

NOU AKOMA NOU SINÈJI HAITIAN DOMINICAN TRANSNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



2025 FESTIVAL PROGRAM



dominicanslovehaitians.com

Opening Statement

Opening statement for the 3rd Annual Nou Akoma Nou Sinèji Haitian Dominican Transnational Film Festival

We are deeply honored to open our third season of the Nou Akoma Nou Sinèji Haitian Dominican Transnational Film Festival.

With the world in chaos, it is imperative that we continue to uplift this work and this message – to speak and create against the relentless cacophony of violence that continues to permeate our world. Our ancestors dreamed of another way of being. It was not perfect, but it was conscious – filled with people striving to build ways of engaging with one another and with the earth that uplifted our common humanity, our tenderness, and our capacity for kindness.

Tonight, we honor the lineages that have brought us here: diasporic lineages woven across regions, forged through curiosity, adventure, entrepreneurship – and also through the most heinous acts of human history – social capitalism, genocide, and colonial oppression. And yet, through it all, we have survived. We have survived war, human trafficking, and enslavement. We are the descendants of spiritual teachers, warriors, healers, agriculturalists, and craftspeople. The revolution our ancestors began is still unfolding – and we are still fighting for freedom.

We give thanks to those who perished for liberty and to those who continue to hold the line. We recognize that not all institutions are willing to act as political forces under the guise of art and culture. And so, we give deep thanks to spaces like CCCADI, Maysles, and Third World Newsreel – institutions that are fearless, that understand the sacred prescription: that within this current social construct, we cannot extract our bodies, our art, or our stories from the political.

And yet – even as we resist – we also create from unbound love and joy. These are not contradictions but complements. They are the fullness of who we are as diasporic people.

May we continue to light the path forward, to celebrate our shared roots, and to forge a future free from oppression and tyranny.

Asé. Ayibobo. Amen. Aha.

Clarivel Ruiz
Founder and Cultural Alchemist
Dominicans Love Haitians Movement

About NOU

Nou Akoma Nou Sinèji Haitian Dominican Transnational Film Festival (NOU) aims to showcase art and films from emerging and accomplished industry professionals of the Haitian and Dominican African and Indigenous diasporas to authentically reflect our communities' diverse experiences and backgrounds. The four-day October 2025 programming promotes cultural diversity through various art genres, including dramatic, documentary, experimental, and short films, as well as, panel discussions.

Founded by Dominicans Love Haitians Movement, the Nou Akoma Nou Sinèji Transnational Film Festival celebrates a transnational experience, one that extends beyond the borders of these two nations and encompasses the global experiences of the Haitian and Dominican diasporas. By telling our stories, we humanize Black and Indigenous people. By telling our stories, we dismantle the veil and walls that otherwise separates us from our emotions, thus humanizing one another.

Because “no person is an island,” and we are not isolated people, we are directly impacted by what occurs in one location thousands of miles away across the globe. Once we shift our gaze, we can recognize the similarities of the crisis impacting these two nations that echoes that of many nations across the globe also dealing with statelessness, migration, ecological disaster, racialization, poverty, xenophobia, neoliberalism, nationalism, white supremacy and anti-Blackness, border walls, and encampments. The Nou Akoma Nou Sinèji Haitian Dominican Transnational Film Festival was created to counteract the divisive ideologies and messaging spawned from propaganda, manipulation, and hate groups.

Thank You to our sponsors: Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI), Brooklyn Arts Council, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Maysles Documentary Center, Color Congress, Reel Works, Medgar Evers SYEP, Third World Newsreel, and MelimeL Digital Art Design



Thurs, October 9 Schedule

🎬 Thursday Opening Night: Shorts Program 1 – *Looking Within*

October 9, 2025 | 5:00–8:00 PM EDT

CCCADI – ILE OYIN | 208 E 126th St #3, New York, NY 10035

Entrance at E. 126th Street

🕒 5:00 PM – Light Reception

🕒 6:00 PM – Film Screenings Begin

🗣️ Talkback following the program

We open the **3rd Annual Nou Akoma Nou Sinèji Haitian Dominican Transnational Film Festival** with a powerful collection of short films that ask us to reflect deeply on **legacy, identity, and inherited values**.

Shorts Program 1: Looking Within

This program examines the subtle forces that shape us: traditions, gender roles, family expectations, and the unspoken codes passed down through generations. From the feminine and masculine perspectives, we examine—not just accept—the legacies we carry. What beliefs and behaviors are inherited? What do we choose to keep, and what do we question or release?

Through these stories, we ask:

How does legacy shape who we are and guide how we show up in the world?

What values—silent or spoken—form the foundation of our humanity?

Featured Films:

◆ **Making of a Matriarch (Documentary)**

A third-generation Dominican-American filmmaker crafts a tender “love letter to grandma,” uncovering the matriarchal strength and migration story that shaped her family. A personal journey into memory, lineage, and womanhood.

◆ **Victorine (Narrative)**

On the one-year anniversary of her mother’s passing, a Haitian-American dancer returns home. What unfolds is a moving meditation on grief, memory, and reconnection with cultural and familial roots.

◆ **Papi Chulo (Narrative)**

After getting kicked out of his girlfriend’s apartment, Yani—a smooth-talking Afro-Dominican playboy—navigates a chaotic day in Washington Heights trying to win her back. A witty, layered story about masculinity, pride, and love in the diaspora.

Fri, October 10 Schedule

🌀 Friday Workshops

October 10, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM EDT
CCCADI – ILE OYIN | 208 E 126th St #3, New York, NY 10035
Entrance at E. 126th Street

Workshop #1: The River Within – Embodying the Island

🕒 10:00AM - 12:00PM

◆ Facilitated by: Clarivel Ruiz

Art-Based Meditation

In this grounding, art-based meditation workshop, the body becomes a living allegory for the island of Ayiti/Kiskeya—one land, divided by history, yet deeply connected at its roots. Participants will be guided through a journey of movement, reflection, and creation that flows from individual healing to collective expression.

Using simple materials and intentional practice, we will physically and symbolically weave our fragmented stories into a unified whole. This is a space for restoration, release, and reclamation.

Open to all bodies, all stories.

12:00 – 1:00 PM – Break

Workshop #2: Love Letters to the Future

🕒 1:00 - 3:00PM

◆ In partnership with CCCADI Archives

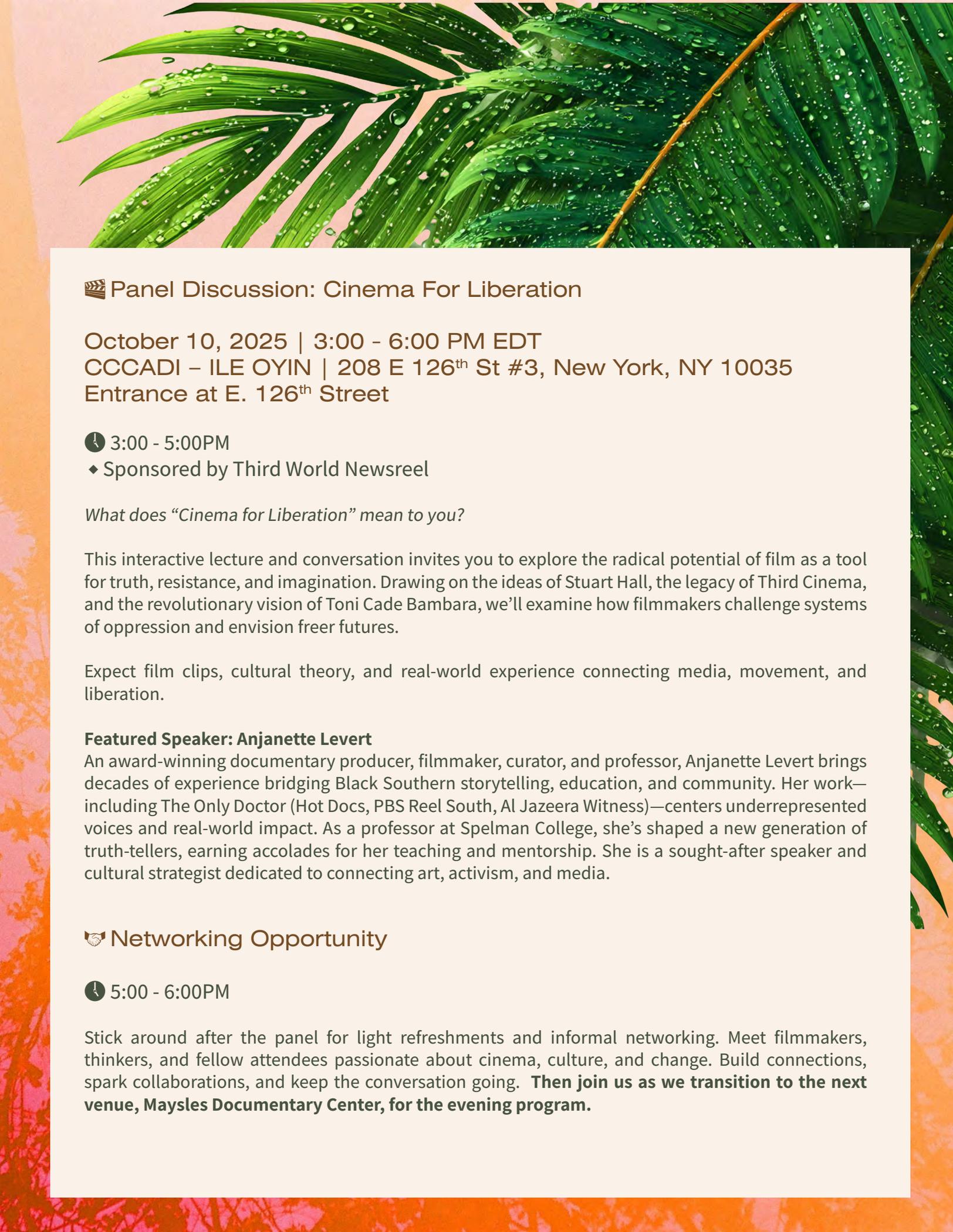
This is a space for storytelling, dreaming, remembering, and reclaiming.

What wisdom will we carry forward? What dreams do we pass on?

In this intimate, creative workshop, participants will explore the powerful relationship between memory, legacy, and imagination. Drawing inspiration from the rich archives of the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI), we'll reflect on the stories, images, and voices that connect our past to our present—and use them to craft personal “love letters to the future.”

These letters may be addressed to future generations, to community, to self, or to the cultural legacy we hope to shape. Through guided prompts and group dialogue, we'll honor the resilience, creativity, and spirit found in the archives, while using our own words and vision to plant seeds for what comes next.

No prior writing experience needed. Just bring your voice.



Panel Discussion: Cinema For Liberation

October 10, 2025 | 3:00 - 6:00 PM EDT
CCCADI – ILE OYIN | 208 E 126th St #3, New York, NY 10035
Entrance at E. 126th Street

 3:00 - 5:00PM

◆ Sponsored by Third World Newsreel

What does “Cinema for Liberation” mean to you?

This interactive lecture and conversation invites you to explore the radical potential of film as a tool for truth, resistance, and imagination. Drawing on the ideas of Stuart Hall, the legacy of Third Cinema, and the revolutionary vision of Toni Cade Bambara, we’ll examine how filmmakers challenge systems of oppression and envision freer futures.

Expect film clips, cultural theory, and real-world experience connecting media, movement, and liberation.

Featured Speaker: Anjanette Levert

An award-winning documentary producer, filmmaker, curator, and professor, Anjanette Levert brings decades of experience bridging Black Southern storytelling, education, and community. Her work—including *The Only Doctor* (Hot Docs, PBS Reel South, Al Jazeera Witness)—centers underrepresented voices and real-world impact. As a professor at Spelman College, she’s shaped a new generation of truth-tellers, earning accolades for her teaching and mentorship. She is a sought-after speaker and cultural strategist dedicated to connecting art, activism, and media.

Networking Opportunity

 5:00 - 6:00PM

Stick around after the panel for light refreshments and informal networking. Meet filmmakers, thinkers, and fellow attendees passionate about cinema, culture, and change. Build connections, spark collaborations, and keep the conversation going. **Then join us as we transition to the next venue, Maysles Documentary Center, for the evening program.**

Fri, October 10 Schedule

 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 – MAYSLES EVENING PROGRAM

October 10, 2025 | 7:00 – 10:00 PM EDT
MAYSLES DOCUMENTARY CENTER
343 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY 10027

Film Screening

 7:00 - 9:45PM

 7:00 - 7:30PM Filmmaker Talk Back

 7:30 - Screening

Feature Film: *At All Kostos*

Runtime: 1 hr 24 mins

Director: Joseph Hillel | Haiti

Set in Haiti during a time of cholera outbreaks and gang violence, *At All Kostos* follows a group of artists who turn to theater as a powerful form of resistance. Through hunger, fear, and political instability, they use performance to reclaim space, voice, and dignity. Interweaving fiction with reality, the film captures how theater is woven into everyday life—from Vodou ceremonies to protests—and reveals the resilience of Haitian communities facing daily crisis.

9:00 PM – 9:45 PM – Discussion

Sat, October 11 Schedule

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 – FILM MARATHON

October 11, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
MAYSLES DOCUMENTARY CENTER
343 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY 10027

 10:00AM - 11:00AM Light Breakfast

 11:00AM - 12:00PM

◆ Shorts Program 2: *Fractals of Immigration*

 Discussion following the program

Shorts Program 2: Fractals of Immigration

In this short program, we witness the often-hidden and emotionally complex stories of immigrants who confront painful and often unspoken worries and concerns about family members left behind, as well as the instability of their country of origin. With the ever-present unanswered question of can I and will I ever be able to go back?

Featured Films:

◆ **Home (Documentary)**

Through interviews and personal reflection, this film follows the director's mother's ocean crossing from the Dominican Republic and explores what "home" means for those who leave and those who don't make it.

◆ **One (Documentary)**

Michley Nelson, a Haitian-American who grew up without his parents, interviews his family for the first time about being sent to the U.S. as a child. A raw and emotional reckoning with distance and love.

◆ **Making of a Matriarch (Documentary)**

[Repeat Screening] A granddaughter uncovers the powerful legacy of her grandmother's migration to the U.S.

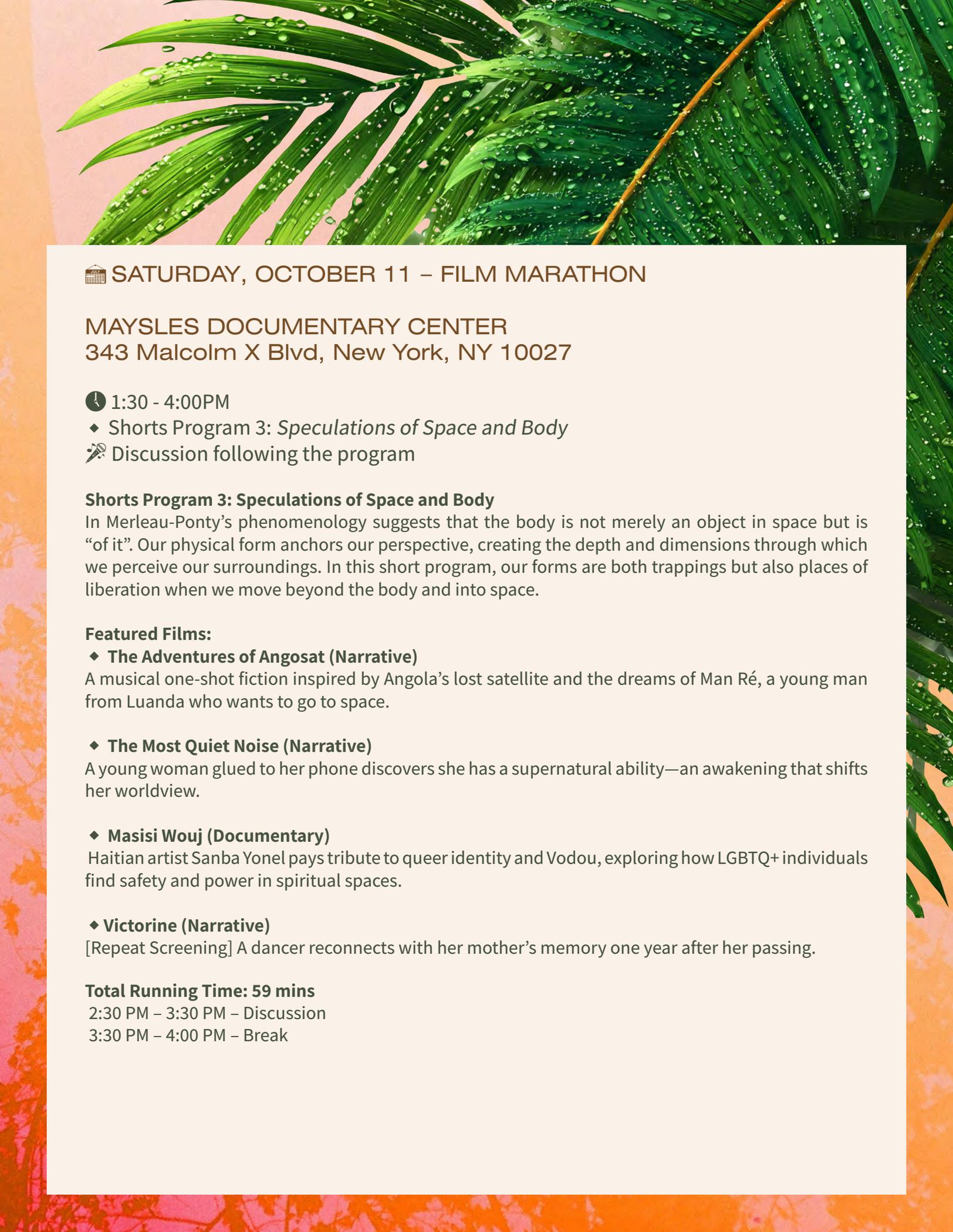
◆ **Home, Sick Home (Narrative)**

A spirited Dominican teen wins a scholarship to study in Canada—only to find herself battling homesickness and emotional isolation.

Total Running Time: 57 mins

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM – Discussion

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM – Break



📅 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 – FILM MARATHON

MAYSLES DOCUMENTARY CENTER
343 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY 10027

🕒 1:30 - 4:00PM

- ◆ Shorts Program 3: *Speculations of Space and Body*
- 🗣️ Discussion following the program

Shorts Program 3: Speculations of Space and Body

In Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology suggests that the body is not merely an object in space but is "of it". Our physical form anchors our perspective, creating the depth and dimensions through which we perceive our surroundings. In this short program, our forms are both trappings but also places of liberation when we move beyond the body and into space.

Featured Films:

◆ **The Adventures of Angosat (Narrative)**

A musical one-shot fiction inspired by Angola's lost satellite and the dreams of Man Ré, a young man from Luanda who wants to go to space.

◆ **The Most Quiet Noise (Narrative)**

A young woman glued to her phone discovers she has a supernatural ability—an awakening that shifts her worldview.

◆ **Masisi Wouj (Documentary)**

Haitian artist Sanba Yonel pays tribute to queer identity and Vodou, exploring how LGBTQ+ individuals find safety and power in spiritual spaces.

◆ **Victorine (Narrative)**

[Repeat Screening] A dancer reconnects with her mother's memory one year after her passing.

Total Running Time: 59 mins

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM – Discussion

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM – Break

Sat, October 11 Schedule

 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 – FILM MARATHON

MAYSLES DOCUMENTARY CENTER
343 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY 10027

 4:00 - 6:45PM

◆ Shorts Program 4: *To Care – Power and Domination*

 Discussion following the program

Shorts Program 4: To Care – Power and Domination

The relationship between care and domination is a central concern within the ethics of care, which recognizes that caring relationships—from personal to institutional—are often shaped by and vulnerable to power imbalances. While caring implies benevolence, it can also become a tool for control, manipulation, and the oppression of others. Through these short programs, we examine care in various settings with a critical eye, unpacking how our society maintains unjust social hierarchies.

***Trigger Warning: Sensitive content; viewer discretion advised**

Featured Films:

◆ **Not Your Barbie: More Than a Fantasy (Documentary)**

Youth producers unpack the fetishization of Black and Asian women in media and its real-world harm, including sexual violence.

◆ **Papi Chulo (Narrative)**

[Repeat Screening] A charming Afro-Dominican playboy tries to fix his mistakes with his girlfriend in Washington Heights.

◆ **Ker (Narrative)**

A young man hides his lover inside a mosque he guards. Their relationship—and their sanctuary—exist in fragile secrecy.

◆ **Troubled Water (Narrative)**

Lila's weekend with her cousin Maxime turns traumatic, forcing her to confront a rupture in their once-close relationship.

Total Running Time: 71 mins

5:15 PM – 6:15 PM – Discussion

6:15 PM – 6:45 PM – Break



 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 – FILM MARATHON

MAYSLES DOCUMENTARY CENTER
343 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY 10027

 6:45 - 9:15PM

◆ Feature Film: *La 42 (42nd Street)*

 Discussion following the film

Director: José María Cabral | Dominican Republic

A sensory dive into the lives of dancers and artists hungry for fame, clashing with police tactics and unorthodox views. *42nd Street* unveils a defiant counter-culture in the Dominican urban scene—all unfolding on a bold, unrelenting 600-meter 42nd Street.

Total Running Time: 90 mins

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM – Discussion

 **Networking Opportunity**

 9:15 - 9:45PM

Stick around after the discussion for informal networking. Meet filmmakers, thinkers, and fellow attendees passionate about cinema, culture, and change. Build connections, spark collaborations, and keep the conversation going. **Then join us as we transition to the after party at Rebel.**

 **After Party - Rebel Restaurant & Bar**

◆ 10:30pm

◆ 29 Clinton St, New York, NY 10002

◆ www.rebelrestaurantandbarnyc.com

Sun, October 12 Schedule

 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 – CLOSING DAY

October 11, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 10:00 PM
MAYSLES DOCUMENTARY CENTER
343 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY 10027

Theme: Reflection & Call to Action

 1:00 - 3:10PM

◆ Shorts Program 5: *PRESENCE – Hearing Others*

 Discussion following the program

Shorts Program 5: *PRESENCE – Hearing Others*

How do we hear each other and alter our experiences to build empathy and compassion? To build a bridge towards harmony, even when there are significant differences in opinion, allowing our guards to lower their defenses and hear. We live among millions of people on the planet, yet do we hear? Do we share? Do we love?

Featured Films:

◆ **The Most Quiet Noise (Narrative)**

[Repeat Screening] A digital distraction becomes a moment of awakening.

◆ **Tabula Rasa (Narrative)**

A young Black man returns home after his brother's overdose, only to confront a broken relationship with his father—who was part of the MK ULTRA experiments.

◆ **The Meteorites (Narrative)**

Two Haitian-Canadian sisters placed in a white foster home in Quebec navigate the complexities of race, belonging, and identity.

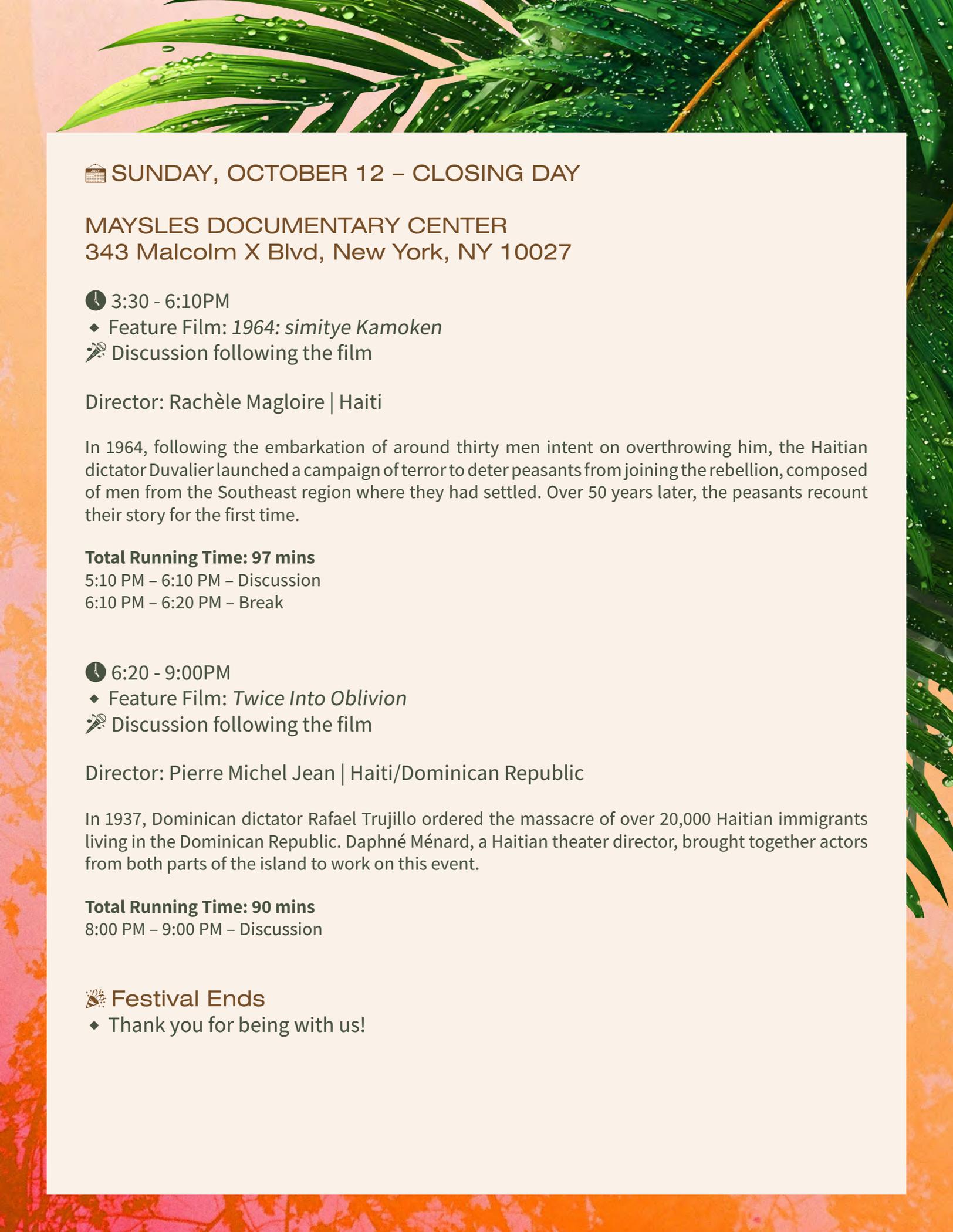
◆ **Reclaiming Success (Documentary)**

NYC's Transfer Schools are lifelines for marginalized students—but are being threatened by harmful education policies. Told through the voices of youth demanding to be heard.

Total Running Time: 68 mins

2:10 PM – 3:10 PM – Discussion

3:10 PM – 3:20 PM – Break



 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 – CLOSING DAY

MAYSLES DOCUMENTARY CENTER
343 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY 10027

 3:30 - 6:10PM

◆ Feature Film: *1964: simitye Kamoken*

 Discussion following the film

Director: Rachèle Magloire | Haiti

In 1964, following the embarkation of around thirty men intent on overthrowing him, the Haitian dictator Duvalier launched a campaign of terror to deter peasants from joining the rebellion, composed of men from the Southeast region where they had settled. Over 50 years later, the peasants recount their story for the first time.

Total Running Time: 97 mins

5:10 PM – 6:10 PM – Discussion

6:10 PM – 6:20 PM – Break

 6:20 - 9:00PM

◆ Feature Film: *Twice Into Oblivion*

 Discussion following the film

Director: Pierre Michel Jean | Haiti/Dominican Republic

In 1937, Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo ordered the massacre of over 20,000 Haitian immigrants living in the Dominican Republic. Daphné Ménard, a Haitian theater director, brought together actors from both parts of the island to work on this event.

Total Running Time: 90 mins

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Discussion

 Festival Ends

◆ Thank you for being with us!

**2025
FILM
SELECTION**

1964: Simitye Kamoken

2023

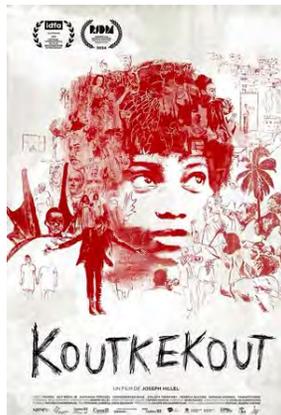


In 1964, following the embarkation of around thirty men intent on overthrowing him, the Haitian dictator Duvalier launched a campaign of terror to deter peasants from joining the rebellion, composed of men from the Southeast region where they had settled. Over 50 years later, the peasants recount their story for the first time.

Director: Rachèle Magloire **Producers:** Jean Jean, Laurence Magloire

At All Kosta | KOUTEKOUT

2024

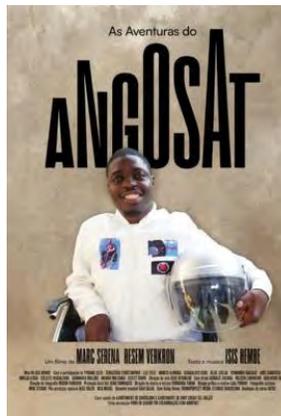


An acting ensemble rehearses for an upcoming theater festival. They rig up stage scenery and practice dialogue and set pieces in the middle of a residential area. But this is no ordinary theater setting, as evidenced by the armed guards at the entrance. Festival 4 Chemins is taking place in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. Gangs are active in the city; you can hear machine-gun fire in the distance.

Director: Joseph Hillel

The Adventures of Angosat

2025



Man Ré dreams of traveling the outer space... and what if this happens?

Angola launched in 2017 its first satellite into space... and got lost. "The Adventures of Angosat" is a retelling of this dream. An indie musical film written and performed by Isis Hembe, one of the most renowned Angolan urban artists. It brings together upcoming artists from the streets of Cazenga (Luanda) in a unique one-shot fiction film.

Director: Resem Verkron, Marc Serena **Producers:** Marc Serena, João Carlos Domingos

Home

2025



"Home" explores the journey of Dominican immigrants through the lens of the director's personal story, whose mother left the Dominican Republic by boat when she was three months old. Through interviews and personal narratives, the film examines why people risk their lives to leave their homeland, featuring stories of both successful crossings and tragic losses. The documentary weaves together contemporary interviews, personal reflections, and historical context to explore the complex meaning of home.

Director: Johanny Mota

Home, Sick Home

2024

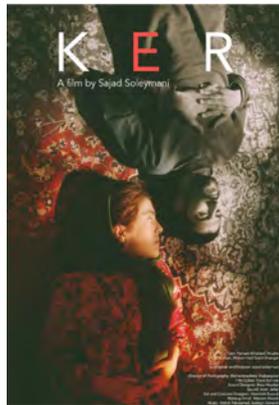


Follows the compelling journey of Stacy, a spirited 19-year-old Dominican girl whose life takes an unexpected turn when she secures a prestigious scholarship to pursue her studies in the vibrant landscape of Canada. However, as she embarks on this thrilling new chapter, Stacy is confronted with an emotional struggle that threatens to overshadow her dreams.

Director/Producer: Jamlec David

Ker

2024



A young man tasked with guarding a mosque is forced to secretly shelter his lover inside the sacred place for several days. Their hidden presence pushes them across multiple red lines — from the risk of being discovered by religious authorities to the intimate realities of love and the human body. Any revelation could destroy his life and turn their fragile refuge into a catastrophe.

Director/Producer: Sajad Soleymani

La 42 (42nd Street)

2025



A sensory dive into the lives of dancers and artists hungry for fame, clashing with police tactics and unorthodox views. 42nd Street unveils a defiant counter-culture in the Dominican urban scene—all unfolding on a bold, unrelenting 600-meter 42nd Street.

Director: José María Cabral

Making of a Matriarch

2024

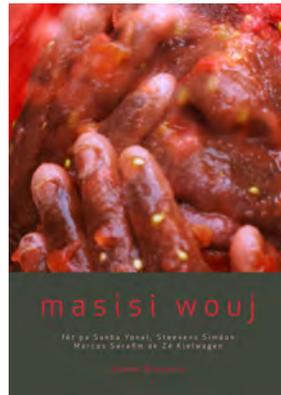


This “love letter to grandma” is voiced by a third-generation Dominican-American filmmaker as she uncovers her family heritage by examining the life of her grandmother who immigrated to the U.S in the 1960s.

Director: Vanessa Alexandra Cruz

Masisi Wouj

2021



Haitian artist and activist Sanba Yonel creates a queer tribute to the Lwa, Vodou gods and goddesses who once inspired a revolution. In Haiti, men perceived as feminine are known as masisi. The word is often used as a slur on gay men, transvestites and non-binary folks. Sanba Yonel comments on the plight of the masisi who, faced with prejudice and hostility, find shelter in the religious context of Vodou.

Director: Zé Kielwagen, Marcos Serafim, Steevens Siméon

The Meteorites

2024



The Meteorites delves into the life of two black sisters of Haitian origin, Léna and Maëlle, placed by Quebec's Youth Protection Services in a white foster family. The stories of the family members intertwine and weave the web of their daily adventures in Montreal during summer 2002.

Director: Nadia Louis-Desmarchais

Producer: Mylène Augustin

The Most Quiet Noise

2025

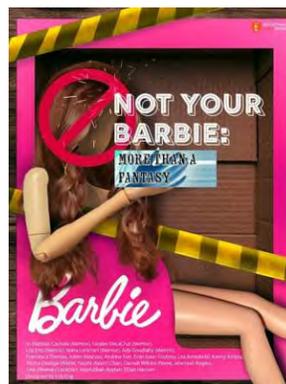


A young woman perpetually distracted by social media is set on a new course when she finds out she gains a supernatural ability.

Director: Joanne Flovella

Not Your Barbie: More Than a Fantasy

2023



Not Your Barbie: More Than a Fantasy is a documentary that explores the fetishization of women of color in the media and its correlation to stereotypes and sexual violence. Youth Producers dive deep into the history of fetishization of Black and Asian women in America.

Director: Adji Goudiaby, Aliyha Dwidge Villette, Andrew Sun, Darnell Wilkins-Payne, Elijah Harcum, En (Natalia) Cachola, Evan Isaac Costoso, Franchesca Thomas, Hephzibah Appiah, Jeramiah Rogers, Julien Vazquez, Kenny Arriola, Lea Amedodzi, Lily Eng, Nanami Lockhart, Syre (Nevaeh) Lockhart, Kevin (Yaozhi) Chan, Yaralee DeLaCruz

One

2025



A Haitian-American kid that grew up without his parents his entire life. His parents were in Haiti as well as his siblings, while he lived with his Aunt and Grandmother in the US. This documentary tells a story of Michley Nelson, and his upbringing while living without his parents. With that being said, this documentary also gives a raw depiction of Michley sitting down with his family members and talking about this topic for the first time. Despite it being hard for everyone to open up, Michley’s family talks about how it was like sending me to America, living without their son/sibling and coming to terms with that.

Director: Michley Nelson **Producer:** John Hulme

Papi Chulo

2025



After getting kicked out of his girlfriend’s apartment, Yani, a charming Afro-Dominican playboy, embarks on a chaotic journey through the streets of Washington Heights to win her back.

Director: Anthony Rojas **Producer:** Imani Celeste

Reclaiming Success

2018



NYC’s Transfer Schools are lifelines for marginalized students—but are being threatened by harmful education policies. Told through the voices of youth demanding to be heard.

Director: Sana Azim, Lamine Bah, Henry Bernstein, Ashton Chowdhury, Marquise Cox, Pape Diop, Kaz “Kashmir” Doha, Ben Jastremski, Aidan Martin, Deavian Melendez, Bella Munns, Hunter Newman, Dante Spiota, Malik Thomas, Ilyeen Torres, Brooklyn Vigo

Tabula Rasa

2025



A young Black man returns home after his brother’s overdose, only to confront a broken relationship with his father—who was part of the MK ULTRA experiments.

Director: Chidiogo Igboekwe

Troubled Water

2021

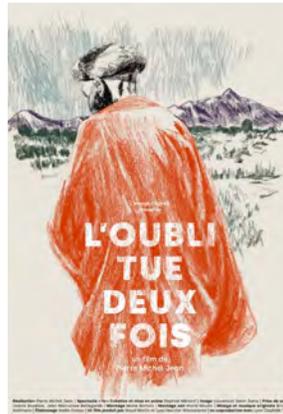


Lila goes to her grandmother's to spend the weekend. There, she meets her cousin Maxime with whom she has been very close since childhood. It's during this weekend that an event will forever change the relationship between the two and tarnish Lila's worldview.

Director: Nadia Louis-Desmarchais

Twice Into Oblivion | L'oubli Tue Deux Fois

2023



In 1937, Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo ordered the massacre of over 20,000 Haitian immigrants living in the Dominican Republic. Daphné Ménard, a Haitian theater director, brought together actors from both parts of the island to work on this event.

Director: Pierre Michel Jean **Producers:** Maud Martin, Lysa Heurtier Manzanares, Orlane Dumas

Victorine

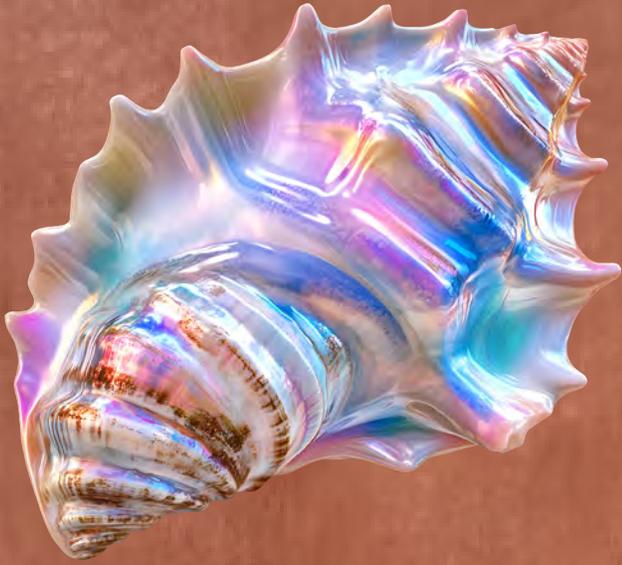
2023



One year after her mother's passing Vicky, a Haitian American dancer returns to her family home, where she confronts her spiritual inheritance

Director: Lunise Cerin **Producer:** Danielle T Dougé





MEET THE DIRECTORS



<p>ANTHONY ROJAS</p> <p>Papi Chulo</p>		<p>Anthony Rojas is an Emmy-nominated Dominican-American film director from Washington Heights, New York City. He earned his B.A. in Cinema Studies from SUNY Purchase College, with double minors in Film Production and Screenwriting. His work explores the complexities of Latinx identity, tracing the evolving experiences of first- and second-generation immigrants through intimate, character-driven stories that interrogate, represent, and reimagine the Latinx experience on screen. His latest short film, Papi Chulo, has screened at festivals including the New York Latino Film Festival, Dominican Film Festival in New York, Bushwick Film Festival, Nou Akoma Nou Sinèji Haitian Dominican Transnational Film Festival, International Puerto Rican Heritage Film Festival, New York Lift-Off Film Festival, Urban Film Festival, XL Fest, and the Katra Film Series, where it received the Audience Choice Award. Most notably, he directed You've Been Ready, a 60-second spot for Warner Bros. Discovery's New York Latino Film Festival, which earned both Imagen and Emmy nominations.</p>
<p>CHIDIOGO IGBOEKWE</p> <p>Tabula Rasa</p>		<p>Chidiogo Igboekwe is a Nigerian-American director dedicated to curating Black stories. Through her filmmaking fellowship with Reel Works, she was one of three students selected to receive the funding and support needed to film her directorial debut, Tabula Rasa, which has been nominated for the F. John Outcalt Award for Outstanding Filmmaking. As a narrative filmmaker, she wants to work on projects that challenge the status quo and prioritize Black stories in ways that mainstream media fails to.</p>
<p>EDUCATIONAL VIDEO CENTER</p> <p>Not Your Barbie, Reclaiming Success</p>		<p>Educational Video Center challenges structural inequities and harmful narratives that disadvantage young people of color in education, careers, and life. We do this by teaching documentary filmmaking to help young people thrive as learners, artists and social justice leaders; building the capacity of teachers and public schools to create youth-centered, culturally responsive classrooms; mobilizing youth-produced media to inspire action; and disrupting systems that harm BIPOC youth, their communities, and the world.</p>
<p>JAMLEC DAVID</p> <p>Home Sick Home</p>		<p>Hailing from the Dominican Republic and now rooted in Toronto, Ontario, Jamlec David is a storyteller at the intersection of cultures. His narrative compass points toward the rich tapestry of the Black-Latino diaspora, weaving tales that reflect the vibrant hues of shared experiences, traditions, and challenges within these intersecting communities. Through his work, he aims to illuminate the complexities and richness of these cultural landscapes, amplifying voices that resonate with authenticity and celebrate the multifaceted identities that define them.</p>
<p>JOANNE FLOVELLA</p> <p>The Most Quiet Noise</p>		<p>Joanne Flovella is a Haitian American filmmaker and actress based in Florida. With a passion for storytelling, she has acted in numerous short films and web series, bringing dynamic characters to life on screen. Beyond acting, she is making her mark behind the camera as a writer and director, crafting narratives that explore many themes such as the Black experience, spirituality, and womanhood.</p>

<p>JOHANNY MOTA</p> <p>Home</p>		<p>Johanny Mota is an award-winning filmmaker based in New York City with over ten years of experience in the film industry. She began her career as an Actress and appeared in several theater and TV productions and commercials. She has written and produced several short films as well as a ten-episode web series. Her film work has been accepted into several film festivals around the world and garnered several awards.</p> <p>Johanny holds a BA from the University of Rhode Island and an M.F.A. in Writing and Producing for Television from Long Island University.</p>
<p>JOSE MARIA CABRAL</p> <p>La 42 42nd Street</p>		<p>José María Cabral is a Dominican film director and producer recognized for his bold, socially-charged storytelling and his distinctive voice within Caribbean cinema. He began his filmmaking journey at just 18, quickly gaining acclaim for his unflinching approach to political and historical themes. In 2017, Cabral became the first Dominican filmmaker to enter the Sundance Film Festival with his breakout film <i>Carpinteros</i> (Woodpeckers), which earned multiple international awards and cemented his reputation as a visionary voice in Latin American cinema.</p>
<p>JOSEPH HILLEL</p> <p>At All Kosta KOUTEKOUT</p>		<p>Joseph Hillel was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The filmmaker writes, directs and produces films about art. His first film, <i>Regular or Super</i> (2004), presents the work of the great architect Mies van der Rohe. <i>Karsh Is History</i> (2009) is a portrait of the famous photographer. <i>Ayiti Toma</i> (2013) is a reflection on the rich Haitian culture. His second feature, <i>City Dreamers</i> (2018), is a documentary about our changing urban environment and four women architects, inspiring trailblazers. <i>Sur les pas de Rhodnie</i> (Walkin on her footsteps, 2021), inspired by the initiatory journey of the choreographer Rhodnie Désir, which takes us in the footsteps of the history of African peoples deported to America. In 2022, he wrote and directed, <i>MTL_Vues du coeur</i>, a film on the history of downtown Montreal. <i>Koutkekout</i> is his third feature, his second in Haiti.</p>
<p>LUNISE CERIN</p> <p>Victorine</p>		<p>Lunise Cerin is a queer, Haitian filmmaker, born in Philadelphia and raised between Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Philly. She loves to tell stories of black people's pursuit of self, expression, liberation, and love. After receiving her BS in sociology, with a minor in photography from Saint Joseph's University, Cerin married her love of people and images by pivoting to film.</p>
<p>MARC SERENA</p> <p>The Adventures of Angosat</p>		<p>Marc Serena (1983) codirected the award-winning feature doc "<i>Tchindas</i>" (2015), which won 13 prizes in festivals such as Outfest Los Angeles (US), was nominated at the African Oscars in Nigeria (AMAA Awards) and was broadcast at PBS (US). More recently, his film "<i>The Writer From a Country Without Bookstores</i>", won a prize in Italy at the DIG Awards for best investigative journalism. He has published three books and currently works as a freelance for several television stations.</p>

MARCOS SERAFIM

Masisi Wouj



Marcos Serafim (Brazil) is a video artist and filmmaker with a background in film and fine arts. Some of the major venues in which he exhibited are the Mostra do Filme Livre and the Osmar Niemeyer Museum (MON), in Brazil, and the Left Forum in NYC. He teaches video and photography at the University of Arizona.

MICHLEY NELSON

One



Michley Nelson is a student at Rutgers University, currently studying filmmaking at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. Passionate about documentary work, Michley brings a deep interest in real-world storytelling to his creative pursuits. He has also gained hands-on experience as a Production Assistant on a short film set and currently works as an assistant editor for Executive Video, a video production company that produces corporate and science-related content. Many of the projects he contributes to incorporate documentary elements, allowing him to further hone his storytelling skills.

Outside of filmmaking, Michley is equally passionate about sports. A lifelong athlete, he played basketball for most of his life and ran track at Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey.

NADIA LOUIS-DESMARCHAIS

The Meteorites,
Troubled Water



Nadia Louis-Desmarchais is an Afro-feminist director who aspires to give a voice to those we often refuse to hear. Drawing on her life experience to nourish her creative process, she directed the short films “Raconte-moi mon corps”, “Urban”, “Rated X”, “Dors-tu?” and “Nid D’oiseau” which performed at international festivals. Nadia puts forward a unique sensitivity, “Les Météorites” is her first fiction series.

PIERRE MICHEL JEAN

Twice Into Oblivion |
L’oubli Tue Deux Fois



Pierre Michel Jean is a Haitian photographer and documentary filmmaker. Based in Port-au-Prince, Pierre Michel studied Social Communications and Legal Sciences at the Université d’État d’Haïti (UEH). He graduated from “Haïti Reporters”, then from CEPEC (Centre d’Étude Photographiques et Cinématographiques).

With friends, Pierre Michel founded Kolektif 2 Dimansyon (K2D), a group of independent Haitian visual artists and journalists. For 5 years, he collaborated with the AFP news agency, and his reports were published in international media such as: Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Le Monde, Le Temps, etc. Since 2015, alongside his career as a photographer, Pierre Michel has been making documentary films: Shadow healers (23’), Toro La Cou (65’), Untitled, the story of a January Tuesday (24’), etc. Several festivals and exhibitions have already featured his work. In his photography as in his cinema, Pierre Michel takes a long-term look at such themes as our occupation of urban space, Haitian memory of events such as the 1937 massacre and the earthquake, and the Dominican-Haitian border as a space of margin, etc. Forgetting kills twice is the title of his second feature-length documentary, dealing with the still painful memory of the “Perejil Massacre”.

<p>RACHELE MAGLOIRE</p> <p>1964: Simityè Kamoken</p>		<p>Rachèle Magloire is a director, producer, and co-founder of the Azuei Movement, a collaborative of Haitian and Dominican artists. As a journalist, she covered the early years of Haiti’s democratic movement, and worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo for Radio Okapi, a network founded by the UN and Fondation Hirondelle for Freedom of Speech. Magloire co-founded Productions Fanal, exploring social issues, education, and culture in Haiti through film. She is the recipient of the CIRTEF Prize from Vues D’Afrique, a Montreal-based film festival.</p>
<p>REEL WORKS</p> <p>Making of a Matriarch, Tabula Rasa</p>		<p>Reel Works mentors, inspires, and empowers underserved NYC youth to share their stories through filmmaking, creating a springboard to successful careers in media and beyond.</p>
<p>RESEM VERKRON</p> <p>The Adventures of Angosat</p>		<p>Resem Verkron (1999) is part of the two most exciting cultural movements in Luanda: the street art Verkron Collective (from which he takes his surname) and Geração 80, the leading art-house cinema production company. He defines his work as “emotional Afrofuturism”: his personal response to the Black American Afrofuturism. After working on different shorts, mostly as DoP, this is his second short as director. The previous one “Lola & Mami” (2021) deals with toxic masculinity. Winner of the PALOP Prize for New Talents at Kugoma Mozambique (2025).</p>
<p>SAJAD SOLEYMANI</p> <p>Ker</p>		<p>Sajad Soleymani is an Iranian independent filmmaker, writer, and researcher with a Master’s degree in Art Studies. He began his career by making short fiction films and completing long-term filmmaking courses. His early short, Slightly on the Other Side, was screened at multiple festivals and won several awards.</p>
<p>STEEVENS SIMEON</p> <p>Masisi Wouj</p>		<p>Steevens Siméon (Haiti) is an artist who works with photography, video and fine arts. He took part on the Atis Rezistans community of downtown Port-au-Prince and participated in all previous editions of the Ghetto Biennale. He took part on the Young Energies Summer Camp in Berlin, in 2012, and worked with the Africamerica Foundation and the Haitian Ministry of Culture, teaching video production to university students in 2013.</p>



**VANESSA
ALEXANDRA
CRUZ**

Making of a Matriarch



Vanessa A. Cruz is a writer-director and documentarian. She is deeply committed to storytelling and social justice. Most recently, her first film, "The Making of a Matriarch," premiered at Paramount Global in Manhattan (August 2024) & was awarded Best Documentary Film at Reel Works Film Festival at SVA Theatre (Nov. 2024). As a Dominican-American filmmaker, she aspires to tell dramedy, coming-of-age stories that center around Dominican culture & minority experiences. Vanessa is also interested in documenting local New Yorkers & social justice groups; she wants her work to resonate with universal human experiences but hold a special significance for those physically and culturally represented on screen.

**ZE
KIELWAGEN**

Masisi Wouj



Zé Kielwagen (Brazil) is an artist and teacher. His artwork is best described as conceptual and transmedia. He exhibited his work at the Ghetto Biennale of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art in NYC, and the Joinville Art Museum in Brazil. He teaches Sculpture and History of Art at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

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One Heart,
One Synergy**



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CLARIVEL RUIZ

Founder, Cultural Worker, Artists,
Educator, Activists

Dominicans Love Haitians Movement

Clarivel Ruiz (we, us, you), child of the African and Indigenous Diaspora, parents from Ayiti Kiskeya (aka Hispaniola, aka the Dominican Republic and Haiti), raised in NYC on the ancestral bones and covered shrines of the Lenape people. In 2018, we initiated Dominicans Love Haitians Movement, Inc., an art-based nonprofit organization. We are alumni of Hemispheric Institute's EmergeNYC, Culture Push's Utopian Fellow, a Civic Practice Seminar participant at the Metropolitan Museum, The Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellowship at CCCADI, a Brooklyn Arts Council award and Unicorn Fund recipient through New Media Democracy. Clarivel is an MFA graduate of CUNY, City College.

ANA-MARIA GARCIA

Retired Community Developer

Ana-María García has over 40 years experience in community development, leadership training, and social and racial justice. She has managed budgets in excess of \$100 million and is known for her fiscal management. In 1995, a day (Nov 30) was named after her for the previous five years' body of work, which included creation of a specialized project named Project Start; development of training programs for general assistance clients; development of two comprehensive youth centers, and creation of a coordinated system of human services. She went on to work for the Census Bureau to familiarize herself with data gathering. She has a Juris Doctorate from Temple University.

ANJANETTE LEVERT

Documentary Filmmaker & Professor

Anjanette Levert is a documentary filmmaker, producer, curator, coach, and professor. She is the former Director of Spelman College's Documentary Filmmaking Program. She is the 2022 Recipient of the Presidential Teaching Award at Spelman College, an invited panelist at the Sundance Producer Summit and a member of the Sundance Producers Intensive. She is the producer of *The Only Doctor* by Matthew Hashiguchi, which made its world premiere at Toronto's Hot Docs International Film Festival in 2023. She is a board member for Jezebel Productions and Atlanta's MINT Gallery.



MELISSA "MELIMEL" LAURADIN

Creative Artist/Graphic Designer

MelimeL Digital Art Design

MelimeL is a creative artist and mompreneur, forging her own path as a Lead Graphic Designer of MelimeL Digital Art Design. Her zine, "POWER Zine: Volume I: art inspires," and the upcoming "POWER Zine: Volume II: power plays" are an ode to her transformative POWER artwork from 2008, that solidifies her status as a visionary and empowerment agent. Aside from designing and writing, MelimeL enjoys travel, photography, performing, and is an aspiring DJ. She is an NYU alum and community leader who hosted an Annual Women Empowerment Event for ten years (2013-2022) and is currently developing a documentary film about it. MelimeL runs The sisSTAR Loop, a platform for women-owned business and professionals, and The Empowerment Network, a digital magazine with its 14th issue currently in production. Through her creative works, MelimeL is committed to empowering others to excel in their personal and professional lives.



NOU FESTIVAL HOST COMMITTEE

ASHLEY TORRES CARRASQUILLO

Educator, Collaborative & Transdisciplinary
Researcher, Community Organizer

Ashley Torres Carrasquillo (they/she) is a transnational community organizer, researcher, and art-based educator whose work centers on anti-racist and anti-colonial initiatives with youth and adult organizers in Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Puerto Rico. Originally from Santurce, Puerto Rico, Ashley holds an M.S. in Critical Ethnic and Community Studies and a B.A. in Women's, Gender, and Sexualities Studies from the University of Massachusetts. They have co-facilitated the Muñecas Negras project with the Dominicans Love Haitians Movement and received several grants, including a 2022 small grant from the Ben & Jerry's Foundation and a 2021 Soros Justice Fellowship. Ashley co-developed a violence intervention program with community organizers and currently serves as the Political Education Coordinator for Mijente. Additionally, they are an instructor at the University of Colorado Boulder's Ethnic Studies Department.

BIANCA MOÑA

Artist, Curator, Educator, Advocate,
Cultural Worker

Bianca Moña is a lover of the arts. As an artist, curator, educator, and advocate, she has initiated a number of projects at institutions such as Studio Museum in Harlem (New York, NY) and The John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, DC), and Market Photo Workshop (Johannesburg, SA). All of her artistic endeavors center on a greater understanding of contemporary Africa and her diaspora. As an oral historian and sound artist she had received commissions from The Laundromat Project, Initiatives of Change USA, and Restorative Justice Initiative.

DAMARIS CALDERON

Cultural Worker, Curator

Mars (she/her) is a Cultural Worker, Curator, and a proud Black woman based in NYC/Boston. She cultivates the power of joy and liberation as the catalyst for everything she does creatively. Her work involves combining Community Engagement and Public Programming with a deep commitment to arts advocacy. She has dedicated her efforts to building relationships with local organizations and diverse populations through social gatherings involving festivals, musical events, panel conversations, and more. Other interests of Mars include film and photography, podcasting, modeling, going to museums (especially the Whitney), swimming, and doing yoga.



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R/EVOLUTION

this is the 21st century and we need to redefine r/evolution. this planet needs a people's r/evolution. a humanist r/evolution. r/evolution is not about bloodshed or about going to the mountains and fighting. we will fight if we are forced to but the fundamental goal of r/evolution must be peace.

we need a r/evolution of the mind. we need a r/evolution of the heart. we need a r/evolution of the spirit. the power of the people is stronger than any weapon. a people's r/evolution can't be stopped. we need to be weapons of mass construction. weapons of mass love. it's not enough just to change the system. we need to change ourselves. we have got to make this world user friendly. user friendly.

are you ready to sacrifice to end world hunger. to sacrifice to end colonialism. to end neo-colonialism. to end racism. to end sexism.

r/evolution means the end of exploitation. r/evolution means respecting people from other cultures. r/evolution is creative.

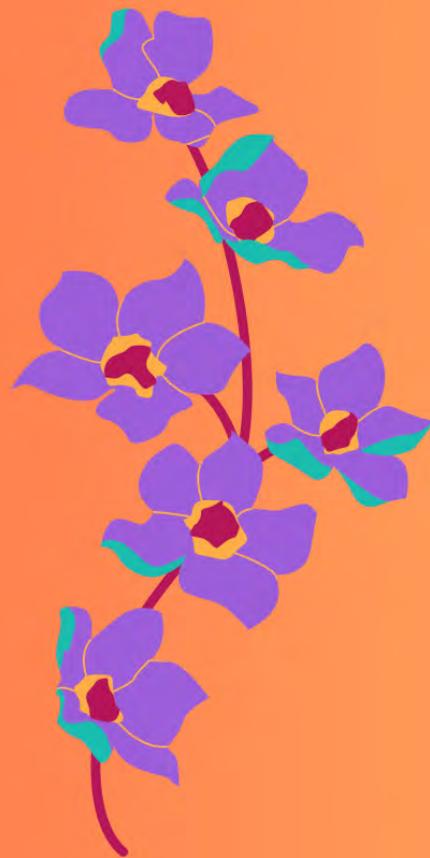
r/evolution means treating your mate as a friend and an equal. r/evolution is sexy.

r/evolution means respecting and learning from your children. r/evolution is beautiful.

r/evolution means protecting the people. the plants. the animals. the air. the water. r/evolution means saving this planet.

r/evolution is love.

Assata Shakur



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