

# 15TH ANNUAL

## EMERGING LENS

CULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL

production of Charles Taylor Theatre & Media Arts



# APRIL 2025





# WORDS FROM THE FOUNDERS



**SHELLY FASHAN**



**TARA TAYLOR**

Welcome Everyone to our 15th Birthday celebrating and showcasing cultural filmmakers and emerging artist. We are so proud of the creative ventures we are presenting on our 15th. We are super excited to be showcasing 10 local filmmakers. Many of these stories speak to truth, personal experience and triumph over adversity. We continue to build and develop industry related skills through programs such as, "Black Above the Line" and "Breaking Through the Screens." We

continue to build great relationships within this industry, the future possibilities are endless.

Thank-you all for supporting emerging independent film, enjoy these incredible stories.

**Shelley, Tara, Randon, Victoria, Kayla and Tyiesha.**





# FESTIVAL

# PROGRAM

**April 13<sup>th</sup> Opening Reception** – *Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21*  
2PM – 5PM

- Opening Remarks
  - Performance – Taryn Della (Spoken Word)
  - Feature Film Screening
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**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – *Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21*  
6:30PM – 9PM

- Opening Remarks
  - Performance – Quoia States
  - Feature Film Screening
- 

**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – *North Branch Library*  
6:30PM – 9PM

- Opening Remarks
- Performance – Blessing Tangban
- Film Screening



**FESTIVAL**

# PROGRAM

**April 19<sup>th</sup> Industry Events – North Branch  
Library 10AM – 1PM**

- Industry Workshop – Pitch A Film
  - Panel Discussion – The Future of Black NS Film Production
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**April 19<sup>th</sup> – The Black Cultural Centre  
6:30PM – 9PM**

- Opening Remarks
- Performance: Mayaya
- Film Screening
- Short Films from Black Above the Line Program

FREE ENTRY / LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



# EMERGING STREAM

Emerging Lens now has an online streaming platform for select films! View **EmergingSTREAM** hosted on ACE TV.

## FILM LINEUP:

- **First Friday** - Joshua Ojeda (USA)
- **Arsene** - Amapola Tô (France)
- **After Thoughts** - Cortez Mack (USA)
- **Dear Sikhonkwane** - Sihle Hlophe (South Africa)
- **The Exile** - Sajad Hosseini (Iran)
- **Stone Garden** - Alysha Daniele Haran (USA)
- **The Therapist** - AKWASI POKU (UK)
- **Half a Bite** - Ashwin Agrawal (India)
- **Paighaam** - Vaibbhav Shirke (India)
- **Solis** - Ameera Mian (UK)
- **Hello Anna** - Mohammad Hossein Soleimani Fard (Iran)
- **The Old Man and the Robot** - Callum Scott-Dyson (Korea)
- **Rock Island Prison 1894** - Joy Shannon (USA)
- **Dipolar bipolar** - quankai li (Japan)
- **The Seas Between Us** - Faisal Lutchmedial (Canada)
- **For Sale** - Sonia Nouri (Iran)
- **The Pure** - Masoud Mashouf (Iran)
- **Maasai Eunoto** - Kire Godal (Kenya)
- **Its Very Nice to Meet you** - Chen Zhan (Canada)
- **The Spin Disturber** -Hélène Lebon (Canada)
- **Brim** - Keenan Dailey (USA)
- **Hiding at a Funeral** - Mona Hersi, Hannah Yohannes (Canada)
- **Smile At Me** - Keyvan Azad (Iran)
- **Flamenco at the Shop** - Rosanna Terracciano (Canada)
- **A Witch Named Agatha** - Rebeka Herron (Canada)
- **Mikoko** - ANGELA AQUEREBURU (Togo)
- **To End all Spells** - Nana Kwabena, Zachary Cedarholm (USA)
- **The Calling** - Tokoloshe (South Africa)
- **Regret** - Richard Green (Iran)
- **GO!** - BRACE EVANS (USA)
- **Holy Heaviness** - Farnoosh Abedi Renani, Negah Khezre Fardyardad (Iran)
- **Blue Lake Whispers** - Hossein Khami (Iran)



# April 13th

**CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21 | 2PM**

Performance: Taryn Della (Spoken Word)

## Feature Film:



## We Will Be Brave

**DOCUMENTARY – CHRISANN HESSING  
(CANADA)**



# April 16th

**CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21 | 6:30PM**

Performance: Quoia States



## Welcome

**FEATURE NARRATIVE -  
JEVON BORELAND**



## Chaturanga

**SHORT FILM -  
SIDARTHA MURJANI**



# April 17th

**NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY | 6:30PM**

Performance: Blessing Tangban

- **Land and Abolition** – *Documentary (4:52 mins)*
  - Raven Davis (*Canada*)
- **3 AM** – *Short Film (17:06 mins)*
  - Ryan Gannon (*Canada*)
- **Wave Theory** – *Documentary (28:23 mins)*
  - Brandon Boyd (*Canada*)
- **The #th Floor** – *Documentary (4:59 mins)*
  - Ana Sofia Alaman (*Canada*)
- **Blink** – *Music Video (2:52 mins)*
  - ANYO (*Canada*)
- **Dream** – *Short Film (2:14 mins)*
  - Ellie Rowles (*USA*)
- **The Echo of Your Goodbye** – *Music Video (3:15 mins)*
  - Satu (*USA*)



# April 19th



**NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY | 10AM - 1PM**

INDUSTRY EVENTS



## Pitch a Film

INDUSTRY WORKSHOP



## The Future of Black NS Film Production

PANEL DISCUSSION



# April 19th

**THE BLACK CULTURAL CENTRE | 6:30PM**

Performance: Mayaya

BLACK ABOVE THE LINE FILMS:

- ***The Letter D*** – Short Film (11 mins)
  - Danae Pinder (Canada)
- ***Growing Secrets*** – Short Film (11 mins)
  - Randon Wright (Canada)
- ***Voices Pulled from the Embers*** – Short Film (11 mins)
  - Wanda Taylor (Canada)
- ***Under Pressure*** – Documentary (8 mins)
  - Andre Anderson (Canada)
- ***Doc, Am I OK?*** – Short Film (7 mins)
  - Harmony Adesola (Canada)
- ***Sweet Karma Bitters*** – Animation (3:11 mins)
  - David Saah (Ghana)
- ***Our Videos, Our Voices: A Story Of The North Preston Bulls & Neville*** – Documentary
  - Kardeisha Provo (Canada)
- ***Penny Candy*** – Animation (5 mins)
  - Tara Taylor (Canada)
- ***Healing Through Poetry*** – Documentary (25 mins)
  - Asiah Sparks (Canada)



# PERFORMERS



## **QUOIA STATES - APRIL 17TH**

Hey there, I'm Quoia States, a passionate singer-songwriter born in Toronto and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Music has been my lifelong dream, and I often describe it as my first language, speaking through heartfelt lyrics. As a songwriter, I cherish the opportunity to share my experiences and connect with others through the universal language of music.

I'm driven by the belief that my potential in the music industry can make a powerful impact for young artists, and I'm excited for the journey ahead. Join me as I grow and evolve, creating music that resonates and tells stories that connect us all.



## **MAYAYA - APRIL 19TH**

Mayaya is an award-winning, bilingual musician known for her innovative blend of genres and cultural influences. With roots in Haitian and French heritage, she crafts deeply personal songs that showcase her versatility as a songwriter, producer, and vocalist. Fluent in English and French, Mayaya's music transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries, earning her recognition including the African Nova Scotian Artist Export Development Grant. Her unique sound, described as a fusion of traditional and contemporary elements, positioning her as a rising star in the global music scene.



# PERFORMERS



## **BLESSING TANGBAN - APRIL 17TH**

Blessing Tangban is an award-winning, Nigerian afro-folk singer-songwriter and guitarist. Her sound is a unique fusion of emotionally stirring Afro-folk melodies that melds evocative storytelling with the ethereal sounds of her acoustic guitar.



# THANK YOU

**WE EXTEND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR  
SUPPORTERS AND TEAM WHO MADE THIS FESTIVAL  
POSSIBLE:**

- **Tara Taylor** – Co-Founder - Festival Director/Technical Coordinator
- **Shelley Fashan** – Co-Founder - Festival Producer / Promotions Manager
- **Victoria Snow** – Social Media Manager
- **Randon Wright** - Social Media Manager
- **Kayla Borden** – Artist Coordinator/Photographer
- **Tyiesha Colley** – Board Member
- **Carmahn McCalla** - Graphics and Web Designer
- **Ray Fashan**
- **Deana Sparks**
- **Extra Special Thank you to our families for putting up with crazy work hours and burning the candles at both ends! We love you:**
  - **The Fashan Family**
  - **Tara's Clan** - Tristahn, Carmahn, Noah, and Riley

And thank you to all the filmmakers who shared their stories with us!



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



UNION OF BLACK  
ARTISTS SOCIETY  
ONE ART. ONE HEART.



Canadian  
Museum of  
Immigration  
at Pier 21



Halifax Public  
Libraries

## CONTACT US

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