

By Artist Yvette Michele Booth

CREATING COMMUNITY

Arts & Culture

FORT LAUDERDALE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL- Reminiscing on the times as a teenager, a highlight in life would be to go to the "Show", is what we called it back in Detroit. My friends and I would pour over the newspaper and talk about the actors, directors and the music that accompanied these grand displays of entertainment. Much of those days seem to be yesteryear with the advent of the digital age and everything being instant. Attending such an event was without popcorn, pop and Raisinettes. When it was appropriate and of age it was deemed a proper date. I always applaud and celebrate the cinema form that comes in independent films and big actors that choose to star in them.



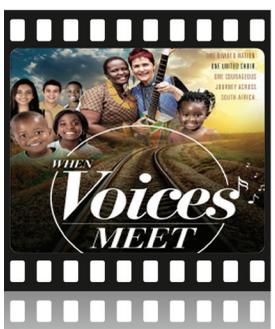
"BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER YEAR ROUND, USING CINEMA TO EDUCATE AND INSPIRE WHILE SHOWCASING THE BEST IN FILMMAKING." Cinema Paradiso



This November, Ft. Lauderdale Film Festival has this promise and opportunity to experience films about community. There are two theaters that are showing these great works of art. Cinema Paradiso, in Ft. Lauderdale and a second location with the same name Cinema Paradiso in Hollywood. Cinema Paradiso, which began as an old church, has evolved over the years into one of Fort Lauderdale's greatest pearls. Through annual festivals like FLIFF and other year round initiatives, the theatre has established itself as a hotbed for culture and independent cinema.

The films themselves are packaged as full features and shorts. With the shorts they are combined with other shorts so that you can get your full value in the ticket price. Tickets are on three tiers, \$6 members, \$8 seniors and \$10 general admission. Some of the full features have special guest and parties. Check the website for a full listings, trailers, who's who and descriptions of the extras.

I took this week to pour over the official guide and website to pick such titles that resonate with my youth and with the community to share them with each of you as friends.



When Voices Meet 1 hour 26 minutes
11:30 am, Saturday November 21st, 2015, CP Lauderdale
04:00 pm, Thursday November 19th, 2015, CP Hollywood

SYNOPSIS

One Divided Country; One United Choir; One Courageous Journey Across South Africa. They said it couldn't – and shouldn't – be done. South Africa was in flames from political violence, and the apartheid government was refusing to give up power. Risking their lives and careers, South African musician and music therapist Sharon Katz joined with singer and educator Nonhlanhla Wanda to form a 500-voice multiracial choir. When Voices Meet documents the trials, tribulations and triumphs of those musician activists and young choir members who performed together for seven years and then reunited 20 years later to tell their stories.



Songs My Brother Taught Me - 1 hour 38 minutes
05:45 pm, Wednesday November 25th, 2015 CP Lauderdale
06:30 pm, Friday November 13th, 2015, CP Hollywood

SYNOPSIS

Set on the Great Plains and the Badlands of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, SONGS MY BROTHERS TAUGHT ME is a compelling and complex tale that explores the bond between a brother and his younger sister, who find themselves on separate paths to rediscovering the meaning of home.

A Tree without Roots
1 hour 10 minutes
06:00 pm Friday November 20th, 2015 CP Lauderdale
03:30 pm Saturday November 21st, 2015 CP Hollywood

SYNOPSIS

Conceived in an ashram, a young writer's transformational journey through India as he searches for his dying father who he has never met. Tickets to the film includes access to a party and buffet during the November 20th showing.



ART on AIDS & HIV



South Florida has Highest AIDS Rates in USA. Artist of all ages have a message to share in helping this epidemic that is affecting our community.

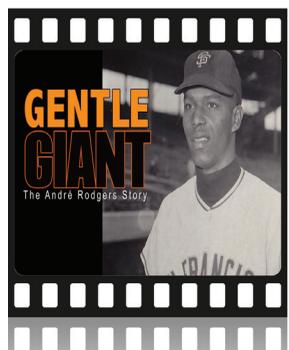
"GET IN THE DIRECTORS CHAIR, GET TESTED, LOVE IS SAFE". Knowing your status saves your life and your partners.



Gentle Giant 1 hour
07:15 pm Wednesday November 11th, 2015 CP Lauderdale

SYNOPSIS

Born in 1934, Andre Rodgers grew up in the Bahamas, then a British colony. He played cricket and had never even seen a baseball game before 1954 when he tried out for the San Francisco Giants.



Play Date - short 16 minutes paired with other shorts about youth
12:00 pm, Saturday November 7th, 2015 CP Hollywood

SYNOPSIS

When a little girl discovers a homeless woman in her backyard, she invites her inside for a play date without her distracted parents.

100 Miles to Lordsburg - short paired with A More Perfect Union 16 minutes
11:30 am Saturday November 21st, 2015 CP Hollywood

SYNOPSIS

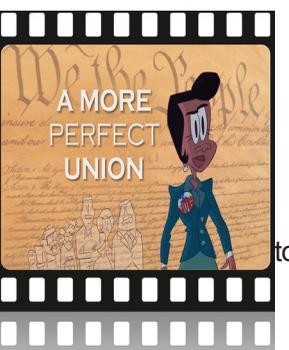
In 1961, Jack and Martha, a young, African-American couple, are traveling across the country for a new job opportunity in California. Jack, a Korean War Vet, and Monique, his very-pregnant wife, need to stop in New Mexico as the hot weather and rough roads are causing Martha great distress. They reference a travel guide "The Negro Motorist Green Book" that tells them the motels that allow African-Americans to stay as well as buy gas stations that will sell them gas.



A More Perfect Union - short paired with 100 Miles to Lordsburg 3 minutes
11:30 am Saturday November 21st, 2015 CP Hollywood

SYNOPSIS

When Theresa Burroughs came of voting age, she was ready to cast her ballot—but she had a long fight ahead of her. During the Jim Crow era, the board of registrars at Alabama's Hale County Courthouse prevented African Americans from registering to vote. Undeterred, Theresa remembers venturing to the courthouse on the first and third Monday of each month, in pursuit of her right to pursuit of her right vote.



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Website: <http://www.fliff.com>