



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

RALEIGH STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD, CA

SISTAS ARE DOIN' IT FOR THEMSELVES



## Moderator

Lillian E. Benson, ACE  
Editor

Lillian E. Benson's body of work as a television, video and feature film editor spans almost forty years. She began her career in New York City as an assistant editor on various projects including two feature length TV movies - one directed by the legendary Gordon Parks and the other by Bill Duke.

Her credit as editor appears on numerous fiction and non-fiction films helmed by noted African-American directors: *Debbie Allen*, *Julie Dash*,

### #WHEREISBEAUTY 12:00 MIN.



The journey of NINA, a visual artist dealing with the pressures of social media and self-identity. Frustrated by homogeneous selfies and false depictions of beauty, she searches for beauty in its most raw and natural form and captures the

experience with her mobile phone. Inspiration turns into transformation when NINA meets IEA, her latest muse, creating the final chapter in her voyage to self-discovery.

**Angela McCrae: Director**  
**April Mabry: Writer**  
**Angela White: Producer**

Angela McCrae is a first-time filmmaker and media expert with over 15 years working experience in broadcast news and television production. She launched her career in television as an audio mixer in Baltimore, MD during her junior year at Morgan State University. She has over 5 year's tenure with NBCUniversal's Creative Content Protection.

Ms. McCrae has taught television production at the Baltimore School for the Arts and Connecticut School of Broadcasting. As a woman of service, Angela spends her free time volunteering as a mentor, maverick for Ava DuVernay's ARRAY collective, and is the cohub leader for NBCUniversal's Young Professionals Network. She recently formed Mama-Sans Entertainment, LLC, as a platform to develop film projects and innovative trans-media content providing an alternative perspective of femininity, culture and social issues.

### FIORELLA 15:00 MIN.



Fiorella is a multi-layered short story, with more than one message and lesson. This film follows a titular young girl on a journey that challenges her faith, loyalty, and values. Fiorella also highlights the difficulty of a single mother trying to guide her maturing daughter away from negative influences and danger. This is a story of betrayal, heartbreak and revenge. Most importantly, Fiorella leaves audiences with the reality that one night, and one decision, can impact the rest of your life.

**Angela McCrae: Director**  
**Hectorlyne Wuor Jaron: Writer/Producer**

Hectorlyne Wuor Jaron is a film and digital Producer. She is best known for producing the feature films *Hot Guys with Guns*, *Moo Moo* and *The Three Witches*, and *Seventy-Nine*. Her web series, *The Reason*, was selected as a finalist in the New York Television Festival in 2015 and her short film, *Blind Rage*, was a finalist for the audience awards at the 2016 Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Festival. Hectorlyne worked full time at NBCUniversal from Feb 2014 to Sept 2016, as a Production and Finance Coordinator, assisting with the productions of *Fashion Police*, *E! News*, *The Soup*, as well as numerous *W!lshire Studios* pilot television shows.

Hectorlyne was also on the NBC Live Event Production Team for the 2014 Academy Awards, The 2014 iHeartRadio Music Awards, The 2014 Primetime Emmy Awards and The 2015 Golden Globe Awards. She is an experienced Producer, Line Producer, Production Manager, Field Producer, Segment Producer, Production Accountant and Screenwriter. In her spare time she enjoys hot yoga, hiking and traveling with loved ones.

Charles Burnett, Zeinabu Irene Davis, Stanley Nelson, Christine Swanson, Ayoka Chenzira, Clement Virgo and Mario Van Peebles. But it was director Jacqueline Shearer, who first believed in Benson's talent when she hired her to work on the acclaimed Civil Rights series "Eyes on the Prize II".

In 1990 Benson was nominated for an Emmy for her work on that series and a year later, became the first African American female member of American Cinema Editors, an honorary editing

organization. She now serves on their board of directors.

Benson is currently editing the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of the television series "Chicago Med" for NBC and last year worked on Oprah Winfrey's mega-church drama "Greenleaf".

Benson is the recipient of the BHERC 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award and the Motion Picture Editors Guild 2017 Fellowship and Service Award.

### FREE WAY 6:00 MIN.



Free Way is a sixminute short, which explores a particular milestone for Jackie, who has just turned 16. Jackie is a strident, plucky LA teenager. At odds with her workaholic mother, annoying brother, and her frivolous best

friend, she feels alienated in her city. We follow Jackie through the course of one eventful day when she decides to take her independence into her own hands. However, for Jackie, the pinnacle of womanhood to which she aspires isn't quite what it seems.

Embedded in a rich array of LA stereotypes, it is a self-aware, ironic piece - which aims to poke fun at, and indulge, the LA zeitgeist.

**Katharine Stocker: Director/Writer**  
**Florence Chater: Writer/Producer**

Katharine Stocker is a current film student at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She studied English at Oxford University, and has an extensive background in theatre. Whilst at USC, she has been directing a number of theatre and film productions, as well as teaching undergraduate classes.

### TO THE BROWN GIRL IN THE ROOM 7:00 MIN.



The experience of being a young Black woman in at a predominantly white liberal arts college.

**Zoë Davidson: Director/Writer**

Zoë Davidson is a Senior at Oberlin College, studying

Africana Studies and Theater. Born and raised in Toronto, Zoë is always very inspired by her Caribbean community whenever she thinks about making a film. Along with being a filmmaker, Zoë is also an actress and has recently finished performing in a

production of for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is not enuf, at Oberlin.

To The Brown Girl in the Room is her first major film, inspired by the experiences she had as a student. Her latest project, from Colonization to Cake Soap: Colorism in Jamaican Society is a close look at the effects of the color bias taking place in Jamaica today. This, and the rest of her work can be found on Vimeo.

### JASMINE 6:00 MIN.



Obligation. Sacrifice. To whose detriment?

**Camille Brown: Director/Writer**

An Award-winning filmmaker, Camille earned her Bachelor of Arts from UCLA's prestigious Film, Television and Theater School. She made her directorial debut with her documentary A Second Chance at Life narrated by Whoopi Goldberg. The documentary went on to screen at several film festivals and winning best documentary.

Camille then went on to write and direct the award-winning short film Thank You for Washing, which has screened at over 20 festivals winning best short for 10 of them. Most notable is the NBC Short Cuts Festival, from which she also received a blind script deal with the studio. She co-produced the feature film A Perfect Getaway starring Steve Zahn and Milla Jovovich. Last year she was a semifinalist for the HBO Directing Fellowship. She has just completed her feature directorial debut The Nth Ward.



## OUT OF BOUNDS 12:00 MIN.



Crystal Thorn, an African American Professor of Literature married to a retired NBA player, must choose between the movement, in her position as the faculty advisor to the Black Students Matter (BSM) Movement, and her allegiance to

her son, an NCAA Basketball star at her University, when BSM locks her in her home on the day of her son's NCAA Sweet Sixteen tournament, where NBA coaches will be recruiting him.

### **Meme Kelly: Director/Writer/Producer**

Meme Kelly has a B.A., from UCLA and has a MFA in playwriting from the University of California, Riverside.

She's a producer and author of several plays, author of several books, facilitator of SHOUT inspirational seminars, and a social entrepreneur and advocate for young adults with disabilities.

She recently completed her first short film, Out of Bounds, and it's receiving rave reviews. The Out of Bounds short is inspired by a TV pilot script with the same name that was selected as a top 10 semi-finalist out of 175 scripts in UCLA Film School's prestigious Samuel Goldwyn contest. The University of California also recommended it for a Humanitas Prize, [www.humanitasprize.org](http://www.humanitasprize.org).

## HOPE 4 DATING IN LA 27:00 MIN.



Three Los Angeles "transplants": an actress from Louisiana, an attorney from NYC and a biracial yogi from Northern California deal with the obstacles of dating in Los Angeles. They devise a plan that starts off great when

they all find love, then backfires in a crazy way.

### **DaVida Chanel Smith: Director**

### **Valerie Udeozor & Joslyn Pennywell: Writers/Producers**

DaVida Chanel Smith is a native of Plaquemine, Louisiana, proudly living her dream. Since she was in middle school, DaVida Chanel has desired a career in entertainment and she opted to follow her dream to law school then to Los Angeles. Smith worked

for A-list managers and producers for four years, honing her skills and learning the industry. Once the filming started to transition to Louisiana due to tax incentives, she native followed suit and has worked in her home state's film industry since 2009. Currently based in Los Angeles, DaVida Chanel is a freelance writer, social media content and strategy manager and film enthusiast honing her directorial skills. Additionally, Smith works in event management and production, having worked for the Essence Music Festival and All Star Weekend for the National Basketball Association. When she encourages her audiences to follow their dreams, DaVida Chanel speaks from experience.

## RAISING KINGS 17:00 MIN.



"Raising Kings is an honest story of intergenerational healing in a family of males. Mark King is released from a 20-year jail stint to find his father in the hospital dying of cancer, and his estranged son is now a police officer with 2 sons.

Time to accept responsibility for his mistakes in order to mend family relationships."

### **Lynne Conner: Director/Executive Producer**

### **Francisco Cali: Writer/Producer**

### **Tony Rumford, Tuesday Conner, Angela Gordon & Ian Foxx: Producers**

Lynne Conner's directorial debut, is a shining example of dreams coming true. Lynne collaborated with writer, Francisco Cali, to present an honest story of intergenerational healing in a family of males.

A native of LA, Conner is a film graduate of Mount St. Mary's University and has produced several short films including, The Donkey, A Gift For My Sister, The Last Job, Tale Of Two Dragons, Nurse Seacole and Family Affair. She recently wrote her first one-woman show, Tick Tock (Big Dreams... Little Time) a tribute to Lorraine Hansberry. Conner facilitated Take Wings Theatre Ensemble where artists gather in a nourishing environment to create monologues, characters and improvisation in order to share, heal, grow and connect. As the Founder of Publicity4you, Conner produces and promotes theatre and film projects. She currently works with the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center, Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival and Films with a Purpose.



**BHERC TEAM:** Sandra Evers-Manly ★ John Forbes ★ Billie J. Green ★ Sherilyn Richardson

Stephene Johnson lynne Conner ★ Ralph Scott ★ Shirley Manly-Lampkin ★ Cheryl Kemp ★ Gerald Alexander

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