

2009 Women's Spotlight™ HOSTED BY

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN CINEMA

New York, NY (December 15, 2008) - Since the inception of the TOMI Film Festival, women filmmakers have been encouraged to submit their work for competition to our 'Women's Spotlight' category mainly because women behind the camera are a dying breed causing few materials to get a 'green light' for production.

At TOMI Film Festival our duty to women filmmakers began with the 2008 NOLA hosted festival winner **Chyna Layne** starring in films such as **Life Support**, **Cadillac Records** and **Lee Daniels Push** as well as her co-produced film 'A Deeper Love'.

Beginning in 2009, the Women's Spotlight will be more than just a category for submissions as works from women filmmakers will be featured followed by Q&A from women cast members, directors and/or filmmakers hosted by African American Women In Cinema, a staple in the film festival industry.

"African American Women In Cinema is very delighted to participate in the TOMI Film Festival, 2009 Women's Spotlight and strongly support the mission. We look forward to a wonderful and powerful event as we make history together, states **Terra Renee, President'**

In the tradition of TOMI Film Festival, Women's Spotlight permits a broader viewing opportunity as our festival travels across the country annually during the NBA All Star weekend offering the filmmakers the opportunity to reach many interested patrons from all parts of the world at once.

About African American Women In Cinema

African American Women In Cinema is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support minority women filmmakers by providing resources in the film industry. Incorporated by the Organization's President, Terra Renee, in 2000, the objective of AAWIC is to improve cultural understanding and overall social welfare through the promotion of diversity in all filmed content in both dramatic and documentary formats. www.aawic.org

About TOMI Film Festival

TOMI Film Festival™ was founded in 2007 in an effort to build relationships between the filmmaker and the business of entertainment. Our mission is to supply the filmmaker with not just a financial means of celebratory satisfaction but a more structured business that will incorporate a multitude of actual on-hands work; an investment that will take the filmmaker to new levels of success and achievement. TOMI Film Festival is headquartered in New York. www.tomifilmfestival.org

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342 BROADWAY, STE. 426
NEW YORK, NY 10013
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2009 TOMI FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

2009 HOST CITY PHOENIX, ARIZONA

DIRTY GIRL (5 MIN 31 SEC) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT)

Filmmaker: Jennifer Clary

Synopsis: Chronicles cancer surgery from a female patient's perspective. Frightened and anxious, the woman's mind wanders as she imagines the battle between her dirty, cancerous tumors and the surgeon.

FUELED (17 MIN 17 SEC) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE

Director: Larry Abdullah II

Cast: Ajibike Adekoya, Tansy Alexander, Rachael Day, Dylan de Mott, John Gearries, Roy Halo, Taylor Hart, Steve Nagel, Alexander Roman, Kristin Slaysman, Gibril Stretch and Jeff Woertink.

Synopsis: Suspense thriller; a lighter which becomes the common thread tying together multiple characters experiences within a dark traumatic period of their present day in Los Angeles, CA. The story comes to a climactic ending when the energy driven narrative comes back around full circle.

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LIGHT YEARS (33 MIN) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN’S SPOTLIGHT)

Director: Steve Nesbit

Producer: Eve Hawking

Cast: Tiegan Delim, Steve Nesbit, Li-Leng Au, Hayden Bauzon, Johnny Melville, Wayne Russell, James Sutherland, Dino Robinson, Logan Wong and Kyte

Synopsis: Isolated by the world around her, Ziyi believes that she is an Alien and that the Cheung family is not her real family but looking after her ‘in loco parentis’. Ziyi’s quest is to build a time machine to locate and be reunited with her real family.

BECOMING MICHAEL (11 MIN 40 SEC) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE

Director: Larry Abdullah II

Producer: Jenn Rindler

Cast: Justin Ruff, Dina Davis, David G. Brown, Lamar Battle, Jordan Chambers, Heather Ashley, Patrick Faresa, Carmine Gandia, Omowale Akintunde, Eric Harvey, Farida Okiko

Synopsis: A young adult lives in suburban Los Angeles, CA. He goes through multiple trials and tribulations until one day he finally confronts his problems.

JAZZ BRIDGES: MUSIC WITHOUT FRONTIERS (30 MIN) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE

Director: Nadeem Kazmi

Synopsis: A unique cultural event occurred in London in 2007: American and European Jazz exponents came together with Afghan musicians who were previously banned from playing music under the Taliban to create a rare musical fusion, bridging two very different cultures.

I WANT YOU (14 MIN) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN’S SPOTLIGHT)

Filmmaker: Nefertite Nguvu

Synopsis: A stylized shot that charts the emotional compass of young love, when two New Yorkers meet and fall hard for one another.

THE CALL (25 MIN) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN’S SPOTLIGHT)

Filmmaker: Princess Monique

Synopsis: A dramatic piece that charts the journey of a woman awaiting the outcome of a phone call, while revisiting her relationship with the two men that define her past and her future.

STONE MANSION (20 MIN) - PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN’S SPOTLIGHT)

Filmmaker: JJ Goldberger

Synopsis: Set in “Little Africa”, the “Black Wall Street District” of Tulsa, Oklahoma on the eve of the 1921 race riot, Stone Mansion tells the story of a prominent black doctor and his wife.

MARDI GRAS (24 MIN) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN’S SPOTLIGHT)

Filmmaker: Pharah Jean-Philip

Synopsis: A touching tribute from a young woman as she learns about life from a dearly departed aunt.

BENJAMIN (22 MIN) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN’S SPOTLIGHT)

Filmmaker: Tracie Nickerson

Synopsis: At the end of his rope and full of despair a homeless man receives a gift that inevitably becomes more trouble than what it is worth.

NICE & ROUGH (4 MIN 30 SEC) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN’S SPOTLIGHT)

Producer/Director: Sheila Hardy

Synopsis: A celebration of the women who put the soul in rock and roll. Megastar Tina Turner, Nona Hendryx, Joyce Kennedy, Betty Davis and their successors showcase their ageless beauty and blow us away with electrifying performances and straight talk about their passion for rock and how they defy America’s perception of black women and of rock music as a white male genre. This film honors the true spirit of the American dream, which is freedom to pursue our goals and not be limited by race or gender.

ALL ABOUT US (90 MIN) – PHOENIX ARIZONA PREMIERE (WOMEN’S SPOTLIGHT)

Director: Christine Swanson

Cast: Boris Kodjoe, Sy Richardson, Andre Royo, Academy Award nominee Ruby Dee, Latanya Richardson Jackson, Raven Goodwin and special appearance by Academy Award winner Morgan Freeman.

Synopsis: An inspirational and refreshing romantic drama inspired by a true story. When a filmmaking couple hits a brick wall in Hollywood, they set off to Mississippi to find Morgan Freeman and persuade him to star in their next movie. When life gets in their way, the couple soon discovers what matters to them most.

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2009 TOMI FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL WINNERS

2009 HOST CITY PHOENIX, ARIZONA

2009 TOMI FILM FESTIVAL

BEST SHORT FUELED

Director: Larry Abdullah II

2009 TOMI FILM FESTIVAL

WOMENS SPOTLIGHT LIGHT YEARS

Director: Steve Nesbit

Producer: Eve Hawking

2009 TOMI FILM FESTIVAL –

‘ONE TO WATCH’ TIEGAN DELIM

Starring in LIGHT YEARS

Director: Steve Nesbit

Producer: Eve Hawking

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