

PRESS RELEASE

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Academy Award-Nominated Filmmaker David Massey Leads Panel of Top Film Documentarians in Panel Discussion

"The Art of Documentary Filmmaking" at BHERC Virtual Film Festival

Various aspects of documentary filmmaking explored in virtual panel by consummate documentary filmmakers including style, genre, acquisition of archival footage, music, POV distribution and more.

(Hollywood, CA) – The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) announced today that Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, David Massey "Last Breeze of Summer" will moderate the first of the 10 plus panels offered at the 26th Annual African American Film Marketplace & S.E. Manly Short Film Showcase (AAFM SEMSFS) airing online now through Sunday, November 29, 2020 on www.BHERC.TV with more than 140 films from 18 countries and 20 US states. The panel hosted by the Association of Black Documentary Filmmakers West (www.badwest.org) will take place online **Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 2:00PM (PDT). This event is free on a first come first served basis.**

Mr. Massey has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications & Education from Ohio Dominican College and a Master of Fine Arts degree in advanced film & television studies from the American Film Institute. His 1992 film, "Last Breeze of Summer", was nominated for an Academy Award making Massey the first African-American to be nominated in the Live-Action Short Film category. Massey has been the recipient of several prestigious awards. The Martin Ritt Scholarship, Eastman Kodak Second Century Honoree, inductee at The Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, The National Education Association for the "Advancement of Learning through Broadcasting", 2011 PBS Innovated Teacher Award, the National Black Programming Consortium "Prized Pieces". Heartland Film Festival's Crystal Heart and is a voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. His recent documentary "Not All Lost" a PBS Black History feature shares exhilarating stories of Black youth thriving and becoming successful despite difficult circumstances.

For the Art of Documentary Filmmaking panel, Mr. Massey has assembled five award-winning filmmakers **Jerry Henry**, DP-Director-Cinematographer, "St. Louis Superman", **Mellisa Haizlip**, Producer-Director-Writer, "Mr. SOUL!", **Frank Dawson**, Director "Agents of Change", **Kimberly Browning**, Producer-Director, "Room 19" and **Nathaniel Kahn**, Director "My Architect. Their films have been nominated for Academy Awards and screened at national and international festivals. The panelists will share their personal journey as documentarians, discuss distribution strategies, explain how funding was secured, describe their storytelling approach and documentary genre.

Additional panels will take place throughout the month. Log on to www.BHERC.TV to learn more.

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About the 26th AAFM Festival

The Festival includes 140 films, 10 panels, special events and debuts as a virtual experience this year due to COVID – 19 on the BHERC streaming service www.BHERC.TV October 23 through November 29, 2020. Festival passes are available online at www.bherc.TV. \$75.00 for a full Festival Pass, \$25.00 for a Day Pass and \$10.00 for a block of 5 films. All panels and special events are Free.

About the Panelists

Jerry Henry is a Los Angeles-based cinematographer who received his MFA degree from UCLA's prestigious Production Program with an emphasis on Documentary and Cinematography. His award-winning short documentary "I Promise Africa" premiered in over 100 film festivals around the world and won many prestigious awards. Jerry's visual talents can be seen in the Oscar nominated documentaries such as "Exit Through The Gift Shop" a Peabody Award winning documentary "American Revolutionary", The Grammy Award winning HBO doc series titled The Defiant Ones which chronicles the life and work of Dr. Dre. and Jimmy Iovine, "The Rachel Divide" that premiered at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival and is currently streaming on Netflix and his current Netflix 4-part doc series titled "High on the Hog," directed by Academy Award winning Director Roger Ross Williams which is set for release in 2021. Jerry serves as a board member of UCreate Youth Workshop, a non-profit organization providing youth opportunities to learn and explore the digital arts and related art forms in Highland Park, CA.

Kimberley Browning is a film festival professional and filmmaker based in Los Angeles who began her career working in production at Disney's Touchstone Television. Her directing and producing credits include the "Jackson 5" family docuseries for A&E Networks, and extensive original content for broadcast television and digital platforms including HBO, Rollingstone.com, ABC, CBS, NBC, Warner Brothers, Comedy Central, People Magazine and Real Networks. Her recent feature film producing credits include "UPROOTED: The Journey of Jazz Dance" which recently won Best Musical Documentary at Flickers Rhode Island Film Festival, and Audience Award for Best Film at the San Francisco Dance Film Festival, Executive Producer of "EARBUDS: A Podcasting Documentary", featuring standup comics Mark Marin, Aisha Tyler, Chris Hardwick and is currently streaming on Amazon Prime and Apple TV and current production of the upcoming documentary "Acting Like Nothing is Wrong". She is the Founder/Festival Director of Hollywood Shorts, currently in its 22nd season.

Melissa Haizlip is an award-winning filmmaker based in New York. Her work responds to pressing social issues at the intersection of racial justice, social justice, activism, and representation. Music, female transformation, and empowerment are at the core of all her ideas, with the goal being to advocate and amplify the voices of women and people of color. Melissa's feature documentary, Mr. SOUL!, has been awarded a finalist for the 2019 inaugural Library of Congress Lavine / Ken Burns Prize for Film, a new, annual prize that recognizes a filmmaker whose documentary uses original research and compelling narrative to tell stories that touch on some aspect of American history. The film won Best Music Documentary at the 2018 International Documentary Association Awards. Mr. SOUL! premiered in virtual cinemas last month. The film world premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and screened at 50 film festivals, receiving 16 Jury and Audience Awards for Best Documentary, and the 2019 FOCAL Award for Best Use of Archival Footage in an Entertainment Production. Mr. SOUL! has been nominated for five Critic's Choice Awards (2021), including Best Documentary Feature.

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Frank Dawson is a Producer-writer, and founding partner in NuHouse Media Group, and the Co-Producer/Director of the documentary film, "Agents of Change". As a Primetime TV Executive at CBS, Frank later coordinated the development of series scripts and production of television series including, "Private Benjamin", "Alice", "Magnum, P.I.", and "Cagney and Lacey". He served as Director of Comedy at Universal served as Director of Comedy Development, where he was involved in the production of "Charles In Charge" (CBS) and "Domestic Life" (CBS), as Director of Programming, on the NBC dramatic series, "Miami Vice", while also spearheading the creation and launching of the ABC network comedy series, "He's The Mayor",

Co-Executive Producer of "Story of A People", a syndicated television program hosted by Debbie Allen and Joe Morton, as well as "The Other Side of Victory", an innovative sports magazine program that was hosted by "Good Morning America's" Robin Roberts and Fox Sports' James Brown. Frank Dawson earned his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a Master of Science degree in Television and Radio from the Newhouse School at Syracuse University, where he has been inducted into the school's professional gallery of distinguished alumni.

Nathaniel Kahn is an award-winning filmmaker. His 2018 documentary, "The Price of Everything", premiered at Sundance, was broadcast on HBO, and was nominated for an Emmy Award. Kahn's 2003 film, "My Architect", about his father, architect Louis Kahn, won the Directors Guild of America Award for outstanding direction of a documentary and was nominated for an Academy Award and an Emmy. "My Architect" is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art. Kahn's 2007 film "Two Hands", about the late concert pianist Leon Fleisher, was also nominated for an Academy Award and an Emmy.

About The Black Association of Documentary Filmmakers - West (BAD West) is a professional organization providing people of African descent working in documentary film, video or other media the opportunity to network professionally, share resources, exchange ideas and meet socially in order to enhance the development, production, promotion and exhibition of documentaries. The Black Association of Documentary Filmmakers - West also advocates the recognition and professional advancement of Black documentary filmmakers. While BAD Filmmakers - West is a Southern California-based organization, focusing primarily on the issues and concerns relevant to Southern California documentary filmmakers, there is no geographical limitation on membership. www.badwest.org

About Black Hollywood Education & Resource Center

Founded in 1996 by Sandra Evers-Manly, BHERC is a nonprofit, public benefit organization designed to advocate, educate, research, develop, and preserve the history and future of African Americans in film and television. BHERC programs include film festivals, mentoring, book signings, script readings, film and animation contests, scholarships, and other programs and special events. BHERC recognizes the contributions of African American men and women in front of and behind the scenes in the entertainment industry.

About BHERC TV

In February 2020 BHERC launched BHERC TV a leading world-wide provider of narrative and documentary short films about the African American experience, as well as content from across the diaspora and diverse populations. Offering an affordable streaming entertainment service with paid memberships in over seven countries, BHERC TV members enjoy a wide variety of genres and languages and may watch as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, on any internet-connected screen. Film lovers can play, pause and resume watching without commercials. Find out more on BHERC.TV

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