

# +2022TCBFF SCHEDULE SYNOPSIS



September 15 - 19, 2022

## Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Opening Night Meet & Greet

Ties Minneapolis Lounge and Rooftop 921 Nicollet Mall, MN 55402



Ties is a welcoming environment for all people and a positive contributor to the city.

## Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, The Capri Theater 2027 W Broadway Ave \* Minneapolis, MN 55411

7:10 PM



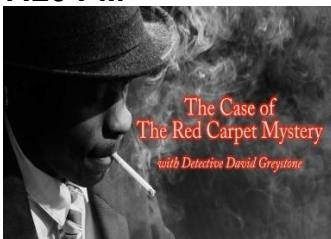
### Change Starts with U.S.

On Memorial Day 2020, 4 police officers went beyond police procedure in Minneapolis Minnesota. One man paid the price, one city felt the burden, and all of us were changed.



Director  
Ryan Gilmer

7:20 PM



### The Case of the Red-Carpet Mystery

Set in 1948, this experimental project turns the American film noir on its head as it follows Chicago Detective David Greystone in his first case. An enigmatic blonde walk into his office with a mystery only he can solve. But after a preemptive visit from a beautiful telepathic messenger, he must rethink his strategy.



Director Biography  
Valerie Rose

7:25 PM



Jazz-Mopolitan

Lifestyle magazine meets smooth jazz in this inviting travel variety experimental short TV promo.



Director Biography  
Valerie Rose

7:50 PM



Switcharoo

"A COMEDY SHORT FILM"

"Switcharoo", a hilarious comedic led film Directed by Ricky Collins; starring Ashli Henderson (Viral skit creator 487K followers & 11.2M likes on TikTok), Elliott Vreeland (Stand-up comedian touring nationally), & Juice Sutton (Official host for The MN Wild & MN Twins). This film is about two roommates that are polar-opposites who switch bodies after a mysterious encounter with an unknown substance one summer night in Minneapolis. They start to understand the world from a different perspective living as someone who is totally different from them and develop a deep empathy for the struggles the other person deals with.



Director  
Ricardo Collins

8:28 PM



Shot of Influence

An inspirational look at the talent, drive, and perseverance that forged some remarkable Women entrepreneurs, women leaders who have built a career around their passion.

The documentary shows the strength of women in the Twin cities. How women have helped rebuild a small city with their influence. Shot of influence highlights the importance of women's business, community leaders, and how strong women are together.



Director  
Gabrielle Reece

**11:05 PM**



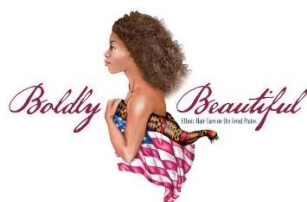
#Morelife

The nuanced struggle of middle-class Black Americans is seldom depicted. Black Americans tend to be shown in extremes but exploring the middle cinematically with “#MoreLife” is refreshing. You’re watching a young Black man who feels the need to be perfect, poised, and does what’s expected.



**Director Biography  
AJ Lovelace**

**11:45 PM**



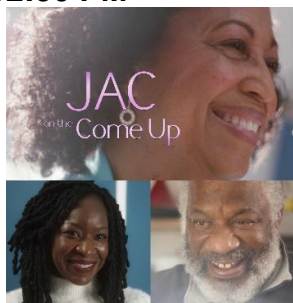
Boldly Beautiful Ethnic Hair on the Great Plains

Christina Thurston a African American Women from Maryland relocates to Brookings, South Dakota. She soon realizes that she doesn’t have resources to maintain her hair or someone to style it. Watch her journey as she connects with people in the community to find answers and solutions.



**Director  
Christina Thurston**

**12:50 PM**



Jac on the Come Up

JAC is beautiful, bittersweet, deeply personal and a love letter to New York City.



**Director Biography  
Gene Graham**

1:00 PM



### What's Costing Hollywood

“What's Costing Hollywood?” explores the ways in which more transparency around data collection and use can help the film and entertainment industry address costly racial disparities. The mini-documentary develops the story through the lens of change makers who provide insight into the underlying root issue of data collection and discriminatory algorithms — depicting a clear path for a new paradigm shift in the entertainment industry.



Director  
Natalie James

1:13 PM



### Gaming and Life

A young boy discovers the difference between playing video games and dealing with Real Life turmoil when a family member becomes ill.



Director  
Stephanie Soto

1:27 PM



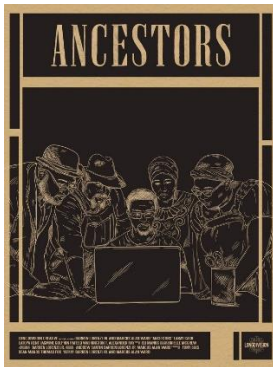
### Karla's Magic Soil

An ambitious teen develops special soil samples that makes plants grow rapidly in attempts to help her tree depleted neighborhood and younger brother's severe asthma. With the aid of a zany classmate, she gains unwanted attention from the Department of Agriculture who offer a boost in her botany research but also raises questions about their motives.



Director Biography  
Bryan T. Bostic

1:42 PM



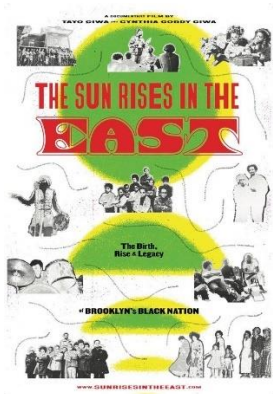
## Ancestors

A young man is going for his dream job and gets help from his ancestors along the way.



**Directors**  
Darren Lorenzi  
Marcus Alan Ward

1:48 PM



## The Sun Rises In The East

The Sun Rises in The East chronicles the birth, rise and legacy of The East, a pan-African cultural organization founded in 1969 by teens and young adults in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Led by educator and activist Jitu Weusi, The East embodied Black self-determination, building more than a dozen institutions, including its own African-centered school, food co-op, newsmagazine, publisher, record label, restaurant, clothing shop and bookstore. The organization hosted world-famous jazz musicians and poets at its highly sought-after performance venue, and it served as an epicenter for political contemporaries such as the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords, and the Congress of Afrikan People, as well as comrades across Africa and the Caribbean.

In effect, The East built an independent Black nation in the heart of Central Brooklyn.

The Sun Rises in The East is the first feature-length documentary to explore this inspiring story. The film also examines challenges that led to the organization's eventual dissolution, including its gender politics, financial struggles, and government surveillance. Featuring interviews with leaders of The East, historians and people who grew up in the organization as children, The Sun Rises in The East delivers an exhilarating and compelling vision, showing just how much is possible.



**Director Biography**  
- Tayo Giwa

2:48 PM



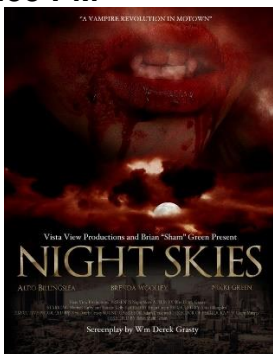
### Birthday Bash

When Jason vanishes on his 10th birthday, his parents find blood.



Director  
Shireen Crutchfield

2:55 PM



### Night Skies

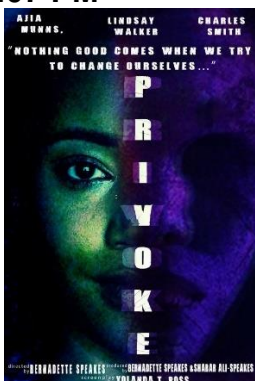
The mayor of bankrupt Detroit is pleased with the safe city she has provided for the residents. Her efforts to rid the city of criminals' results in the revitalization of the city and a new renaissance.

The mayor's success is due in part to a pact with the Vampire Lord, Dimitri. Dimitri and the Vampire Nation have the mayor's approval to kill the criminal elements of the city by night. The mayor in exchange provides the vampires police protection during the day against vampire hunters.



Director Biography  
Brian Green

3:07 PM



### Privoke

Stevie, a dark skinned "color obsessed" black woman, buys a "beauty cream," which unlocks an evil ancestral spirit, whose power grows from her darkest fears.



Director Biography  
Bernadette Speakes

3:17 PM



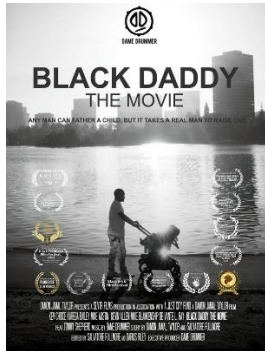
### Mine

MINE is an animated web-series that poignantly explores the timely theme of community versus individual survival, through the eyes of a teenager. Set in the near future, this powerful series transports us to BEAU VODA, a hard-fought utopian world where every aspect of life is powered by a miraculous healing water source. In the pilot episode, teenager BLAZE reluctantly steps into the esteemed role of Water Bearer with the help of their precocious sister MIA. But when the magical water is tampered with, they discover that their idealistic community may not be as magnanimous as they think.



**Directors Biography**  
Randall Dottin  
Luisa Dantas

3:30 PM



### Black Daddy the Movie

Being an artist comes with great responsibility. Being able to control the narrative is even more important. As a father I have come to know some amazing men who use love, great caution, and wisdom at the core of their masculinity. A huge component of how they raise their children, the next wave of black brilliance. Oftentimes we celebrate our heroes without ever knowing the backstory of the men and women from which they come. Black Daddy is unadulterated storytelling from the black father's point of view because it is often overlooked, and the assumption is that black fathers are not involved in their children's lives. Black Daddy: The Movie is a passion project covering a space that is near to our hearts; black fatherhood. I followed the lives of a few like-minded men as they told compelling stories of the joy, pain and the complexity of what it means to be a black father in America. The project has original music by Dame Drummer and new music in collaboration with other Oakland-based musicians Mike Blankenship, Kev Choice, Karega Bailey, and Ryan Austin to name a few.



**Director Biography**  
Damon Jamal Taylor

**Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, The W Hotel MPLS 821 S Marquette Ave \* Minneapolis, MN 55402**

**11:05 AM**



Plan LMNOP

All is fine and dandy on Jo and Rashaad's first day living together until a condom breaks.



**Director Biography**  
**Halima Lucas**

**11:11 AM**



Reggie and Jane

In Oakland California we're introduced to a family leaving their 3-year-olds "Red Egg & ginger" party. A young Black father named Reggie is completely oblivious to how he botched a traditional Chinese event important to his Asian-American wife. June will one-up Reggie's mistake with her lack of understanding her husband's Black experience. In the heat of an argument Reggie leaves to reach out to his father and meets him at his fencing club. Even then Reggie doesn't get the validation he desperately seeks. We'll witness a married couple fighting for their toddler to know and understand their cultures fully.



**Director Biography**  
**Brandon Thomas**

**11:30 AM**



A Mall Enough Alone

A pier between alone and lonely.



**Director Biography**  
**Spencer Takeshi Wilkins**

11:45 AM



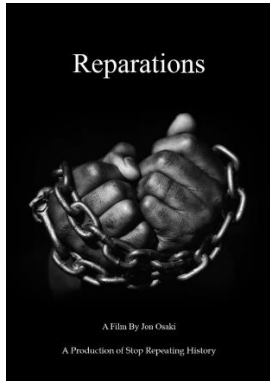
Inexistent

A secret obsession leads down a dark path resulting in grim consequences



Director Biography  
Benny Flames

1:05 PM



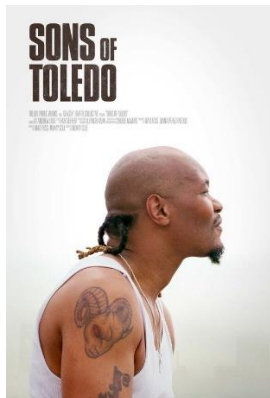
Reparations

Reparations explores the four-century struggle to seek repair and atonement for slavery in the United States. Black and Asian Americans reflect on the legacy of slavery, the inequities that persists, and the critical role that solidarity between communities has in acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in America.



Director Biography  
Jon Osaki

1:35 PM



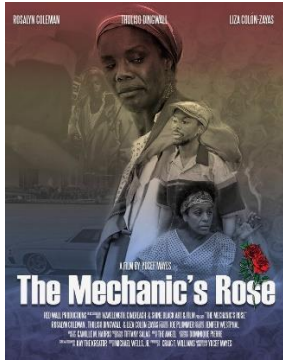
Sons of Toledo

After receiving the early morning news of his younger brother's murder, a mourning barber pushes through the muddy waters of grief to find the courage to do the impossible - give his brother one last cut.



Director Biography  
Monty Cole

1:55 PM



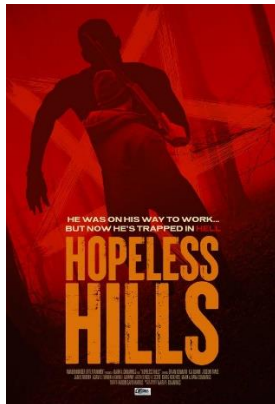
### Mechanics Rose

A mother, suffering from a terminal illness, escapes hospice care to make a perilous journey across Newark NJ to attend her son's graduation.



Director Biography  
Yucef Mayes

2:10 PM



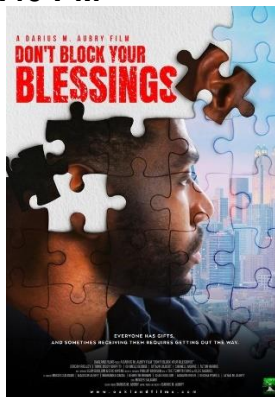
### Hopeless Hills

A Good Samaritan's early morning commute through rural Ohio escalates into a deadly game of cat and mouse, when his good deed goes terribly awry.



Director Biography  
Mark A Cummings

2:40 PM



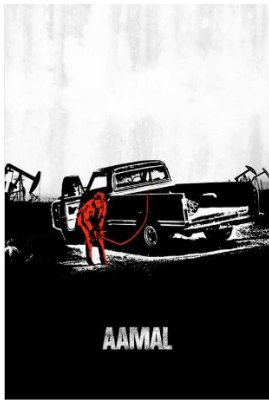
### Don't Block Your Blessings

Eighty-one-year-old Jauncie has Alzheimer's Disease and is lost for almost 24 hours. Her family searches frantically for her without success. Sometimes tragedy links people unexpectedly.



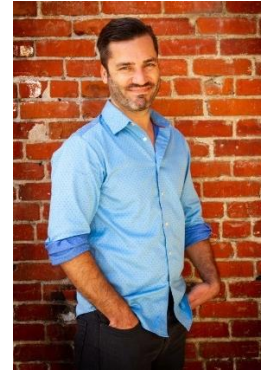
Director Biography  
Darius Maurice Aubry

3:02 PM



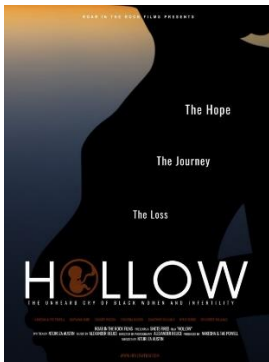
Aamal

Chained to a pickup truck and abandoned in the California desert with a gun as her only apparent means of escape, a young woman must unravel her captor's twisted scheme before she is undone herself.



Director Biography  
Josselyn Refauvelet

3:30 PM



Hollow

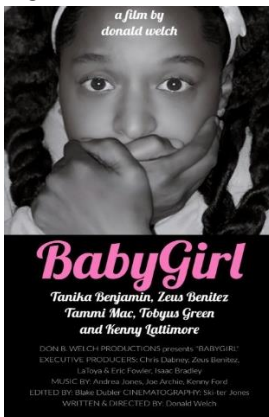
Money can't buy happiness unless it's a bouncing bundle of joy. Hidden smiles, yearning hearts wrapped in stigma and shame, Hollow is an intimate glimpse into the experiences of 6 black women struggling with infertility.

The documentary highlights the fact that, although the global assisted reproductive technology (ART) is a more than 20-billion-dollar industry, reaching the ultimate goal of motherhood is still unattainable for many black women.



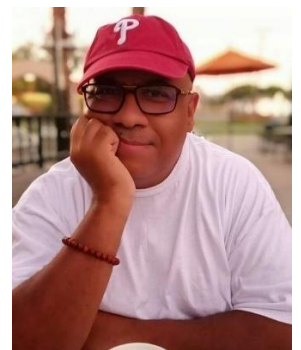
Director Biography  
N'Zuri Za Austin

4:40 PM



BabyGirl

Statistics reveal thousands of children go missing each year in America. A large number of these children are girls. An even more alarming statistic are the number of young black girls who go missing. However, they rarely ever get any national attention. "BabyGirl" tells the story through the eyes of 12-year-old "Malia Petrie" who was abducted while bike riding in her neighborhood park. The intention of her captor after grooming her for his personal gratification, is to eventually sell her into the underground world of child sex trafficking. Malia, an extremely bright young girl, yet still understandably fearful, quickly realizes that she must do whatever it takes to survive.



Director Biography  
- Donald Welch

5:15 PM



## The Mason Ring

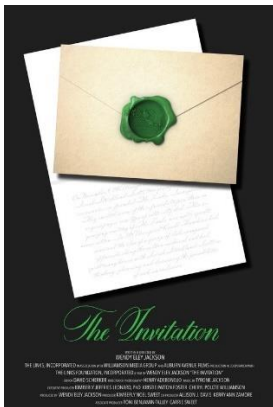
It's a late summer night in South Los Angeles, and teenage brothers EARL and ANTOINE are making a rather unusual late-night drop. On the eve of their GRANDFATHER's funeral, they're tasked with delivering his MASON RING to the funeral home in a last-ditch effort to get it on his finger before the service the following morning.

Their beloved GRANDMOTHER has bestowed them with this mission; one that feels almost sacred. But the boys don't quite see it that way. While they do want to make their grandmother happy and know full well that returning home without seeing the mission through is not an option, more front of mind for them is who will inherit grandfather's sleek Cadillac.



Director Biography  
Terry Dawson

5:31 PM



## The invitation

In 1946, two Philadelphia women decided to do something about the conditions in their community. African Americans weren't readily able to vote, access equal education or enjoy fair treatment in their everyday lives. They formed a group of friends who would give service to those who needed it most. Seventy-five years later, The Links, Incorporated has grown into an international philanthropic entity with 16-thousand members throughout the United States, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and the United Kingdom. Its members are a diverse group of influential women whose ages range from 21 to more than 100. They are college presidents, medical doctors, business leaders, members of Congress and even the Vice President of the United States. Today's Link member may appear to be a far cry from the two women who started this organization 75 years ago, but in many ways, she is just the same. The film, The Invitation, will chronicle this group of women, bonded by the thread of friendship and service, who continue to fight the battles which plague the African American's existence: social justice, health disparities and quality education. Building upon a strong foundation, they are positioning themselves to continue this globally transformative work for decades to come.



Director Biography  
Wendy Eley Jackson

**6:05 PM**



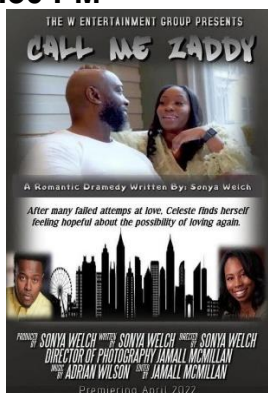
Dayvision Films Presents: Focus

After years of working as a reporter for Channel 8 News, Denise Douglass is determined to become the newest face of the station. As she attempts to impress her boss and get a jump on the competition, Denise is confronted with the reality of how racism and sexism often shortchange working black women. The aspiring anchor must find a way to secure the job of her dreams without compensating her pay or beliefs.



**Director Biography  
Michael Day**

**6:30 PM**



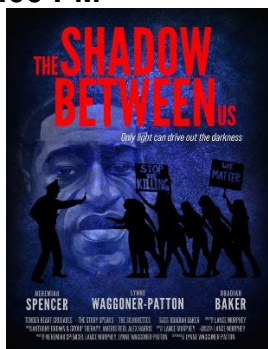
Call Me Zaddy

After an upsetting breakup with the man, she thought was the one, Celeste had given up on love. But after a chance meeting with Anthony, she finds herself smitten and willing to give love another try.



**Director  
Sonya D Welch**

**7:00 PM**



The Shadow Between Us

To overcome the threat of police brutality, a Black dancer joins a White choreographer on a journey to stop the killing.



**Director Biography  
Lance Murphey**



**A Huge Thank You to the Twin Cities  
for 20 years of Supporting  
The Twin Cities Black Film Festival.**

**A Huge Thank You, to all the  
Amazing Film Directors for submitting  
your films and participating in  
The Twin Cities Black Film Festival.**

**You all helped make  
TCBFF a 20 Year Success!**