Black Lives Rising Dance Film Festival

2025 Official Selections

Virtual Program, December 4-21
blacklivesrisingdancefilmfestival.vhx.tv

Dance Through The Storm

A dance film and visual representation of grief, vulnerability, growth, love, and celebration.

Based on the poetry book, Dance Through The Storm: Notes From Therapy, Dance Class, and a Family Room Couch by Solomon Dudley.

Runtime 04:40

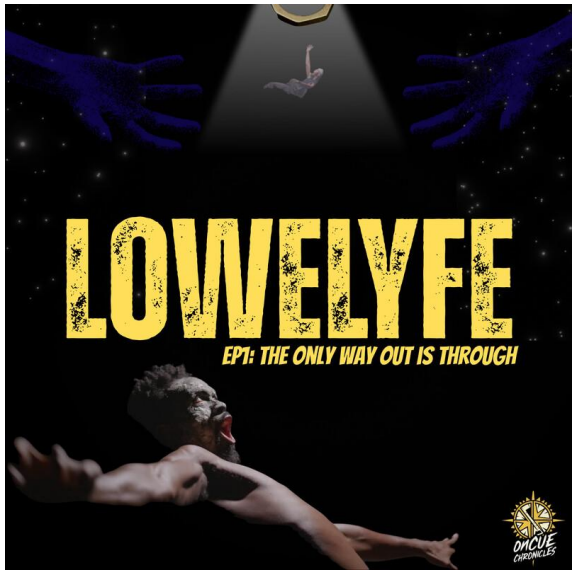
Directed By Solomon Dudley

Solomon aims to be a student of life and a global citizen in all that he does. He inspires others to do the same. From studying public health at the university of Michigan-Dearborn, Solomon gained a deeper understanding of the communities that build our world his budding creative agency, The Xavier Experience, aims to share joy through various artistic mediums.

Lowelyfe, Episode 1: The Only Way Out is Through (work in progress)

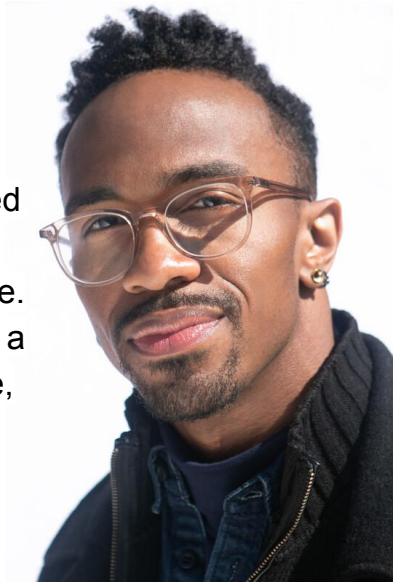
Agui Luz, survivor of the Tower of Aeries collapse, seeks refuge from his survivor's guilt at a mysterious clinic—only to find himself caught in a deeper test, one that may reveal a calling he's spent years trying to escape.

Runtime 09:38



Directed By Quilan Cue Arnold

Quilan "Cue" Arnold (MFA) is a movement artist based in Union City, NJ, who uses his God-given gifts to advocate for the liberation of all people through dance. Quilan is founder and CEO of The onCUE Company, a kinetic storytelling collective designed to create, unite, and empower people to integrate their personal narratives with the liberating stories of Biblical and Panafrican cultures.



Insurrection

He comes from the mud strengthened, ready to rule himself as king and queen. A journey to a different being, unique and yet belonging.

Runtime 04:39

Directed by Okado do Canal & Rita de Cácia Oenning da Silva

Ellan Barreto (Okado) started to breakdance when he was a little boy, and eventually became one of the best dancers in South America. His work as a rapper won him the Freedom to Create Youth Award as the most important young artist working for human rights in the world (2008) and he has given shows in Austria, Italy, and Argentina as well as Brasil.

Shed v2

Shed v2 features Charlotte Qaqish (formally Kayla), a dance major at UNC Greensboro. In this version of shed, Charlotte battles feelings of being intellectually, socially, and physically behind—particularly in dance. As she works through insecurities about specific parts of her body and her past, each discarded layer of clothing becomes a physical manifestation of release.

Runtime 05:13

Directed by Tiffany Hale

Tiffany Hale is a dancer, educator, and choreographer based in Greensboro, North Carolina.She is currently a graduate student pursuing her MFA in Dance Choreography at the University of North Carolina Greensboro where she teaches various general education courses and is the Vice President of the Association of Graduate Students in Dance.

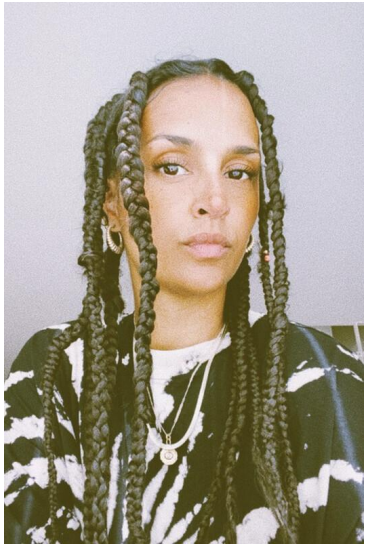
The Joy of Sorrow and Time

The future is a delicate dance of possibilities, where every choice and every moment shapes the path ahead. The fragility of what's next reminds us to handle it with care, to nurture our dreams and aspirations, and to believe in the limitless potential of tomorrow. Time is a valuable currency.

Directed by Sara Jordan

“I’ve always had a dream working with Supa rich kids, because they are true artists to their craft. They came to Denmark recently and in one day we made this short dance film together”.

Runtime 04:05



Lettre à ma fille

Unfolding on the beaches and streets of Benin, a heartfelt letter from a mother to her future daughter expresses the challenges and joys of growing up as a woman. Through song and dance, a tribe of women dispel fairy tales myths to center embodied values of feminine power: strength, independence, and self-worth.

Runtime 04:09

Directed by Michael Maurissens

“Choreographer, Filmmaker, Cultural Practitioner”

SHADES

Five dancers explore shadeism/colourism in the Black community through a series of personal interviews, performance pieces, and dance vignettes.

Runtime 21:30

Directed by Lindsey Addawoo & Alexis Woods

Lindsey Addawoo is an award-winning writer/director from Toronto.

Her work is largely in the realm of drama and genre and has screened at film festivals such as American Black Film Festival, Montreal Black Film Festival, and Reelworld Film Festival.

Alexis L Wood is a British documentary filmmaker and has made documentaries for the BBC, VICE, CBC and BRAVO on social issues and current affairs. She’s particularly interested in the topics that we don't tend to discuss and with communities that are underrepresented in the mainstream media.

Reflecting Rae

This film is about the multiple possibilities of the black ballerina.There have been many to ask the question, “where are all the black swans?” In this film, there are no swans. the black ballerina is brought forward and transformed into a rising phoenix. With red feathers acting as a symbol of repair, care, and resilience.

Runtime 06:49

Directed by Nyama McCarthy Brown & Kathyrn Logan

Nationally recognized culturally sustaining educator, Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown is an Associate Professor of Community Engagement through Dance Pedagogy, at The Ohio State University. Nyama has been an active performer, choreographer, and educator for the past twenty years

Black Kings Dance Too

Inspired by the Black Boys Dance Too movement, this film was created to combat negative stereotypes of black men projected in the mass media of today's society. Filmed on location at Dogtown Dance Theatre of Richmond VA, this film features 18 well known black dancers whose careers stemmed from the beloved RVA dance community.

Runtime 10:08

Directed by Kelly Hamlin

Kelly Hamlin is a passionate storyteller using dance, film, and theatre to archive the human experience. Beginning in New York City as a professional dancer after attending The Alvin Ailey School, Kelly performed with The Nai Ni Chen Dance Company, Errol Grimes Dance Group, Jennifer Archibald's Arch Dance Co., and JP Dance Group.

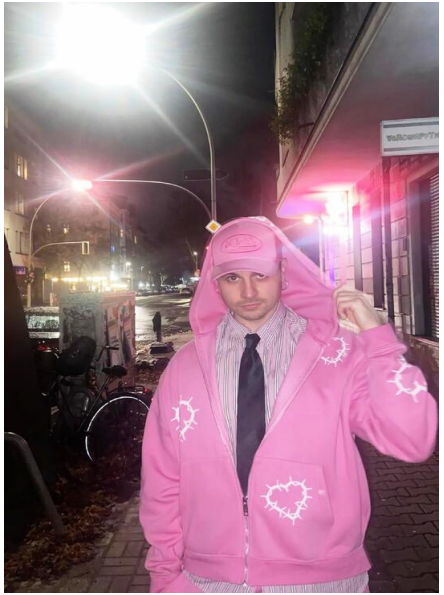
Roses of Romance

ROSES OF ROMANCE is about the afro-german musician Blazey.
Blazey is surrounded by a surrealistic setting in which he reflects on the repeated experience of losing himself in a labyrinth of his mind while confronting with the questions of his existence as a black, queer person.

Runtime 03:11

Directed by Pascal Hubrich

Pascal Hubrich (*1993 in Hildesheim, Germany) is an artist, filmmaker, and creative director. His work exists at the intersection of art, film, and conceptual design. Hubrich questions and parodies societal beauty ideals and pop-cultural aesthetics.



SUNKEN WORKS/don't bite

This film was inspired by Sarah Baartman. and her experience in the Human Zoos. How black. female bodies have been objectified and sexualised throughout history and. how. that has affected our psyche today. How do we view the black body? How do we treat it?

Runtime 06:00

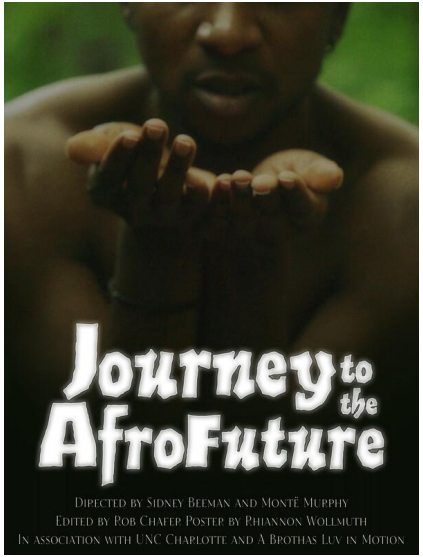
Directed by Ghaliah Conroy & C.J. Roxas

Ghaliah Conroy is a multidisciplinary performer and maker from Dublin. Ghaliah recently graduated from Fontys School of Performing Arts in the Netherlands. During her time there she worked with choreographers Andrea Beugger, Guilherme Miotto, Katja Hetimann and Agostina D'Allesandro. In her final year of studies Ghaliah specialised in Choreography and has since made her own work and collaborated with Theatre companies (Malaprop).

Journey to the AfroFuture

'Journey to the AfroFuture' is a dance film that uses movement to explore and question the often overlooked contributions of the Afro past to our present and future. Through the medium of dance, this film moves through three key eras: the harrowing realities of plantation life, the struggles of Black sharecroppers whose lands were taken for societal gain, and finally, a reflection of hope rooted in the Harlem Renaissance.

Runtime 12:52



Directed by Sidney Beeman & Montë Murphy

Sidney Beeman:
I'm an independent documentary filmmaker and an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, where I teache in the Film Studies program within the Interdisciplinary Studies Department.

Montë Murphy:
I'm Montë. A Black affirming Ethnochoreologist, Choreographer/Educator, Scholar, Writer, Choreographer, Filmmaker, and Artivist leading my work with the voices and stories of my community and ancestors.

Mainline

Prayer as unseen labor, as boundless, timeless and accessible. Where can it be met? Where does it meet you? From prayer warriors, shawls and songs. Extending the care work of protection, support, forgiveness and more– the frequency collapses time and space to be felt and extended anywhere.

Runtime 05:02

Directed by Jamila Kekulah

Jamila Kekulah is ever evolving in this space time continuum. They are a mover, dance maker, keen observer, lifelong learner and a deep listener of the body. Their artistic work makes inquiry of human experiences within the spiritual and natural worlds. Jamila received their MA from Columbia College Chicago and BFA from Kent State University.

Africa

This is Africa, our home, our heritage, our future. A land of endless horizons and infinite possibilities. A land where the dreams of yesterday are the realities of tomorrow. And in every heartbeat of this vast continent, there is a call to unity, a call to peace, a call to remember that we are one. One continent. One people. One destiny.

Runtime 05:08

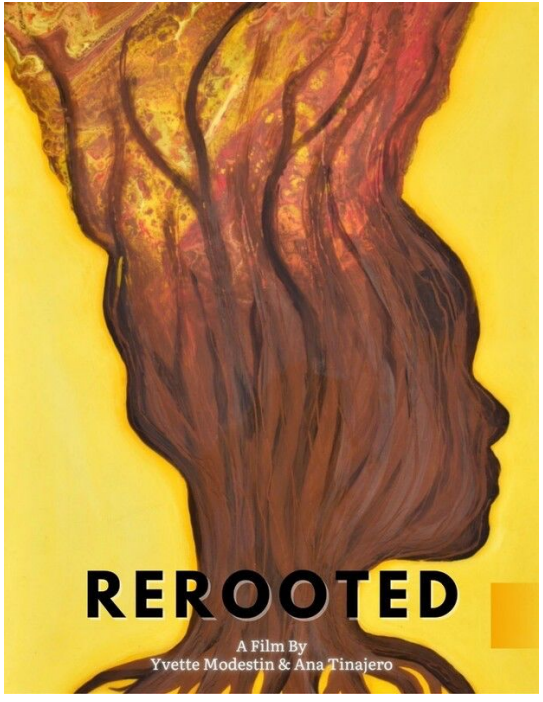
Directed by Michael Maurissens

“Choreographer, Filmmaker, Cultural Practitioner”

ReRooted

Through movement and poetry, this film explores the intimate and political dimensions of natural hair. It celebrates identity while challenging contemporary beauty standards within Black and Latinx communities.

Runtime 09:32



Directed by Yvette Modestin & Ana Tinajero

Yvette Modestin, a writer, poet and activist, was born and raised in Colón, Panama. She is Founder/Executive Director of Encuentro Diaspora Afro in Boston, MA. She was named one of “30 Afro Latinas you Should Know” in the world and was recently named as one of the 100 Most Influential African Diaspora Leaders.

Ana Tinajero is an award-winning Afro-Latin dance artist and performing arts curator. She has spread the salsa bug to more than 30 countries and is based in Los Angeles, CA. Ana holds a BS in Management Science from MIT. Recent awards include: 2023 Queer Afro Latin Dance Lifetime Achievement Award, 2022 MCC Artist Fellow, 2020/21 Kennedy Citizens Fellow, 2019 YWCA Cambridge Woman of the Year, 2019 WBUR Artery 25.

Black Lives Rising Dance Film Festival, 2025 Virtual Program

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