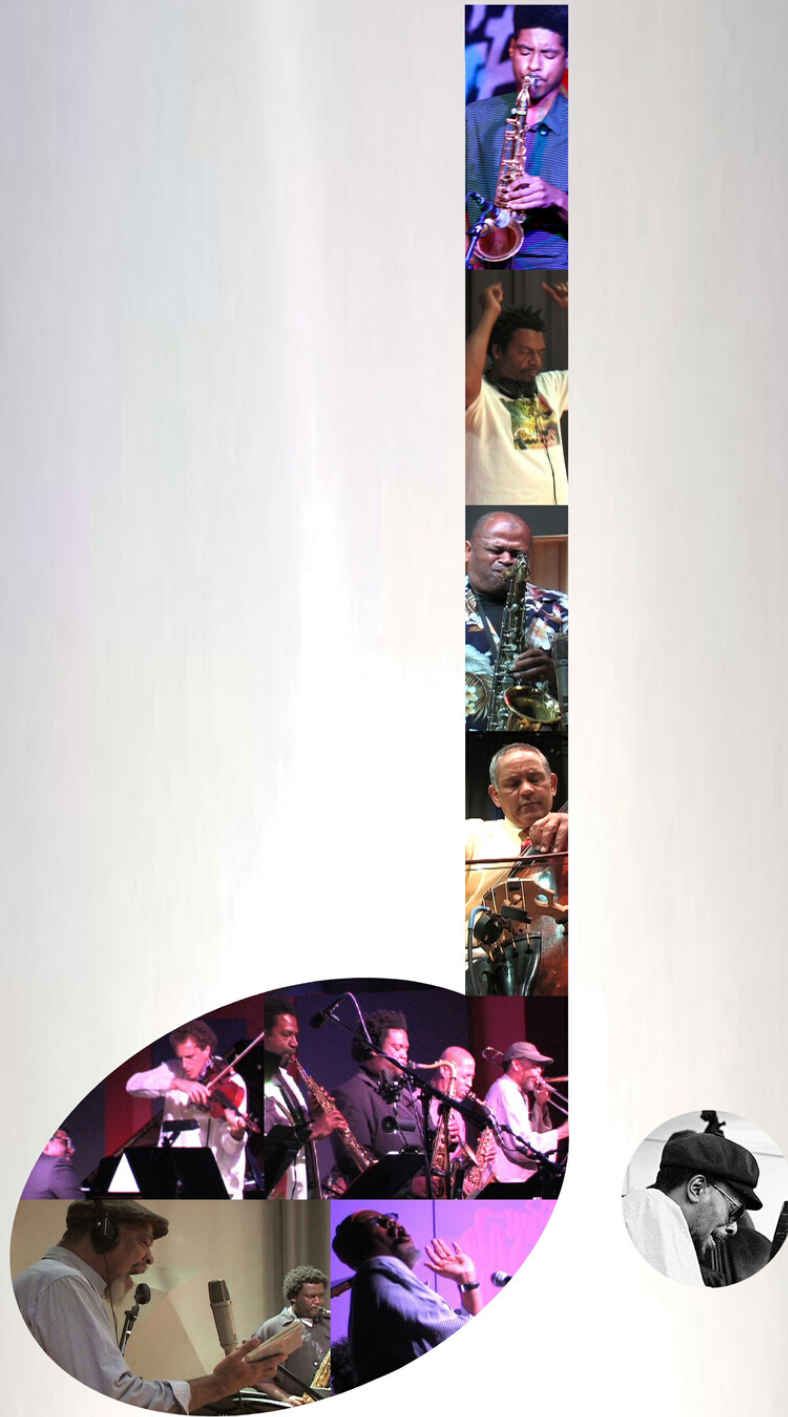


Turn A Paige Productions presents



THE GATHERING

ROOTS & BRANCHES OF LOS ANGELES JAZZ

It's not really a band, it's a movement.



FILM SYNOPSIS

The Gathering: Roots & Branches of Los Angeles Jazz chronicles a multi-generational music project started in 2005 by Jesse Sharps, one of the bandleaders of Horace Tapscott's Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra. The film features a stellar cast of players, including some of the hottest emerging talents from the area, and focuses on the Leimert Park district and progressive jazz scene of Los Angeles covering the history of the music, and the long tradition of community elders guiding the young up-and-coming players on the scene. It features some extraordinary performances by local legends Azar Lawrence, Dwight Trible, Kamau Da'ood, Michael Session, Ndugu Chanler, and Phil Ranelin along with rising stars Brandon Coleman, Kamasi Washington, Miguel Atwood-Ferguson, and Randal Fisher.

In July 2019, the film premiered at the Maine International Film Festival along with a live performance by a trio of musicians: Jesse Sharps, Bobby West, and Peter Jacobson.

The film is currently being submitted to several film festivals throughout the globe, with additional screenings planned in Los Angeles and beyond starting in 2020.

Feature Documentary

Running Time:

92 minutes

Directed By:

Thomas Paige

Produced By:

Jesse Sharps, Thomas Paige

Production Company:

Turn A Paige Productions

Music Composed By:

Jesse Sharps, Horace Tapscott, Roberto Miranda, Michael Session, Randal Fisher

Film Trailer:

[<CLICK HERE FOR TRAILER>](#)

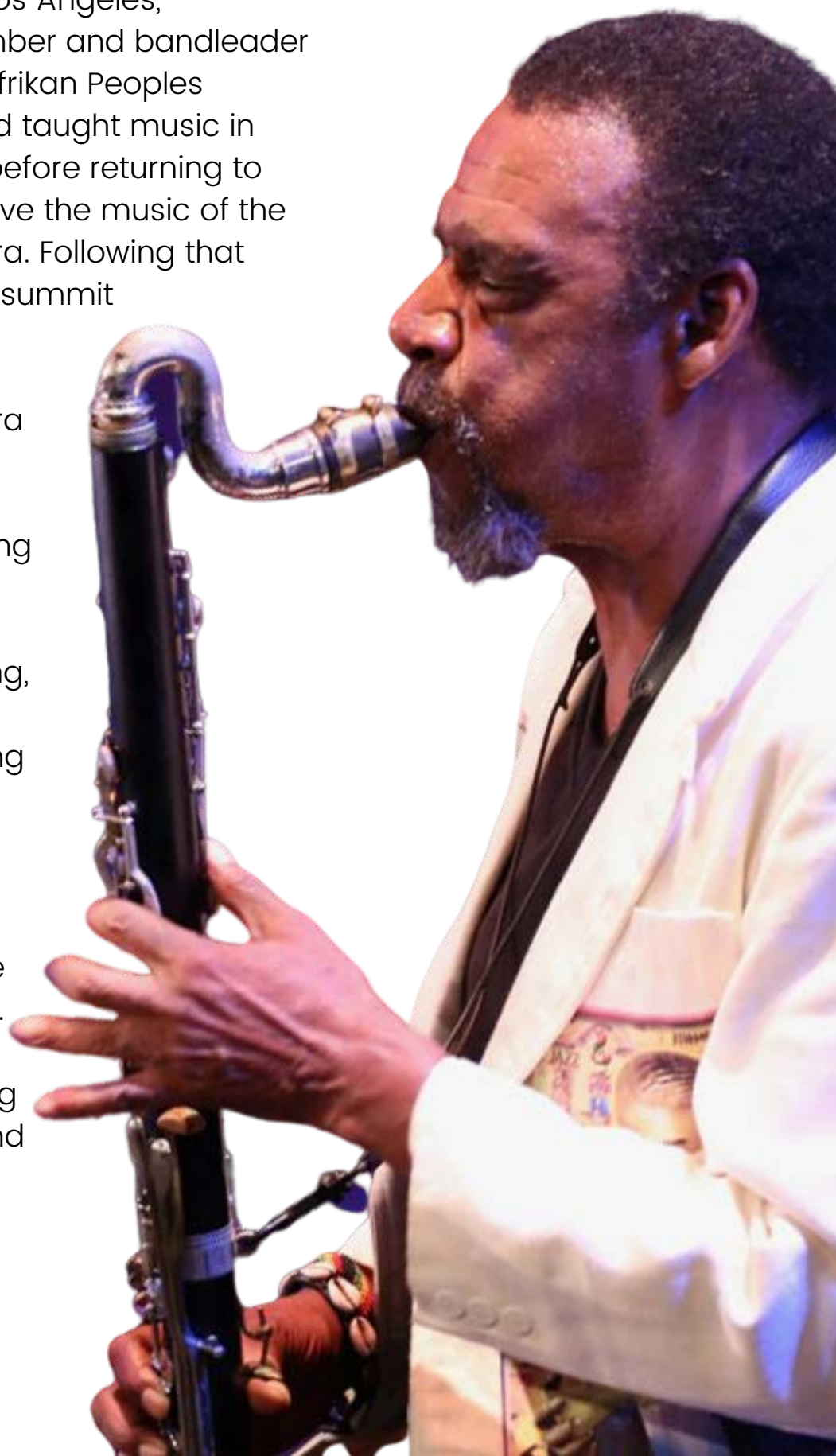


DIRECTOR BIO

Thomas Paige is an artist, musician, and producer from Los Angeles, California. He holds a degree in Ethnomusicology from UCLA and has been chronicling The Gathering and The Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra over the past 15 years. He has been a producer on multiple recordings, music videos, and projects including several independent short films. The Gathering - Roots & Branches of Los Angeles Jazz is his first documentary feature.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER / BAND LEADER

Jesse Sharps is a composer, bandleader, and musician that grew up in Los Angeles, California as an early member and bandleader in Horace Tapscott's Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra. He performed and taught music in Germany for many years before returning to Los Angeles in 2005 to archive the music of the Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra. Following that process Jesse arranged a summit and recording session featuring members of the Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra along with several local legends, and rising young stars on the scene. Emerging from that session was a multi-generational music project called The Gathering, resulting in the release of several recordings, including the album "Leimert Park: Roots & Branches of Los Angeles Jazz," as well as performances at festivals and venues throughout the greater Los Angeles region. Under the leadership of Jesse Sharps The Gathering continues to branch out and evolve, embracing new players and musical explorations.



ROBERTO MIRANDA | BASS

Roberto Miranda is a force of nature on the bass, or as he would put it, a channel for The Almighty to pass through. For The Gathering session in 2005 Roberto collaborated with the musicians on his piece "Agony in the Garden" where he improvised as a conductor, working with the musicians to use certain motifs, modes, and phrasings and employing collective improvisation much in the same capacity as Butch Morris's Conduction method.

Roberto has performed and recorded with countless luminaries in jazz, including Horace Tapscott, Bobby Bradford, John Carter, Kenny Burrell, Charles Lloyd, Cecil Taylor, and David Murray. He joined the Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra in the mid-1970's and performed with The Gathering at several concerts and venues over the years, including the 10th anniversary concert featured in the film.



KAMAU DAÁOOD | POET

Often referred to as a word musician due to the electrifying, musical flow of his delivery, Kamau Daáood is a celebrated Los Angeles poet and community activist that co-founded The World Stage in Leimert Park with Billy Higgins. In the early 1970's he helped Dadisi Sanyika start up a community art center in Central Los Angeles, called The Gathering, which was also an inspiration for The Gathering recording session and musical summit that took place in 2005.

At The Gathering's 2005 recording session Kamau Daáood led a select group of musicians to perform a collective improvisation while he performed his signature spoken word piece "Language of Saxophones" from his City Lights Pocket Poets book of poems. He is also featured in the opening of "Freedom's Sweet" by Horace Tapscott, performed by The Gathering in 2015 at their 10th anniversary concert.



DWIGHT TRIBLE | VOCALS

Dwight Tribble's vocal beauty and virtuosity is truly something powerful to experience. He approaches his voice like a musical instrument, with an ability to improvise on the level of just about any instrumentalist out there. He has worked with numerous luminaries in jazz, leads his own group, the Dwight Tribble Ensemble, and is the vocalist for the Pharaoh Sanders Quartet as well as the vocal director for Horace Tapscott's Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra.

For The Gathering recording session in 2005 Dwight wrote and sang the lyrics for Jesse Sharps iconic song Desert Fairy Princess. His opening duet in the song with Roberto Miranda on bass highlights the depth, sensitivity, and otherworldly beauty of his voice and range. He performed with The Gathering at several shows and festivals in 2008 and 2009. He is currently the executive director of The World Stage in Leimert Park, and has recently released his critically acclaimed album "Mothership" on Gearbox records.



PHIL RANELIN | TROMBONE

Prior to coming to Los Angeles in the early 1990's Phil Ranelin worked as a session player in Detroit recording for Motown, including Stevie Wonder, and also performing regularly with Freddie Hubbard. In Detroit he co-founded The Tribe, an avant-garde band focused on black consciousness that expanded into a musician's collective, production house, and record label. His time in Los Angeles has been highlighted by receiving numerous awards and performing with just about everyone on the scene, including Horace Tapscott and The Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra.

Phil Ranelin participated in the initial recording session and summit in 2005 and performed at several venues with The Gathering in later years, including the 10th anniversary concert featured in the film.



MIGUEL ATWOOD-FERGUSON | VIOLA

Besides bringing in his enormous talent on viola Miguel Atwood-Ferguson played a pivotal role at both the recording session in 2005 and during mixing sessions that followed. Miguel brought in Peter Jacobson on cello, Myka Miller on english horn and oboe, and Sara Schoenbeck on bassoon for the session at CalArts. He followed up by overseeing the mixing of the Leimert Park album while Jesse Sharps was in Germany for several years before his return in 2008.

From working with the likes of Billy Higgins, Hubert Laws, and Ravi Coltrane to Dr. Dre, Flying Lotus, Mary J. Blige, and Kamasi Washington as well as in orchestral settings with John Williams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Zubin Mehta and so many others Miguel has established himself as one of the most prolific performers, recording artists, composers, producers, and arrangers on the scene. He has been featured at numerous jazz festivals and his "Suite For Ma Dukes" tribute to J. Dilla has been gaining national and international attention with performances at the North Sea Jazz Festival, New York's Lincoln Center, and many others venues and events.



KAMASI WASHINGTON | SAXOPHONE

When Kamasi Washington joined the recording session and summit in 2005 he was at a unique point in his career. Jesse had heard about his friend Ricky's son making waves, and got to see first hand what a powerful emerging talent Kamasi was when he caught him performing a local venue, Fifth Street Dick's. Kamasi had recently put together his band, The Next Step, and the outlines of what would become his incredible, virtuosic style and cross-over appeal were beginning to take form.

Kamasi performed a couple of select shows with The Gathering following the release of the Leimert Park album in 2008. In 2015 his breakout album, "The Epic," along with a high profile collaboration with Kendrick Lamar, led to more exposure and he is now considered by many to be the new torchbearer for progressive, improvisational music. His popularity continues to surge with multiple awards for his releases, appearances at high profile festivals like Coachella and Bonnaroo, and a co-headlining tour with Herbie Hancock in 2019.



RANDAL FISHER | SAXOPHONE

Randal Fisher was fifteen years old when he attended The Gathering recording session and summit in 2005. One of his musical mentors, Bill Madison, recommended him for the gig. Bill Madison was a long time drummer for The Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra and helped out during rehearsals for the group before the session date.

Randal Fisher has since gone on to perform and record with many noteworthy artists, performs regularly with Ethio-Cali and Dexter Story's band Wondem as well as the Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra. Randal leads his own group, the Randal Fisher Ensemble, and has become a remarkable composer and performer in his own right. His song, "Song for My Sisters" is featured in the film from a show he performed with The Gathering in 2018.



BONGO RASSTARR | LEIMERT PARK ARTIST

Bongo RasStarr has been a community artist and musician in the Leimert Park area of Los Angeles for decades. While working and performing with Jesse Sharps on Bongo's group, Return of The Medicine Men, he encouraged Jesse to develop The Gathering into a larger and broader music project than the initial Horace Tapscott recording session that was envisioned. Bongo interviewed almost all of the musicians at the session, as well as Jesse Sharps, several days later in Leimert Park.

Bongo RasStarr's original musicians portraits are featured in the film and he continues to produce and show his artwork in the Leimert Park area. In 1991-92, while Jesse was on an extended stay in town from Germany, Bongo performed with Horace Tapscott and the Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra. Bongo's wife is the inspiration for the Horace Tapscott tune "Willeta's Walk."



MUSICIANS

Jesse Sharps - Conductor, Soprano Saxophone

Kamau Daáood - Spoken Word

Roberto Miranda - Bass, Conductor

Dwight Tribble - Voice

Phil Ranelin - Trombone

Michael Session - Alto Saxophone

Azar Lawrence - Tenor Saxophone

Taumbu Ector - Congas

Ndugu Chancler - Drums

Fundi Legohn - French horn, Percussion

Kafi Roberts - Flute



FEATURED:

Kamasi Washington - Tenor Saxophone

Miguel Atwood-Ferguson - Viola

Peter Jacobson - Cello

Randal Fisher - Tenor Saxophone

Nick Rosen - Bass

Tracy Caldwell - Alto Saxophone

Tracy Wannomae - Bass Clarinet & Clarinet

Joey Dosik - Baritone & Alto saxophone

Nathaniel Brooks - Trombone

Myka Miller - English horn & Oboe



WITH APPEARANCES BY:

Brandon Coleman - Piano

Richard Grant - Trumpet

Nate Morgan - Piano

Jai Jae Kabasa - Spoken Word, Percussion

Maia - Voice, Flute

Mercedes LaRay - Alto Saxophone

Paul Livingstone - Sitar

Karon Harrison - Drums

Thomas Stones - Flute

Amos Delone - Baritone Saxophone

Danny Cortez - Trumpet

Greg Ramsey - Tuba

Theo Saunders - Piano

Steve Smith - Trumpet

Fuasi Abdul-Khaliq - Alto Saxophone



PRODUCTION CREDITS

DIRECTED BY
Thomas Paige

CAMERA
Thomas Paige
Kevin Michael
Miguel Miranda

ADDITIONAL CAMERA
Michael Pescasio
Joe Kaczorowski

CO-PRODUCER
Emily Koonse

EDITORS
Emily Koonse
Thomas Paige

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS
Lori Precious
A.J. Jackson

INTERVIEWERS
Bongo RasStarr
Jeffrey Winston

HISTORICAL ADVISOR
Steven Isoaradi

SUPERVISING ENGINEER
John Baffa - CalArts

RECORDING SESSION MIX ADVISOR
Miguel Atwood-Ferguson

RECORDING ENGINEERS
Blanton (Kyle) Ross - CalArts
Wayne Peet - Jazz Bakery

STILL PHOTOGRAPHY
Mark Weber
Kamau Daáood
Michael Dett Wilcots
Lori Precious

DIALOG MIXER
Dirk Doucette

MUSICIAN PORTRAITS COURTESY OF
Bongo RasStarr



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thegatheringjazzfilm.com