2022 Film Festival

Opening Reception
Friday, November 4, 2022 @ 6:00pm
Sip & Savor Rosenwald
78 E 47th Street, Chicago IL

Film Festival
Saturday, November 5, 2022 @ 9:00am
Sunday, November 6, 2022 @ 9:00am
Reva & David Logan Center for the Arts
915 E 60th Street, Chicago IL
Welcome to Black Alphabet Film Festival 2022!

We are more than delighted to be in our 9th year of presenting the festival here in Chicago. We would like to thank our festival sponsors (see page 19), volunteers, filmmakers, directors, producers, and of course you, our guests in attendance in person, and online. Without continued support, this festival would not be possible.

Although we are still in a global pandemic, the CDC and our host venue has loosened restrictions to where masks and proof of vaccine are no longer required. We still encourage everyone to take precautions based on your own personal preferences.

Each year, Black Alphabet continues our mission to provide arts-based programming that is based in the promotion of, and education about different wellness topics. Be sure to pick up a copy of Black Alphabet’s 2021 Annual Report in the lobby to see what we accomplished in 2021.

The 2022 Film Festival continues to support our mission and vision by providing space for films by and/or about the Black LGBTQ/SGL+ community and experience. Prior to the festival, we screened Black As U R and B-Boy Blues separately, and for each film we had an open and candid talkbacks about the films’ subject matter. Talkbacks help us to explore the conditions in our community as portrayed through film, and share ideas about ways to reverse the negative aspects and perceptions about our community.

This year, we are featuring the film Beyond Ed Buck after which we will have a talkback about the film and the situation. We encourage everyone to attend and participate in the discussion. Together, we can build solidarity, compassion, and support within our community.

2023 is shaping up to be our busiest year ever. With increasing funding, we are in the process of developing more ongoing programming to support the overall wellbeing of our community. Please make sure you subscribe to our mailing list to stay up to date about upcoming events, and also for opportunities to get involved.

Thank you for coming, and enjoy the festival!
Friday, November 4, 2022

Mix & Mingle/Photos
KenChris
Mix & Mingle
Mikey Everything
Mix & Mingle
Raffle

6:00pm
7:00pm
8:00pm
9:00pm
Saturday, November 5, 2022

9:00am
Introductions
9:10am
CANS Can't Stand
9:25am
The BOI's Failed Crown
9:30am
I Identify As Me
9:45am
Sia
9:55am
Untitled: Chris Jakob
10:00am
Nana's Boys

BREAK

11:25am
Beyond Ed Buck
12:55pm
Beyond Ed Buck Talkback

LUNCH (provided by Black Alphabet)

Body Language
2:55pm
Dooley Does Murder
3:05pm
The Baldwin Archives
3:15pm
Ezra
3:25pm
Car Therapy
3:35pm
Black Beauty
3:40pm
I Wish I Never Fucking Met You
4:05pm
Halfsies
4:15pm
Rainbow Migrants
4:40pm

BREAK

The next section of films is presented in collaboration with
Chicago South Side Film Festival

6:00pm
Manifold
6:45pm
The Funnel
7:00pm
Jabari Dreams of Freedom
### Sunday, November 6, 2022

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introductions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>J'Ouvert</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Un)Claimed</td>
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<tr>
<td>blk</td>
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<td>Breathe</td>
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<td>A Fox In The Night</td>
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<td>DF Writes: S2E5</td>
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<td>Scales: The Web Series (Ep 305)</td>
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<td>Amina</td>
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<td>Winter Insect, Summer Flower</td>
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<td>For Love</td>
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<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Black Rainbow Love</strong></td>
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<td>The Text</td>
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<td>Romario</td>
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<td>Digging For Life</td>
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<td>Phea</td>
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<td><strong>LUNCH (provided by Black Alphabet)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>My Abortion Saved My Life</strong></td>
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<td>Hold The Line</td>
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<td>F^$K ’em Right B@gK</td>
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<td>I Don’t</td>
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<td>Code Switch</td>
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<td>To Live and Die In BK</td>
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(Un)Claimed follows Fiona Devers, a facilities-manager-but-wanna-be-performer, and her longtime girlfriend Kimberly Mills as they navigate polyamory for the first time. With the help of friends, can this motley crew learn to be true to themselves while realizing that love doesn’t always look the way you expect? Directed by Carolyn Ratteray.

A South London story in which opposites attract, appearances deceive and bravery reaps rewards. Directed by Keeran Anwar Blessie.

Haunted by the loss of her partner, a former astronaut struggles to connect with her unborn child. Directed by Shanrica Evans.

From Jayce Baron and Hailie Sahar (Pose), Beyond Ed Buck follows the tragic murders that took place at the hands of Democratic political donor, Edward Buck. The documentary expands the conversation in which Black trans and Black gay-identified men fall prey to the sexual fetishes and baiting of crystal meth that exist throughout history. Directed by Jayce Baron & Hailie Sahar.
One Room. Two Men. One Bold Conversation. In 1963, famed author James Baldwin sits with BBC journalist Peter Duval Smith as the legendary writer expresses his perception on the plight of racism in America and the importance of compassion for your fellow human being. Directed by Laura Seay.

Black Beauty is a visual diary that traces Elle’s story in her own words—as she reconnects with loved ones from the past, recalls her coming of age experience as a woman from the Midwest, and reflects on her journey as a movement leader and founding strategic partner of the global movement Black Lives Matter. Directed by Elle Moxley.

Black Rainbow Love shares the stories of the Black LGBTQ+ community in a way that has never been done before. The stories reflect the real lives of real people from a community whose culturally relevant stories aren’t being told, seen, shared, or discussed. Directed by Angela Harvey.
A young man with a promising future, battles with issues of depression and suicide after his life takes a turn for the worst. Directed by Jonathan Rowan.

“blk” is the collective voice of Detroit’s Black non-cis male artists and poets. It speaks healing for the millions of Black non-cis males who need it, for Black cis males to tap into the healing, and for those on the outside to examine the impact of silencing, erasing, and asking for trauma-driven narratives. Directed by Naforest Lim.

BODY LANGUAGE is a candid conversation about body image and body experience for Black gay, queer, and same gender loving men. Men share their personal journeys through childhood, coming into the gay community, and acceptance and rejection based on body type. Directed by Odu Adamu.

“The BOI's Failed Crown” is a poetry film that delves on longing and desire through the angle of reclaiming the Black Trans body. It was shot at the protagonist's house, MARS' house, and the Detroit Abloom flower garden. Directed by Na Lim Forest.

A young man with a promising future, battles with issues of depression and suicide after his life takes a turn for the worst. Directed by Jonathan Rowan.
For forty years, police and prosecutors have weaponized Louisiana's Crime Against Nature by Solicitation (CANS) law to terrorize queer and trans Louisianians. CANS Can't Stand follows a group of Black trans women in New Orleans who are fighting to repeal that law—and advance trans liberation across the state. Directed by Matt Nadel & Megan Plotka.

A down-on-her-luck college therapist decides to drive for a ride sharing app to make ends meet during the pandemic. On her rides, she is exposed to new people and new parts of LA and always ends up dishing advice, whether solicited or not. Directed by Jennelle Williams.

After a typical trip to their local barbershop, Quan finds themselves frustrated, isolated, and alone. The world around them seems to be turning on them. Once at home, they decompress, finding solace in an unsuspecting and expansive space of gender expression. Directed by Davis Alexander James.
D decided to pitch to F, but all of her ideas sound very familiar. Directed by D.F. Wright.

When a young Cameroonian man attempts to pursue the dream of a better life in post-apartheid South Africa, he instead finds himself trapped as a slave in Angola. Directed by Joao Queiroga.

A handsome but quiet vintage perfume salesman experiences major life changes after he loses control of his NECKrophiliac fantasies. Dooley has to tame his growing psychopathic personality while feeding his sexual and spiritual need for fashionable bloodshed. Directed by Dawn Storey.

A woman returns to her hometown of Lagos in search of healing. What she discovers instead is a path that takes her into her past and toward a new understanding of the people and experiences that shaped her. Directed by Olive Nwosu.
PEARL TROUPE
UGANDAN Cultural Dance

Kizino & Kitaguriro (West) | Lakalaka & Bwola (North)
Kiganda (Central) | Mwanga (Kadodi) & Tamenaibuga (East)
KAKONGE MOSHA 312-678-3891
A chronically ill dancer finds tranquility in nature while on a camping trip with their boyfriend. Directed by Joshua Hernandez.

Illegal immigrant, Nkechi, lives happily in the shadows with her partner Martha, but when immigration officers turn up unexpectedly, they have to make difficult decisions about their future together. Directed by Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor.

A queer Black aspiring Baltimore rapper must outwit his vengeful day-job boss in order to avoid getting fired after accidentally eating an edible. Directed by Harris Doran.

Trina lives on the South Side of Chicago with her mother amidst an escalating housing crisis. After falling into an intimate recollection of her family’s history, she awakes in a world with people, sounds, and possibilities she’s never known. An encounter with a familiar spirit opens Trina’s eyes and heart to a new gift. Directed by Charlene Carruthers.
After the death of their eldest sibling, five Black half siblings each struggling to define themselves re-enter each other's lives. Directed by Brad Klipfel.

May 2020 is tough for everyone. First, there was the lockdown in response to Covid-19. For many couples, this meant spending a lot of time together, which can be tricky. This was certainly the case for Mick and Jerrell. The forced time together meant they had to confront some issues they had been avoiding. Directed by S.B. Gamble.

"I Don't" is a gay short about Ryan and Richmond, who have been together for a year, but personal dealings have changed the dynamic of their relationship and things get heated between them. Will their relationship last? Do you believe in love? Directed by Wilbur Henderson.

I Identify as Me is a chorus of Trans non-binary people and masculine-presenting women who are QTBIPOC. Their stories allow us to reflect on the truth that gender is infinite; honoring this brings us a step closer to liberating ourselves from damaging social constructs. This short previews the "I Identify as Me" doc series. Directed by Tina Colleen.
When young Whalum Broussard’s mother suddenly throws him out of her house shortly after completing high school, he begins to wander the streets trying to figure out what to do. He begins his life’s journey alone, and finds himself at the mercy of older men, some of whom have good intentions for him, and some who do not.

Contains explicit and potentially triggering language and situations.
On a neon-lit Los Angeles night, two young men reunite to discuss their complicated on-and-off relationship. As they reflect, they realize they both perceived the relationship completely differently. (Made in collaboration with Outfest Film Festival). Directed by Jacob Charton.

On the eve of J’Ouvert, a spirited woman wrestles with the decision to return home and care for her chronically ill father, or to embrace his advice and embark on her own Caribbean adventure. Directed by lantha Sherri Richardson.

This 45 minute dream uses rap, freedom songs, hip hop dance, history, and humor to tell the story of a young Black boy from the South Side of Chicago who is afraid to leave the house. With his Forever President Barack Obama as a guide, Jabari escapes the violent reality of an encounter with the police through his colorful paintings. Directed by Daniel Carlton.

MANIFOLD is an experimental anthology docuseries exploring the nuances of Black and Queer identity. This collaborative production platforms the creative works and visions of poets, performers, organizers, musicians, and more to express the real life experiences of Chicago’s Black LGBTQ+ community. Directed by Adia Ivey.
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Cazembe Murphy Jackson, a Black trans activist living in Atlanta, Georgia, shares why his access to abortion was vital to his life. Directed by Ruby Rose Collins & Tiler Wilson.

Nana’s Boys is an intimate peek into the relationship of Amari and Q. On the morning of his 30th birthday, Amari struggles to make decisions on what’s next and defining his purpose. Q is on track become the youngest partner at his law firm and plans an elaborate soiree to celebrate this milestone of his long-time partner. Directed by Ashton Pina.

PHEA tells the story of a musician who tries to find her lover over one turbulent day. The role of Phea is played by a real-life singer/songwriter after the director saw her performing at Waterloo station in London. Phea is a thriller with music at its core. Directed by Rocky Palladino.

Diak, Rokhaya, and Maxime managed to escape terrible persecution in their African countries of origin and set off for Europe. During their journey in the stream of other migrants, they still have to hide their sexual orientation. Once they arrive in Europe, they can finally show themselves: However, they have a hard time being recognized as asylum seekers. Directed by Manfred Rott.
The morning after conversation between Caleb and Rebecca takes an interesting turn. A photo shoot at Libra creates a new challenge for Remy. Directed by Shirley Marie Norman.

Finding his voice in the world, Romario Smith uses his art to create religious homoerotic imagery. Is it a match made in heaven or hell? Directed by James Cooper.

“Sia” is a poetic short film that follows Nola & Sia, a Black queer female couple whose vibrant life together is upended when a global pandemic threatens to tear apart their entire world. Directed by Ashlei Shyne.
WHAT ARE MY MPV RISK FACTORS?
BASED ON WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR.

HIGHEST RISK
- Sexual or intimate contact (even when wearing condoms)
- Direct contact with the infection rash, scabs, or body fluid

SOME RISK
- Kissing / Cuddling
- Sharing drinks
- Dancing at a crowded party inside with non-fully clothed people
- Sharing a bed, towels or personal toiletry items

UNLIKELY
- Dancing at a crowded party outside or inside with fully clothed people
- Coworker-to-Coworker transmission
- Touching a doorknob
- Trying on clothing in a store
- Traveling in an airport or on a plane
- In a swimming pool, hot tub or body of water
- In public restrooms or on public transit
- At a grocery store, coffee shop or a gym (via equipment)

GET THE FACTS ➔ chicago.gov/MPV
After a night of drinking goes awry, Bai must decide to or not to drunk text their ex. Directed by Sonia Jourdain.

In a queer all-Black household, three roommates in their twenties struggle to find roommates that they can get along with... and mesh with their leftist, anti-gentrification politics. Backs to the wall, they settle in with someone who turns out to be more than bargained for. Directed by Shane Santana.

This biographic poetic visual follows Chris Jakob through the inner workings of his personal story with explorations spanning the origin of self and identity, and ponders the dynamics of existence, thought and connection. Directed by Desmond Love.

In Winter Insect, Summer Flower, a trans woman journeys through the seasons as she breaks from her physical shell. Directed by Gbenga Komolafe & Tee Jaehyung Park.
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