



# BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE

## April 2023 Newsletter

[Click here to see previous newsletters.](#)

**IU Day 2023 is April 19th!**



Join us virtually on our social media pages, as we participate in the IU Day celebration! The Black Film Center & Archive is the go-to resource of Black film experiences and memories, and you can support our programs and research outreach by clicking the link below and making a donation today! #IUday

[Donate Now - https://give.myiu.org/iu-bloomington/I320001569.html](https://give.myiu.org/iu-bloomington/I320001569.html)

---

## Justin Williams' Event & Visit to the BFCA

### The Archive Is (A)Live: Preserving and Sharing Memories with the South Side Home Movie Project



(BFCA Interim Director, Rachael Stoeltje, and Justin Williams)

Justin Williams is the Project Manager and Archivist at the University of Chicago's South Side Home Movie Project (SSHMP). At this talk, they introduced new interactive features on the South Side Home Movie Project's recently redesigned website ([www.sshmp.uchicago.edu](http://www.sshmp.uchicago.edu)) that allow users to create and share "community tags" and "memories." These features allow users of all kinds to immerse themselves directly in descriptive practices as full partners. Williams presented on the collaborative design process that led to the development of these features and the SSHMP's innovative programming approach.



(Justin Williams reviewing materials from our collections, during his tour of the BFC.)



(BFC Archivist, Amber Bertin & Justin Williams)



SSHMP is a community-engaged initiative to collect, preserve, digitize, research, and exhibit small-gauge home movies made by residents of Chicago's South Side neighborhoods. To date, SSHMP has served over 35 families and preserved more than 700 films shot between the mid-1930s and the mid-1980s. This time period overlaps with the growth of Chicago's African American communities fueled by the Great Migration. This racial demographic shift is evident in the first-hand accounts of family and community life, social and cultural events, and historic moments depicted within SSHMP's collections.



(BFCA and Archives of African American Music and Culture Staff, with Justin Williams)



(Justin Willaims - The Archive is (A)Live: Preserving and Sharing Memories with the South Side Home Movie Project presentation and Q&A)

Unique in its focus on home movies from this region, SSHMP aims to build an alternative, accessible visual record, filling gaps in existing written and visual histories. The project brings materials that are typically kept in private collections into public light and discussion. By asking home movie donors to share their footage, describe it from their personal perspectives, and allow it be creatively reused in novel ways, SSHMP hopes to transmit the cultural heritage of Chicago's South Side and ensure it reaches new audiences and will be available to future generations.



(BFCA Finance & Office Administrator, Ja Quita Joy Roberts, Justin Williams, & BFCA Archival Assistant to BFCA Director, Essence London)



## The Archive is (A)Live: Preserving and Sharing Memories with the South Side Home Movie Project

**Justin Williams**  
Project Manager and Archivist  
South Side Home Movie Project

**April 4th, 3:00pm**  
**Black Film Center & Archive,**  
**Phyllis Klotman Classroom, Wells Library 044B**





## Carmen Jones Film Screening on April 4th



(Spanish-language poster of Carmen Jones (1954) from the BFCA's General Collection)

In partnership with the local chapter of NAACP and the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center (NMBCC), we hosted a public screening of Carmen Jones (1954) in the IU Libraries Moving Image Archive screening room. The film features an all-Black cast starring Harry Belafonte, Dorothy Dandridge, and Pearl Bailey. Set to the music of Georges Bizet's famous opera Carmen, it changes the setting from a cigarette factory in bull-fighting obsessed Spain to a World War II American parachute factory. Oscar Hammerstein II wrote new lyrics, but the murderous love triangle remains.

The screening was followed by a panel with former BFCA Director Dr. Audrey McCluskey and Director of the NMBCC, Dr. Gloria Howell.



(Dr. Gloria Howell & Dr. Audrey McCluskey)

---

## Black Filmmaker Interviews

The Black Film Center & Archive holds hundreds of rare interview recordings documenting the stories of Black film artists. In our ongoing monthly series, "The Black Film Center & Archive Presents: Black Filmmaker Interviews," we will widely publish one previously-unreleased interview from our collections.

The series continues with a conversation with filmmaker Regina Kimbell, recorded February 5, 2008 with then-BFCA archivist Mary Huelsbeck.

[https://media.dlib.indiana.edu/media\\_objects/9z903m479](https://media.dlib.indiana.edu/media_objects/9z903m479)

---





(Regina Kimbell)

Regina Kimbell is an award-winning filmmaker, cinematographer, and photographer. Growing up in Indianapolis, Ms. Kimbell earned her B.A. from Indiana University, Bloomington and worked as a fashion photographer in California before graduating from the film program at Los Angeles City College. A true independent filmmaking voice, Ms. Kimbell worked for years (with co-director Jay Bluemke) on her first feature-length documentary, *My Nappy Roots: A Journey Through Black Hair-itage* (2006), exploring the politics and cultural history of African American hair and beauty standards. Her experience with the film led her to found the nonprofit Nappywood, which has produced various lifestyle exposition events since 2013, including a multi-media exhibit in 2020 on the history of Black women hairstyles at the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

---

## Kyra Knox visits the BFCA



(Essence London and Kyra Knox)

The Black Film Center & Archive has launched an outreach campaign focused on filmmakers, no matter where they are in the world, introducing the BFCA as a home for them as well as for their work. Among the filmmakers excited to connect is Philadelphia native Kyra Knox. She made time out of her busy production schedule to stop by for an in-person visit!



(Kyra Knox reviewing collections materials, with Essence London and Dan Hassoun.)

Knox viewed archival materials on display, including Lena Horne's graphite handprint for the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame and a letter from Spike Lee to our Founding Director Dr. Phyllis Klotman. She also sat down with us to share the experience of making her first feature documentary *[Bad Things Happen in Philadelphia](#)*, scheduled for release this summer. We look forward to Knox's next visit and to all that unfolds with her promising career.





(Rachael Stoeltje, Amber Bertin, and Dan Hassoun show some of the collections materials to Kyra Knox in our on-site vault.)

---

## Johanna Tesfaye "*Performing Memory Through the Archive*" event



(Courtesy photo provided by Johanna Tesfaye - Screenshot of  
"How Those Who Were Sent Away Wept and Made a Plan.)

In a talk on March 29th, Johanna Tesfaye drew connections from the academic and creative work of queer Black filmmakers, artists, and scholars to her own creative and memory practices. As she shared a trajectory of past projects, she encouraged the audience to challenge temporal conceptualization of archives. She also screened an exclusive clip of her work-in-progress *How Those Who Were Sent Away Wept and Made a Plan*.



(Johanna Tesfaye event)

Johanna Tesfaye is an artist, researcher, and therapist. Her creative and academic work utilizes film, sound media, art exhibition work, historical documents, and fiction/non-fiction text to synthesize historical narratives focused on Black temporal realities that interrogate the archive, re-imagining and documenting a cosmos of work, thought, and life in pursuit of alterity.

The Black Film Center & Archive co-sponsored this event which is one of many within IU Cinema's semester-long program Forever Queer: Community, Memory, Survival.

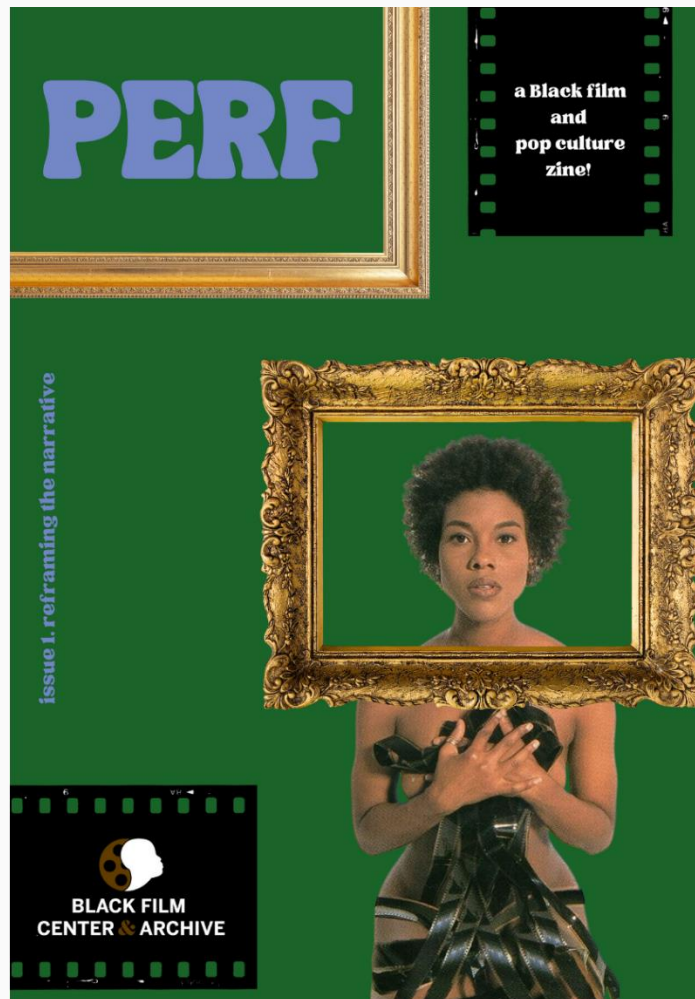




(Courtesy photo provided by Johanna Tesfaye - Screenshot of  
"How Those Who Were Sent Away Wept and Made a Plan.)

---

## A new adventure: The Black Film Center & Archive ZINE!!



(Front cover of March 2023's Zine)

Archival Assistants Eva Stuart and Essence London are spearheading the publication of Perf, a new zine project designed to increase BFCA visibility and to inspire engagement with the rich tradition of Black film. Zines are mini magazines that have historically combined radical-leaning literature with a do-it-yourself (DIY) aesthetic. The title Perf references internet slang for the word "perfect" as well as the perforations in motion picture stock. We envision the contents including everything from Black film history to glimpses into the film preservation process, and more. Issue #1 focuses on reframing the often dismissive mainstream view of Black film in higher education and encourages readers to go beyond restrictive curriculums and educate themselves through community events and the BFCA's resources. There's also a filmmaker spotlight on Bridgett Davis, who was gifted the very first copy of the zine during her recent visit!



(Eva Stuart and Essence London, BFCA Archival Assistants)

“I’ve made zines with friends in the past and noticed increasing numbers of DIY zines in the IU music and art scenes, and as Generation Z continues to mimic and worship vintage aesthetics, I thought it could be an effective way to reach undergrad students. I wanted to connect film students with the invaluable resources we have at the BFCA, as well as bring visibility to Black film in our community.” - Eva

The first issue of Perf can be found at numerous locations around campus and Bloomington, but the BFCA office remains the best place to pick up your copy. The second issue is set to be published in early April and will focus on home movies and personal film preservation.



(Eva Stuart and Essence London, BFCA Archival Assistants)

---

## Media Reserves Screenings

In collaboration with IU Media Services, once a month, films from the Black Film Center & Archive’s collections will be shown on the large screen in Media Services’ public area, conveniently located right outside our main entrance on the ground

---



floor of the Wells Library. Stop by Media Services on Friday, April 21st, to see titles from the BFCA's collections!

## NOW SHOWING:

*A Selection of Films from the  
Black Film Center & Archive's Collections*



**BLACK FILM  
CENTER & ARCHIVE**



## Social Media Highlights

### Tim Story



March 13 marked the birthday of filmmaker Tim Story (born 1970)! Co-founder of The Story Company with wife Vicky Mara Story, Mr. Story is one of Hollywood's most financially successful Black directors, helming popular hits like *Barbershop* (2002), the *Fantastic Four* series (2005-2007), the *Think Like a Man* series (2012-2014), and the *Ride Along* series (2014-2016).

Prior to his industry breakthrough, Mr. Story's first feature *One of Us Tripped* (1997) won best feature at the Black Filmmaker Hall of Fame's (BFHF) annual film competition. The Black Film Center & Archive retains a work-in-progress cut of Mr. Story's film *The Firing Squad*, which he submitted to the BFHF in 1997.





(Screenshots from The Firing Squad from the Mary Perry Smith Collection; headshot of Mr. Story from the Collins Jackson Agency)

---

## **Al Freeman Jr.**



On March 21, we recognized the birthday of stage/screen actor and educator Al Freeman Jr. (1934-2012)! A Broadway star for much of the 1960s, Mr. Freeman earned more mainstream success on screen starring in Anthony Harvey's searing race drama *Dutchman* (1967), acting opposite Frank Sinatra in *The Detective* (1968) and Burt Lancaster in *Castle Keep* (1969), and securing a Daytime Emmy for his role as Captain Ed Hall in the soap series *One Life to Live* from 1972-1988. Mr. Freeman dedicated much of his later career to teaching and chairing at Howard University's Theatre Arts department, though Spike Lee convinced him to return to the screen playing Elijah Muhammad in the 1992 biopic of *Malcolm X*.



A friend of the Black Film Center & Archive, Mr. Freeman met with our founder Phyllis Klotman at Howard University in 1992.



Copyright © 1968, Columbia Pictures.  
All Rights Reserved. Permission  
granted for Newspaper and Magazine  
reproduction. TWENTY IN U.S.A.

COLUMBIA PICTURES in Association With FILMWAYS Presents **BURT LANCASTER** in MARTIN RANSOFF'S PRODUCTION **CASTLE KEEP**  
Co-starring **PATRICK O'NEAL** · **JEAN-PIERRE AUMONT** · **SCOTT WILSON** · **TONY BILL** · **ASTRID HEEREN** and **PETER FALK**  
Music by **MICHEL LEGRAND** · Screenplay by **DANIEL TARRASH** and **DAVID RAYFEL** · Based upon the novel by **WILLIAM EASTLAK**  
Directed by **SYDNEY POLLACK** · Produced by **MARTIN RANSOFF** and **JOHN CALLEY** · PANAVISION · TECHNICOLOR



(Photo of Freeman with Phyllis Klotman from the Black Film Center & Archive's General Collection; publicity stills from The Detective and Castle Keep from the African American Contributions to Film Collection)

## Mya Taylor



On March 28, we wished happy birthday to actress Mya Taylor (born 1991)! After several years working on the margins as a sex worker in California, Ms. Taylor was recruited by director Sean Baker to star in *Tangerine* (2015) alongside her real-life roommate Kitana Kiki Rodriguez. Ms. Taylor's fierce, funny, and loosely autobiographical performance as Alexandra was hailed as one of the best of the year, making her the first openly transgender actor to win a Gotham Award and Independent Spirit Award. Since her breakthrough role, Taylor has appeared as gay liberation icon Marsha P. Johnson in *Tourmaline* and Sasha Wortzel's short *Happy Birthday, Marsha!* (2016), as well as roles in the AMC series *Dietland* (2018) and film *Stage Mother* (2020). Frustrated at the lack of opportunities offered in Hollywood, Ms. Taylor obtained a nursing degree and, as of 2022, was working at a nursing home in North Dakota.



(Screenshot from *Tangerine* from the Black Film Center & Archive General Collection; Gotham Awards image by Kevork Djansezian via Getty)

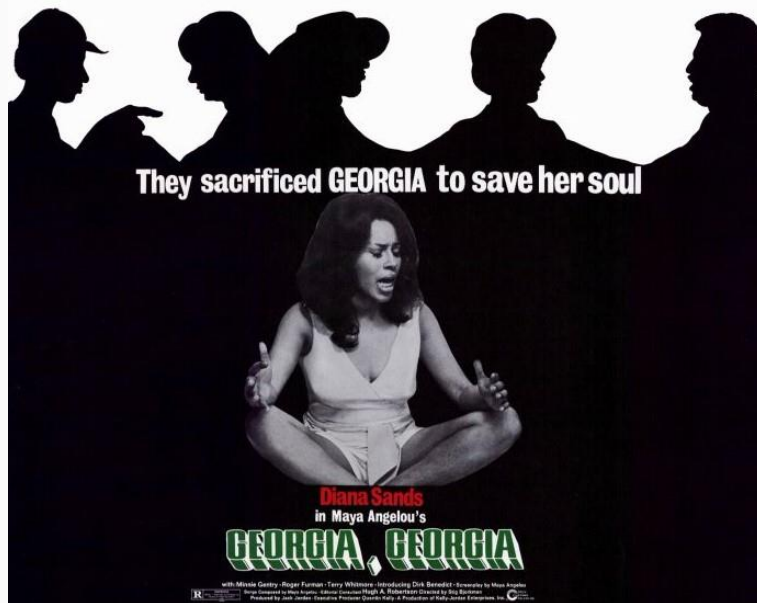
---



## Maya Angelou



April 4 was the birthday of legendary activist, poet, and memoirist Maya Angelou (1928-2014)! In addition to her landmark legacy in the written word, Dr. Angelou also made frequent contributions to film and TV, from guest appearances on Sesame Street, to narrating M.K. Asante's Kwanzaa documentary *The Black Candle* (2008), to small acting roles in John Singleton's *Poetic Justice* (1993). Her screenplay for *Georgia, Georgia* (1972) was the earliest produced film written by a Black woman, and she achieved her lifelong goal of directing a feature film with *Down in the Delta* (1998).





(Screenshot of Angelou in Poetic Justice, poster for Georgia, Georgia, and photo of Angelou with Black Film Center & Archive founder Phyllis Klotman from the BFCA General Collection)

---

## In Memoriam

### **Lance Reddick**

The Black Film Center & Archive remembers the life and career of veteran character actor Lance Reddick (1962-2023), who passed on March 17 at age 60. A performer of unique power and poise, Reddick lent his gravitas to productions both large and small, from the John Wick franchise (2014-2023) to Rodney Evans's *Brother to Brother* (2004) and Nia DaCosta's *Little Woods* (2018). Among his dozens of TV roles, admirers will remember his unforgettable turn as Lt. Cedric Daniels in every episode of *The Wire* (2002-2008). Our condolences to his loved ones.



(Headshot by Jeff Vespa via WireImage)

---

## **Matterport Scan - We've Gone 3D!**

Can't physically visit our office? How about a virtual visit instead? The BFCAs office on IU Bloomington's campus was recently given a Matterport 3D scan courtesy of the Indiana University IU3D Team. Check out this unique interactive virtual tour, featuring our space, amenities, and several featured items from our archival collections, such as the item pictured below! (Simplex 35mm Projector donated by Jon and Jennifer Vickers from the Vickers Theatre and the collection of Kenneth Marks).

**Click the link below and then the play button in the bottom left corner for an automated tour or click around and explore the space at your leisure.**

**<https://bfca.indiana.edu/about/virtual-tour.html>**



For more information about the BFCA, please visit our website [www.bfca.indiana.edu](http://www.bfca.indiana.edu). To subscribe to our blog, please visit our blog page <https://blogs.iu.edu/bfca/> and click on “Subscribe” in the bottom right of the screen. [Please consider ways to give](#), to continue our efforts and supporting our [mission](#). We sincerely thank you all for your support. We would not be able to complete all of our wonderful programs and awesome events, without your help.

Warmest regards,  
BFCA Interim Director and Staff



THE MEDIA SCHOOL  
**BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE**  
Indiana University Bloomington

*Copyright © 2008 Black Film Center & Archive, All rights reserved.*

Phone: 812.855.6041 | Fax: 812.856.5832 | [bfca@indiana.edu](mailto:bfca@indiana.edu)  
Wells Library, Room 044, 1320 East Tenth Street, Bloomington, IN. 47405