



 Northwestern Mutual® PRESENTS

Black History Month

BLACK LENS



**MILWAUKEE
FILM**

PRESENTED BY  Northwestern Mutual®

Black History Month

MILWAUKEE FILM

Milwaukee Film is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to entertaining, educating, and engaging our community through cinematic experiences, with a vision to make Milwaukee a center for film culture. Milwaukee Film operates the magnificent Oriental Theatre, a historic cinema palace committed to high-quality and accessible film and education programming.

CULTURES & COMMUNITIES

Focused squarely on diverse cultural perspectives, Cultures and Communities programming prioritizes the lived experience of historically underrepresented communities through film, conversation, and ancillary presentations. Created in 2018, the initiative advances Milwaukee Film's anchor cultural programs such as Black Lens, a leading presenter of Black cinema nationally; the Latinx-focused Cine Sin Fronteras, and the LGBTQ-centric GenreQueer, while also creating new community festivals.

BLACK LENS AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In 2014, Milwaukee Film recognized the critical need to elevate Black voices in film, seeing the power of film to bridge racial and cultural divides. Through our Black Lens program, Milwaukee Film created a month-long series in 2019 dedicating our February programming to films and events that inspire conversation, celebration, and community around Black History Month.

BLACK LENS  **MILWAUKEE FILM**

SPONSORS

PRESENTED BY



**Northwestern
Mutual®**

LEADING



KOHL'S

MGIC



**MOLSON
COORS** beverage
company

SUPPORTING



PRESENTED BY  Northwestern Mutual

Black History Month

BLACK PERSPECTIVES

FEB. 1-6

Underscoring the breadth and depth of Black experiences, one film, and conversation at a time



EVENT: THE CREATIVE COLLECTIVE – A FILM SHOWCASE, PANEL DISCUSSION, AND NETWORKING EXPERIENCE

Tuesday, Feb. 1st | Nō Studios Gallery | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Looking to the future during Black History Month, Black Lens kicks off month-long programming with a celebration of Black artists and entrepreneurs in Milwaukee. Focused on the intrinsic relationship between ingenuity and imagination, the evening includes a showcase of locally-made short films, a panel discussion with Milwaukee-based creatives, and finally matchmaking-style activities that group creatives from all sectors of the city in conversation.



FILM SCREENING: ZOLA

Thursday, Feb. 3rd | Oriental Theatre | 6:30 p.m.

Directed by rising writer-filmmaker Janicza Bravo, *Zola* is based on a 2015 viral Twitter thread posted by A'ziah King. In this true-life tale of a Detroit waitress, seduced into a weekend of stripping in Florida for some quick cash, 23-year-old Zola finds herself ensnared in a sleepless 48-hour odyssey involving a nefarious friend, her pimp, and her idiot boyfriend.



FILM SCREENING: THE ONE AND ONLY DICK GREGORY

Saturday, Feb. 5th | Oriental Theatre | 4 p.m.

Directed by Andre Gaines, *The One and Only Dick Gregory* is a feature-length documentary examining activist, pop-culture icon, and thought leader Dick Gregory, whose work as a self-described “agitator” shaped a generation demanding justice. As a renowned Black comedian, Gregory had a platform to take on the most incendiary battles of hunger, gender equity, and civil rights – stirring trouble and making headlines in the service of social justice. The film features Gregory’s personal reflections, archival footage, and interviews with the artists he influenced – including Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, and Wanda Sykes.

PRESENTED BY  Northwestern Mutual

Black History Month

BLACK LOVE THROUGH A BLACK LENS

FEB. 7-13

Affirming Black life and amplifying Black love beyond narratives of pain and suffering



FILM SCREENING: "BLACK LOVE THROUGH A BLACK LENS" SHORT FILMS PROGRAM

Thursday, Feb. 10th / Oriental Theatre / 6:30 p.m.

This popular short films program centers accurate representations of loving, yet complicated Black familial and intimate partner relationships.



FILM SCREENING: CITIZEN ASHE

Saturday, Feb. 12th / Oriental Theatre / 1:30 p.m.

Filmmakers Sam Pollard and Rex Miller chart the evolution of tennis legend Arthur Ashe—still the only Black man to win singles championships at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, and the Australian Open. The film chronicles how Ashe navigated between a conservative sports culture and the activist politics of the Civil Rights movement, finding his voice as an advocate for the oppressed before his life was cut short by AIDS-related complications at age 49.



EVENT: "THE HONEST TRUTH" WITH SHELAH MARIE AND DR. KRISTEN WARNER

Saturday, Feb. 12th / Dandy / 7 p.m.

Known for her role on the VH1 reality show *Love & Hip Hop*, Shelah Marie is the founder/CEO of The Curvy, Curly, Conscious movement. Joined in conversation by University of Alabama professor of communications, Dr. Kristen Warner, Shelah Marie reflects on *Love & Hip Hop*, as well as portrayals of Black women in media more broadly. The two will further delve into inspiring topics of healing and wellness pertinent to all women, such as body positivity, self love, and self-care throughout the evening.

PRESENTED BY  Northwestern Mutual

Black History Month

BLACK GENEALOGIES

FEB. 14-20

Representing the cross-sections and evolutions of Black families, politics, and popular culture



EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW SCREENING

FILM SCREENING:

WHO WE ARE: A CHRONICLE OF RACISM IN AMERICA

Thursday, Feb. 17th | Oriental Theatre | 7 p.m.

Winner of multiple awards—including the 2021 Milwaukee Film Festival Audience Award—*Who We Are* intertwines lecture, personal anecdotes, interviews, and shocking revelations, as lawyer Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-Black racism in the United States, from slavery to the modern myth of a post-racial America. This film opens for an extended theatrical run at the Oriental Theatre on February 18 following this special event screening.



EVENT: BLACK R&B FILM TRIVIA FOLLOWED BY 80S/90S R&B NIGHT

Friday, Feb. 18 | Company Brewing | 8 p.m.

Test your knowledge of 80s and 90s Black film and culture in friendly competition with other “know-it-alls” for the chance to win an assortment of great prizes. After trivia, we keep the vibe, and nostalgia, going with our 80s/90s R&B dance party hosted by DJ Gilly.



FILM SCREENING: “FAMILY MATTERS” SHORT FILMS PROGRAM

Saturday, Feb. 19th | Oriental Theatre | 1 p.m.

An award-winning collection of short films chosen with kids and parents in mind, our inaugural family-friendly shorts program features intergenerational themes appropriate for all.

BLACK LENS

 MILWAUKEE
FILM

PRESENTED BY  Northwestern Mutual

Black History Month

BLACK REMEMBRANCES

FEB. 21-27

Recalling the past and celebrating the present, all with an eye toward Black futures



FREE SCREENING

FILM SCREENING:

THE LOYOLA PROJECT (MILWAUKEE PREMIERE)

Thursday, Feb. 24 | Oriental Theatre | 6:30 p.m.

In 1963, at the height of the civil rights movement, the Loyola Ramblers of Chicago broke racial barriers on their way to a national championship. Now, nearly 60 years later, this legendary team is reexamined by Loyola basketball player and co-captain, Lucas Williamson. Woven together with archival footage and modern-day interviews, this captivating story is surprisingly relevant to today's continued struggle for equality.



FILM SCREENING: SANKOFA

Saturday, Feb. 26th | Oriental Theatre | 4 p.m. screening; 6 p.m. post-screening conversation

To celebrate the re-opening of America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM), Black Lens teams up with Ava DuVernay's ARRAY to screen a remastered version of *Sankofa*. This empowering film tells a story of resistance and enslavement and the African Diaspora from the perspective of the enslaved, challenging the romanticizing of slavery prevalent in American culture and illuminating the resilience in the face of subjugation.



RSVP EVENT:

POST-SCREENING RECEPTION - AMERICA'S BLACK HOLOCAUST MUSEUM FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, Feb. 26th | America's Black Holocaust Museum | 7 p.m.

Following the screening, join Black Lens for a conversation and reception in the renovated and reimagined America's Black Holocaust Museum.

THE TEAM THAT CHANGED BASKETBALL FOREVER

THE LOYOLA PROJECT



O'MALLEY CREADON PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
A FILM BY PATRICK CREADON "THE LOYOLA PROJECT" EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BOB AND BETTY PARKINSON PRODUCED BY CHRISTINE O'MALLEY
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROB PARKINSON COREY McQUADE ASSOCIATE PRODUCER MOIRA HAMILTON ARCHIVAL PRODUCER ADAM L. LAWRENCE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ERIN G. WESLEY EDITED BY WILLIAM NEAL NICK ANDERT ASSOCIATE EDITOR JULIA SZROMBA
MUSIC BY ALEX MANSOUR WRITTEN BY LUCAS WILLIAMSON JULIA SZROMBA WILLIAM NEAL
NARRATED BY LUCAS WILLIAMSON DIRECTED BY PATRICK CREADON

O'MALLEY
CREADON
PRODUCTIONS

THE "63 FOR 63 SCREENING SERIES", PRESENTED BY NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL, IS A NATIONWIDE CAMPUS TOUR CREATED TO FOSTER MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS AND POSITIVE CHANGE.



Northwestern Mutual is proud to sponsor this groundbreaking documentary and the Black Lens Black History Month film series.