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MILWAUKEE FILM ANNOUNCES DATES AND OPENING NIGHT FILM FOR 2022 CULTURES & COMMUNITIES FESTIVAL

The five-day cultural event features a robust selection of in-person screenings and virtual films, headlined by the new Rosa Parks documentary *The Rebellious Life Of Mrs. Rosa Parks*

MILWAUKEE, WI - Tuesday, July 19, 2022 - Milwaukee Film announced Tuesday its first group of film selections for the 2022 Cultures & Communities Festival, September 14-18. This year's festival will again offer a hybrid format, with more than 20 in-person screenings at the Oriental Theatre and a variety of titles available through its virtual platform.

Opening night film *The Rebellious Life Of Mrs. Rosa Parks* headlines the festival's in-person screenings. Directed by Milwaukee Film Festival alums Johanna Hamilton and Yoruba Richen and based on the acclaimed biography of the same name by Milwaukee native Dr. Jeanne Theoharis, the project is the first feature-length documentary to be released about the civil rights icon.

"Once the Tribeca Film Festival announced they were premiering the Rosa Parks documentary in June, my top priority was to book that film for our festival," said Milwaukee Film's Chief Innovation Officer, Geraud Blanks. "It was a big get for us, as we'll be one of only a few festivals to screen the film before its release later this year."

All-access hybrid film passes for the festival, which include in-person and virtual screenings, are currently available at mkefilm.org for an early bird rate of \$75 for Milwaukee Film members and \$100 for non-members. Passes increase to the regular price of \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members on August 16, when the full program schedule is announced, and individual tickets for in-person events and cinema screenings go on sale. No tickets will be sold for virtual screenings.

"This Festival is grounded in principles of equity and inclusion," said Blanks. "From the programming and pricing of the film passes to the location of events—many of them free—we worked hard this year to make the experience more accessible than ever."

Highlights from this year's in-person cinema lineup include:

- **Beyond Ed Buck**
(dir. Jayce Baron, Hailie Sahar | USA | 2022)
Starting from the tragic murders caused by white Democratic political donor Ed Buck, this film expands that lens to consider structural racism and transphobia within supposedly progressive queer communities.

- **Daughter of a Lost Bird**
 (dir. Brooke Swaney | USA | 2020)
 DAUGHTER OF A LOST BIRD follows Kendra, an adult Native adoptee, as she reconnects with her birth family, discovers her Lummi heritage, and confronts issues of her own identity.
- **Fly So Far**
 (dir. Celina Haydee Escher | Sweden/El Salvador | 2021)
 A grave warning of how far state control of women's bodies can go, FLY SO FAR follows Teodora Vásquez, who was sentenced to thirty years in a Salvadorean prison after she suffered a stillbirth.
- **Hayden & Her Family**
 (dir. May May Tchao | USA | 2020)
 HAYDEN & HER FAMILY follows the nuanced and intimate adoption journey of an American family raising seven biological children plus five special needs Asian orphans.
- **Liquor Store Dreams**
 (dir. So Yun Um | USA | 2022)
 LIQUOR STORE DREAMS is an intimate portrait of two Korean American children of liquor store owners who set out to bridge generational divides with their immigrant parents in Los Angeles.
- **New Jersey Drive**
 (dir. Nick Gomez | USA | 1995)
 From executive producer Spike Lee comes a thriller about a crew of car thieves who find their lives at risk when a police lieutenant becomes determined to take them down.
- **Marvelous and the Black Hole**
 (dir. Kate Tsang | USA | 2021)
 MARVELOUS AND THE BLACK HOLE follows Sammy as she befriends a surly magician (Rhea Perlman) who helps her navigate her inner demons and dysfunctional family with sleight of hand magic.
- **Sell/Buy/Date**
 (dir. Sarah Jones | USA | 2022)
 Comedian Sarah Jones reflects on her controversial one-woman show as she embarks on a journey to better understand sex work and her own personal relationship to it.
- **Sign o the Times**
 (dir. Prince | USA | 1987)
 This 35th anniversary 4K restoration captures a musical genius in his prime. Prince's performance of a lifetime is sure to get you out of your seat and dancing in the aisles.
- **The Exchange. In White America. Kaukauna & King 50 Years Later**
 (dir. Joanne Williams | USA | 2022)
 Milwaukee's Rufus King High School and Kaukauna High School participated in a 1966 exchange program culminating in a production of IN WHITE AMERICA. Now, over fifty years later, the original participants come together with a new generation.

- **The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks**

(dir. Johanna Hamilton, Yoruba Richen | USA | 2022)

The unexpected story of Parks and her life beyond the historic bus boycott, *The Rebellious Life*, reveals the intent behind her activism, her radical politics, and her courage.

- **Wandering: A Rohingya Tale**

(dir. Olivier Higgins, Mélanie Carrier | Canada | 2020)

In 2017, 700,000 people of the Rohingya Muslim minority fled Myanmar, escaping genocide. This immersive and poetic film brings us to the biggest refugee camp in the world, where Rohingya stayed before moving on to cities like Milwaukee.

The Cultures & Communities Festival is presented with widespread corporate and community support, including the following organizations: American Family Insurance, Associated Bank, Brewers Community Foundation, Inc., Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, City of Milwaukee Health Department, CUNA Mutual Group, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc., Milwaukee County Office of Equity, Morgan Stanley, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, Rogers Behavioral Health, United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County in partnership with ManpowerGroup and We Energies Foundation.

About 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.

About Cultures & Communities Festival

Established in 2019 as the Minority Health Film Festival, Cultures & Communities Festival is a five-day cultural event featuring groundbreaking films, distinguished speakers, and public forums highlighting the intersections of arts & culture, health & wellness, and equity & inclusion.

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