



BLACK LENS



**MILWAUKEE
FILM**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FOUR WEEKS OF FILM, CULTURE,
AND CONVERSATION

PRESENTED BY MOLSON COORS





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. Since 2009, the annual Milwaukee Film Festival has brought together film fans and filmmakers to celebrate the power of cinema. Our education programs and Cultures and Communities platform provide avenues toward making our community a more empathetic and equitable place for everyone to live.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BECOME A MEMBER,
VISIT MKEFILM.ORG.**

**FACEBOOK: [@MILWAUKEEFILM](https://www.facebook.com/milwaukeefilm) • TWITTER: [@MKEFILM](https://twitter.com/mkefilm)
INSTAGRAM: [@MKEFILM](https://www.instagram.com/mkefilm)**

CULTURES AND COMMUNITIES

Milwaukee Film's Cultures and Communities is a multicultural film programming and outreach initiative established in 2019 to expand Milwaukee Film's reach into traditionally overlooked sections of the city with a variety of year-round programming options.

Guided by principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, Cultures and Communities seeks to lift the voices of historically underrepresented groups, including those identified by race/ethnicity, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic or citizenship status.

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 dedicated to celebrating and honoring Black History Month. This year, we seek to go even further in engaging Milwaukee's richly diverse population by dedicating our February programming to films and events that inspire conversation, celebration, and community around Black History Month.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPONSORS

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HOW TO WATCH

Join us virtually throughout February to celebrate and elevate Black voices and experiences, as we honor Black History Month.

WHO CAN WATCH?

Whether you already have a pass, or you are planning to select one film at a time, you're a part of our 2021 Black History Month celebration. Please note that all films are available only to viewers within the U.S. Tickets and passes can be shared with members of the same household, but not beyond that.

WHEN TO WATCH

Most films will be available on demand throughout February, starting at 9 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 1. A couple of titles have special restrictions and will only be available for a short time. Those films are clearly marked in the film descriptions.

Passholders are free to watch available films on demand throughout the month. If you have a ticket and start watching your movie, you'll have 48 hours to complete it.

Black History Month programming ends at 11:59 p.m. CT on Sunday, Feb. 28, so matter when you start your film, it won't be available at midnight.

Virtual events will take place throughout the month - tune in on the Milwaukee Film YouTube or Facebook pages or the Black Lens Facebook page.

HOW TO WATCH

Watching Our Films Is Easy!

You can watch any film on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Or download our app and watch on your TV through:



If you don't have any of those platforms for your TV, but you do have a laptop and an HDMI cable, that's a reliable way to get our films on your TV.

Please note that our streaming platform, CineSend, may have restrictions on screen mirroring to protect our filmmakers' intellectual property. If you are planning to watch on a projector or similar device, you may run into those restrictions.

PASSES

A Black History Month pass gives you the chance to access all the films through our virtual platform!

If you have a pass, you will get instructions via email on how to set up your login details. Once you've downloaded the app of your choice, you can log in directly through the app. If you're not using an app, go to watch.mkefilm.org and log in there.

Price: \$24.99 (\$19.99 for Members)

TICKETS

Tickets to single films are available starting at 9 a.m. CT on Monday, Feb. 1 through mkefilm.org/bhm. Click on "FILMS" to view the full listings. Click "available now" on the film you want to see, then click the "purchase ticket" button. After you check out, click the "watch online" link from your email receipt, or use your voucher code to watch through one of our apps or at watch.mkefilm.org.

Price: \$3.99 (\$1.99 for Members)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEATURE FILMS

Black History Month 2021 includes more than 15 feature films and four shorts programs, with most films available to watch throughout the month. Limited run and special engagement films are marked.



BADDDDD SONIA SANCHEZ

USA | 2016 | 90 min | English

Sanchez's life unfolds in this captivating documentary about her contribution to the world of poetry, her singular place in the Black Arts Movement, and her leadership role in African American culture over the last half-century.

DIR BARBARA ATTIE, JANET GOLDWATER,
SABRINA SCHMIDT GORDON



BLACK BOYS

USA | 2020 | 95 min | English

Black Boys exposes the dehumanization of Black men and boys in America at the intersection of sports, education, and criminal justice in a nation still struggling to rectify its past. The film is a rare glimpse into the emotional landscape of Black males, illuminating their full humanity, vulnerability, and resilience.

DIR SONIA LOWMAN



CODED BIAS

USA | 2020 | 90 min | English

At the MIT Media Lab, researcher Joy Buolamwini discovered that facial recognition software could not detect her dark skin tone until she put on a white mask. Her experiments and research pointed out serious inefficiencies at some of the biggest technology companies around the globe.

DIR SHALINI KANTAYYA



DOPE IS DEATH

USA | 2020 | 78 min | English

With blight ravaging New York City in the 1970s, the Young Lords and Black Panthers fought for radical change in their communities. Through the leadership of Dr. Mutulu Shakur—Tupac Shakur's stepfather—these activists created the first acupuncture detoxification program in the United States.

DIR MIA DONOVAN

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEATURE FILMS



GROWING UP MILWAUKEE

(LIMITED RUN: FEB. 22 - 28)

USA | 2020 | 115 min | English

Behind every statistic is a story. Three inner-city youth growing up in Milwaukee struggle with the daily dilemma of growing up Black and avoiding becoming just another statistic.

DIR TYSHUN WARDLAW



(IN)VISIBLE PORTRAITS

(LIMITED RUN: FEB. 1 - 7)

USA | 2020 | 80 min | English

(In)Visible Portraits shatters the too-often invisible otherizing of Black women in America and reclaims the true narrative as told in their own words.

DIR OGE EGBUONU

FREE SCREENING



THE LOST TAPES: MALCOLM X

(ONE NIGHT ONLY: FEB. 21)

USA | 2018 | 51 min | English

FREE SCREENING

In 1959, a 33-year-old minister from the Nation of Islam gains notoriety with his fiery rhetoric and keen intellect. His name is Malcolm X. Presented entirely through his speeches, newscasts, and rarely seen archival footage, *The Lost Tapes: Malcolm X* tells the story of the man who willingly put his life at risk to bring change and equality to black America.

DIR TOM JENNINGS, DAVID TILLMAN



MAURICE HINES: BRING THEM BACK

(LIMITED RUN: FEB. 15 - 28)

USA | 2020 | 92 min | English

A portrait of the charismatic song-and-dance man from his tap-dancing childhood to his loving yet difficult relationship with superstar brother Gregory Hines. Ever battling the challenges of being a gay, Black man in showbiz, Maurice shares his story with humor and grace.

DIR JOHN CARLUCCIO

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEATURE FILMS



NATIONTIME

USA | 2020 | 92 min | English

William Greaves' long-lost film about the National Black Political Convention of 1972, when 10,000 Black politicians, activists, and artists went to Gary, Indiana, to forge a national unity platform in advance of the Republican and Democratic presidential conventions.

DIR WILLIAM GREAVES



OLYMPIA

USA | 2018 | 92 min | English

A struggling Chicago artist finds herself at a crossroads in life, overwhelmed by changes and needing to make a critical decision in her relationship.

DIR GREGORY DIXON



THE OUTSIDE STORY

USA | 2020 | 85 min | English

An introverted editor living a vertical life in his second-floor apartment, Charles is always on deadline and in a rut. When he locks himself out of his building, he's forced to go horizontal and confront the world he's been avoiding in search of a way back inside.



PIGEON KINGS

USA | 2020 | 81 min | English

A revealing exploration of a subculture of men in South Central L.A. who train pigeons for the competitive sport of avian acrobatics. A former champion mentors an up-and-comer, as they prepare for the World Cup.

DIR MILENA PASTREICH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEATURE FILMS



POWER TO HEAL: MEDICARE AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS REVOLUTION

USA | 2018 | 56 min | English

An hour-long documentary chronicling the historic civil rights struggle to desegregate American hospitals and secure equal and adequate access to healthcare for all Americans.

DIR CHARLES BURNETT

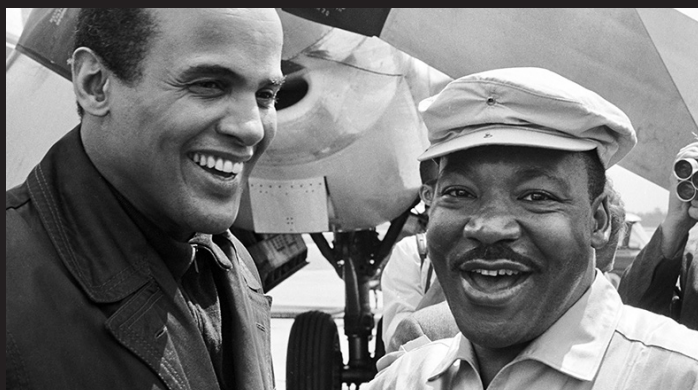


THE ROAD UP

USA | 2020 | 92 min | English

Jesse Teverbaugh is a charismatic leader at the job-training program where he mentors four Chicagoans during their precarious journey from homelessness, addiction, and incarceration to stable employment. *The Road Up* powerfully chronicles not only America's unforgiving economic and social structures, but also the essential role that community, connection, hope, and love play in overcoming adversity.

DIR GREG JACOBS, JON SISKEL



THE SIT-IN: HARRY BELAFONTE HOSTS THE TONIGHT SHOW

USA | 2020 | 75 min | English

For one week in February 1968, Johnny Carson gave up his chair to Harry Belafonte, the first time an African American had hosted a late-night TV show for a whole week.

DIR YORUBA RICHEN



SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE

USA | 2015 | 90 min | English

Four lovers find themselves caught in a tangle of intersecting relationships in this engaging, New York-set romantic drama that explores the ripple effects of love and obsession. Developed through a year-long improvisational process and alternating between three different perspectives, *Somewhere in the Middle* centers on a once-happy couple, whose marriage spirals into a series of emotionally messy affairs.

DIR LANRE OLABISI

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEATURE FILMS



SYLVIE'S LOVE

(ONE NIGHT ONLY: FEB. 13)

USA | 2020 | 114 min | English

When a young woman meets an aspiring saxophonist in her father's record shop in 1950s Harlem, their love ignites a sweeping romance that transcends changing times, geography, and professional success.

DIR EUGENE ASHE



THAT'S WILD

USA | 2020 | 62 min | English

An award-winning documentary that tells the inspiring journey of three underserved teenage boys from Atlanta who attempt to climb four 12,000-ft. snow-capped peaks in the heart of the Colorado wilderness.

DIR MICHEL THOMAS



UPROOTED: THE JOURNEY OF JAZZ DANCE

(LIMITED RUN: FEB. 15 – 21)

USA | 2020 | 95 min | English

The story of Jazz Dance is a complex one that goes, it goes to the very heart of humanity. This feature-length documentary on the lineage and future progressions of jazz dance aims to open up a conversation within the dance community to challenge established thoughts and bring to light opinions that may have been overlooked.

DIR KHADIFA WONG

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SHORT FILMS



SHORTS PROGRAM #1: EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND IDENTITY

Total running time: 68 minutes

AFRO

Jenn Shaw

After multiple encounters with a popular bully and a little academic inspiration, an African American teen finally stands up for herself against classmates that question her cultural identity.

BLACK UNSCRIPTED

Rachel Hardy

Narrated through the personal stories of five individuals, *Black Unscripted* delves into racial identity by exploring how a limited, stereotypical view of Blackness has scarred an entire community.

THE LOST ASTRONAUT

Ben Proudfoot

In 1963, Ed Dwight Jr. was poised to be NASA's first Black astronaut. Until suddenly he was not.

SANKOFA

Princess Garrett

Sankofa tells the story of mental slavery and its negative systemic impact on Black males across the world. The film explores the complexities and parallels between the United States and Ghana to illuminate the prevalence of mental slavery internationally.



SHORTS PROGRAM #2: BLACK LOVE AND JOY

Total running time: 68 minutes

WALI & ZURI

Derrick Woodyard

Wali, 13, attempts to make a new group of friends after being invited to play basketball. When his pesky younger sister Zuri, 10, forcibly tags along, he sacrifices their relationship to fit in and ultimately learns what is most important.

PILLARS

Haley Elizabeth Anderson

After seeing a boy she likes before church, Amber sneaks out to the Sunday school bathroom during the service and is given her first kiss.

TENDER

Felicia Pride

After an unexpected one-night stand, two women at very different stages of their lives share an even more intimate morning after.

SONNIE

Samuel Mirpoorian

Single father Deon "Sonnie" Casey, who has faced hardship, is determined to provide a better life for his son and finds strength and solace in competitive weightlifting.

JUNEBUG

Winter Dunn

A writer is inundated with memories as she struggles to tell the story of growing up with her dysfunctional musician father.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SHORT FILMS



SHORTS PROGRAM #3: BLACK ARTS AND CULTURE

Total running time: 69 minutes

LARRY FROM GARY

Dan Rybicky

A dedicated dance teacher continues inspiring his current and former students even after the arts high school in Gary, Indiana, where he's taught for decades is shut down by the state.

SWING MAN BLUES

Arielle C. Knight

Genre-bending pianist and establishment rebel Eric Lewis finds himself in a state of recollection as he meditates on his love affair with a temperamental mistress called Jazz. *Swing Man Blues* is one man's contemplative journey through sound, driven by the original compositions of this piano virtuoso.

A MILLION EYES

Richard Raymond

A gifted young photographer, grappling with his mother's alcoholism, sets out to capture something he loves with the help of a mentor.



SHORTS PROGRAM #4: HBCU STORYTELLERS: 400 YEARS LATER... 'FREE-ISH

Total running time: 94 minutes

400 Years Later... 'free-ish was created to raise awareness about the 400 Year Commemoration of the first Africans that arrived in the U.S. in 1619 and the continuing legacy of racial inequity that still exists today.

400 YEARS LATER 'FREE-ISH - PART I.
The Sankofa Journey

400 YEARS LATER 'FREE-ISH - PART II.
The Arrival

400 YEARS LATER 'FREE-ISH - PART III.
Confederate Monuments: Heritage or Hatred?

400 YEARS LATER 'FREE-ISH - PART IV.
Monuments That Heal

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EVENTS

We've centered each week of February around thematic panels and events to extend community discussion beyond the films. All events stream live through the Milwaukee Film YouTube and Facebook pages, and the Black Lens Facebook page.

BLACK EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND IDENTITY FEB. 1-7

An exploration of emotional health as it relates to modern racial, gender, and social identity.



CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS: HERITAGE OR HATRED?: A SHORT FILM SCREENING AND CONVERSATION

Tuesday, Feb. 2 • 7 p.m. screening / 7:25 p.m. conversation CT

Informed by the short film *Confederate Monuments: Heritage or Hatred?*, Milwaukee filmmaker Miela Fetaw (pictured) leads a discussion with members of the HBCU Storytellers, student activists, and confederate monument scholars.

Moderated by Miela Fetaw, documentary filmmaker (pictured)

Confederate Monuments: Heritage or Hatred?

USA / 2020 / 22 min / English

This student-made documentary highlights the controversies surrounding the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue that gained national attention after the Unite the Right Rally in 2017 that led to the tragic death of Heather Heyer.

DIR CHADWICK GOBAR



KIM I AM: A SHORT FILM SCREENING AND CONVERSATION FEATURING KIM HILL

Thursday, Feb. 4 • 7 p.m. screening / 7:20 p.m. conversation CT

Kimberly Hill (pictured) is an American soul musician, best known for her work with the hip hop group Black Eyed Peas. She was a rising singer when she met a young rapper named will.i.am. The rest is history — or is it? In the short documentary *Almost Famous: Kim I Am*, and ensuing conversation with Shannon Sims of TMJ4, Hill speaks about her experiences as a Black woman in the entertainment industry and her journey from disappointment to forgiveness and overcoming.

Almost Famous: Kim I Am

USA / 2020 / 13 min / English

Kim Hill was the vocalist for the emerging hip hop group The Black Eyed Peas. Until she quit.

DIR BEN PROUDFOOT

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EVENTS

BLACK LOVE AND JOY FEB. 8–14

Affirming Black Life And Amplifying Black Love beyond narratives of pain.



PLEASURE POLITICS: DESIRE, AGENCY, AND BLACK WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENTS WITH PLEASURE

Monday, Feb. 8 • 7 p.m. CT

Pioneering author Joan Morgan, Ph.D. (pictured), and feminist scholars Dr. Treva Lindsey and Dr. Shoniqua Roach interrogate persistent narratives about Black Female sexuality, intimacy, and joy.

Moderated by Dr. Shoniqua Roach, assistant professor of African and African American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University



GIRL DADS: DEFINING TENDER MASCULINITY

Wednesday, Feb. 10 • 6 p.m. CT

Informed by the "Black Love and Joy" short films program, United Way's Shannon Reed (pictured) leads a group of prominent local Black men in a discussion about fatherhood's joys and the importance of being positive examples, particularly for their daughters.

Moderated by Shannon Reed, director of Innovative Strategies for Boys and Men of Color, United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County



BLACK OXYGEN PODCAST LIVE: A BLACK WOMAN'S WORTH

Thursday, Feb. 11 • 7 p.m. CT

A place to breathe, connect, and restore by hearing and listening to Black folks in this shared journey of life, "Black Oxygen" is a podcast amplifying Black voices throughout Wisconsin. This special edition features host Angela Russell (pictured) and a diverse panel of Black women examining on-screen depictions of Black love and romance.

Hosted by Angela Russell, "Black Oxygen" Podcast

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EVENTS

STEM WEEK: DIVERSITY IN TECH FEB. 15 – 21

Elevating and inspiring diversity in science, technology, engineering, math, and entrepreneurship.



THE ROAD UP: REDUCING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT & ADVANCEMENT

Tuesday, Feb. 16 • 6:30 p.m. CT

A panel discussion about the challenges of workplace re-entry, this event is informed by the film *The Road Up* and inspired by the United Way initiative “Reducing Barriers to Employment & Advancement.”

Moderated by Dr. Robert Smith, (pictured)
professor of History and director of Center for Urban Research, Teaching, and Outreach,
Marquette University



STEM SYMPOSIUM: RACE BRIDGE - DIVERSITY IN STEM EXPERT DISCUSSION

Thursday, Feb. 18 • 2 p.m. CT

In partnership with FUEL Milwaukee’s Race Bridge webinar series, this panel includes experts across a diverse array of STEM fields discussing the evolution of STEM diversity and the impact on innovation, economic growth, and competition.

Moderated by Corry Joe Biddle, executive director, FUEL Milwaukee (pictured)



STEM SYMPOSIUM: CAPTIVATING YOUTH THROUGH STEM

Thursday, Feb. 18 • 4 p.m. CT

Founder of the North Carolina-based STEMedia, Dr. Nehemiah Mabry (pictured) is a structural engineer, educator, entrepreneur, and sought-after motivational speaker, whose workshops help high schools, universities, and businesses empower their emerging STEM professionals. Dr. Mabry’s workshop will engage students around the everyday wonders of science and technology, connecting these concepts to issues of equity and diversity.

Facilitated by Dr. Nehemiah Mabry, STEMedia



STEM SYMPOSIUM: DIVERSE DISRUPTORS LIVE PODCAST AND SHORT FILM SCREENING

Thursday, Feb. 18 • 6 p.m. CT

Following the screening of the short film *A Fresh Perspective*, Director of Digital Strategy and Innovation for 88Nine Radio Milwaukee, Tarik Moody (pictured), hosts a live edition of his “Diverse Disruptors” podcast, featuring a panel of tech entrepreneurs and innovators.

Hosted by Tarik Moody, director of Digital Strategy and Innovation,
88Nine Radio Milwaukee

A Fresh Perspective

USA | 2018 | 12 min | English

A group of African Americans create the nation’s first-ever Black beer festival, a historic event aiming to reshape the future of craft beer.

DIR AARON HOSÉ

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EVENTS

BLACK CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND POLITICS FEB. 22-28



THE TORTURE LETTERS: A SHORT FILM SCREENING AND CONVERSATION FEATURING DR. LAURENCE RALPH

Tuesday, Feb. 23 • 7 p.m. CT

Princeton University professor of anthropology Dr. Laurence Ralph (pictured) headlines a conversation about the physical and psychological toll of police brutality and gang violence on Black communities. Dr. Ralph authored the 2020 book *The Torture Letters: Reckoning with Police Violence* and developed the short film of the same name.

The Torture Letters

USA | 2020 | 13 min | English

From unjustified stops of Black teenagers to a device to torment people in custody, racist police brutality runs deep. *The Torture Letters* precedes a group discussion with Dr. Ralph.

DIR LAURENCE RALPH



BLACK BODIES, PUBLIC SPACES: THIS LAND SCREENING AND CONVERSATION

Wednesday, Feb. 24 • 7 p.m. screening / 7:15 p.m. conversation CT

Discrimination still systematically limits African Americans' right to movement. Runner and film subject Faith Briggs (pictured) headlines a discussion about her film *This Land* and what it means for Black people to move and gather freely, and in turn, participate fully in our democracy and our economy.

This Land

USA | 2020 | 10 min | English

A short film about land access told through a journey of inclusion and empowerment.

DIR WHIT HASSETT, CHELSEA JOLLY



NURTURING RESILIENCY IN OUR YOUTH; DISRUPTING THE PIPELINE

Thursday, Feb. 25 • 7 p.m. CT

Informed by the film *Growing Up Milwaukee*, this event brings together community advocates and public officials for an open discussion on Milwaukee's youth that challenges our community and legal system partners to disrupt the school to prison pipeline.

Moderated by Judge Brittany Grayson, Milwaukee Circuit Court (pictured)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH