



CONCH SHELL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

AUGUST 26-28, 2022

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Message from Fest Director

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Conch Shell International Film Fest. It is my pleasure to share our program of short films by vibrant, emerging and experienced Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora film artists with you this year.

As we embark on our second year, presenting our virtual film festival on the Filmocracy.com platform (Industry Sponsor), my hope is that this festival will create a vital opportunity for the artistic communities of the Diaspora to make lasting connections; that the festival paves a leading path within the American film and television industry; that audiences will find, and become fans of, the many talented filmmakers found here this weekend, each with a unique viewpoint on what it means to be a Person of Color in the world; and that for our panels and masterclasses be mind expanding and fun.

Thanks to the support of an amazing community of advocates, sponsors, donors, partners, and individuals who have contributed to the success of this year's festival – we are here today. I am filled with gratitude, appreciation, and hope. I know the support and enthusiasm will grow until Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora multimedia content becomes a staple in American entertainment.

Enjoy Conch Shell International Film Fest 2022.

-Magaly Colimon-Christopher

26

Aug

programming

**11:00 AM-
noon**

Filmmaker Meet and Greet
[Sapphire Studios](#)

**12:00-
12:30 PM**

Filmmaker Chat
Magaly Colimon-Christopher (Mod.), Tahja Winkle,
Alicia Díaz
[Larimar Tower](#)

**1:00-
1:30 PM**

Filmmaker Chat
Chris Truth (Mod.), Edwin FrankO, Angelina
Villapiano, Catherine Bruhier, Ronissha
Marksman
[Larimar Tower](#)

**2:00-
2:30 PM**

Filmmaker Chat
Javier Molina (Mod.), Christin Eve Cato, Pierre
Jean Gonzalez, Timothy Joseph, Grace Stelk
[Larimar Tower](#)

**3:00-
3:40 PM**

Filmmaker Chat
George Alexander (Mod.), Tonya Joy Bolton, Gabi
Christa, Dwanye LeBlanc, Charysse Tia Herper
[Larimar Tower](#)

**4:30-
7:00 PM**

**CSIFF Masterclass: Mastering
Indie Filmmaking**
[Mango Masterclass Hall](#)
led by Marquis Smalls

**7:00-
9:00 PM**

**CSIFF2022 SPECIAL
SCREENING & Artist Chat**
[Hibiscus Live Screening Suites](#)
MADAN SARA directed by Etant
Dupain & moderated by Maella
Kancel; followed by a trailer of THE
FIGHT FOR HAITI

**9:00-
10:00 PM**

Opening Night Party
[Beach Bar](#)
(Playlist Curator: Samuel Archer)

27

Aug

programming

**11:00 AM-
noon**

Filmmaker Meet & Greet
Sapphire Studios

**12:00-
2:30 PM**

**CSIFF Masterclass: The Secret to
Powerful On Camera
Performances**
Mango Masterclass Hall
led by Regina Taylor

**1:00-
1:40 PM**

**CSIFF Panel: The Music Video:
Current Relevancy and
Impending Future**
Larimar Building

**2:30-
3:10 PM**

**CSIFF Panel: Romance in
Caribbean Cinema: How love
can (re) define social change**
Larimar Building

**3:00-
3:30 PM**

**CSIFF2022 Award Sponsor
Product Demonstration**
Larimar Building

**3:30-
3:45 PM**

Industry Icon Chat w/ Bill Duke
Larimar Building

**4:00-
6:00 PM**

**CSIFF Special Screening & Artist
Chat**
Hibiscus Building
WITH WONDER directed by
Sharon Lewis

**6:30-
7:15 PM**

**CSIFF Panel: The Do's and
Don'ts of Pitching a Script**
Larimar Building

28

Aug

programming

**11:00 AM-
noon**

Filmmaker Meet and Greet
Sapphire Studios

**12:00-
2:30 PM**

**CSIFF Masterclass: Creating a
Compelling Personal Narrative**
Mango Masterclass Hall
led by France Luce Benson

**1:00-
1:30 PM**

**CSIFF Panel: Is Inclusion a
sustainable movement or a
trend?**
Larimar Building

**2:00-
4:00 PM**

**CSIFF2022 Special Screening +
Artist Chat**
Hibiscus Live Screening Suites
DEVOTION: written and
directed by Dawn Wilkinson

**4:00-
4:30 PM**

**Imagine Products -
ShotPutPro Demonstration**
Product Demo Building

**7:30-
8:30 PM**

CSIFF AWARD CEREMONY
Larimar Building

**8:00-
9:00 PM**

CSIFF CLOSING NIGHT PARTY
Beach Bar
(Playlist Curator: Samuel Archer)

MASTERCLASSES

MASTERING INDIE FILMMAKING W/ MARQUIS SMALLS

FRIDAY AUGUST 26TH, 2022
4:30PM-7:00PM EST

In this engaging Masterclass students will discuss the steps of indie film production.



THE SECRET TO POWERFUL ON CAMERA PERFORMANCES W/ REGINA TAYLOR

SATURDAY AUG 27TH, 2022
12:00PM-2:30PM EST

Spirit channel through the windows of the soul--the secret to powerful on camera performances.



CRAFTING A COMPELLING PERSONAL NARRATIVE W/ FRANCE LUCE BENSON

SUNDAY AUGUST 28TH, 2022
12:00PM-2:30PM EST

Whether you are meeting with development executives, showrunners, or producers, the most important question you will undoubtedly be asked is, "What is your story?" This is your opportunity to make a memorable impression and personal connection.



MASTERCLASSES

MASTERING INDIE FILMMAKING W/ MARQUIS SMALLS

FRIDAY AUGUST 26TH, 2022
4:30PM-7:00PM EST

In this engaging Masterclass students will discuss the steps of indie film production.



"Even if you don't have a project you are looking to produce right now, come with your dream project and we will walk through the process of making your dream true." - Marquis

Marquis Smalls is an award winning Producer with over 18 years experience creating content for the web, cable networks, streamers and film festivals worldwide. Marquis is most known for feature length documentaries **HATING OBAMA** which premiered on the STARZ network and **BACK TO NATURAL** which is currently on RevoltTV. His narrative webseries and short films such as **The Married Bachelor** and **Harriet Returns** have won him awards and industry acclaim.

MASTERCLASSES

THE SECRET TO POWERFUL ON CAMERA PERFORMANCES W/ REGINA TAYLOR

**SATURDAY AUG 27TH, 2022
12:00PM-2:30PM EST**

SPIRIT CHANNEL THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF THE SOUL.

In this interactive acting workshop students will explore how to ignite and transfer thoughts and intentions for powerful on camera acting.

Regina Taylor

Actress/Writer/Director. Ms. Taylor in her TV Role as Lily Hpaer in "I'll Fly Away" received a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress. 3 NAACP Image Awards and two Emmy Award nominations. Her numerous acting credits include: "All Day and A Night"(Netflix); Council of Dads (NBC) and "Love Craft County" (HBO), Red Line (CSB), "The Good Fight" (CBS), "The First Lady" (Showtime), "Blue Bloods" (CBS) and more.



MASTERCLASSES

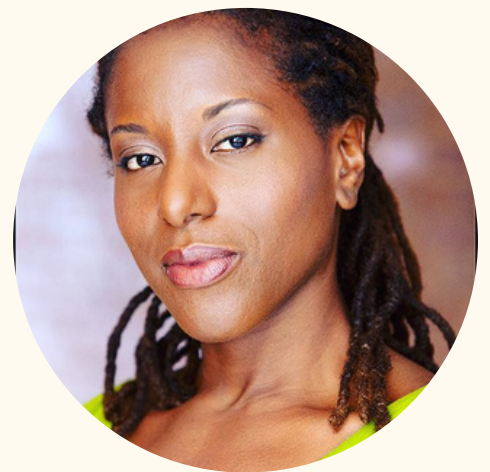
CRAFTING A COMPELLING PERSONAL NARRATIVE

W/ FRANCE LUCE BENSON

SUNDAY AUGUST 28TH, 2022
12:00PM-2:30PM EST

Whether you are meeting with development executives, showrunners, or producers, the most important question you will undoubtedly be asked is “What is your story?” This is your opportunity to make a memorable impression and personal connection with the person sitting across from you. In this interactive, hands-on workshop you will engage in a series of exercises designed to help you convey your uniqueness, identify the defining moments that drive your work, and craft an unforgettable personal narrative.

France Luce Benson Award-winning playwright/screenwriter, including the Lily’s 2021 Lorraine Hansberry Award, NYSCA’s Individual Artist Award, two-time Bay Area Playwright’s Festival semi-finalist, Dramatist Guild Fellow, and Sony Pictures Television Diverse Writers Fellow. Staff writer for Viacom/CBS(Bass Reeves), Zoetrope Grand Prize for screenplay Caroline’s Wedding; Alfred P. Sloan Award for screenplay Healing Roots.



SPECIAL SCREENINGS



MADAN SARA DIRECTED BY ETANT DUPAIN

FRIDAY AUGUST 26TH, 2022
7:00PM-9:00PM EST

Moderator: Afro-Caribbean Guadeloupean Maëlla Kancel (Founder of Karukerament Podcast) followed by a live filmmaker chat with Haitian film director Etant Dupain.

Presented in partnership with



The women known as Madan Sara in Haiti work tirelessly to buy, distribute, and sell food and other essentials in markets through the country. Despite the obstacles faced by the women working in a sector that lacks investment, infrastructure and state assistance, the Madan Sara continue to be one of the most critical parts of the Haitian economy and of who we are as a country. The Madan Sara documentary tells the stories of these indefatigable women who work at the margins to make Haiti's economy run. Despite facing intense hardship and social stigma, the hard work of the Madan Sara puts their children through school, houses their families, and helps to ensure a better life for generations to come. This film amplifies the calls of the Madan Sara as they speak directly to society to share their dreams for a more just Haiti.

Etant Dupain is a journalist, filmmaker, and community organizer.



Sharing Caribbean narratives. This has been **Maëlla Kancel's** motto since the launch of the Karukerament Podcast in 2019 to document the representation of the Caribbean in cinema and television.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS



**WITH WONDER DIRECTED BY
SHARON LEWIS**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 27TH, 2022
4:00PM-6:00PM EST**

Moderator: Melanie Nicholls-King - a Canadian actress of Trinidadian heritage-will interview Sharon Lewis a Toronto resident of Jamaican and Trinidadian extraction

Born out of Director Sharon Lewis' own muted struggle with not fitting into neat racial/Queer/Christian boxes, With Wonder takes an intimate look at the journey of members of the Queer, Christian community of color and their attempts to answer the question: Can you be both Christian and Queer? In this feature length documentary, we hear from and see diverse members of the LGBTQI+ community, including high profile Queer activists and clerics, in places like Jamaica, New York, London, and Los Angeles. They each have their own unique ways of amplifying their voices and finding their way back to spiritual health, despite the shaming tactics of some Christian institutions. With Wonder is a love letter to God from the BPOC LGBTQI+ community.

Sharon Lewis' focus in her directing career is to tell entertaining stories with a unique cinematic flavor and heavy-hitting performance.



Melanie Nicholls-King is a Canadian/American actress and producer with Trini roots best known for playing Cheryl in the HBO series, The Wire; Officer Noelle Williams in the ABC/Global series, Rookie Blue; and Hazel LaCroix, in the beloved Netflix series, Anne with an E. Upcoming, she can be seen on Apple TV's In With the Devil starring Taron Edgerton and Paul Walter Hauser. @melanienichollsking



SPECIAL SCREENINGS



DEVOTION DIRECTED BY DAWN WILKINSON

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28TH, 2022
2:00PM-4:00PM EST**

Moderator: Following the screening, Melanie Nicholls-King - a Canadian actress of Trinidadian heritage - will interview Dawn Wilkinson - a Canadian film and television director of Barbadian heritage.

Presented in partnership with



Filled with despair by the loss of her mother in a car accident, 11-year-old bi-racial Alice finds it hard to accept that her father Grant wants to start a new life. This father/daughter story raises a question for each of them: Will Grant take responsibility for what he has done and put Alice's needs before his own? Can Alice find it in her heart to forgive him? The intimacy of 'Devotion' provides a moving portrait of a bi-racial girl's struggle to find her voice.

Dawn Wilkinson is Dawn Wilkinson was born in Montreal and raised in Toronto and is a graduate of the University of Toronto and the Canadian Film Centre's Director's Lab and Short Dramatic Film Program. Dawn directed the award-winning feature film "Devotion" and short films: "Instant Dread", "Dandelions", "Wilderness", and "Girls Who Say Yes". Since being awarded the WIFT and DGC Emerging Television Director Award, Dawn has directed many of Canada's top drama series including "Heartland", "Murdoch Mysteries", and "Deglassi" which was nominated for a DGC AWARD for Best Family TV Series, and comedies "Sunnyside"-



and “Kim’s Convenience” which was also nominated for a Best Directing DGC Award.

In addition to being a member of the Directors Guild of Canada, and the Writers Guild of Canada, Dawn is a member of the Directors Guild of America and has gone on to directed a number of hit television series. Some of the shows she has directed include: "Empire", "How to Get Away with Murder", "All American", "All American: Homecoming", "Locke & Key", "Nashville", "Dynasty", "Greenleaf", "Riverdale", "Power Book II: Ghost", and the STARZ series "Step Up: High Water" (Season 3) in which Dawn served as executive producer and director for numerous episodes. Dawn received rave reviews for Hallmark’s TV movie "A Nashville Christmas Carol” which was filmed during the height of the global pandemic.

In 2022 Dawn Wilkinson directed the BET+ Original film "Block Party" which is the first ever Juneteenth Family Comedy. The film is the first of its kind to have a theatrical, streaming, and linear release in the same month of its release.

IG [@directordawn](#) FB [@dawn.wilkinson.1485](#)



Melanie Nicholls-King is a Canadian/American actress and producer with Trini roots best known for playing Cheryl in the HBO series, The Wire; Officer Noelle Williams in the ABC/Global series, Rookie Blue; and Hazel LaCroix, in the beloved Netflix series, Anne with an E. Upcoming, she can be seen on Apple TV’s In With the Devil starring Taron Edgerton and Paul Walter Hauser.

[@melanienichollsking](#)

PANEL: THE MUSIC VIDEO: CURRENT RELEVANCY AND IMPENDING FUTURE.

SATURDAY AUGUST 27

1PM-1:40PM

Long before the existence of social media, the music video was the primary vehicle for fans to connect and learn more about their favorite artists without paying a fee. Currently, with the rise of social media and live streaming fans have more access to seeing the world through the lens of the artists. Through a candid conversation with the music video directors featured in the festival, this panel discussion will focus on the current state of music videos as it relates to promoting an artist and their music. The conversation will also explore the future of connecting people through the feelings inspired by sonic images.



MODERATOR: Diarra "Uncle P Collazo" is a Entertainment Consultant with a degree in Music Entertainment Mgt. Over 30 years experience working in all facets of Entertainment and music industries. IG: @detroitrap FB: Unclep313



Gerelle Forbes is a creative arts specialist with over two decades of experience. She has been a musical director, songwriter, vocalist and radio/TV presenter and now manages productions for live events, radio, television and film with her own media company, Sthenic22. Trinidad and Tobago heritage.



Wally Fall is a filmmaker of Senegalese and Martinican descent who grew up in Martinique. After taking evening classes on video filmmaking and editing in London he gained much of his early experience in Europe, the Caribbean and Africa on many video and tv projects before working on his own ones around 2013 : a narrative short film shot in Paris and a documentary shot in Senegal. In 2016, along with fellow filmmakers, he founded Cinemawon, a film collective dedicated to creating new spaces to screen films mostly overlooked from the Caribbean, Africa and other Afro diasporic spaces. Since 2017 he's back in the Caribbean in Guadeloupe where he lives and works. In 2020 he directed Fouyé Zétwal, an experimental short film from a collaboration with his friend, the actress and writer Anyès Noël. IG:@walyman



David Velo Stewart is an independent filmmaker and author. In 2021, David Velo Stewart launched the TRILLVISION entertainment app (IOS & Android) to create a collaborative community to support indie creators with distribution, creative feedback and branding. David is a CSIFF Award Jurist, and he is the founder of HHB Media (CSIFF2022 Media Partner) IG: @therealtrillvision

PANEL: ROMANCE IN CARIBBEAN CINEMA: HOW LOVE CAN (RE) DEFINE SOCIAL CHANGE.

SATURDAY AUGUST 27

2:30-3:10 PM

LovelyAnne & Richard (The Sweetest Mango), Anne & Don Kato (I Love You Anne), Anita & Lee (Bazodee)... These fictional couples have illustrated love in Caribbean cinema since the early 2000's. However, what does it mean to love in post-slavery societies ruled by colorism, divided into social-economic classes, structured through multicultural religious principles and migrations across the world? This panel will explore how these representations of love and romance highlight the social changes needed to define happiness and identity from a contemporary Caribbean perspective.



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IG: @karukerament



Richard Sénécal: Film and video director, cinematographer and editor with more than 30 years experience. All film genres : movies, documentaries, institutional films, TV advertisement, music videos.



Monique A. Robinson is a multi-hyphenated activist and healer, who uses the art of storytelling as a way to hold space for others. Her credits include: Fairview at the Berkeley Repertory Theater (Theater Bay Award Nominee for Outstanding Performance In a Featured Role, West Coast Premiere), Younger (Paramount), See You Yesterday (Netflix). She is also an award winning filmmaker and playwright. She is proud of her Jamaican and Afro-Cuban heritage. @niquerobinson; @monique.a.robinson.3



Richard Joseph is an award winning independent filmmaker and screenwriter of Haitian descent from Brooklyn, New York. He started out acting in small roles in student films at NYU and Brooklyn College. Whilst acting in those films, Richard's passion for filmmaking was ignited. He began his journey towards being a filmmaker by writing scripts and taking filmmaking courses and workshops. Richard has studied with Richard Kline (three's company) and Independent filmmaker Ela Thier. He has acted and filmed with amazing Independent filmmakers such as Emmanuel Adinde, Evan Watson and Mike Brown. Richard's major influences are Spike Lee, Charles Burnett, Julie Dash, Jim Jarmusch, Akira Kurosawa, Martin Scorsese and Stanley Kubrick. @Richlites; @RichLitesJoseph; @Harlemlovefilm; @Harlemlove

PANEL: THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF PITCHING A SCRIPT

SATURDAY AUGUST 27

6:30-7:15 PM

You can be the most amazing writer in the world, but if you can't pitch your idea...hmmm...

We will explore the juicy nuggets of a successful pitch for film and television. Topics will include: elements of a pitch, what makes a hit project, team building, and more. For those who have never pitched - come and learn. For those who have pitched and failed - come and get some new tools.



Nadhege Ptah is an award-winning actor, writer, producer, director, and dancer. Viewers can see her in a recurring role on SHOWTIME TV series *City on a Hill*. All Star Music Awards awarded her Best Actress of the Year for her performance on Showtime. With many of her own produced works or feature leads landing distribution in CBS, PBS, ABC, NBC, Comcast, FOX, etc., her own production company MAAT Films, is developing several projects. Nadhege is a CSIFF2022 Award Jurist.

IG:@nadhegeptah



Tracey Baker-Simmons is a seasoned television and film producer. Her critically acclaimed content has been featured on TLC, Lifetime, Oxygen, WeTV, VH1, Bravo and many other networks. Baker-Simmons has produced national commercials, music videos, an independent film, Bio-Pic and the pop-culture phenomenon Being Bobby Brown, a TV series starring Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston. She lives in New York area and works under her own production company, Baker Simmons Media. IG: @tbakersimmons FB: Tracey Baker Simmons



Rosalind Y. Jackson: Creative Executive for Edmonds Entertainment and President/CEO for WordyGirl Entertainment, a multi-media company specializing in TV/film production, script consulting, and podcasting. IG: @wordygirlent FB: WordyGirl Entertainment



Khalimah Gaston hails from Jamaica, Queens in the Big Apple; but currently resides in the city of angels, Los Angeles, CA. She has been driven by her passion for the performing arts, storytelling, and film production from a young age. She honed her natural gifts with formal training of acting for film and theater at The New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts (NYCDA). Since then, she's done a variety of work with Off Off Broadway plays, commercials, voice overs, web series, and feature films. She is also the founder and creator of Screening Room ATL | LA; a premier film screening event for independent films. She has produced content for Tubi, revolt, Emory school of ethics and her own film. She's looking forward to where God will take her . Follow her @khalimahofficial

PANEL: IS INCLUSION A SUSTAINABLE MOVEMENT OR A TREND?

SUNDAY AUGUST 28

1:00-1:30 PM

We will explore the structure and model of inclusion before the pandemic and currently. Is the model accurately executed? Is inclusion another apology for the long history of lack of diversity? We will discuss the percentage of access, the impact, and will it sustain beyond the buzz.



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IG:@nadhegeptah



Magaly Colimon-Christopher is the Founder/Director of Conch Shell International Film Fest. (Her bio is available on our About page)
IG: @magalycolimonchristopher



Grace Stelk is a Dutch filmmaker from Surinam descent born and raised in the Netherlands. Rise Up! is her first film but won't be the last. Her main goal is to make people aware of the world's colonial heritage, because she believes that when we know better, we do better. IG: @gracestelk



Seitu Jemel Hart is the former CEO of the Will & Jada Smith Family Foundation's (WJSFF) Careers in Entertainment (CIE) a premier social impact initiative powered by WJSFF to create more access, opportunities and inclusion in the entertainment industry. IG: seitujemel FB: Seitu Jemel Hart



Clinton Roache is the owner of JR Sterling Productions, the executive producer of the award-winning film Sweet Rind. He is also a writer, director and proud Jamaican. @sweetrindthefilm

INDUSTRY ICON CHAT

SATURDAY AUGUST 27

3:30PM-3:55PM



Bill Duke is an Actor, Director and Producer in Hollywood with more than 40 years of experience on-screen and behind the camera. His acting credits include recent television and feature film roles. He's currently working on several film and TV projects. Bill's autobiography, "Bill Duke: My 40- Year Career on Screen and Behind the Camera", was released in November 2018, he also authored "The Journey: Tale of Human Healing" and "Works of the Invisible Man".

He was also recognized by his peers with a Lifetime Achievement Tribute from the Directors Guild of America's African- American Steering Committee in 2010. In May of 2022, Bill was honored at The Jonathan Foundation for Learning Disabilities Gala for being a living legend and humanitarian. On June 20, 2022, Bill was honored to be in the Kingdom Day Parade with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. In addition to working on creative projects in Hollywood, the multi-hyphenate superstar has added another sobriquet to his long list of titles...Digital Network Owner.

On May 9, 2022, the YOUNITE Network launched, and will morph into a global media force, with global initiatives in the works. Bill

On May 9, 2022, the YOUNITE Network launched, and will morph into a global media force, with global initiatives in the works. Bill also created Duke Media Entertainment to bring quality "Edutainment" to audiences around the globe. He coined the word to symbolize entertainment that also includes an educational element for the audience. Formerly Yagya Productions, Duke Media has successfully produced critically acclaimed film and television content for more than 30 years. Additionally, Duke Media is in process of expanding its brand through the development of new media technologies, i.e. cellphone apps, games, and virtual/metaverse world experiences.

Since the early 70s, Bill Duke along with industry veterans Michael Shultz and Gordon Parks, have long paved the way for the furtherance of African American actors, writers, directors, and producers in the entertainment and technology industries. Giving back has been a large part of Bill's Hollywood legacy. He runs the Duke Media Foundation, which for the last ten years has prepared youth for the future by exposing them to specific new media and financial literacy tools. This will enable them to compete, survive, and thrive. The economy is experiencing a paradigm shift far beyond film and TV to media. Film and TV are still important parts of the entertainment landscape, however, new media content has become a dominant force to be reckoned with. Bill encourages students to explore and master new technology as it emerges and evolves. The Youth Media Camp is the inaugural project of the Duke Media Foundation. The camp is a training and educational program that teaches youth the trade and craft of media production which includes film and video production, screenwriting, producing, directing, editing, and the introduction to new social media platforms. In addition, the foundation teaches financial literacy, the distinction between the spending of a dollar and the use of a dollar

IG @realbillduke

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IG:@nadhegeptah



**INTERNATIONAL
FILM FEST**

FILMMAKER CHAT

FRIDAY AUGUST 26

12:00PM-12:30PM



MODERATOR: Magaly Colimon-Christopher is an actress/writer/director and the Founder/Director of Conch Shell International Film Fest.



Tajha Winkle
(Carpe Diem)



Alicia Díaz
(Entre Puerto Rico...)



Jean Lodescar, Jr.
(The Healing)



FILMMAKER CHAT

FRIDAY AUGUST 26

1:00PM-1:30PM



MODERATOR: Chris Truth (C. Truth) of Thermal Sounds (CSIFF2022 Media partner)



Edwin Franko
(Edwin Frank Ortiz)
(Fuego)



Angelina Villapiano
(Loko)



Catherine Bruhier
(Clean Teeth Wednesdays)



Ronissha Marksman
(I F@\$%ing Quit)

FILMMAKER CHAT

FRIDAY AUGUST 26

2:00PM-2:30PM



MODERATOR: Javier Molina has an MFA from The Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University and is the Co Associate Artistic Director of The Actors Studio. Javier directed the multi award winning short film **WONDER**, which is now streaming on all HBO platforms. [@iamjaviermolina](#)



Christin Eve Cato
(American Made)



Pierre Jean Gonzalez
(American Made)



Timothy Joseph
(Lifeline)



Grace Stelk
(Rise Up!)

FILMMAKER CHAT

FRIDAY AUGUST 26

3:00PM-3:40PM



MODERATOR: George Alexander's producer credits include AUDIBLE's 2022 Funny My Way; TNT's American Race; BET's Leading Women (Image Award nominations for Maya Angelou and India.Arie episodes); and TV One's Live from the ESSENCE Festival. He wrote the book *Why We Make Movies*.



Tonya Joy Bolton
(Paule Bolton: Birmingham's Phenomenal Woman)



Gabri Christa
(*She/Her*)
(One Day At A Time)



Dwayne LeBlanc
(Olympic Village 2028)



Charysse Tia Harper
(The Jill of the Trade)

2022



**OFFICIAL
SELECTIONS**

FILMS





A BETTER TOMORROW

Written by Gerelle Forbes

Directed by Gerelle Forbes, Mark Loquan

A better tomorrow is created through the choices we make for ourselves, through the power of the mind, our talent, or how we choose to lift up others.

A RING

Written By Monique Robinson

Directed by RayMartell Moore

After a rocky run of a relationship, Shango and Oya, meet to amicably end things; only to discover that neither of them are who they claim to be



AMERICAN MADE

Written By Christin Eve Cato

Directed by Tiffany Nichole Greene

Edwards and Perez are book-binders at a U.S. correctional facility. As Edwards tries to convince Perez to join him on a strike against extremely low wages, Perez is faced with the dilemma of delivering the news to his distraught mate that he has been offered a promising position. New revelations are made as they talk about the injustices of the prison system that perpetuate modern day slavery.

CARPE DIEM

Directed/Written by Tahja Winkle

2 College-aged Mango roommates struggle to understand how the other finds meaning in life during an apocalypse.





CLEAN TEETH WEDNESDAYS

Directed/Written by Catherine Bruhier

Told through the eyes of Rachel, an African Canadian six-year-old, the story takes a comedic look at an unlikely group of 1st grade students who stage a secret revolt against the monthly hated fluoride treatments.

ENTRE PUERTO RICO Y RICHMOND: WOMEN IN RESISTANCE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

Written By Patricia Herrera

Directed By Alicia Díaz

This dance film combines biography, poetry, and ritual with the energy of live performance to bridge stories of resistance and liberation, honoring Black women tobacco workers in Richmond, VA and Puerto Rican tobacco factory readers and anti-colonial activists Dominga de La Cruz Becerril and Luisa Capetillo.



The Fab 4 & The Silent Retreat

Written By Diana De La Hayes

Directed By Peter Sagnia

Four feisty Caribbean friends in their 40s who are struggling with a myriad of issues, consider a Silent Retreat in Nepal.

Fuego

Directed/Written By Edwin Franko

A stubborn bartender shares a story on New Year's Eve about whether pursuing his late father's passion for salsa led to his Fuego, or did it lead to his passion and ambitions dying along with his Father.





Goombay Kids

Directed by Lanthro Monroe

Written by Stephanie K. Nihon, Kristina Rostad, Lanthro Monroe

Magic breathes life between myth and reality on the Goombay kids island adventures! The three best friends find themselves transported back in time to 1720 and captured by pirates, run into magical folklore experiences at Camp Goombay, discover the lost city of Atlantis, learn the legend of Junkanoo and all while learning about their culture and the island of The Bahamas.

Harlem Love

Written/Directed by Richard Joseph

Set in the 1920's a young couple meet and their relationship is instantly tested. The couple must find the strength to stay together, ultimately deciding their fate at the altar



I F@\$%ing Quit

Written/Directed by Ronissha Marksman

How far will Tiffany go after getting bad news from Martha during their meeting? Is anyone safe?

The Jill of the Trade

Written/Directed by Charysse Tia Harper

The Jill of the Trade introduces five women who speak about their successes and hardships when working in male-dominated professions, including one of the few female mayors in Afghanistan.





Lifeline

Written/Directed by Richard Joseph

The Jill of the Trade introduces five women who speak about their successes and hardships when working in male-dominated professions, including one of the few female mayors in Afghanistan.

Light and Darkness

Written/Directed by Lee-San Gayle

A man recounts his childhood memories of surviving a thunderstorm as he reflects deeply on how his mother inspired him to see the beauty of darkness, and faith in God.



Loko

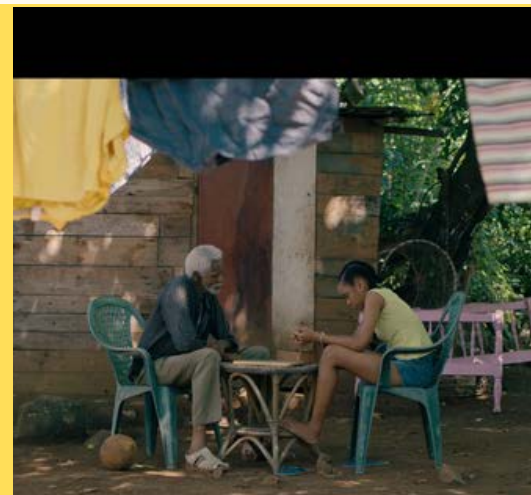
Written/Directed by Angelina Villapiano

A modern Latina city girl goes to extreme lengths to connect to her Indigenous island heritage.

Lovena

Written/Directed by Olivier Sagne

Lovena becomes French Guiana's chess champion. An opportunity and a burden for an illegal Haitian immigrant teenager.





Mirage

Written/Directed by Iida Valmé

Mirage is a film about how an encounter between two strangers leads Rinah, our protagonist, to examine their inner world. The beauty that they see in this stranger moves her, it is something she admires and yearns for. It is through her own internal journey that she discovers that the beauty she sees in this stranger is a reflection of the beauty within herself.

Olympic Village 2028

Written/Directed by Dwayne LeBlanc

Olympic Village 2028 is a film about South Los Angeles, a historically Black neighborhood with deep ties to the Great Migration and the modern American story.



One Day At a Time

Written/Directed by Gabi Christa

A short documentary about Caribbean Yoga and Health pioneer Leo Floridas who discovers that he is more than his blackness.

Paulette Bolton: Birmingham's Phenomenal Woman

Written/Directed by Tonya Joy Bolton

A compelling & heartfelt story about Paulette Bolton, an extraordinary nurse who single-handedly revolutionised the National Health Service and improved the quality of patient care in Birmingham UK. What makes Paulette's achievements all the more remarkable is her selfless compassion for others and amazing strength of character to survive against enormous odds.





Rise Up!

Written/Directed by Grace Stelk

A bird who lived happily in the jungle has been kidnapped, abused and captured. When he realizes his fate he has to make a choice. Give up or Rise up..

Sins of the Father

Written/Directed by Azriel Bahadoor

A priest has his devotion put to the test, as he listens to the confession of an ex convict; one that was incarcerated at a prison he visited years ago.



Son

Written/Directed by Gabi Christa

A mother tries to find a moment of self-care, but constantly worries about her black son's safety and keeps hearing his call/voice.

Speak, Brother Speak

Written/Directed by Gabi Christa

Speak BROTHER Speak is an animated short film based on his characters from the series The BROWN Family. They will be "the mouth of those who have no mouth" as Aimé Césaire wrote, based on excerpts from reports, songs...





Sunlight Around the Corner: The Golden Sparrow

Written by Pablo Dewin & Daymé Arocena

Directed by Alicia K. Aroche & Daymé Arocena

Experimental narrative short film inspired by the lives testimonies of the front-line community health workers in Richmond, Virginia, which tells the story of a woman who manages to break by herself with the cycle of marginalization to which she seemed predestined. The film was conceptualized to personify these stories and activated by several art forms: dance, music, oral narration and body paint.

Sweet Yellow Heart

Written/Directed by Danielle Russell

When her grandson gets older and decides to start a life of his own, Ms. Edna reveals a devastating family secret in a desperate bid to prevent him from leaving, ultimately breaking the bond they shared. Until her dying day, Ms. Edna must find a way to restore her relationship with her grandson and bring her family back together.



The Feeling of Before

Written/Directed by Lee-San Gayle

The everyday activities of a lonely female poet are assigned deeper meaning when she completes her routine while delivering a poem about the pain of living during a COVID-19 lockdown.

The Healing

Written/Directed by Jean Lodescar

No matter how much time has passed, we all need healing from traumatic life experiences.





The Unlocking

Written/Directed by Lee-San Gayle

An experimental film about a girl's journey into a dream world where she is confronted by a manifestation of her fears as she tries to escape her grief and sadness.

The Whsiper of the Leaves

Written/Directed by Amir Aether Vale

A meditation on the effect of time through the perspective of three elderly land workers living in a small community in the outskirts of Bauta, Cuba.



Tuff Guy (Mal Nomn)

Written/Directed by Yannis Sainte-Rose

Following an inappropriate remark towards a woman, a young man finds himself plunged into a parallel world where he will undergo in a day all a series of remarks and micro-attacks usually reserved for women.



**INTERNATIONAL
FILM FEST**

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Gerelle Forbes (*A Better Tomorrow*) is a creative arts specialist with over two decades of experience. (Trinidad and Tobago heritage.)



Mark Loquan (*A Better Tomorrow*) is an award winning composer/writer of music and videos for the steelpan for over 20 years. (<https://www.globalmusicawards.com/>).



RayMartell Moore (*A Ring*) is an actor, model, producer and filmmaker. “A Ring” is his directorial debut.



Monique A. Robinson (*A Ring*) is a multi-hyphenated activist and healer. She is proud of her Jamaican and Afro-Cuban heritage.

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Tiffany Nichole Greene (*American Made*) is a freelance director and Resident Director of Hamilton.



Christin Eve Cato (*American Made*) is a NYC based playwright and performer. Cato's artistic style is heavily influenced by her Puerto Rican and Jamaican heritage.



Pierre Jean Gonzalez (*American Made*) is a stage/ film/TV actor/singer/producer. He founded DominiRican Prod. to improve Afro-Latinx & Queer representation in film.



Tajha Winkle (*Carpe Diem*) is a Jamaican 2D animator and illustrator. She won the Brodber/Pollard Prize for creative writing and animated for Sesame Workshop.

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Catherine Bruhier (*Clean Teeth Wednesdays*) is a Belizean/Canadian/American actor/director. Her films, *The Sacrifice* & *Clean Teeth Wednesdays*, won several awards & nominations.



As a community-engaged educator, scholar, & artist, Dr. Patricia Herrera (*Entre Puerto Rico...*) create radical imaginings of resilience, hope, futurity, and and justice.



Originally from Puerto Rico, Alicia Díaz's (*Entre Puerto Rico...*) work speaks to issues of memory, colonialism, and the legacy of slavery.



Peter Sagnia (*Fab 4 and the Silent Retreat*) is a London, UK-born Cinematographer and filmmaker, (of Trinidad and Tobago descent) now residing in Saint Maarten in the Caribbean.

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Diane De La Haye (*Fab Four and the Silent Retreat*) is a Canadian Screenwriter and Story Editor of Jamaican descent, She is currently Head Writer for “The Wonderful Counsellor.”



Edwin FrankO (Edwin Frank Ortiz; *Fuego*) is a Latino film director of Puerto Rican and Mexican descent . He graduated from USC's School of Cinematic Arts.



Lanthro Munroe (*Goombay Kids*)



Marlena Leonard (*Goombay Kids*)

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Richard Joseph (*Harlem Love*) is an award winning independent filmmaker and screenwriter of Haitian descent from Brooklyn, New York.



Ronisha Marksman (*I F@\$%ing Quit*) is a Vincentian American raised in Brooklyn, NY. Along with producing & directing films, she has worked on Reality TV & Game shows.



Timothy Joseph (*Lifeline*) is a filmmaker from Trinidad and Tobago. It has always been his dream to make films and share them with the world.



Lee-San Gayle (*The Unlocking, Light and Darkness, The Feeling of Before*) is video editor/videographer/cinematographer from St. Andrew, Jamaica. She graduated from the UWI BFA Film Production degree program.

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Angelina Villapiano (*Loko*), aka "Miss Angelina", is a Puerto Rican artist that has a vast entertainment career in film, television, new media & music.



Olivier Sagne (*Lovena*) has been a Assistant Director in film for a decade. His Haitian origins & imagination converge in his first socially engaged short film.



Iida Valmé (she/they; *Mirage*) is a filmmaker and visual artist with their roots running deep in both Finland and the beautiful Haiti.



Dwayne LeBlanc (*Olympic Village 2028*) is an L.A.-based, first generation, Caribbean-American artist. Primarily self taught, his work explores migration, visibility & more.

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Gabri Christa (*She/Her; One Day At A Time*), award winning choreographer, filmmaker and curator was born and raised in Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean and lives in New York.



Tonya Joy Bolton (*Paule Bolton: Birmingham's Phenomenal Woman*) is an award winning Playwright, Writer-Director & Actress. Born to Jamaican & Cuban parents, Tonya has worked in UK & internationally.



Grace Stelk (*Rise Up!*) is a Dutch filmmaker from Surinam descent born and raised in the Netherlands. *Rise Up!* is her first film but won't be the last.



Azriel Bahadoor (*The Sins of the Father*) grew up in Trinidad & Tobago where he learned photography in 2016, and filmmaking in 2018. "Sins of the Father" is his first film.

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Gabri Christa (She/Her), was born and raised in Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean and lives in NY. Dutch post-colonialism, personal stories, experimentalism.



Born in 1978 in the Paris region and originally from Guadeloupe-FWI, the artist Kamun (*Speak, Brother, Speak*) likes to define himself as an African from the Caribbean.



Dayme Arocena (*Sunlight Arund the Corner: The Golden Sparrow*) Internationally acclaimed Juno Award winner and GRAMMY Award nominated Cuban jazz singer.



Pablo Dewin (photographer, videographer & visual artist; *Sunlight Around the Corner*) Self-taught. His work has been exhibited in Brazil, USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, Spain & Cuba.

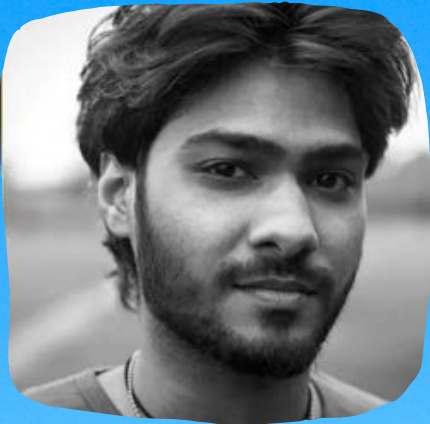
FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Danielle Russell (*Sweet Yellow Heart*) is a Jamaican filmmaker who has written, directed, and produced several short films and documentaries.



Jean Lodescar, Jr. (*The Healing*)



Amir Aether Valen (*The Whisper of the Leaves*) is a Trinidadian documentary filmmaker. He has made over 15 short films across Cuba - including *The Whisper of the Leaves*.



Yannis Sainte-Rose (*Tuff Guy (Mal Nom)*) aspires to create Martinican Cinema.

FILMMAKERS & WRITERS



Wally Fall (*Yo Menne Nou La*) is a filmmaker from Martinique & Senegal. In 2016, he co-founded Cinemawon, to screen films from the Caribbean & the African Diasporas. He is also a CSIFF Awards Jurist.

CSIFF 2022 TEAM

Magaly Colimon-Christopher
(Founder/Fest Director)

Alexandrea Thornton (Project Manager)

Ashley Hajimirsadeghi (Social Media Strategist)

Elanie Dash (Production Intern)



Jurors

Clinton "JR" Roache

Alain Bidard

Melanie Nicholls-King

Maëlla Kancel

David Velo Stewart

Nadhege Ptah

Wally Fall

Marquis Smalls

Javier Molina

Film Selection Committee

Clark Jackson

Rivka Rivera

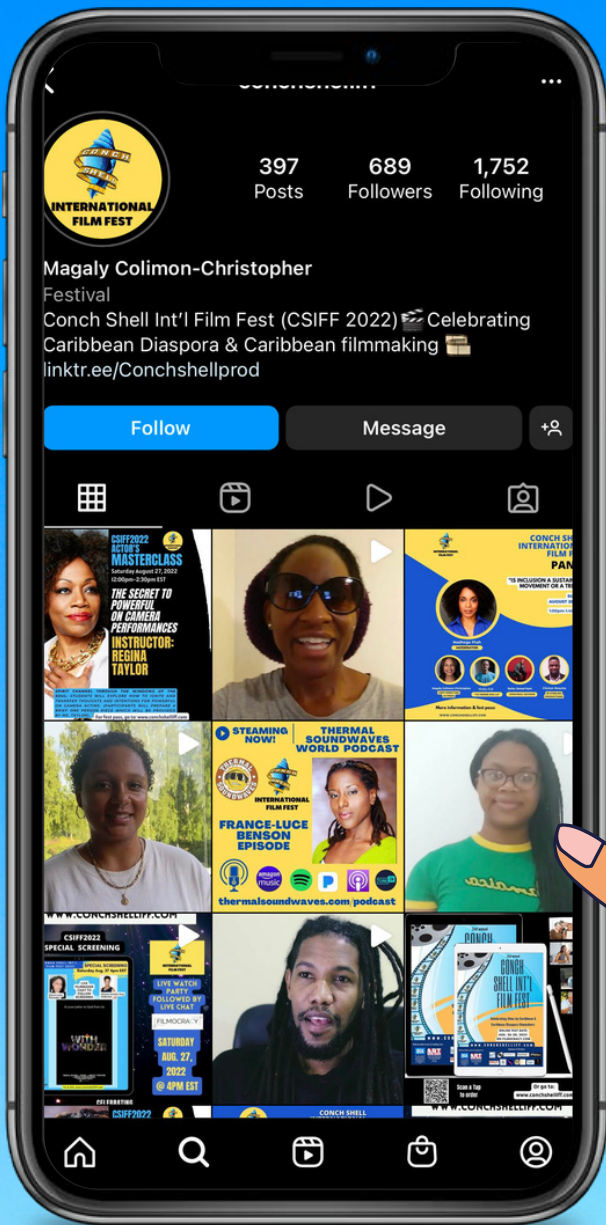
Alexandra Foucard

Christin Eve Cato

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