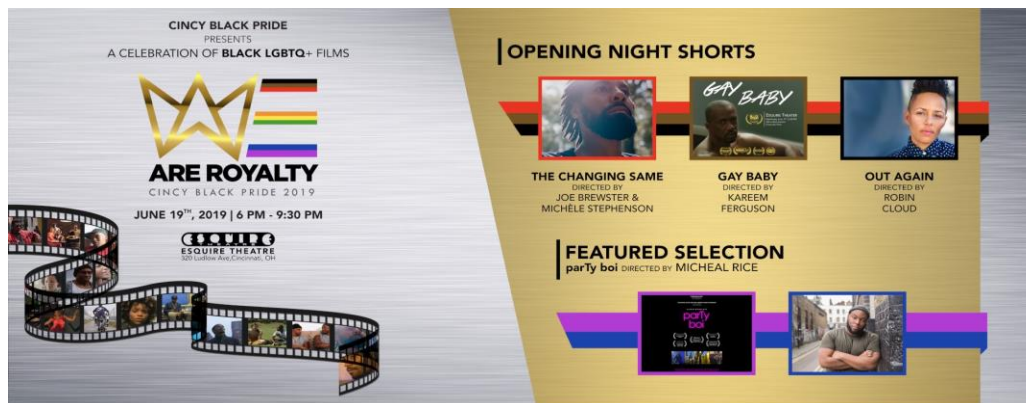


Black Alphabet Film Festival returns to Cincinnati during Black Pride



(Cincinnati, OH – May 29, 2019) - The Black Alphabet Film Festival (BAFF), founded in Chicago in 2013, will hold its first festival outside of Chicago in Cincinnati during Pride, presented by Cincy Black Pride in partnership with Esquire Theatre. Says BAFF National Outreach Director and Northside resident: “Since my return to Cincy in 2017, the dearth of programming at the intersection of Black and LGBTQ+ identities has created excitement about Cincy Black Pride’s growth in our second year, the same year we celebrate the Stonewall resistance. Many Black LGBTQ people don’t entirely feel welcome in white-centered LGBTQ+ spaces or in Black spaces that are homophobic. “We Are Royalty” is a theme of pride and affirmation in our Black as well as our queer and trans heritage.

This year Cincy Black Pride is set to step up its game with special appearances by directors of most of its films, and appearances by L. Lamar Wilson (The Changing Same), Darryl Stephens (from Noah’s Arc), and Comedian Sampson McCormick (director of A Different Direction). As feature films, the Wednesday night will feature a



provocative screening and panel discussion of Micheal Rice’s parTy boi, a film that sheds light on the epidemic of crystal meth among Black queer men, who are too often invisibilized in discussion about the meth epidemic. On Thursday night, and as

a bridge to a Studio 54 themed party at Arts OTA, we will be treated to a 10 Year Anniversary Screening of Hanifah Walidah’s U People, on night where most films intersect with the critical value music and performance play in Black queer life. Both nights will be held at the Esquire Theatre in Clifton and run from 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

2019 Film Festival Info:

Wednesday, June 19th, 6:00 PM, Esquire Theatre.

The Changing Same (with special introduction by L. Lamar Wilson)

Directed by Joe Brewster and Michèle, Starring L. Lamar Wilson. In the Florida Panhandle lies Marianna, where resident Lamar Wilson annually runs a half-marathon to lift the veil of racial terror in the town's buried history. On October 26, 1934, Claude Neal was brutally lynched by a mob of white men, and the very public spectacle remains one of the worst acts of torture and execution on record in 20th-century America. Yet no physical reminders of this atrocity exist in Marianna today. Every year, Lamar runs 13 miles to retrace the same route Neal took on the fateful final night of his life. Lamar's sense of duty to shine a light on this painful past is borne of a clear-eyed view—yet ultimately love—for his hometown.

Gay Baby

Directed by Kareem Ferguson. Deonte a visual artist is approaching the age Jesus died, wanting to leave a legacy beyond material belongings; his paranoia has sparked a radical idea or is it?

ParTy Boi: Black Diamonds in Ice Castles (followed by a panel discussion featuring the director)

Directed by Micheal Rice. The film focuses on methamphetamine addiction within the LGBTQ community of color, and explores a drug epidemic that is affecting the lives of Black and Latino gay millennials at an alarming rate

Out Again

Directed by Robin Cloud. Cat visits her parents for the weekend and is confronted with her mother's inability to remember one key detail.

CINCY BLACK PRIDE
PRESENTS
A CELEBRATION OF BLACK LGBTQ+ FILMS

ARE ROYALTY
CINCY BLACK PRIDE 2019

JUNE 20TH, 2019 | 6 PM - 9:30 PM

ESQUIRE
ESQUIRE THEATRE
320 Ludlow Ave, Cincinnati, OH

THURSDAY NIGHT SHORTS

A DIFFERENT DIRECTION
DIRECTED BY COMEDIAN SAMPSON MCCORMICK
FEATURING DARRYL STEPHENS (NOAH'S ARC)

CONGO CABARET
DIRECTED BY DEONDRAY GOSSETT & QUINCY LE NEAR

WORD IS BOND
DIRECTED BY ALEX MASTOON

FEATURED SELECTION
U PEOPLE DIRECTED BY HANIFAH WALIDAH

Thurs June 20th 6:00 PM, Esquire Theatre.

The second night of BAFF-Cincy will continue for its second night featuring special guests: Samson McCormick, Hanifah Walidah, and Daryl Stephens

A Different Direction

Directed by Samson McCormick. Frankie Bailey is a black gay man in his 30s struggling to make ends meet while being forced to confront one of the biggest challenges of his life.

Congo Cabaret

Directed by Deondray Gossett and Quincy LeNear. Congo Cabaret is an adaptation of an episode from gay writer Claude McKay's then-best-selling novel, *Home to Harlem*. Set in a small nightclub, this scene presents the little-known figure of a "wolf" (a masculine gay man) and features the performance of a Bessie Smith song, "Foolish Man Blues," which refers in a joking manner to "a mannish acting woman and a skippin' twistin' woman-acting man."

Word is Bond

Directed by Nneka Onuorah. *Word Is Bond* isn't a film about Hip-Hop, and it's not just a film about brotherhood. Rewinding to the twilight of rap's golden era of the late '90s, we follow a day in the life of Tracey, as he navigates within his community, forced to hide his sexuality. While your word is your bond, it is your secrets that can threaten everything. This film is about this struggle shared by so many in the LGBTQ community afraid to be themselves, a reality largely ignored - especially in the rap world. The film is a compelling documentary about Black lesbians who discriminate against other lesbians based on gender roles. Through a series of lesbian women stories, the director discusses the hypocrisy in terms of gender roles and the related performative expectations.

U-People

Directed by Hanifah Walidah. What do you get when over the course of 2 days in an unassuming brownstone in Brooklyn with 30 women across sexualities and transfolk of color? History.

U People begins with the following disclaimer: "When you view this film, do not make assumptions about anyone's sexuality." In a brownstone in Brooklyn, a music video was made. But not just one camera was rolling, and not just music was caught on tape. "Make a Move," the music video, made a splash on MTV's LOGO and was the first of its kind to depict women of color across sexualities and gender expression. One house, two days, 30 women and trans folks of color bridged their differences in the creation of this video. What the camera caught will introduce a hilarious, candid, very human voice into the discussion of gay and straight relations within the black community. This video made history by being the only music video ever to fully feature gay women of color in an intimate, witty look at their lives. The mission of the documentary is to dismantle the blanket categorization and ignorance inherent in the phrase "you people" by displaying unique individuals.

Cincinnati Black Pride will also feature a kick-off at the Contemporary Arts Center celebrating the rich legacy and future of Black LGBTQ Cincinnatians, as well as an array of parties throughout the weekend. Find out more about Cincinnati Black Pride at www.cincinnatiblackpride.com