

1st Annual Houston Black Film Festival- June 22-26 2005

Film Synopsis Guide

Black Leather Soles - DIRECTOR Leslie Small Producer, Gordon Green Denise Boutte' ('Behind the Smile' and 'Days of Our Lives') Temple Greene ('The Bernie Mac Show' and 'Girlfriends') Nynno Ahli ('Charmed' and 'Brother') Gordon Greene (Disney's Original T.V. series 'The Famous Jett Jackson' starred in the role of 'Sheriff Wood Jackson' and 'Tournament of Dreams') **FEATURED PLAYER** Rolondas Hendricks (Riverdance and Fresh Prince of Bel Aire) Anthony Batarse ('American Pie II' and 'Three Kings') Joe Marino ('Illuminata' and 'The Food Chain') Bruno Amato ('Just A Kiss', 'The O.C.' AND 'Passions') Austin Stoker ('Assault on Precinct 13' Starred as 'Bishop', Sheba Baby' and 'Roots') Danny Wooten David Groh (Starred in the hit T.V. series 'Rhoda' as 'Joe', 'Law and Order' and 'Get Shorty') Roscoe Freeman ('Flip Side' and 'The Parkers') Roy Lee ('Trippin' and 'New Girls')

The Great Depression, Harlem 1933. Junior Rawlings, a once-gifted tap dancer is running a filing nightclub. Not only is he on the brink of losing his nightclub but his life is also in danger. With a deadline of one week to pay back the mob, he pulls out all the stops by getting rid of his old acts and replacing them with new ones, however, fighting and embezzlement among his acts and crew threatens to drag it down completely.

Midnight Clear Director, Kristin Ross

Guy Torry, Victoria Rowell Young & The Restless, Marlon Young, Quinten Hendricks, Spring Guilford

Escaped convict MICHAEL PRESMORE doesn't have much time. The cops are after him; it's just a matter of time before they run him down. In the midst of a rain storm, he breaks into the home of a local family. As ANGELA, the wife and mother of the family, tries to create a sense of normalcy for the sake of son MIKEY and daughter JEANNIE, her husband BEN forges a connection with the prisoner that goes beyond mere words -- a connection only heightened as Mikey starts asking questions of the escaped prisoner. And as the COPS descend on the home, and the true bond between the prisoner and the family is revealed, Ben and Angela will learn that when it comes to family, the ties that bind never break..

INTERSECTION'

Eric Haywood, director. *PRINCIPAL CAST.* Terrell Tilford, Taji Coleman, Jackie Nova

Intersection' takes us through a day in the life of Troy (Terrell Tilford) and Debra (Taji Coleman), a happily-married couple. Troy and Debra seem to have it all: a beautiful home overlooking the ocean, "his & hers" SUVs, and most of all, they've got each other. But when Troy gets involved in a fatal hit-and-run accident while spending time with his mistress Carmen (Jackie Nova), he's forced to take some drastic measures to cover his tracks. In the end, his secret's safe with Jackie, but Debra has a few secrets of her own...

Allergic to Nuts, Rosalyn Williams, director, *Vanessa Williams (Melrose Place, Soul Food (Showtime Series), New Jack City) Yolonda Ross (Antoine Fisher, Stranger Inside) Clayton LeBouef (Homicide, OZ, The Wire) Andre Wiseman, Caroline Clay, Leslie Elliard (The Wire)*

Newly divorced Lavita Johns is throwing her first dinner party, in her brand new apartment, for her dearest friends. At the party her ex-husband shows up and announces he's remarrying. It's a moment that knocks Lavita to her knees, especially when she finds out who he's marrying.

The Industry Director: Kwame Akoaku 62 min USA

The Industry is a highly entertaining and revealing documentary that goes beyond the surface of the music business to examine the inner world of the industry and the true politics behind getting an album made. Through appearances of artists Big Boi, Andre 3000, Kanye West, Ludacris, Chingy and music moguls Russell Simmons, Lyor Cohen, Kevin Liles, LA Reid, Blue Williams and Chaka Zulu you see the drama, egos and conflicts between label and artists that drive the multi-billion dollar hip-hop and urban music business. This documentary takes you through the ups and downs of the music industry as we see the making of three of last year's biggest albums: Outkasts' "Speakerboxx/Love Below", Kanye West's "College Dropout", and Ludacris' "Chicken and Beer". Featuring exclusive footage from performance rehearsals, concerts, and backstage, The Industry takes an in depth look inside of one of the world's top music genres.

FAIR GAME is an urban romantic comedy about two co-workers who are former lovers forced to become temporary housemates. Strictly platonic! But when a hip and handsome new executive demonstrates more than a work interest in the female housemate, her former lover begins to reevaluate the nature of their relationship. A love triangle ensues.

Hip Hop Colony Director: Michael Gathoni 100 min Kenya Texas Premiere

Cast: Kenyan Hip Hop artists and producers

Hip Hop colony takes the viewer through a journey into the heart of East Africa to Kenya, a former British colony where hip hop has firmly established its roots amongst the local citizens. Hip Hop Colony takes an intimate look at African Hip Hop, while establishing it in Kenya.

One Life to Give, Darryl Smith, director *Gary McDonald, Lisa Canning, Rana Davis, Rishonda Napier*

This is a story how a person's life can change in one split second. How a tragedy can so be bittersweet. Warren, newly married to a beautiful wife Beverly, has to make a life changing decision of saving the mother of his daughter or his new wife.

Lost in Plainview, Eric Chambers, director

Marquita Terry (Deep Cover, The Shield, Spin City, Becker), Layla Alexander (Tear of the Sun, Serendipity, Law & Order SVU, Sleepy Hollow), Matthew Glave (Corky Romano, Rock Star, The Wedding Singer, ER), Jack Kehler (Men in Black, Lethal Weapon, Under the Tuscan Sun), Sal Lopez (Paparazzi, Silver City, Full Metal Jacket), Eric Michael Cole (Gia, White Squall, Mr. Holland's Opus

The battle between good and evil is fought every day. Melissa and Nina, two coeds are ride sharing to California. On a stretch of highway, they are stopped by a mysterious police car. The cop charms Melissa and escorts them to the stationhouse to "pay her ticket". She and the cop engage in carnal exploration in an empty jail cell. Nina's patience runs out and Melissa is forced to cut their lustful rendezvous short. The cop attempts to rape Melissa when she tries to leave. She fights the psychotic killer and runs out. Alone and on foot, the girls struggle across the sweltering desert desperately seeking help. Determined not to become victims, the girls decide to take matters into their own hands.

Dinner With An Assassin

Director: Bobby Guions

90 min USA

Texas Premiere

Cast: John et. Jennifer Brown, James A. Lee, Galway McCullough and Ray Arroyo

Mark is young assassin hired to take out members of a large drug syndicate. But, he bumps into a mysterious woman and falls for her. Instead of just doing his job Mark throws caution to the wind and breaks all the rules of an assassin to meet her. Now he finds himself caught between love and a group of assassins hired to take him out.

The Cage

Director: Damon Russell

66 min USA

Texas Premiere

With The Cage we are thrown inside the famous streetball court at West 4th and 6th Avenue in Manhattan and into the lives of three people who call the tiny fenced-in court home. You'll meet Sox, the fiery, ambitious young ball player who is out there everyday hoping to take home a championship title from the prestigious West 4th League, while balancing a wife and an 8-month-old baby. There's Samantha, a struggling artist, who is one of the few girls that grinds out there with the men, on a daily basis. And Sherman, the king of this concrete and chain-link jungle who's now in his twentieth year presiding over The Cage and isn't ready to pass on the crown just yet.

Love Trap

Director: Frank B. Goodin II

105 min USA

Cast: Julius Golden, Arlicia Love, and amila Sherman

For most men, temptation in a red dress is just too much to handle. "Love Trap" explores the true nature of love and friendship and what can happens when both are betrayed.

Youngster

Director: Will Canon

10 min USA

Cast: Al Thompson, Derek and Jamaar Taylor

A twelve year-old drug dealer hands over a crack rock to a pushy addict without first getting paid and must find away to retrieve the money or the drugs.

Jepardee (24 min)

Director: Christopher Marlon

24 min USA

Cast: Chris Spencer, Rodney B. Perry, Niecy Nash, and Gary Anthony Williams.

Its Jeopardy meets The Dave Chappelle Show - Everyone's favorite quiz show with a "twist."

Au Pair Chocolat

Benson McGrath

87 min USA

Texas Premiere

Maya Azulena, Domencia Camera Scorsese and Heidi Durrow

When Tawney Washington, a hip hop Mary Poppins from Harlem lands a job as an Au Pair girl for a wealthy Black family on posh Martha's Vineyard, She brings a lot of baggage with her luggage.

Still Black at Yale

Directors: Monique Walton & Andia Winslow

34 min USA

Texas Premiere

A chronicle of Black experience at Yale University, that challenges participants their own notions of "Blackness" within a historically white institution.

The Package

Director: Carlos Dorsey

8 min USA

Cast: Namdi Barnes, Bradley Freeman and Edgar Dorsey

In what seems to be a simple game of chess, a code is given, and a young courier receives a package that holds great wealth and will soon change his life.

Bay City Luv: Singin' n' Livin' on the Edge

Director: Sally Gati

31 min USA

Texas Premiere

Cast: Larry Glenn, Alex White, Rick Clark, Boscoe Coleman, Dan Hal, and Earl Gadsden.

Six African-American street-corner gospel singers, known as BAY CITY LUV, perform outside theaters in San Francisco. They touch us both with their own lives and with soulful a cappella harmonies.

Endangered Species -66mins

Earth Conservation Corps Robert Nixon, director

Endangered Species traces a painful yet inspirational journey of young men and women from public housing communities in Washington DC. These young people join together to form the Earth Conservation Corps to clean up the polluted Anacostia River and return the bald eagle to its historic nesting home, in our Nation's Capital. Filmed over twelve-years by the young people themselves, Endangered Species documents that they are far more endangered than the bald eagle. During the course of the filming, the bald eagle was removed from the Endangered Species List, while nine of the young people working to restore the bald eagle, as well as many of their friends and loved ones, were murdered.

Something For Nothing Twenty eight year old Maynard Lassiter (Sharif Atkins from "ER", 'Hawaii Blue') will die from a rare kidney disease, unless he receives a kidney transplant. Upon learning that his older, family bad boy brother, Jojo , (Monti Sharp) is a matching blood type, Maynard asks him to donate a kidney. But Jojo , who has a lifelong resentment and jealousy towards Maynard, scoffs at the idea. As a child, Jojo believed that Maynard, who was adopted at birth, took all of his parents' love and attention. Therefore, Jojo now views asking for a kidney as another example of Maynard taking something from him. Eventually, after mounting financial woes and being pressured by their mother, Jojo reluctantly agrees to the donation. However, he attaches a list of demands so that he doesn't feel like Maynard is getting something for nothing. Tragically, Jojo's demands grow more sinister, leading to an unfortunate conclusion.

ATLANTIC CITY HOOKERS: IT AIN'T E-Z BEING A HO', a documentary produced, directed and written by Brent Ownens Running Time: 59 minutes, centers on this famous city's world of prostitution. The film originally aired on the critically acclaimed HBO America Undercover series.

Documentary Persistence of Vision -60min

Dr. Dirk Eitzen , the producer and director Persistence of Vision is an hour-long documentary about the lives and work of nine eminent African American abstract artists. The film weaves the artists' stories and reflections into engaging and thought-provoking conversations on five topics: the art world, starting out, encountering abstraction, politics and art, and art as conversation. Each of these sections is introduced with a provocative film-essay and ends with a montage of some of the artists' work, cut to a jazz score. The artists featured in the film have been swimming against the current their entire careers, both as black artists working in a genre dominated by white artists, and as abstract artists working in a political milieu that many other artists and critics have said calls for figurative work. Yet they have persevered for decades, largely on their own, experimenting with abstract forms and creating an impressive body of expressionist work. To understand and fully appreciate the work of these artists, it is not enough to know what kind of technical or aesthetic problems they are dealing with; one also needs to know what kind of social and personal challenges they experienced en route to becoming established as

Pain

When the lights go out, that's when the pain comes. When he's away from his partners, that's when it comes. Even with his pockets full of cash, it still comes. The pain inside of him won't go away. It's eating him alive. No matter how hard he tries, things just get worse. Something's gotta change. What do you do when your lifelong dream comes true, only to find out it's slowly killing you?

Low Roller sets out on a mission to create a special day for his girlfriend, but he only has \$5 in his pocket. Stab, a hustler, reels Low Roller in to a back alley game of dice where Low Roller is up, even, and then lured back in to lose everything.

Return to Glory. Dr. Joel Freeman Ph D. & Don B.Griffin.