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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milwaukee Film Announces Programming for Black History Month 2023

Milwaukee Film's annual Black History Month program dedicates films and events during February to focus on Black voices and experiences

MILWAUKEE – Wednesday, January 4th, 2023 – Presented by the Milwaukee County Office of Equity, Milwaukee Film's fifth annual Black History Month celebration will showcase engaging and entertaining film screenings, conversations, and events curated by its [Black Lens program](#) throughout February.

Film screenings include titles such as FIRE MUSIC, a feature-length documentary highlighting the brilliant architects behind the free jazz movement; LOUDMOUTH, an unprecedented look into the life and work of longtime civil rights activist Reverend Al Sharpton; and 80s cult classic THE LAST DRAGON, the martial arts comedy film produced by Berry Gordy, founder of Motown Records.

"I am looking forward to exploring how Black Film can continually be used as an agent to reimagine, re-inform, and reinvent the day-to-day realities for those in the diaspora," said Marquise Mays, programmer for Milwaukee Film's Black Lens program. "From historical documentaries, romantic comedies, music videos, and experimental expressions, the films chosen for Black History Month seek to proclaim that Black film exists in its own solar system of infinite moments and futures."

In addition to the films, February programming also includes several exciting events such as The Black Lens music series Groove Theory, which features a reunion of popular local band Growing Nation, and the Valentine's Day-themed "Black Love Through A Black Lens," hosted by St. Louis-based intimacy specialist Afrosexology. New artist retrospective series "In Retrospect" will feature a moderated discussion about Grammy Award-nominated rapper Kendrick Lamar with music journalist Miles Marshall Lewis, author of *Promise That You Will Sing About Me: The Power and Poetry of Kendrick Lamar*.

"The Black Lens team wanted these events to focus on exploring black identity and celebrating the vibrancy of our local community," said Black Lens program coordinator Deiva Motley. "Our goal for the events during the month is to reflect different interests people may have never really touched on before and just spark those conversations."

Preview Milwaukee Film's Black History Month programming at the **Black Lens Annual Affair at 7 p.m. on January 19th at The Ivy House**. The event features film trailers, an eclectic local line-up backed by Brew City Soul Orchestra, complimentary appetizers, and new Black Lens merch for sale. [RSVP free here to attend](#).

Ticket information for Black History Month films and events is available at mkefilm.org/bhm. [Click here](#) for more information on the complete line-up of Black History Month films and events and to buy tickets.

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Black History Month Films:

- [THE BIG PAYBACK](#) - THURSDAY, FEB. 2ND | 7:00 P.M.
- [THE LAST DRAGON](#) - SATURDAY, FEB. 4TH | 7:00 P.M.
- [THE AFRICAN DESPERATE](#) - THURSDAY, FEB. 9TH | 7:00 P.M.
- [BLACK LOVE THROUGH A BLACK LENS SHORTS](#) - SATURDAY, FEB. 11TH | NOON.
- [LOUDMOUTH](#) - THURSDAY, FEB. 16TH | 7:00 P.M.
- [JUNETEENTH: FAITH & FREEDOM](#) - SATURDAY, FEB. 18TH | NOON.
- [FIRE MUSIC](#) - THURSDAY, FEB. 23RD | 7:00 P.M.
- [AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION OF HER BEAUTY](#) - SATURDAY, FEB. 25TH | NOON.

Black History Month Events:

[Engage & Activate: Young Professionals Forum](#) | Wednesday, February 1, 2023
Company Brewing, 735 E Center St, Milwaukee, WI 53212

[A Leap into Afrofuturism](#) | Friday, February 3, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
Radio Milwaukee, 220 E. Pittsburgh Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53204

[Black History Month Trivia](#) | Friday, February 10, 2023, 8:00 P.M.
Company Brewing, 735 E Center St, Milwaukee, WI 53212

[Black Love Through a Black Lens: Afrosexology](#) | Saturday, February 11, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
Dandy, 5020 W Vliet St, Milwaukee, WI 53208

[In Retrospect: The Life & Times of Kendrick Lamar](#) | Friday, February 17, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
Company Brewing, 735 E Center St, Milwaukee, WI 53212

[Groove Theory: Growing Nation](#) | Saturday, February 25, 2023, 8:00 P.M.
The Cooperage, 822 S Water St, Milwaukee, WI 53204

For The Soul: A Narrated Food Tasting & Conversation | Sunday, February 26, 2023, 5:00 P.M.
Turning Tables Tavern & Eatery, 1034 Vel R. Phillips Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53203