

Rome International Film Festival (RIFF) to host International Premiere of 'Her Name was Hester' on opening night

Northwest Georgia-based film festival to host red carpet, film screening and Q&A panel on Nov. 10 and a civic dialogue - forum led by Berry College on Nov. 12

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES, October 5, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The [Rome International Film Festival \(RIFF\)](#) will be hosting the international premiere screening of the documentary ['Her Name was Hester'](#) on RIFF's opening night at the DeSoto Theatre located at 530 Broad St, Rome, GA 30161. On Nov. 10 at 6:00 p.m. there will be a red carpet walk for the media to interview the film's subjects and filmmakers followed by the screening at 7:00 p.m. After the screening there will be a Q&A panel with the filmmakers and some of the family including: Brian Campbell, Stacie Marshall, members of the Mosley Family (the family featured in the film), Kim Severson (Pulitzer Prize winning NY Times journalist), Haley Smith, Austen Earp, Jeff Walsh, Matthew Raiford (Farmer/Chef) concerning the creation of the film; followed by a brief musical performance by members of the Mosley family who performed songs for the film.



On Nov. 12 at 10:00 a.m. there will be a civic dialogue about restorative healing in communities inspired by the film which will be moderated and led by Haley Smith, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Berry College. The location will be announced in the coming weeks and breakfast will be provided.

'Her Name was Hester,' follows Stacie Marshall as she moves back to her ancestral farm in Dirt Town Valley, Georgia, USA. Marshall wrestles with the reality of her farm having held enslaved

humans and must find a way to make amends. In this process of reconciliation and filming, she is approached by a New York Times National Food Correspondent, who joins in the documentation of the story and it ends up on the cover of the New York Times July 4, 2021. A story passed down within Mrs. Marshall's family about an enslaved woman, Hester, who served as a wet nurse to her ancestors and was eventually buried among them prompts Mrs. Marshall to engage in genealogical research and reconciliation efforts with her neighbors. Along the way, with the counsel and collaboration of her neighbors and trusted mentors, Betty and Melvin Mosley, Mrs. Marshall makes a surprising and emotional discovery that will change the community forever.

“We are excited to announce ‘Her Name was Hester’ is our screening for the opening night of the festival and emphasizes the importance of RIFF’s commitment to DE&I,” said RIFF Executive/Co-Creative Director Seth Ingram. “Georgia Power is our main sponsor for DE&I initiatives this year which makes the film a perfect fit for the opening night.”



The film is an Ozarkadia Films Production with the co-writer and editor Jeff Walsh’s A Million Things productions with special thanks to: Mountain Mama Farms, Stacie Marshall, Red Brand Studios, Darkroot Studios, Jackie Shropshire-Hammond, Jeneal Johnson, Ryan Simmons, Jory McDaniel Mosley, Stacie Marshall, Harmony Baptist Church in Summerville, Georgia and Betty and Melvin Mosley. The premiere of the film will also be an announcement of Hester's Heritage Foundation, an organization founded in honor of Hester that will work to provide community aid and local scholarships. Visit <https://www.hestersheritage.org/> to learn more and make a donation.

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RIFF Executive/Co-Creative Director Seth Ingram

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Ford, Courtyard by Marriott, Hardy Realty, Kingston Downs, OTR Wheel Engineering, Rome PAM Studios, River City Bank, Suzuki Motor Sports, The Ball Corporation, Toles Temple and Wright Real Estate. Learn more at <https://www.riffga.com/sponsors>.

At RIFF pass-holders will be seated first, ticket-holders after. Tickets for individual film screenings during the festival are set at \$10, there is a student package for \$25 that provides access to the

entire festival minus parties. Further information for full access passes can be found at <https://www.riffga.com/passes>

To learn more about the 19th Annual Rome International Film Festival (RIFF), Nov. 10 - 13, please visit www.riffga.com. To schedule an interview with the 'Her Name was Hester' or RIFF team, contact Minah Thomas (717) 253-6433 or Amy Parrish (404) 310-6559.

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