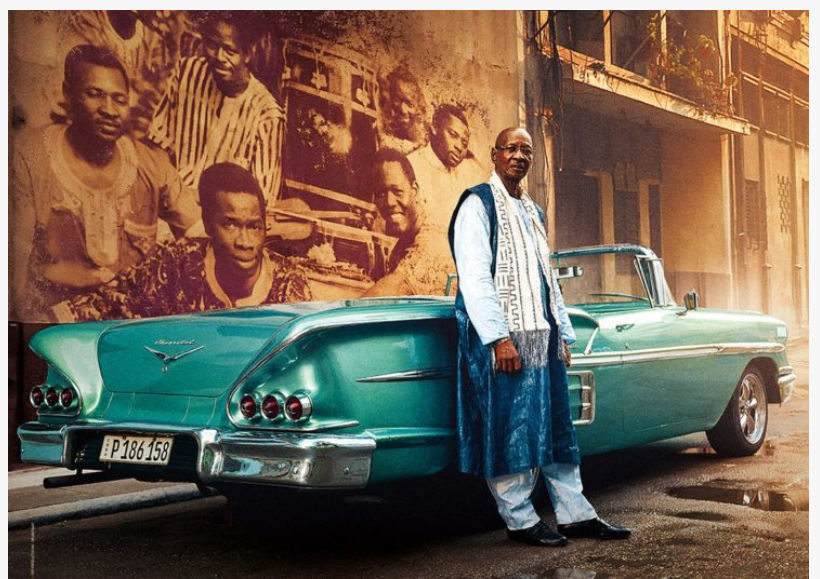


THE AFRICAN DIASPORA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The African Diaspora International Film Festival (ADIFF) will celebrate its 28th anniversary virtually nationwide for the first time from Nov. 27 to Dec. 13

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, November 12, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The African Diaspora International Film Festival (ADIFF) will celebrate its 28th anniversary virtually nationwide for the first time from Nov. 27 to Dec. 13 with 75 narratives and documentaries from 31 countries including 26 World, US and New York premieres.



The Mali-Cuba Connection / Africa Mia

For 28 years, ADIFF has spotlighted culturally and socially meaningful feature and documentary films about the human experience of people of color all over the world. The films in ADIFF 2020 explore the full humanity and range of the Black and Indigenous experience, giving a

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ADIFF 2020

multidimensional voice to often misrepresented and misunderstood realities and peoples. Titles in ADIFF 2020 come directly from important domestic and international film festivals such as Tribeca, Venice, Toronto, Cannes, Berlinale, Durban, the Pan African Film Festival, The Trinidad and Tobago film festival and the International Havana Film Festival of the New Latin American Cinema in Cuba. Others are independent productions made by filmmakers eager to share their message with an audience.

Opening Night film, [St. Louis Blues](#) by Allen Resiner, is the 1958 classic film broadly based on the life of W. C. Handy

and featuring Nat 'King' Cole, Eartha Kitt, Pearl Bailey and Juano Hernandez. It is presented in the program Juano Hernandez, an Afro-Latino Actor in Hollywood that features five films with

this Puerto Rican who became the first Afro-Latino actor to work in Hollywood. His career lasted 50 years. The other films in the program are *Intruder in the Dust* by Clarence Brown (1949), *Something of Value* by Richard Brooks (1957), *Sergeant Rutledge* by John Ford (1960), and *the Pawnbroker* by Sidney Lumet (1964).

Closing Night film [Lil' Buck](#), *Real Swan* by Louis Wallecan, is a comprehensive documentary about Charles "Lil Buck" Riley who learned the smooth art of Memphis jookin and transformed it through his experience in the ballet world to become one of the greatest contemporary dancers in the world. Celebrated for his innovative dance style, his dedication to elevating the art of street dance and his commitment to lifting the life of young people, Lil' Buck is ADIFF 2020 Closing Night guest and will participate in a virtual Q&A focused on ADIFF's Art, Resistance and Activism program, a selection of 19 films celebrating art as a force for social change.

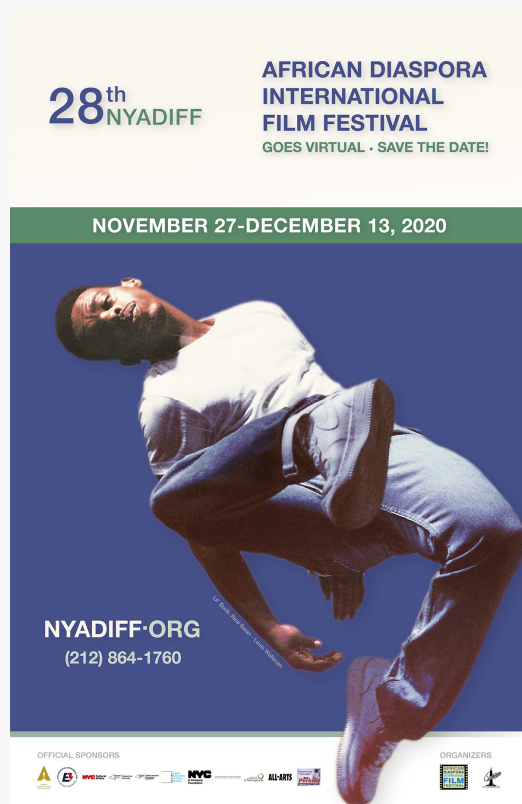
OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- The NY Premiere of *a Son* (Bik Eneich), Tunisian director Mehdi M. Barsaoui's intense family drama starring French-Tunisian actor Sami Bouajila, winner of the Orizzonti Award for Best Actor, Venice Film Festival 2019. This film is about an 11-year-old who needs a liver transplant after being seriously injured during a terrorist attack. At the hospital, a family secret is revealed. *A Son* "is a drama that expertly captures complex human emotions within their socio-cultural, historical and political context." ~ Hollywood Reporter

- Best South African Film winner at the 2019 Durban International Film Festival [Back of the Moon](#) by Oscar nominated South African director Angus Gibson (Mandela) is a period drama set in 1958 Sophiatown that tells the story of a brief encounter between local gangster Badman and Eve, a beautiful singer, on the eve of his home being demolished by Apartheid police.



Esmeralda's Beach



ADIFF 2020 Cover

- US Premiere screening of historical documentary Strike for Freedom by Parisa Urquhart, a short film about world-renowned author, orator and activist Frederick Douglass and his major impact on Scotland.
- US Premiere screening of The Cuba-Mali Connection / Africa Mia by Richard Minier and Edouard Salieris, a musical documentary about ten young promising musicians from Mali sent to Cuba in 1964 to study music who developed a revolutionary new sound mixing Afro-Cuban rhythms with traditional African music.
- US Premiere screening of The Esmeraldas Beach by Patrice Raynal, a documentary that sets out to expose the invisibility of Afro-Ecuadorians and rectify the narrative of the country's history. Among other stories is that of the 1999 assassination of Prime Minister Jaime Hurtado, the first Black to hold that office.
- NY Premiere screening of award-winning social drama Kuessipan by Myriam Verreault tells the story of two young women from the same Quebec Innu community find who they have less in common the older they become. Kuessipan, which had its world premiere in the Discovery category at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival, is presented in the context of ADIFF 2020 First Nation program.
- US Premiere screening of award-winning documentary The Writer From A Country Without Bookstores by Marc Serena about Juan Tomás Ávila Laurel, the most translated writer from Equatorial Guinea who had to flee the country in 2011, after going on a hunger strike against Teodoro Obiang's dictatorship, the longest lasting in the world. This film is part of the Art, Resistance and Activism program.

For more information about the 28th Annual African Diaspora International Film Festival, to receive the complete line up, screeners and high resolution images please contact Diarah N'Daw-Spech at (212) 864-1760/ fax (212) 316-6020 or e-mail pr@nyadiff.org. Festival web site: www.nyadiff.org.

The African Diaspora International Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.

ADIFF 2020 FACT SHEET

WHAT: 28th Annual African Diaspora International Film Festival

WHERE: Going 100% online nationwide for the first time

WHEN: From November 27, 2020 until December 13, 2020.

• SLATE 1 Friday, Nov. 27 9:00 AM –Wed, Dec. 2 11:59 PM

• SLATE 2 Thursday, Dec. 3 12:01 AM –Tue, Dec. 8 11:59 PM

• SLATE 3 Wed, Dec. 9 12:01 AM –Sunday, Dec. 13 11:59 PM

TICKETS: From \$2 to \$15 depending on screening/event. Festival passes available.

4 SPECIAL EVENTS:

Opening, Gala, Centerpiece, Closing

6 PROGRAMS:

Spotlight on Afro-Colombian Cinema; Juano Hernandez: An Afro-Latino in Hollywood: the First Nation program; Art, Resistance and Activism Program; Public Award for the Best Film Directed by a Woman of Color; ADIFF School Program.

75 FILMS IN 31 COUNTRIES:

Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Mali, Kenya, Morocco, Mexico, Netherland, New Zealand, Peru, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Senegal, Switzerland, South Africa, Germany, Spain, Equatorial Guinea, Tunisia, Trinidad & Tobago, UK, USA.

26 PREMIERES

16 SPECIAL GUESTS

17 DAYS

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