

“Only when lions have historians will hunters cease being heroes.”

African Proverb

A Complexion Change – Transnational & Intercultural Diplomacy

An International Media Project (UNESCO)

XXXIII. 2018 Black International Cinema Berlin

"Footprints in the Sand?" Exhibition Berlin 2018

Visual Documentation – Photographic Exhibition

May 11-13, 2018

Opening Ceremony: May 11, 5 pm

Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte (Robert-Havemann-Saal)

House of Democracy and Human Rights (Robert-Havemann-Hall)

Greifswalder Str. 4, 10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg

Production/Direction/Curation

Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith

Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre

in association with

Cultural Zephyr e.V.

A remembrance from then, to now and into our future ...

33 years past, as a significant contribution to the first historic European Black Cultural Festival, Black International Cinema Berlin was created and presented on Welsersstraße at the Arsenal Cinema, under the tutelage of Erika Gregor and Fountainhead Tanz Théâtre.

Through the international experiences of filmmakers from everywhere, the term Black became defined as intercultural, international diplomacy and was open to all!

And so once more, during May 11-13, 2018, presenters through film, art exhibition, seminars and publications offer their view points during the XXXIII. 2018 Black International Cinema Berlin / "Footprints in the Sand?" Exhibition Berlin 2018.

We look forward to sharing with you and yours.

Past – Present – Future

“I Wonder...?”

I Wonder...?

What
we and they

Might, will
learn

From our
or
their
past-present?

For now
and
tomorrows...?

And

What, When and If...?

Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith

Ich frage mich...?

Was
wir und sie

Lernen
könnten, werden

Von unserer
oder
ihrer
Vergangenheit-Gegenwart?

Für heute
und
morgen...?

Und

Was, Wann und Ob...?

Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith

This year's leitmotiv is initiated with "**I Wonder ...?**" and later raises questions that address a wide range of socially relevant issues, with the complex question, "What do we learn from the past and present for today and the future?" The examination of the past should always bring a critical assessment for Europeans of the colonization periods and their far-reaching consequences: wars, flight, migration, xenophobia, racism, exclusion of various population groups, anti-democratic sentiments, economic imbalance, endangerment of a peaceful and cooperative coexistence. The Black International Cinema Berlin intends to stimulate a discussion of these issues and also contribute to changing the perceptions of people from the African Diaspora and marginalized groups.

Presented are films from Africa, the African Diaspora and contributions with intercultural and international themes. This year's films come from Sierra Leone, USA, Senegal, Germany, Madagascar, Belgium and Switzerland.

On May 11 at 5 pm, founder, producer and director of the event, Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith, together, will open the XXXIII. 2018 Black International Cinema Berlin in the Robert Havemann Hall at the House of Democracy and Human Rights.

Following the opening, the festival will feature the Belgian American co-production **VIBRANCY OF SILENCE – A DISCUSSION WITH MY SISTERS**. In this documentary, Marthe Djilo Kamga takes us along, as she engages in fruitful conversations with four other African female artists who, like her, know exile as well as how necessary it is to transmit to younger generations what they have learned as their multiple identities evolved and fused. After the film, a discussion takes place.

The 8 pm screening begins with **EUROPE** by Bernd Leideritz, a music video from the album "Humans Humans!" by MFA Kera, with Mike Russell, for the song "Europe". It is regarding a migrant in a big European city.

This is followed by the William Greaves production **RALPH BUNCHE: AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY**. It documents the life of Ralph Bunche – a scientist, diplomat, citizen and human rights activist, the first Black man to win the Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating the ceasefire in the Middle East between Arab states and Israel. Ralph Bunche is probably the most overlooked public figure of the 20th century.

Also on display at the festival are four films from the project ON THE MOVE, which present perspectives of a young generation in West Africa. One of the productions is **MAYILLAH'S STONY PATH / AUF HARTEM PFLASTER** by Santigie Sesay and Alexander Baffour Nsiah. It portrays young Mayillah, who, because of her family's poverty, is to fund her education by crushing stones – a job entailing hard physical labor in a dangerous working environment. Also included is **DANSA**, a short feature film directed by Mohamed Janneh. Protagonist Morris loves to dance, but his father has other plans for his future. After a series of setbacks, however, a light can be seen at the end of the tunnel.

Another production from the US is **'63 BOYCOTT** by Gordon Quinn. The film explores the boycott in Chicago on October 22, 1963, when more than 250,000 students boycotted Chicago public schools to protest racial segregation. '63 BOYCOTT, with unseen 16mm footage of the march and today's reflections from the participants, combines the forgotten story of one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in the North with topical issues surrounding ethnicity, education, school closures, and youth activism.

YEMI'S DILEMMA, a feature film by Sade Oyinade, tells the story of Nigerian American sisters of the first generation, Yemi, Lola and Tayo. Yemi is the oldest and is supposed to marry a Nigerian

like her sisters. But for months, she's been keeping a huge secret from her parents that will forever change the dynamic within the family and alter the bonds of sisterhood for better and for worse.

In **BLACK BORDER WARRIORS: THE SEMINOLE NEGRO INDIAN SCOUTS**, Joseph P. Hill tells the epic story of Native American Indians who fought in the wars between Native Americans and Europeans in the American West of the 1870s and 1880s.

Another production by director Bernd Leideritz entitled **HIRA GASY – FAHRENDE MUSIKANTEN MADAGASKARS / HIRA GASY – TRAVELLING MUSICIANS FROM MADAGASCAR** permits us to immerse ourselves in the world of Hira Gasy, a musical/theatrical tradition from the highlands of Madagascar, which is mostly performed open air. The Hira Gasy is the Malagasy moral authority, it is sung and spoken about the values of Malagasy society. Especially in the rural area, the spectators often take long walks in order to experience a performance. Hira Gasy is not just entertainment, but an opportunity for people to come together.

The filmmaker Dr. Eve A. Ma portrays the artist Hershell West in her documentary **THE ARTIST IN SOCIETY: TALKING WITH HERSHELL WEST**. Contrary to the expectations of his family and society in the segregated south of the USA, where West grew up, he is now a painter, muralist, art teacher and art advocate living and working in the California San Francisco Bay Area.

In memoriam of Roswitha and Jimmy Günther, who produced *Pfeiffer's Ballhaus* at the community access television station ALEX-Open Channel Berlin for more than 20 years, the festival presents **A PORTRAIT OF ROSWITHA GÜNTHER / EIN PORTRÄT ÜBER ROSWITHA GÜNTHER**, a Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre production of the television magazine THE COLLEGIUM - Forum & Television Program Berlin directed and moderated by Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith. Also included in the program is the documentary **BLACK PEOPLE, BLACK BERLIN**, also under the production and direction of Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith. The film was created prior to the fall of the Berlin wall. Interviewees are members of the Berlin African Diaspora: Black Germans, Black Americans and Black Africans. Topics include social, political, economic and cultural content as well as intercultural marriages, refugee status and their hopes and dreams for the future. Among the interviewees are Johnetta Page/USA, Mona Agbaje/Swaziland, Robert Harrel/USA, Dr. Mahoma Mwaungulu/Malawi and Mai Opitz Ayim/Germany.

Another highlight is the William Greaves production **IDA B. WELLS: A PASSION FOR JUSTICE**. With readings by Pulitzer-Prize-Winning author Toni Morrison, this work documents the life and times of Ida B. Wells, the pioneering African American journalist, activist, suffragist and anti-lynching crusader of the late 19th and early 20th century.

In addition to informative and exciting films, visitors have the opportunity to participate in a seminar entitled "The future of our world – Perspectives from Pope Francis, the CIA and others" presented by Dr. Sabine Grund and in the visual documentation "**Footprints in the Sand?**" **Exhibition Berlin 2018**. The exhibition paints a picture of the activities and cultural, historical contributions of various people for Berlin and other places with the intention to prevent them from becoming "footprints in the sand". The exhibition also contributes to the documentation of the history of Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre, which has been implementing interdisciplinary art and cultural projects in Berlin since 1980, focusing on transnational, intercultural diplomacy and the promotion of respect and recognition as well as cooperation and exchange in our multicultural society in Berlin and beyond. In conclusion, visitors may be informed and consulted at **Ricky's Book Stand**, which includes more than 200 works by international Black authors. Ricky Reiser is an artist, author and journalist residing in Berlin.

Admission to all events is free of charge.

PRESS INFORMATION: http://www.black-international-cinema.com/BIC18/html/bic18_press_en.html

FESTIVAL PROGRAM: http://www.black-international-cinema.com/BIC18/html/bic18_program.html

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c2culqwsry0xup1/AABYvFx8Wb_UssY4isKkD_bSa?dl=0

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Mottos:

"I may not make it if I try, but I damn sure won't if I don't..." - Oscar Brown Jr.

"Mankind will either find a way or make one." - C.P. Snow

"Whatever you do..., be cool!" - Joseph Louis Turner

"Yes, I can...!" - Sammy Davis Jr.

"Yes, We can...!" - Barack Hussein Obama

"Yes, we can and Yes, we better..." - Barack Hussein Obama and Donald Muldrow Griffith

Prof. Donald Muldrow Griffith/Fountainhead® Tanz Théâtre, May 3, 2018