

SOBI PRESENTS

BLAC FILM FEST 2026

FRAME BY FRAME

THE ELEMENTS THAT SHAPE OUR IDENTITY
AND MOLD OUR CREATIVITY.

W E L C O M M E

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN THE FIRST BLAC FILM FESTIVAL! CREATED TO ELEVATE BLACK VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES, THIS FESTIVAL EXISTS AS A SPACE WHERE CREATIVITY, CULTURE, AND EXPERIENCE ARE HONORED THROUGH FILM.

5:30 PM	Doors open		
6:20 PM	Welcome	Taylor Maddox	BLAC Film Festival Director
6:30 PM	Charlie's Will [The Great Dictator]	Dominique Jones	
	Speakn' Trane	Shahkeem Williams	
	House of Aama	Jamal Ademola	
	This Sunday	Jameson Cherilus	
	The Light We Share - Black Joy	Damien Kyle	
7:40 PM	I N T E R M I S S I O N		
7:50 PM	The Light We Share - Forgiveness	Ryan Roberts	
	Church	De'Auan McClaine	
	Go Left	Taylor Maddox	
	Heated	Shianne Salazar	
	What's In A Name	Lotanna Ogbuefi	
8:45 PM	Frame by Frame Awards Ceremony		You + Us
8:55 PM	Closing BLAC Fest	Crystal Newson Tarrisha Hicks Taylor Maddox	BLAC Festival Directors
9:00 PM	Film Discussion Panel: Immersive Conversation		The Reading Room

B I O G R A P H

DAMIEN KYLE - "THE LIGHT WE SHARE - BLACK JOY" WRITER

Damien Kyle is a multidisciplinary Creative Director, Choreographer, and Wardrobe Architect whose work bridges athletics and artistry. A former collegiate and professional basketball player, he brings discipline and precision into fashion, music, film, and live performance. His creative direction, styling, and movement work has been featured in Upscale Magazine and The Black Mag, and includes collaborations with brands such as Nike and Air Jordan. Across every medium, Damien builds immersive visual experiences rooted in innovation and intention.



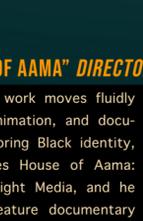
DE'AUAN MCCLAIN - "CHURCH" DIRECTOR

De'Auan McClaine is a multimedia artist born and raised in Kansas City, KS, who currently resides in New Orleans, LA. Working across music, film, and digital media, De'Auan uses his artistic talents as a vehicle for both creative expression and long-term impact. He is driven by a desire to eventually fund and support solutions to the systemic challenges that have historically oppressed African-Americans and other marginalized communities. In his spare time, De'Auan reads, plays video games, and edits videos with relentless dedication. With the support of his family, friends, and mentors, he continues pursuing every opportunity to transform vision into reality.



DOMINIQUE JONES A.K.A TREAL MCCOY - "CHARLIE'S WILL [THE GREAT DICTATOR] DIRECTOR

Dominique Jones, known creatively as "Treal McCoy," is a Chattanooga-raised filmmaker whose work centers character-driven storytelling. Deeply influenced by his Southern upbringing, Dominique explores themes of mortality, identity, and the emotional complexities of youth. His films combine grounded realism with moments of humor and vulnerability, allowing audiences to see themselves reflected on screen. Through intimate narratives and authentic performances, he seeks to honor the lived experiences that shape coming-of-age journeys.



JAMAL ADEMOLA - "HOUSE OF AAMA" DIRECTOR

Jamal Ademola is a Nigerian-American artist and filmmaker whose work moves fluidly between cinema, advertising, and fine art. Blending live-action, animation, and documentary, his storytelling creates visually immersive narratives exploring Black identity, memory, migration, and belonging. His documentary work includes House of Aama: Threads of Legacy for PBS American Masters, supported by Firelight Media, and he serves as Creative Director of The Blind Couple from Mali, a feature documentary on Grammy-nominated musicians Amadou & Mariam. His avant-garde films and installations have screened internationally at venues including LACMA, DOC NYC, African Film Festival New York, and the Seattle Black Film Festival. Jamal continues to push artistic boundaries through experimental form and layered visual storytelling.



JAMESON CHERILUS - "THIS SUNDAY" DIRECTOR

Cherilus is a Haitian American actor, writer, director, and creative producer dedicated to crafting human-centered stories for film, television, and the stage. He holds an MFA in Theatre (Directing) and is the founder of Crazy Faith Productions, LLC, a company rooted in purpose-driven storytelling. His short films The Call and This Sunday mark the foundation of his filmmaking voice, focused on authenticity, resilience, and community. As a performer, his screen credits include AMC's ALLBLK series Send Help and Guillermo Diaz's feature debut Dear Luke, Love, Me. Across disciplines, Cherilus remains committed to stories that reflect emotional truth and lived experience.



LOTANNA OGBUEFI - "WHAT'S IN A NAME" DIRECTOR

Lotanna is a filmmaker, animator, and journalist with a keen interest in history and diverse global cultures. She leverages animation and visual storytelling to craft engaging nonfiction narratives that provide cultural, historical, and political insight relevant to today's world. With a strong foundation in research and journalism, Lotanna's work bridges education and artistry, transforming complex subject matter into accessible and compelling cinematic experiences. Her creative practice reflects a dedication to preserving untold stories while inviting audiences into deeper understanding.



PROMISE ROBINSON - "SUNHEARTS" DIRECTOR

Promise Robinson is an award-winning filmmaker and proud Jersey native who recently earned her master's degree in Film, Television & Digital Media from the University of Georgia. Passionate about storytelling rooted in emotional honesty, Promise creates films that capture the depth and vulnerability of human experience. Her recent project, Sunhearts, pays homage to the unspoken feelings of childhood and the emotional landscapes many carry into adulthood. As her career continues to evolve, Promise remains dedicated to creating work that inspires connection, reflection, and growth within her audience.



RYAN ROBERTS - "THE LIGHT WE SHARE - FORGIVENESS" WRITER

Ryan Roberts was born in Oklawaha City and grew in Chattanooga, TN, where he discovered his passion for Hip Hop dance at just nine years old. Determined to refine his craft, Ryan trained extensively, including formative years at WEAVE: A Conceptual Dance Company, where he expanded his Hip Hop foundation and studied additional dance styles. He has taught at numerous studios and schools throughout Chattanooga, including Ballet Tennessee, Baylor School, and Girls Preparatory School, and currently serves as a teaching artist with The Pop-Up Project. In addition to teaching, Ryan performs regularly and collaborates with local creatives on projects that continue to strengthen and energize the region's dance community.



SHAHKEEM WILLIAMS - "SPEAKN' TRANE" DIRECTOR

Shahkeem Williams is an artist and experimental documentary filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. His work combines archival interviews, academic research, autobiographical expression, and performance to poetically explore trauma and healing, labor, and abolitionist activism across generations. Rooted in both scholarship and lived experience, Shahkeem's films build layered narratives that bridge personal memory with collective history. His work has screened nationally and internationally at institutions including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Museum of the City of New York, Rockaway Film Festival, BRIC Brooklyn, ARS NOVA, and Millennium Film Workshop.



SHIANNE SALAZAR - "HEATED" DIRECTOR

Shianne Salazar is a first-generation Trinidadian-American writer, director, podcaster, and wardrobe coordinator from South Florida, now based in Austin, Texas. Across mediums, her work explores the relationship between African diasporas and contemporary culture through a variety of genres and tonal approaches. Whether behind the camera, on set styling, or producing narrative content, Shianne brings intentionality and cultural awareness to each project. Her multidisciplinary practice allows her to navigate storytelling from both creative and technical perspectives, consistently centering heritage, identity, and evolving expression.



TAYLOR MADDOX - "GO LEFT" DIRECTOR

Taylor Maddox is a filmmaker and creative director whose work bridges fashion, design, and cinematic storytelling. She discovered filmmaking while producing a self-led fashion campaign during lockdown; a moment that reshaped her creative path. Since then, she has launched multiple ventures, served in creative leadership roles including Creative Director of "Spunk Magazine" and Art Director for "SOBI", and earned two awards for her debut short film "Go Left." Through bold visual language and intentional storytelling, Taylor continues to build worlds that center culture, identity, and artistic evolution.



T H A N K Y O U

