



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robyn Ehrlich
Marketing Coordinator
robyn@mkefilm.org

**DJ Spinderella of Salt-N-Pepa and filmmakers of legendary
baseball documentary THE LEAGUE to attend Opening Night of the
2023 Cultures & Communities Festival**

Opening night is Thursday, October 5



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MILWAUKEE – October 3, 2023 – Milwaukee Film's [2023 Cultures & Communities Festival](#) (CCF) kicks off on Thursday, October 5, with a special screening of the documentary film *The League* and an Opening Night Party hosted by DJ Spinderella of the legendary hip-hop group Salt-N-Pepa.

Following the arc of race history in the United States, [The League](#), directed by acclaimed filmmaker and Milwaukee Film Festival alum Sam Pollard, celebrates the dynamic journey of Negro League baseball's triumphs and challenges through the first half of the twentieth century while grappling with America's arduous march toward equality. The story is told through previously unearthed archival footage and never-before-seen interviews with legendary players like Satchel Paige and Buck O'Neil – whose early

careers paved the way for the Jackie Robinson era – as well as celebrated Hall of Famers Willie Mays and Hank Aaron who started out in the Negro Leagues. "Both the history and the filmmaking here are extraordinary," raves top NPR critic Tim Cogshell.

[The screening starts at 7:00 PM](#) at the historic Oriental Theatre in the grand Abele Cinema. Milwaukee Film is honored to welcome two of the film's producers - Byron Motley and Josh Green, a Milwaukee native, for a live post-screening conversation with the audience.

"As a Milwaukee native born immediately following the historic home run by Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves and formerly of the Negro League team, the Indianapolis Clowns, I have tremendous personal pleasure in sharing our film with the local community, and it's an honor to be presented through CCF," Green shares. "As a fan of baseball and history, *The League* is a very important film on a part of history that has never been explored with any depth and accuracy. We finally aim to set the record straight about how important the Negro Baseball Leagues were to baseball, civil rights, Black and American history, and we meet and demystify many legends who've changed our culture forever, known and unknown."

Doors for CCF's [Opening Night Party](#) open at 8:00 PM at the Cooperage (822 S Water Street). Renowned for her role as one-third of the iconic hip-hop trio Salt-N-Pepa, [DJ Spinderella will headline](#) a stellar lineup of DJs paying tribute to the 50th anniversary of hip-hop featuring Doc B, Homer Blow, and Lo Lo, taking attendees on a journey through the 80s, 90s, and 2000s. Local legends Dame Ellzey and Element Everest-Blanks will host the party, which promises to be spectacular!

The atmosphere will be electrifying as these talented DJs spin the most iconic tracks from these decades, creating a nostalgic and energetic experience for everyone. Tickets are \$25 online and \$30 at the door. This party is a 21+-only event.

Support for the Opening Night film and party comes from the Brewers Community Foundation, with additional Opening Night Party support from the American Leadership Alliance Milwaukee (AALAM).

Tickets and information are available at mkefilm.org/ccf.

All in-person screenings take place at the Oriental Theatre unless otherwise noted.

PRICES:

\$12 .. Cinema Screening, General Public

\$10 .. Cinema Screening, Senior

\$9 Cinema Screening, Milwaukee Film Member

\$6 .. Cinema Screening, Child (12 & Under)

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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. The 16th annual Milwaukee Film Festival will be held April 11 - 25, 2024. For more information or to become a Member, visit mkefilm.org.

Milwaukee Film Board of Directors: mkefilm.org/board

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