7th Annual BLACK ALPHABET Film Festival

Saturday, November 9, 2019
Sunday, November 10, 2019

Reva & David Logan Center for the Arts
915 E 60th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
What is Transgender Awareness Week?

The week before Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, people and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility of transgender people and address issues the community faces.

Transgender Awareness Week is a week when transgender people and their allies take action to bring attention to the community by educating the public about who transgender people are, sharing stories and experiences, and advancing advocacy around the issues of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that affect the transgender community.

What is Transgender Day of Remembrance?

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence that year.

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was founded by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor her memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence that year and began an important memorial that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Black Alphabet Honors Trans Lives

Black Alphabet is honored to dedicate this entire festival in remembrance of Trans lives that were taken in acts of anti-trans violence. We ask that you respect the presentation in silence.
Festival Schedule

Reva & David Logan Center for the Arts
915 E 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois

Saturday, November 9, 2019

11:00 a.m. .......................................................... Reception
12:45 p.m. .......................................................... Welcome & Acknowledgments
1:15 p.m. .......................................................... Screening of King Ester
2:20 p.m. .......................................................... Post-screening discussion

Sunday, November 10, 2019

10:00 a.m. .......................................................... Welcome & Acknowledgments
10:15 a.m. .......................................................... What’s The “T”? (shorts)
11:35 a.m. .......................................................... Break
11:50 a.m. .......................................................... Faces
1:15 p.m. .......................................................... Lunch
1:45 p.m. .......................................................... The Darker Side of the Alphabet (shorts)
3:15 p.m. .......................................................... Break
3:30 p.m. .......................................................... All The Letters (shorts)
5:20 p.m. .......................................................... Break
5:35 p.m. .......................................................... Rafiki
**Bobby**

A young gifted athlete who practices ballet in secret must confront his dad the night he receives a scholarship from Juilliard.

Written and directed by James Grisom.

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**Catfishin**

Dark comedy about a trans-man who is only interested in dating straight women but runs into issues because he's not considered a real man due to his genetic "female" body parts.

Written, directed, and produced by CoquieHughes

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**Conframa**

When a love triangle becomes more than just a one-night stand.

Written by Lamonte Valentine; directed and produced by Robert Adams and Anthony Bawn.
Don’t Tell Nobody

13 year old Ariel Davis has been being molested by her mother’s husband for the past six months. Her mother, Cat, has been turning a blind eye every chance she gets. On the eve of her 14th birthday Ariel is at a crossroads; continue to live in pain or let it all go forever. Based on actual events.

Written, directed, and produced by B. Danielle Watkins.

Faces

Faces is a multi-narrative feature film set across four story lines that follow a group of characters as their lives begin to unravel. In the middle of the bustling city we watch as their worlds begin spiraling apart.

Joseph a. Adesunloye is an award-winning British-Nigerian filmmaker.

Fayth

It takes courage to pursue the unknown. Sometimes you have no other choice but to take a leap.

Written and directed by Ashton Pina; produced by Tonia Bishop.
**Gay Baby**

Deonte is unapologetically gay, worried about his mortality and approaching the age Jesus died. Wanting to leave a legacy beyond material belongings; his desire for biological fatherhood has sparked a radical idea or is it?

Written, directed, and produced by Kareem Ferguson.

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**I-57**

A mother tries to support her son and his gender identity by inviting a stranger to dinner.

Written by Brit Fryer; directed by Livia Huang; produced by Nia Ashley.

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**King Ester**

This is the story of Ester, a trans woman struggling to find her path in New Orleans during the week before Hurricane Katrina. In the face of an evacuation order, she is forced to make a choice that will impact her future forever. Will she get out on time?

Written and directed by Dui Jarrod; produced by Patrick Ryan Morris and Sheena Suarez; executive produced by Angelica Ross, Caralene Robinson, Dui Jarrod, Ryan Robertson, Jon Mallow.
LiME
Set in the urban jungle of Compton, CA in the early 2000s, LiME tells the story of Deshawn, a young man who discovers how hard it is to walk and live in your truth after he experiences the bitterness of the real world. Lime pays Homage to the beauty of the city while juggling the sound of the drums, the sway in the walk and the world of Drill.
Written and directed by Donta Storey.

Losing Hope
After a chance encounter, a young, career-focused, African-American gay man confronts the reluctance of falling in love with an unsuspecting suitor.
Written by Derek Daniel; directed and produced by Derek Daniel and Brett Newton.

Outdooring
A young man arrives at his sister's baby naming ceremony to steal the money collected from family/friends in order to run away and keep a personal secret hidden.
Written and directed by Maxwell Addae; produced by Mis Loe.
Rafiki
Kena and Ziki live very different lives in Nairobi. Kena works in her father's shop and awaits the start of nursing school, while Ziki passes the days hanging out with her friends and making up dance routines. Their paths cross when their fathers run against each other for seats in the County Assembly, and they find themselves drawn to each other.

Written by Wanuri Kahi and Jena Cato Bass; directed by Wanuri Kahi; produced by Steven Markovitz.

Refuge
This short documentary tells the story of an African gay refugee who was forced to leave Nigeria to save himself, and seek asylum in Germany. This is part 1 of a two-part series, "The World Is Round So That Nobody Can Hide In The Corners".

Written, directed, and produced by Leandro Goddhino.

Reunited
An orphan sister is desperate to reclaim the family she never had. With her long-lost brother, she finally meets her mother nothing turns out the way she plans.

Written, directed and produced by S.B. Gamble.
Sex Is a God Thing

Michelle and Aiesha have just buried their father. Michelle and Aiesha have also just met, and learned that they are sisters; both queer and both grappling with the unraveling of their respective romantic partnerships.

Written by Chanel Glover; directed by Zarinah Ali; produced by Rashida KhanBey Miller, Chanel Glover, Zarinah Ali, and A. Miller.

ShandaDidWHAT?!

Shanda, a spiritually penniless accountant, is tired of her boss, her neighborhood injustices, and her world. But, she’s also a Gemini, which naturally means she’s a social media enthusiast. When a climactic event makes her go viral, in true Gemini fashion, she commits the only logical next step, which sends significant waves throughout the social media world.

Written, directed, and produced by Keela Buford.

Stuck

STUCK is a romantic comedy that follows two strangers (Ebony and Dre) who become physically wedged in the act of a “one-night stand”. Their only path to separation is to be vulnerable and share a secret with one another.

Written, directed, and produced by Praheme.
**Tender**

Tender tells the story of three black trans women and their inextricable connections to San Francisco’s often maligned Tenderloin neighborhood. These women take pride in living and working in this pre-Stonewall site of LGBTQ liberation, yet the spaces they hold dear erode as San Francisco’s housing crisis grows out of control.

Written, directed, and produced by Daryl Jones.

**The Wind On Your Skin**

A community is shaken when a young woman is murdered because of whom she loved. This is the 4th short story in the award winning series: The Centre-Stories about the lives and loves of African Women in Berlin.

Created by the Namibian Filmmaker, Naomi Beukes.

**Winston**

A young Jamaican thief commits the unthinkable to survive, crushing his humanity in the process. Winston addresses the question of what makes a man turn on someone they seemed to love and who showed them love and compassion. What is the mindset behind the killer?

Written by Tanya E. Taylor and Karl O’Brian Williams; directed by Tanya E. Taylor; produced by Tanya E. Taylor and Letitia Guillory.
Dear Guests and Friends:

We would like to take this time to thank you, all of our guests, sponsors, volunteers, filmmakers, actors, directors, and producers for your continued support of our film festival. Without all of you, this festival would not have been possible.

As we close out the year, we reflect on the impact that our programs have had on our community. This year, in addition to the film festival, we added two events in support of Black LGBT+ arts: the Black Alphabet Foam Fest featuring Storie Devereaux at Lagunita’s Tap Room, and Jokes, Flix & Heal with Sampson McCormick and Darryl Stephens, and our panel guests, Erik Glenn of Chicago Black Gay Men’s Caucus, and Marcus Smith of Changing Perspectives.

While Black Alphabet originally started out being an entertainment organization, we have learned from feedback that our community strongly desires interaction and programming around health and wellness issues that uniquely or disproportionately impact our community.

As part of our 2020 mission and vision, Black Alphabet will focus our arts-based programming on wellness promotion and education. Our programming will be in support of our physical health, mental health, as well as our social health, which, if not addressed, can adversely impact our well being as much as poor physical health.

To that end, we are looking for volunteers to help the organization grow and develop programming to uplift our community, and improve the lives of those we love. Please reach out to us to find out where you can be of service and make a difference.

Once again thank you for your support.

The Board of Black Alphabet NFP
Wingz Around the World was created out of the concept of making “chicken with a difference”. Made- to-order, the unbattered chicken and party wings are steeped in a base seasoning, cooked in fresh oil, then tossed in one of our flavorful sauces. With over 30 sauce flavors, inspired by 10 countries around the world, our chicken and seafood are a welcomed departure from traditional fast-food. We put the “z”ing in wings!

Bronzeville
4300 S Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60653
773.424.8223

Hours of Operation:
Monday to Friday- 11 am to 9 pm
Saturday- 2 pm to 9 pm

Facebook: Wingz Around the World
Instagram: @WingzAroundtheWorld
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