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MILWAUKEE FILM ANNOUNCES 2023 CULTURES & COMMUNITIES FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY THE MILWAUKEE BREWERS



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MILWAUKEE – Monday, September 11th, 2023 – Milwaukee Film has announced its entire line-up of the films and events coming to the [2023 Cultures & Communities Festival](#), presented by the Milwaukee Brewers.

The fifth annual Cultures & Communities Festival (CCF) will run October 5-12, 2023. Established by Milwaukee Film in 2019, this eight-day festival uses the power of storytelling to embrace cultural inclusivity, spark dialogue, and inspire attendees to celebrate their heritage and authentic selves. It will feature groundbreaking films, large-scale exhibitions, national and local performing artists, distinguished speakers, brands, and more.

The film line-up, featuring films such as the festival's Opening Night presentation of [The League](#), directed by Milwaukee Film multi-alum Sam Pollard, [Fancy Dance](#) (dir. Erica Tremblay), presented,

fittingly, on Indigenous People's Day, and the documentary [Lady Buds](#) (dir Chris Russo) offers a tightly curated range of thirteen conversation-starting film programs selected collaboratively by Milwaukee Film's programming staff that explore various identities and cultural practices as well as issues which matter to intersectional communities in Milwaukee and beyond.

"This film line-up is small but mighty," noted Cara Ogburn, artistic director at Milwaukee Film. "Within it are several of our faves from festivals earlier in the year, films from new voices we've recently fallen in love with – [Hummingbirds](#), as a standout for me – and new films from filmmakers our audiences already know well, like Sam Pollard and Lisa Cortés who will be back after just having visited in April with new docs" she continued.

In addition to films, the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival will present more than 40 local events throughout Milwaukee, kicking off with an [Opening Night Party](#) on October 5th, hosted by DJ Spinderella from the iconic trio Salt-N-Pepa in tribute to celebrating over 50 years of Hip-Hop. Acclaimed headlining acts include actress and comedian [Janelle James](#) of *Abbott Elementary* at the Pabst and HBO comedian [Aida Rodriguez at Milwaukee Improv](#).

The week will end with a [Closing Night Party](#) featuring the genre-demolishing band Gangstagrass and local music legends, Shonn Hinton & Shotgun.

Highly anticipated community events such as [Poetry Unplugged](#), celebrating two decades of Milwaukee's longest-running open mic experience and spoken word collective, [The 7th Annual Battle of the Chefs](#) and [Culture By Design: A Sneaker & Streetwear Summit](#) and multifaceted expo featuring prominent designers from around the nation, pop-up exhibitions, immersive mixed-media displays, and so much more will provide audiences from all ages and backgrounds a wide array of entertainment to choose from!

"I have been trying to book a premier comedy show since we started this festival, and this year we've got two," said Geraud Blanks, Chief Innovation Officer for Milwaukee Film. "We've got a legendary Hip-Hop DJ, multiple culinary events, and one of the largest sneaker expos in the Midwest. We've got it all!"

Bringing this festival to life was made possible with strong community support and sponsorships from Associated Bank, Athena Communications, Baird, Brewers Community Foundation, CBS 58, The Culture Plug, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin and Metropolitan Chicago, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, HGA, HYFIN Radio, Institute for Women's Leadership at Marquette University, Kohl's, Marquette Civic Dialogues, Jammin 98.3 FM, Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services, Milwaukee County Office of Equity, Milwaukee Magazine, Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee Public Radio, Molson Coors, Cory & Michelle Nettles, OnMilwaukee, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Potawatomi Casino Hotel, Shepherd Express, SoleSafe, Stamm Technologies, Telemundo Wisconsin, TEMPO, We Energies Foundation, Westtown Association, WISN 12 News, WMSE 91.7 FM, WNOV 860am/106.5 fm "The Voice", WUWM 89.7 – Milwaukee's NPR, Laurie & Byron Vielehr, VISIT Milwaukee, and the Zilber Family Foundation.

The full lineup of events and films is available at mkefilm.org/ccf and is also available via PDF format [here](#).

[A Preview Party](#) will be held on September 14th at the Oriental Theatre for the press and the public. Get a taste of our upcoming festival! Enjoy FREE soda and popcorn and a preview of the films, events, and special guests coming to CCF23, including early access to Festival merchandise, and fun Festival giveaways. Find out how you can help us spread the word with your networks before October 5th. No RSVP is required. Just bring your friends for a good time.

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2023 CULTURES & COMMUNITIES FESTIVAL

About The Cultures & Communities Festival

Guided by principles of cultural inclusivity, The 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival, October 5th - 12th, is an eight-day convergence of groundbreaking films, distinguished speakers, and public forums designed to amplify diverse cultural expressions and celebrate community, convening multicultural, intergenerational audiences across southeastern Wisconsin through engaging events and compelling public conversations.

Offering a wide range of artistic and cultural experiences that promote collective expressions of joy, Cultures & Communities provides access to curated social spaces and platforms that support inclusive artistic and cultural creativity. Festival programming is then informed by the simple notion that when people feel a sense of belonging, they actively dismantle entrenched barriers that prohibit authentic interaction.

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.

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PRESS RESOURCES

- **Press Preview Night:** Join Milwaukee Film Thurs. September 14th for an exclusive Preview Party to learn more about the incredible films, talent, events, and more coming to this year's CCF! Following the presentation, which is also open to the public, attendees can meet one-on-one with Festival Programmers, special guests, and MKE Film staff to connect directly on planning stories and coverage to engage your audience. Please help us spread the word by inviting your peers who may be interested. RSVP is not required. [Learn more here](#).
- **Festival toolkit:** Access web, social, video, photography, sample messaging, and more [here](#) to aid you in engaging your audience around this unique festival.
- **Filmmaker and Guest Interviews:** A complete list of scheduled special guests will soon be included in a press release. To request an interview in advance, please email press@mkefilm.org.