

# Hayti Heritage Film Festival

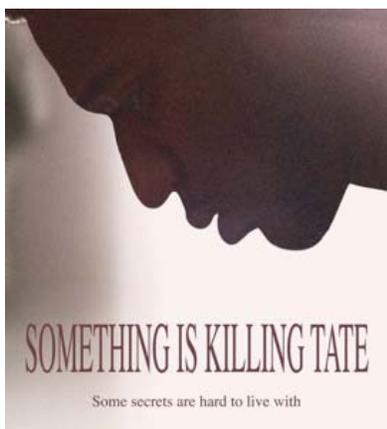
## Feature Films Schedule

**Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**6:30pm**

**Community Film Night (Free to the Public)**

Hayti kicks off the festival with a free screening of the award winning feature film *Something's Killing Tate*



### **Something's Killing Tate**

Days before his birthday and weeks before his wedding, Tate Bradley, a twenty-five year old, African-American man attempts to commit suicide. He survives the ordeal, but from his actions, it is obvious that "Something is Killing Tate." The question is: "What?" Tate attempts to isolate himself to his apartment - hiding from the world. To his dismay, one by one the significant players in his troubled life come to check on him. With each visit, more is revealed about how each family member, friend, and enemy played a role in Tate's attempted suicide - forcing Tate to face his demons. *2008 Mario Van*

*Peebles Award Winner and Best Feature, San Francisco Black Film Festival.*

Discussion with Director/Writer Leon Lozano, Producer Jessica Funches, and other special guests will follow immediately after the film.

\*RATING: PG-13 Parental Guidance Strongly Advised (violence, domestic violence, suicide, brief nudity)

**8:00pm**



### **The Don of Virgil Jr. High**

Director - Deon Hayman, Narrative Short - 20 minutes

Donald, a nerdy Jr. High school kid finds popularity when he decides become a hustler (i.e. entrepreneur) at school.

\*Ratings created by the festival committee for parents as most independents are not officially rated.

**Opening Night Film**  
*(Opening Reception to follow)*

**Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**7:00pm**



**Algeny: The Genetic Factor**

Director – Andrew Burroughs Feature Genre:Drama/Suspense Length 97 min.

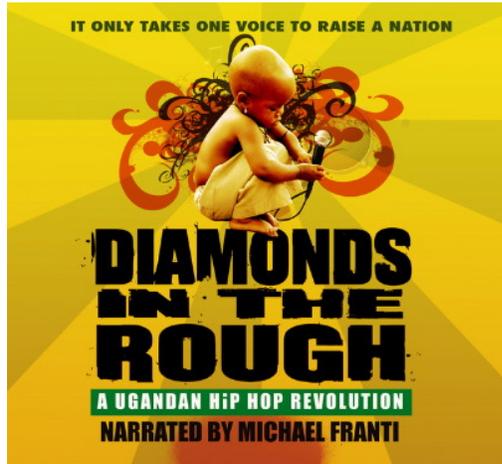
Justin Thomas is a walking mystery. An orphan trying to make a life for himself in adulthood, Justin yearns to create the family he never had. But soon he discovers that his body is an experiment that could change the nature of the world for good or ill. Those who want him will stop at nothing. So Justin must decide to either help mankind survive or be a part of its ultimate destruction. Either way, his world will be forever changed.

\*RATING: PG, Parental Guidance Suggested (violence, fighting and cursing)

\*Ratings created by the festival committee for parents as most independents are not officially rated

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**9:30am**



## **Diamonds in the Rough: A Ugandan Hip Hop Revolution**

Director – Brett Mazurek

Feature

Genre: Documentary

Length: 71 min.

On a mission to empower the forgotten youth of Africa, while spreading their message of hope around the globe, The Bataka Squad takes us on a musical journey documenting their rise as one of Uganda's most respected hip-hop groups. Narrated by

Spearhead singer Michael Franti, we follow the revolutionary path of Bataka members Babaluku and Saba Saba as they transcend decades of war, AIDS and corruption in Uganda, using hip-hop to amplify the spirit of the next generation.

RATED: PG

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**11:00am**



## **Belly of the Basin**

Director – Tina Morton & Roxana Walker-Canton

Feature

Genre: Documentary

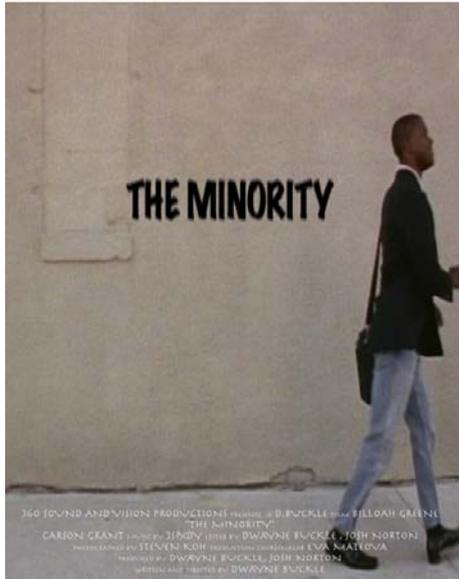
57 minutes

Hurricane Katrina exposed to the world the long existing racial and class divide present in New Orleans and across America in general. Since the hurricane, much has been said about the destruction of buildings, businesses, and houses, but for the survivors, the emotional and psychological loss of 'home' has been the most difficult to handle. Through individual stories of

survivors and volunteers of grassroots organizations Belly of the Basin poses questions about the value of human life in relationship to race, class, and politics.

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**2:30pm**



## **The Minority**

Director – Dwayne Buckle

Feature

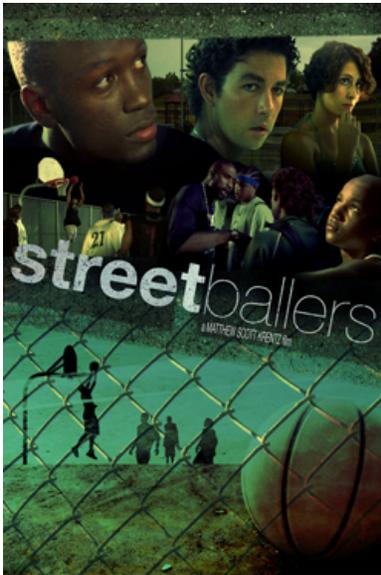
Genre – Comedy/Drama

Length 84min.

Honest and easy going Jake Jackson (Billoah Greene – Preaching to the Choir) just wants to work and live an honest life like everybody else. Jake's troubles begin when he mysteriously gets fired and is suddenly bombarded with racial biases. In the pursuit of justice and respect, Jake quickly finds himself traveling towards a path of insanity until he stumbles upon and captures a wanted serial killer. Ironically, that's when Jake's luck changes. *Winner of the 2007 Executive Choice Honorable Mention Award, Pan African Film Festival*

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**6:00pm**



## **Streetballers**

Director – Matthew Scott Krentz

Genre – Drama

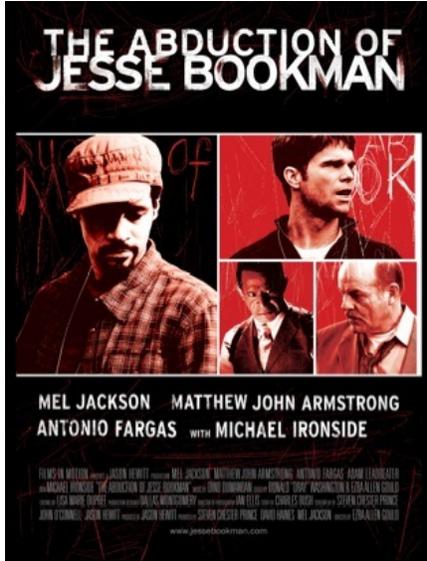
Length 71 minutes

While helping each other through the demands of school and life, a pair of junior-college basketball players eventually find themselves drawn into an underground world of gambling and crime on some of the toughest and most competitive street courts in the city. For Jacob, the hustle of street ball becomes a way to keep his family in tact and out of harm's way. While his partner John uses the hustle to save the little family he still has left.

Rated: R, for violence/cursing/brief nudity/marijuana use

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**8:00pm**



## **The Abduction of Jesse Bookman**

Director – Ezra Allen Gould

Feature

Genre: Supernatural Thriller

Length: 95min.

Set against the sexy backdrop of New Orleans, troubled detective Jesse Bookman (*Mel Jackson – Soul Food, Motives 1 & 2, Living Single, Flip the Script*) becomes the target of an evil Voodoo Priest when he foils a convenient store robbery and is deemed a local hero. It's Jesse's new detective partner and his father (Antonio Fargas – *Foxy Brown, Starsky & Hutch, Everybody Hates Chris*) who must team up in order to piece together the clues and save Jesse from the evil forces

that are out to destroy him.

*Winner of 2008 Best Actor Award and Grand Jury Best Picture Award, American Black Film Festival*

RATED: PG-13 (strong language)

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## **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**

**1:00pm**

### **Renaissance Village**

Director - Gabe Chasnoff

Feature

Genre: Documentary

Length: 85 minutes

Renaissance Village is the untold story of the largest FEMA trailer park set up after Hurricane Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast. In the wake of the storms, with more than 120,000 families left homeless, FEMA built emergency housing sties, one of which, their largest, Renaissance Village lay in the rural city of Baker, Louisiana. Eighteen months after the storms, 1700 of the original 3000 evacuees still lived in Renaissance Village with no where to go. After one resident died and others begin to get sick, allegations of formaldehyde poisoning in the FEMA travels sparked national attention. With mounting



pressure from the media and Congress, FEMA began to close the parks even though residents had nowhere else to go. Poetic and un-romanticized, this film follows the personal struggles of five characters to reclaim their lives after nearly three years in the park.

## 2:30 pm



### **All About US**

Director- Christine Swanson

Feature

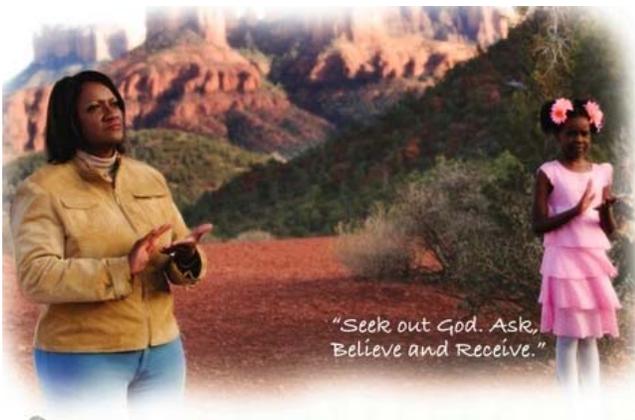
Genre: Drama

Length: 90 minutes

The inspirational feature film by Christine Swanson (guest speaker at 3:00pm Sunday) is an inspirational and refreshing romantic drama inspired by a true story. When a filmmaking couple hits a brick wall in Hollywood, they set off to Mississippi to find Morgan Freeman and persuade him to star in their next movie. When life gets in their way, the couple soon discovers what matters to them most. Beautifully told with stellar performances by Boris Kodjoe, Ryan Michelle Bathe, and Academy Award nominee Ruby Dee and special appearance by Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman against a backdrop of Hollywood and the Mississippi Delta, All About us is an entertaining and heartfelt story that provides insightful commentary on the familial rifts that ambition often creates.

Christine Swanson will be the guest speak during the afternoon program.

## 2:30pm



### **Angel Wishes**

Director – Teo

Feature

Genre: Inspirational Narrative

Length: 69 minutes

The true life story of Lana Bettencourt, a woman who endured abusive childhood situations and two abusive marriages to answer her calling of helping others as a Spiritual Healer.

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## Throughout the Festival Weekend



The **SunTrust** Financial Short Film Challenge co-sponsored by the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development and the Community Reinvestment Association of NC promotes a creative way to address a topic that impacts each of us individually and collectively throughout our lives – Our Financial Well-being. Filmmakers created 90-second to 5 minute films that addressed a financial topic of their choice.

These films will be shown at the beginning of the features and will compete for a cash award and the opportunity to have the film screened at other regional/national events.

# Short Films Schedule

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

**9:30am**



**Action Reaction**

## **Action Reaction**

Director – Dominic Boubert      Genre: Narrative Short      12 minutes

Action Reaction touches on the tensions and realities that sometimes take place in a city as diverse as Los Angeles. The story unfolds within the lives of five young Angelinos and how unknowingly their lives are tied together. Two couples go about their everyday routines only to find out that this day has something monumentally different in store. *Rating: PG*

## **Warrior Queen**

Director Hezekiah Walker      Genre: Narrative Student Short      21 minutes

Based on a true store of an African Queen from the Ashanti Tribe named Nana Yaa Asantewaa who rose up against the British in the early 1900's. The film uses both graphic animation and live action to tell the story. *Rating: PG*

## **The Meeting**

Director – Jeremiah Jahi      Genre: Narrative Short      22 minutes

A man goes to meet his father for the first time, and gets entangled in a drama of anger, hurt, and loss. *Rating: PG-13*

## **Francine**

Director – Nathan Ross Freeman      Genre: Experimental Short      15 minutes

Francine prepares her house and herself to receive a new lover for the first time in long, long while.

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## 11:00 am

### Brother's Incorporated

Director – Michael Johnson    Genre: Student Narrative Short    22 minutes

A young man Marcus Christianson finds himself at a crossroads in 1963 Philadelphia. He has to choose between taking over his father's newly formed Black Mafia or leave town with the love of his life May and pursue his up and coming music career.

*Rating: PG-13*



### CSI

Director – Narrative Short    Genre: Comedy/Spoof  
13 minutes

When one woman suspects that her husband is having an affair she calls on CSI to find out the truth.

*Rating: PG*

### Scarlet Sage

Director – David Jones    Genre: Narrative/Drama    25 minutes

Amanda Christian's childhood motivates her to pursue a career as a hired assassin, killing any man who mistreats his woman. When she pursues her next target, will she discover that she is the one who has been fooled?

*Rating: PG-13*

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## 1:00pm - KID'Z FILM BLOCK

### Warrior Queen

Director Hezekiah Walker

Genre: Narrative Student Short    21 minutes

Based on a true store of an African Queen from the Ashanti Tribe named Nana Yaa Asantewaa who rose up against the British in the early 1900's. The film uses both graphic animation and live action to tell the story.

*Rated: PG*



**The Don of Virgil Jr. High**

### The Don of Virgil Jr. High

Director – Deon Hayman    Genre: Narrative Short    20 minutes

Donald, a nerdy Jr. High school kid finds popularity when he decides become a hustler (i.e. entrepreneur) at school. *Rated: G*

### **The Other Side**

Director – Dilsey Davis      Genre: Narrative Short      14 minutes

Two girls from opposite sides of the fence find a way to break down the wall that separates their lives in order and develop a lasting friendship. *Rated: G*

### **Election Day**

Director – Kevin Johnson      Genre: Narrative/Comedy      11:30 minutes

An ambitious high school junior tries to steal the election for Student Body President. Will he be able to get away with it? *Rated: PG*

### **Do you Believe in Magic?**

Director – Daniel Roth      Genre: Documentary Feature      86minutes

Two young men from Capetown, South Africa begin a most improbable journey to compete in the World Teenage Magic Championships in Las Vegas. *(Abridged version will be shown)*

Winner of the 2008 African Academy Award. *Rated: G*

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## **2:30pm**



### **Bloodline: AIDS and Family**

Director - Kristen Ashburn      Genre: Mixed Media Photography and Live Action Drama  
12 minutes

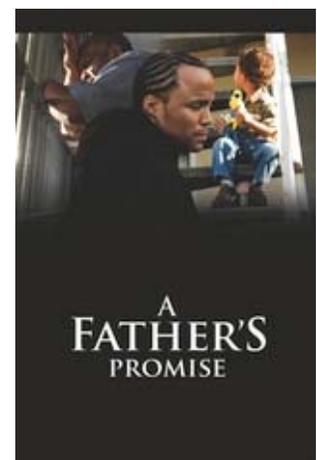
The AIDS pandemic continues to devastate sub-Saharan Africa. ***Bloodline: Aids and Family*** is documentary photographer Kristen Ashburn's intimate look at the harsh reality of the AIDS pandemic in Africa. Her images remind us how tenuous our connection is to each other. In doing so, they show that what matters most is the care extended to those in need. *Rated: PG-13*

### **A Father's Promise**

Director – Bradley Nesbitt      Genre: Narrative/Drama  
18 minutes

On the day of Jamal's release from prison, he vows to set things straight with his family. On his way home from prison, life takes an unexpected turn when he stops to buy some flowers for his wife.

*Rated: PG-13 (violence)*



## **Election Day**

Director – Kevin Johnson     Genre: Comedy

11:30 minutes

An ambitious high School junior tries to steal the election for Student Body President. Will he be able to get away with it? *Rated: PG*

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## **Five Man Confession**

Director – Jeffrey S. Williams     Genre: Narrative Short     29:30 minutes

When Terrell McFarland invites his four closest friends from college to his new home, he means it to be a chance to reunite and reminisce on the past. It is like old times until Karen Worthy, a woman from their college days, appears unannounced and the atmosphere grows hauntingly intense. Casual conversation soon unveils a startling revelation that leads to one damning confession that may crucify them all.

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## **8:00pm**

### **Basura**

Director – Kiara Jones     Genre: Student Narrative Short     4min.

Even something so simple as taking out the trash can lead to devastating results.

*Rated: PG*

### **Fever**

Director – Q     Genre: Suspense/Drama     12min.

When Mike sees his best friend's girl with a well-known gangster, he makes it his business to find out the truth. The only problem is, he's not the only one. Film submitted from England and starring Joseph Marcell (*Geoffrey from "Fresh Prince of Bel Air"*)

*Rated: PG*



### **Coons**

Director – Chris Cloyd     Genre: Drama  
15min

An innocent joyride is not all it seems when Rich discovers that his brother and a friend have kidnapped a black teen and thrown him in the back of their truck. It soon becomes clear to Rich that the humiliation and cruelty taking place during the drive are but a prelude to what something more grim.

*Rated: PG- 13 (violence and strong language)*

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# Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

## 1:00pm

### **Trouble in the Water**

Director – Roger Lee Edwards      Narrative Short      Length: 17 minutes

Although a proud African-American, Gary has grown suspicious and alienated from his own people – struggling with their negative and often embarrassing behavior and attitudes. A chance meeting triggers a chain of reflection and memory that promises to liberate him after all.

### **Premature**

Director – Rashaad Ernesto Green      Genre: Narrative Short      Length: 14 minutes

When Tisha, a streetwise teenager from the Bronx discovers she is pregnant, she has no one to turn to and is faced with the most difficult decision she will ever make.

### **Birthmarks**

Naima Lowe      Genre: Experimental Short      Length: 29 minutes

Through the eyes of his daughter Naima, Birthmarks tells a story of how Bill Lowe was beaten by the Newark Police during the riots of 1967. Father and Daughter create beauty out of trauma.

## Special Events

### **Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

### **Student Luncheon and Workshop**

**Noon – Luncheon**

**1:30pm – 4:00pm - Review of Student Films and Discussion**

For **invited students only**, this special luncheon with guest speaker, Emmy award winning filmmaker Dante James (The Making of America, Doll House) will be an opportunity for filmmakers to gain additional insight into the craft. Films by students who submitted to the festival will be reviewed and students and professionals in the field will share their thoughts on each work presented.

*Co-sponsored by SunTrust and the North Carolina Institute for Minority and Economic Development.*

# Spotlight On...

## Panel Discussions and Speakers

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**1:00pm – 2:25pm**

### Spotlight On...Working Behind the Scenes

Guests include Director **Tina Mabry** (*Mississippi Damned, Brooklyn's Bridge to Jordan*), Producer **Morgan Stiff** (*Mississippi Damned, Porcelain*), Executive Producer, **Ronnie Warner** (*This Christmas*), among others.

Panelist will provide a behind-the-scenes glimpse into how they translate a script to the screen. Discussion will include how to secure funding, the scriptwriting process, lessons learned, and distribution.



**Producer, Ronnie Warner**

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**4:15pm – 5:15pm**



**Actor, Cedric Pendleton**

### Spotlight On... "Reel"izing your Dream

Guests include Actor **Cedric Pendleton** (*House of Payne, True Blood, The Shield, The Fantasia Barino Story*) and Emmy Award Winning Casting Director, **Tracy Kilpatrick** (*John Adams, Mississippi Damned, 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter, The Great Debaters*). Panelists will discuss the secrets and tools necessary to build a successful career as a working actor and present some of the challenges within the industry.

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**

**4:30 pm**

### Spotlight On...Christine Swanson

Guest speaker, filmmaker **Christine Swanson** (*All About You, All About Us*) will talk about her experiences as an independent female director.



**Filmmaker, Christine Swanson**

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# Receptions and Parties

## **Opening Reception – 9pm, Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

Location – The Hayti Heritage Center

Entertainment provided by DJ Peabo

*(Attendees must have purchased either a festival pass or a ticket for the opening screening film in order to attend)*

## **Industry Party – 10pm – 1am, Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

Location - Golden Belt

807 East Main St.

Durham, NC 27701

*(Included for festival pass holders, individual ticket to party may be purchased for \$20.00)*

## **AWARDS CEREMONY 5:00pm, Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Location – Hayti Heritage Center

## **Closing Reception with Live Jazz– 5:30pm, Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Location - The Hayti Heritage Center

*(Attendees must have purchased a festival pass or day pass for \$25.00)*

## **Festival Passes and Tickets**

**Festival Pass - \$50.00** includes admission to all films, receptions, and industry party

**Day Passes - \$25.00** available for Saturday and/or Sunday (Day pass for Sunday includes the guest speaker, awards ceremony, and closing reception. Saturday's day pass does not include the Industry Party; however day passes can buy discounted tickets for \$15.00)

**Block Passes - \$10.00 each** (Sold as follows, Saturday 9:30pm – Noon, Saturday 1:00pm – 5:00pm, Saturday, 6-10pm, Sunday 1:00pm – 4:00pm)

**Kid'z screening is Free**