

QUEENS

NEW YORK

9TH - 11TH OCTOBER
2026

FILM FESTIVAL



OFFICIAL PROGRAM

CONCHSHELLIFF.COM • @CONCHSHELLIFF

MESSAGE FROM FEST DIRECTOR

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Conch Shell International Film Fest!

I created CSIFF because I wanted Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora filmmakers to have a space where their stories could be seen, celebrated, and shared with audiences. Because our stories matter.

They don't all look or sound the same. They don't all take place on an island. Our stories travel with us. They live in our families, our memories, our humor, our struggles, our joy, and wherever we call home.

That is what inspired this year's theme: "Our Culture Lives in Our Stories."

This year, we are celebrating more than 40 films by Caribbean-heritage filmmakers representing 14 countries. I invite you to take a chance on a filmmaker you don't know. You may discover a story that surprises you, challenges you, makes you laugh, or stays with you long after the credits roll.

And don't just watch the films. Talk to each other. Meet the filmmakers. Ask questions. Make connections. That is a big part of why CSIFF exists.

CSIFF26 is made possible in part with support from a PSC-CUNY Research Award from The City University of New York, Resorts World Gives, and ART/NY Creative Opportunity. We are grateful for their investment in our festival and in the stories and artists we champion.

To our filmmakers, team, partners, sponsors, and supporters: thank you for believing in what we are building.

And to our audience: thank you for showing up.

Enjoy the festival. Discover something new. Celebrate with us

Magaly Colimon-Christopher

CSIFF26 PRE FEST

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 17
2026**

**7:00 - 9:00 PM EST
LIVE ONLINE
VIA ZOOM**

\$40 | Live Participation
+ 7-Day On-Demand
Access

\$30 | Live YouTube
Viewing + Optional Live
Chat + 7-Day On-
Demand Access

Register to Join

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 25
2026**

**4:00 - 6:00 PM ET
ONLINE**

\$40 | Live Participation
+ 7-Day On-Demand
Access

\$30 | Live YouTube
Viewing + Optional Live
Chat + 7-Day On-
Demand Access

Register to Join

FINDING YOUR AUTHENTIC VOICE

YOUR STORY. YOUR VOICE. YOUR POWER.

LED BY SUSAN-SOJOURNA COLLIER

What makes your writing sound like you?

Join Emmy®-nominated television writer, playwright, filmmaker, and educator Susan-Sojourna Collier for an interactive two-hour writing workshop exploring how personal history, culture, language, memory, and lived experience can become powerful sources for storytelling.

Through guided exercises and creative prompts, you'll explore ways to trust your own perspective and create work that feels specific, honest, and uniquely your own.

THE TEN LAWS OF PREMIUM VERTICAL FILMMAKING

PRESENTED WITH HYPERLENS STUDIOS

The way audiences watch stories is changing. What does that mean for filmmakers? Join **Richard Lawson** (actor, director & educator) & **Denee Busby-Howard** (producer, showrunner & capital strategist) for a practical exploration of the creative and business sides of premium vertical filmmaking.

Explore the business behind this growing format: Who is buying vertical content? How are projects financed and distributed? Where are the opportunities? And how can independent storytellers participate?

QUEENS

NEW YORK

CSIFF26 PRE FEST

**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 29
2026**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM ET
ONLINE**

SEE WHAT I SEE

HOW FILMMAKERS TURN VISUAL IDEAS INTO A SHARED
CREATIVE VISION

HOSTED BY SHOT DECK



CONCHSHELLIFF.COM • @CONCHSHELLIFF

CSIFF26 PANELS

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 9,
2026**

HB STUDIO
124 BANK ST., NY

11:00 AM

Translation, Memory & Migration: Who Gets Lost Between Cultures On Screen?

Filmmakers and cultural storytellers explore how stories travel across cultures and audiences, and what can be gained or lost along the way. From migration and diaspora to subtitles, accessibility, and adaptation, this conversation asks how filmmakers can reach wider audiences without losing the specificity and authenticity that make their stories matter.

BRITTANY FRANKLIN

Moderator

Brittany Franklin is a director, producer, and cultural strategist specializing in documentary portraiture, high-concept cinema, and culture-driven brand growth. A One Show Pencil winner, WBD Access Fellow, Sundance Uprising grantee, and Gotham 2024 Branded Storyteller, she founded Minorities in Film and Cerebral Entertainment. Hard of hearing, classically trained, and a native New Yorker.

CHRISTINE PLUVIOSE

Panelist

Christine Pluviose has always been drawn to the impact personal stories have on the art of filmmaking. She's influenced by the stories shared by her Haitian family. In her work, she explores the Black Caribbean experience, mental health, and interpersonal dynamics.

HANIF JAMES

Panelist

Hanif James is a director, photographer, writer, and Junior Architect exploring identity and the strength of the human spirit. His work has been exhibited at Jamaica's National Gallery, and he participated in the British Council's Film Lab as a Script Editor. He holds film and architecture qualifications and currently studies architecture at Cooper Union.

MIKEY T. CAMPBEL

Panelist

For Mikey T, film is more than entertainment—it is a powerful medium with the ability to shift perspectives and spark dialogue. He is dedicated to creating stories that not only reflect the richness of Jamaican culture but also serve as catalysts for conversations that can change the world.



CSIFF26 PANELS

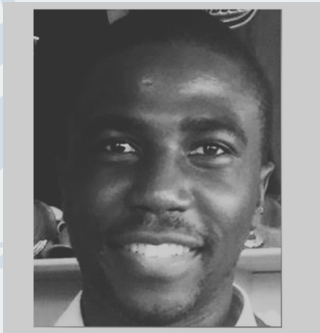
**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 9,
2026**

HB STUDIO
124 BANK ST., NY

12:30 PM

Got a Film Idea? Here's How to Build the Business Behind It

You've got the story. Now build the business behind it. Learn the essential first steps—from LLCs and contracts to insurance, taxes, and legal support—that can help you protect your film, your collaborators, and your future as a filmmaker.



LU CHILDS

Moderator & Panelist

Lu Childs is co-owner of Street Team Productions, a New York City-based entertainment company creating content for diverse platforms. Street Team produces podcasts and web series, distributes films including Madan Sara and N'AP Boule, and is developing Haiti 1974. Childs also served as Co-Executive Producer of the Madan Sara documentary.



BRUNO BARROS

Panelist

Bruno Barros is a Luso-American producer and filmmaker with over a decade of experience across studio and independent cinema. His credits include A Quiet Place, Severance, Only Murders in the Building, and The Many Saints of Newark. Founder of Red Eagle Cinema, he produces independent films while championing collaboration, meaningful projects, and emerging creative voices.



ROB THONY

Panelist

Rob Thony is an entertainment, intellectual property, and business attorney and founder of Thony Law PLLC, a Brooklyn-based firm serving artists, filmmakers, creators, and entrepreneurs. His practice includes production counsel, film finance, rights clearances, chain of title, and talent agreements. He chairs the NYSBA Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Legislative Committee.



CEDRIC HILL

Panelist

Emmy Award-winning director & producer and To & Fro Productions founder, Cedric Hill, is an award-winning filmmaker hailing from Dominica. He crafts diverse, sophisticated stories, earning acclaim at Cannes and the Academy Awards.

CSIFF26 PANELS

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 9,
2026**

HB STUDIO
124 BANK ST., NY

2:00 PM

How Playwrights Break into Film & TV

Playwrights already possess many of the skills film and television producers are looking for—but how do you turn those skills into screen opportunities?

Working playwrights and screenwriters share candid career insights on translating theatre skills into indie film, television, and writers' rooms. The panel explores the playwright-to-screenwriter transition, collaboration, and opportunities including fellowships, labs, and accelerator programs that help writers develop work and connect with industry professionals.

Come with a play. Leave thinking about your pathway to the screen.



NAMBI E. KELLY

Moderator

Nambi E. Kelley is an award-winning playwright and television writer/producer. Television credits include *Bel-Air*, *The Chi*, *Our Kind of People*, and *Lady in the Lake*. Her plays, including *Native Son* and *Toni Morrison's JAZZ*, have been produced nationally and internationally.



LAURA EASON

Panelist

Laura Eason is an Emmy and WGA nominated screenwriter and producer and an award-winning playwright. EP/showrunner of *Three Women* for Starz, current development at Netflix and Amazon. Ensemble member and former Artistic Director, Lookingglass Theatre, Chicago (regional Tony award.)



TRACEY SCOTT WILSON

Panelist

Tracey Scott Wilson wrote MGM's *RESPECT*, starring Jennifer Hudson, and has produced for *The Morning Show*, *The Aaron Hernandez Story*, *Clipped*, *Fosse/Verdon*, and *The Americans*, earning WGAE, Peabody, and Golden Globe recognition. A renowned playwright, her play *The Story* premieres at London's National Theatre in 2026. She teaches LGBTQ writing at Northwestern.

CSIFF26 PANELS

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 9,
2026**

HB STUDIO
124 BANK ST., NY

3:30 PM

Vimeo On Demand Is Shutting Down. Now What?

An Indie Filmmaker's Guide to Distribution, Audiences & Revenue

Vimeo On Demand is shutting down—so what's next for indie filmmakers? This practical conversation explores today's distribution options, building audiences, using social media strategically, evaluating opportunities, and creating pathways toward revenue.



GILLIAN ISABELLA

Moderator

Gillian Isabelle is an engineer, an entrepreneur and the owner of Renderyard, a film and music distribution company in Boston. She has spent many years working in intellectual property and licensing, and now brings that knowledge to her work at Renderyard.

IG: @renderyard
www.renderyard.com



DIANE DE LA HAYE

Panelist

Diane De La Haye is an award-winning Screenwriter and Exec Producer with several years experience as a Juror, Programmer and Operations Manager for film festivals across the Caribbean and North America. Diane has also shared her Marketing and Distribution expertise on panels and workshops held in Jamaica, Canada and Europe.

CSIFF26 PANELS

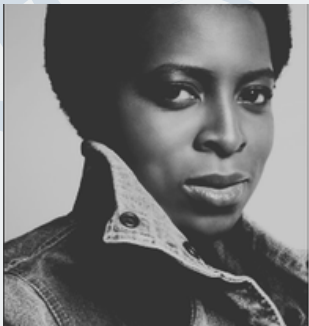
**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 9,
2026**

HB STUDIO
124 BANK ST., NY

5:00 PM

Film and AI: Future or Failure?

Co-founders of The AI Play Lab, a collaborative storytelling collective, join traditional filmmakers for a timely conversation on the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence in media and storytelling. Together, they will examine how AI is reshaping creative labor, contributing to industry disruption, and opening new possibilities for production and artistic experimentation. The conversation will explore both the anxieties and opportunities surrounding emerging technologies in film culture today. Audience members are invited to bring their own perspectives and experiences into this dynamic and contemporary dialogue.



SEKIYA DORSETT

Moderator

Sekiya Dorsett is a GLAAD Award-winning filmmaker, educator, and founder of Seabreeze Media Inc. Her films center Black queer life, migration, memory, and liberation, earning international recognition. She is an Assistant Professor of Film at Hofstra University and mentors filmmakers.

IG: @sekiyadorsett
www.seabreezemediaco



MIRIAM SHAMELASHVILI & ANITA WALKER

Panelists

Miriam Shamelashvili is an award-winning Creative Director with extensive entertainment industry experience, working with major companies including Paramount and NBCUniversal. She has led campaigns for Love Island USA, The Traitors, Tyler Perry's Sistas, and co-founded The AI Play Lab, focused on AI-driven storytelling and creative experimentation.

Anita Walker, a veteran of the film and television industry, has worked with award-winning directors. She managed creative campaigns for Paramount and NBCUniversal and co-founded The AI Play Lab with Miriam to foster experimentation, education, and collaboration around AI-driven creative work.

CSIFF26 PANELS

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 9,
2026**

HB STUDIO
124 BANK ST., NY

6:30 PM

**SHORT FILM. BIGGER SCREEN: HOW A
FESTIVAL SHORT BECOMES A FEATURE.**

Your short made the festival circuit. Audiences responded. Now what? Stefon Bristol sits down with filmmakers Rashad Frett to unpack the real journey from festival short to feature film—from recognizing that a short has a bigger story inside it to developing, financing, expanding, and ultimately releasing the feature.

What changes when 15 minutes becomes 90? Who helps you get there? And how do you turn festival momentum into your next opportunity?



STEFON BRISTOL

Moderator

Stefon Bristol is a New York filmmaker whose Guyanese heritage informs genre-driven stories rooted in humanity and cultural specificity. He co-wrote and directed *See You Yesterday*, produced by Spike Lee, earning an Independent Spirit Award. His latest film, *Breathe*, stars Jennifer Hudson, Milla Jovovich, Common, and Sam Worthington. He holds degrees from Morehouse and NYU.



RASHAD FRETT

Panelist

Rashad Frett is an award-winning Caribbean American filmmaker and NYU Tisch Graduate Film MFA. A Spike Lee Production Grant, Sundance Feature Film Production Lab, and Ryan Murphy HALF Initiative recipient, he was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces." His debut feature, *RICKY*, won the 2025 Sundance Dramatic Directing Award. Represented by WME.

QUEENS

NEW YORK

CSIFF26 PANELS

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 9,
2026**

HB STUDIO
124 BANK ST., NY

8:00 - 9:00 PM

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Catered by Lucky Lauren Kitchen

(Fest pass holder event)

CSIFF26 SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 10
2026**

REGAL CINEMA,
FOREST HILLS,
QUEENS

11:30 AM - RED CARPET

12:00 PM - DIASPORA TALES

- Last Hoorah at G-Baby's (Haiti)
- Seasick (Trinidad)
- Now, Hear Me Good
- Striking Threads - The Atlanta Washing Society
- The Makings Of A Matriarch
- Isaiah's Glass Goes Down Easy

2:00 PM - RED CARPET

2:30 PM - SHIFTING REALITIES

- ADRIFT WAK LEU
- Where The Waves End
- Noche Noir (Cuba)
- ADAN NANM EK KÒ
- Finding Syn
- Silver Silhouettes

4:00PM - RED CARPET

4:30 PM - COMMUNITY

- I Love You More (REELWORKS)
- Suspicious
- 2012 / What happened in 2012?
- Ordinary Citizens Of Suriname
- Raizal: The Jamaican Connection
- Through the Barricades

6:30PM - RED CARPET

7:00 PM - JAMAICA STORIES

- Bright Sparks (Jamaica)
- Bob Marley Beach: The Fight for Your Right (Jamaica)
- Beg Yuh A Call(Jamaica)
- Sonshine
- Tambu (Grenada / Jamaica)

CSIFF26 SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 11
2026**

REGAL CINEMA,
FOREST HILLS,
QUEENS

11:00 AM - RED CARPET

11:30 AM - WHAT IS HOME? WHERE IS HOME?

- The Tide Between Us
- Sunny
- From Fortune
- My Dad, Guyana and Me (DIR. Noella Letitia Mingo)
- Trinidad Remains
- Unbroken

1:00 PM - RED CARPET

1:30 PM - AGAINST THE ODDS

- The Brittle Little Ones
- Mummy? (DIR. Noella Letitia Mingo)
- Cadencia
- The Star Boy
- SHERISIA (REELWORKS)
- The Coqui Sings

3:00 PM - RED CARPET

3:30 PM - BELONGING

- I F*cking Hate You! (Cuba)
- On the Eve
- They're Mid
- A Shade of Indigo
- The Douen (Trinidad)
- If Only You Knew

5:00 PM - RED CARPET

5:30 PM - OVERCOMING & HEALING

- Green (Haiti)
- BOSSLADYSK8
- Pan Gyul
- The Day I Met You
- Stand Clear ' the Closing Doors

8:00 PM - AWARDS CEREMONY

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



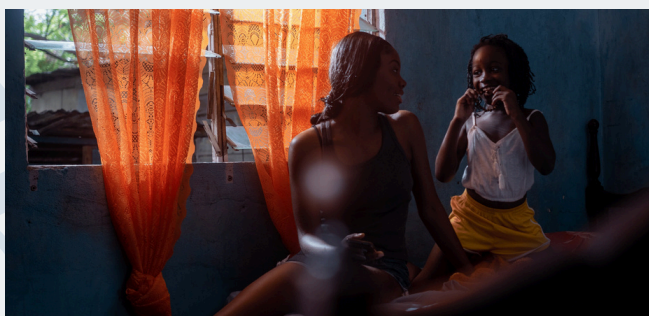
DANA WRIGHT

Director

2012/What Happened In 2012

Language: English

Heritage: Dominican-Antiguan



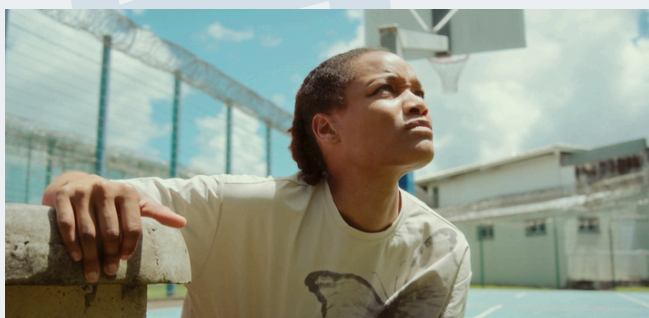
HANIF JAMES

Writer/ Director

A SHADE OF INDIGO

Language: English

Heritage: Jamaica



ELLA MOUN

Director

ADAN NANM EK KÒ (IN SOUL AND BODY)

Language: French

Heritage: Martinique



VELEVET ZOE RAMOS

Writer / Director

Adrift Wak Leu

Language:

Heritage: Aruba

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE

**MIKEY T CAMPBELL**

Director

Beg Yuh A Call

Narrative

Language: English, Jamaican Patois

Heritage: Jamaica

**TRUE DALEY**

Director

BOSSLADYSK8

Short Documentary

Language: English

Heritage: Jamaica/Canada

**LESLEY-ANN WANLISS**

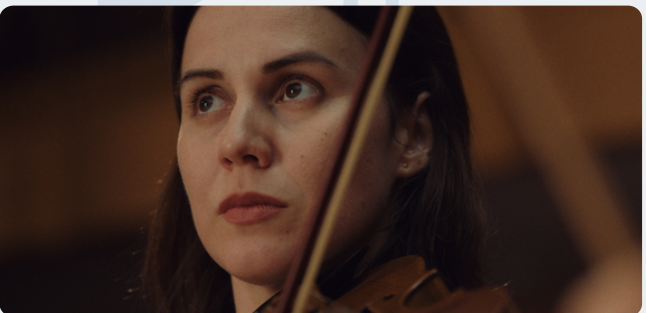
Writer / Director

BRIGHT SPARKS

Short Narrative

Language: English, Jamaican Patois

Heritage: Jamaica

**PAULÍS COFRESÍ**

Director

Cadencia

Short Narrative

Language: Spanish

Heritage: Puerto Rico

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



SEAN-JOSAHI BROWN

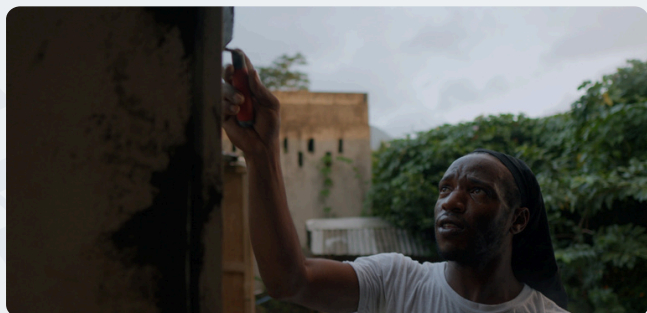
Director

Finding Syn

Short Narrative

Language: English

Heritage



CHRISTELLE POWELL

Director

From Fortune

Narrative

Language: English, Kwéyòl

Heritage: Dominica



KATIANA FARRIER

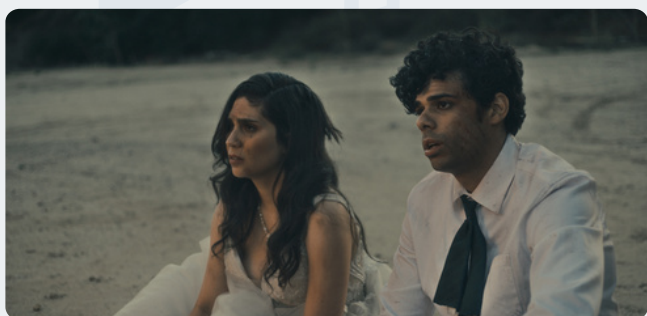
Director

Green

Short Narrative

Language: English

Heritage: Haiti



GABRIELA PACIEL

Director

I F*cking Hate You

Narrative

Language: English

Heritage: Cuba

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



SAFIYAH CHINIERE

Director

If Only You Knew

Short Narrative

Language: English

Heritage: Jamaica



RIA VIERA

Director

Isaiah's Glass Goes Down Easy

Short Narrative

Language: English

Heritage: Trinidad & Tobago



DEEDEE CASIMIR

Director

Last Hoorah At G-Baby's

Short Narrative

Language: English

Heritage: Haiti



NOELLA LETITIA MINGO

Director

Mummy?

Short Narrative

Language: English

Heritage: Guyana/United Kingdom

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



NOELLA LETITIA MINGO

Director

My Dad, Guyana, And Me

Short Documentary

Language: English

Heritage: Guyana/United Kingdom



MARISSA CHIBAS

Director

Noche Noir

Experimental Short

Language: English

Heritage: Cuba



DWAYNE LEBLANC

Director

Now Hear Me Good

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: Dominica



ELIZABETH FRANCISO

Director

On The Eve

Narrative Short

Language: Dutch, English, Papiamentu

Heritage: Curacao

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



JULIETTE JEFFERS

Director

Pan Gyul

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: St. Kitts & Nevis



JAMAR CLEARY

Director

Raizal: The Jamaican Connection

Short Documentary

Language: English

Heritage: Jamaica/Colombia



NIGEL GABBIDON

Director

Seasick

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage



SHERISIA JAMES

Director

Sherisia

Short Documentary

Language: English

Heritage: Trinidad & Tobago

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



JR ROACHE

Director

Silver Silhouettes

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: Jamaica



KALEB D'AGUILAR

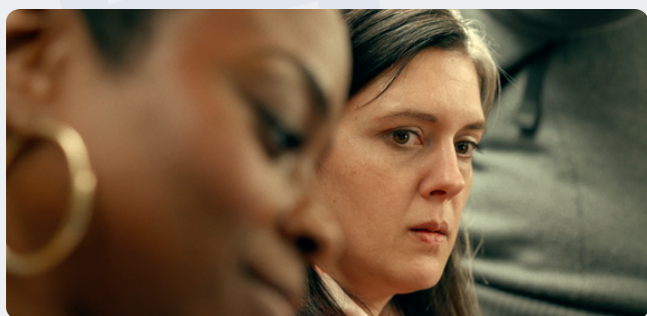
Director

Sonshine

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: Jamaica



STACEY SARGEANT

Director

Stand Clear ' The Closing Doors

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: Trinidad & Tobago



SUSAN-SOJOURNA COLLIER

Director

Striking Threads - The Atlanta Washing Society

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



GERMAN GRUBER JR

Director

Sunny

Narrative Short

Language: Papiamentu

Heritage: Curacao



MAISON EVAN TEIXEIRA

Director

Suspicious

Narrative Short

Language: N/A

Heritage: Belize



LAURIE LAMBERT

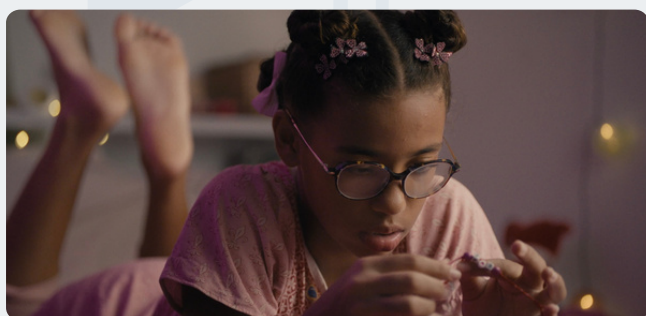
Director

Tambu

Short Documentary

Language: English

Heritage: Jamaica



JADE ANDRIVON, LAURA CUVILLIER, SAMUEL ROUSSAS, CLEMENTINE DAMICO, REGIS RAPHAEL MARTON

Director(s)

The Brittle Little Ones

Narrative Short

Language: French

Heritage: Martinique

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



EDWIN FRANKO

Director

The Coqui Sings

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: Puerto Rico



SAMUELDAVID BAROMELO

Director

The Day I Met You

Narrative Short

Language: Papiamentu, English

Heritage: Curacao



JONATHAN JAGDEO

Director

The Douen

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: Trinidad & Tobago



VANESSA CRUZ

Director

The Making Of A Matriarch

Short Documentary

Language: English/Spanish

Heritage: Dominican Republic

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



WAYNE JERMAINE CARNEGIE

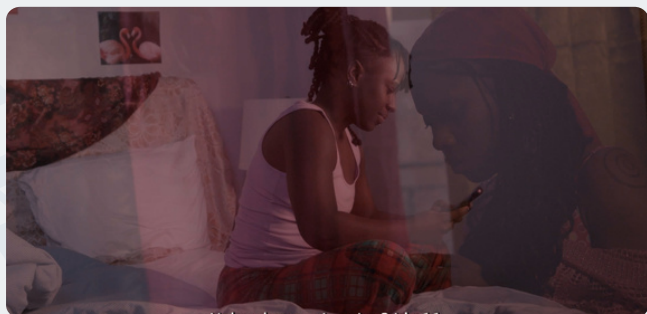
Director

The Star Boy

Animated Short

Language: English

Heritage: Jamaica/Canada



ODESSA WHITLOCK

Director

The Tide Between Us

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: Antigua



FEDDYANA JEAN

Director

They're Mid

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage



KAREN MARTINEZ

Director

Trinidad Remains

Narrative Short

Language: English

Heritage: Trinidad & Tobago

CSIFF26 FILM SLATE



CARMEN IRIS SANTIAGO

Director

Unbroken

Experimental Short

Language: English

Heritage: Puerto Rico



LIDSY R. TRABAL CASASUS

Director

Where The Waves End

Narrative Short

Language: Spanish

Heritage: Puerto Rico

ABOUT CSIFF26

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EMILY-ANA HERNANDEZ
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

JANNATUL TABASSUM
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

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