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WHO ARE YOU?

THE 15TH ANNUAL THE PEOPLE'S FILM FESTIVAL

TPFF ANNOUNCES ITS 2026 LINEUP

The People's Film Festival returns for its milestone 15th year, bringing powerful storytelling, culture, innovation, and community to the heart of Harlem.

NEW YORK, NY — May 15, 2026 — The People's Film Festival (TPFF), presented by The People's Media Music & Arts Foundation, proudly announces the official lineup for the **15th Annual People's Film Festival**, taking place **May 28–31, 2026** in Harlem at AMC Magic Johnson Harlem Theater and Maysles Cinema. This year's festival theme, **"Who Are You?"**, explores identity, self-acceptance, truth, and transformation through cinema and storytelling. The four-day celebration will feature more than 50 films from around the world, along with panel discussions, masterclasses, workshops, tech talks, networking events, and afterparties.

A central highlight of the festival will be the honoring of **award-winning comedian, actress, and author Tiffany Haddish and her nonprofit organization She Ready Foundation** during **Foster Care Awareness Month**. Haddish's advocacy and transparency about her own life journey have inspired countless young people to embrace their truth and reclaim their stories.

OPENING NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Night on Thursday, May 28, celebrates visionary filmmakers whose work reflects the bold artistic spirit of the Harlem Renaissance while reshaping contemporary independent cinema. Through collaboration with **Voza Rivers and New Heritage Films**, the evening opens with the video from the Academy Award–nominated song **"Raise It Up"** directed by **Mike DeCaro and Malik Beckford** from the film *August Rush*, performed by Harlem youth arts organization IMPACT Repertory Theatre.

Featured Opening Night films include:

- **This Is VOZA** directed by **Jamal Joseph and Mike De Caro** — a portrait of Harlem arts icon Voza Rivers and his global cultural impact.
- **The Sight Unseen** directed by **Shawn Antoine II** — the story of a Bronx woman revisiting a mysterious childhood event that transformed her faith and community.
- **Can We Kick It?** directed by **Akbar Majeed** — an exploration of the relationship between Black communities and the global sport of soccer.

"I am proud to say that the filmmakers at The People's Film Festival push boundaries, challenge norms, and tell stories that resonate on a deeply human level," said **Veronica Keitt, founder of TPFF**. "From thought-provoking documentaries to immersive narratives, these filmmakers capture the essence of the independent voice while shedding light on social, political, and personal realities."

Other featured films to look out for include:

- **"21 VOICES"** directed by **LaVerne Cody Gittens – A Tribute To Dr. Adelaide L. Sanford**, Vice Chancellor Emerita Of The New York State Board Of Regents from students, parents, teachers, administrators of The Crispus Attucks School C. S. 21.
- **"FOOTPRINTS OF THE FORGOTTEN 14"** directed by **Earl Wallace, Casey Scott** —a student-led historical documentary and multimedia exhibition that restores the stories of fourteen forgotten Black soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War during the pivotal Battles of Trenton and Princeton.
- **"SEEDS FOR LIBERATION"** directed by **Matthew Solomon** – centers on Palestinian voices and experiences while connecting the Free Palestine movement to Black, Chicano, and other collective struggles.
- **"THE REBUTTAL: ELIZABETH MEADERS COLLECTION"** directed by **Nataki Fidella Alexander**, an immersive journey showcasing highlights from a massive collection of over 50,000 artifacts and memorabilia of African-American History.

TPFF MENTAL 26: Mental Health in the Spotlight

Continuing its acclaimed mental health initiative, **TPFF MENTAL 26** focuses on the emotional realities faced by Black men and the silence often surrounding trauma and mental health struggles. Through dark comedy, horror, suspense, social media and documentary storytelling, the curated films and discussions will examine narratives rooted in violence, family, healing, and survival.

“Hit Da Block!” — Harlem Taste & Sip AND Stop & Shop

Festival attendees are invited to “Hit Da Block!” during TPFF’s first-ever **Harlem Taste & Sip | Stop & Shop**, celebrating Harlem nightlife, food, culture, and community while supporting local businesses that champion the arts, independent media, filmmakers, and creatives. Participating Harlem establishments include: Harlem Nights, Silvana’s, Harlem Tavern, The Fox, Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, Winnie Said, Bo’s Bagels, CopperLeaf Bakery and Coffee, NiLu & more.

MASTERCLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Festival attendees can also participate in hands-on masterclasses and workshops designed to elevate storytelling and creative entrepreneurship. Programs include:

- **Emmy-nominated Will Roberts of Augmented Pictures** presenting **“Virtually Uncharted: Storytelling, AI, Co-Creation & Workflow Workshop**
 - **Two-day Filmmaking Intensive** presented by **Harlem Creative Lab** in collaboration with **The Reel Deal**
 - **Sway The Runway with Laywayyy**, featuring 10-year-old model prodigy **“Laywayyy”**
 - **The Cannabis Industry- Licensing, Workforce Development & More”** with **Tiffany Stoker and Kayvon Reid**
- Seats are limited for all workshops and masterclasses; however, you must register in advance.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM & PEOPLE’S AWARDS

Closing Night features **Unheard Voices: A Mother’s Quest For Freedom** directed by **Christopher Paul Horne**. The powerful documentary follows a mother’s journey after her teenage son receives a 40-year prison sentence for a robbery involving a toy gun, leading her to connect with families across the country impacted by the justice system. The festival concludes with **The People’s Awards** immediately following the final screening on **Sunday, May 31, 2026** at Maysles Cinema.

Sponsors & Supporters

New Heritage Films, The Mayor’s Office of Media & Entertainment (MOME), Manhattan Neighborhood Network, MetroPlus Health, Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey, Mooshood Creations, SRK Recordings, Designed by Nature Apparel, ALup International, 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, VEP Productions.

Event Information

The 15th Annual People’s Film Festival – May 28–31, 2026

AMC Magic Johnson Harlem | Maysles Cinema

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW! TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE THROUGH [TICKETBUD](#)

Opening Night Tickets: \$40—All Other Screenings: May 29 – May 31, 2026 is \$16

For More info about the festival visit: www.thepeoplesfilmfestival.com

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HASHTAGS: #tpff2026 #fostercareawarenessmonth #thepeoplesfilmfestival #mentalblock2026

TPFF Press Credentials

Media Accreditation for the 15th Annual People’s Film Festival is open through May 18, 2026.

Media Contact: Bella B. Bellab.thepeoplesfilmfestival@gmail.com

MORE ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The People’s Film Festival is an initiative of The People’s Media, Music & Arts Foundation (TPMMAF)—which is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to provide venues and promote awareness in independent music, media, and art across the globe while encouraging those—particularly in the Harlem New York area, to develop a greater appreciation and understanding for cultural diversity in film.

F. A. C. T. S

The People's Film Festival 2026 Lineup

TICKET PRICE for Opening Night Film & Reception

May 28, 2026 6:00pm (sharp): \$40.00 Doors open at 5:00pm!

All Other Films (May 29 - May 31, 2026): \$16.00

THE PEOPLE'S AWARDS May 31, 2026 MAYSLES CINEMA



THURSDAY OPENING NIGHT MAY 28, 2026 6PM AMC MAGIC JOHNSON THEATER

RAISE IT UP | Jamal Joseph, Malik Beckford • HARLEM NY PREMIERE • NYC • 2008 • 4min • Music Video (Cast In Person)

THIS IS VOZA | Jamal Joseph, Mike DeCaro • HARLEM NY PREMIERE • NYC • 2025 • 16min • Doc (In Person)

THE SIGHT UNSEEN | Shawn Antoine II • HARLEM NY PREMIERE • NYC • 2026 • 38min • Docu-Drama (In Person)

CAN WE KICK IT | Akbar Majeed, Thereasa Akbar • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2026 • 92min • Doc (In Person)

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FRIDAY MAY 29 • 2026 MAYSLES CINEMA

HAPPY FIFTY (THIRD) | Jacques Durand • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 4 min • Drama

CHRO | Hamed Bahrami • USA PREMIERE • IRAN • 2026 • 4 min • Experimental • Drama

93 TIL | Alterik Miller • HARLEM PREMIERE • NYC • 2025 • 91 min • Drama

CORPORATE CATFISH | Aliyah Jones • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 23 min • Exp. • New Media (In Person)

YOGA GIRL | Kaitlyn Furey • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 9 min • Dark Comedy, Drama

MOMMY ISSUES | Valerie Denise Jones • USA PREMIERE • NYC • 2025 • 10 min • Animation, Exp, New Media (In Person)

HOMEGIRLS IN OUTER SPACE | Ben Guest • NEW YORK PREMIERE • NYC • 2025 • 12 min • Doc (In Person)

TYPECAST | Jamal Hodge • HARLEM PREMIERE • NYC • 2024 • 20 min • Drama (In Person)

1.19.22 DOC | Marxelle. Becton. • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2022 • 11 min • Doc

BEHIND A LIE | Juliet Ibrahim • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 23 min • Experimental • New Media (In Person)

TAKE IT TO THE GRAVE | Jamal Hodge • HARLEM PREMIERE • NYC • 2024 • 22 min • Television (In Person)

SHARSWOOD PLANTATION LEGACY OF SARAH MILLER | Linear French, Jeremy Harris • USA PREMIERE • 2025 • 5 min • Docu-Drama (In Person)

STRANGER IN THE NIGHT | PJ Bracco • HARLEM PREMIERE • NYC • 2024 • 8 min • Music Video (In Person)

THE CREW | Travis Stanley • USA PREMIERE • NYC • 2025 • 18 min • Horror, Comedy (In Person)

THE FAMILY STORY | Barrington Nathaniel Marson • USA PREMIERE • NYC • 2026 • 20 min • Horror, Drama (In Person)

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SATURDAY MAY 30 • 2026 MAYSLES CINEMA

VASYA | Anastasiia Podkolzina • USA PREMIERE • SPAIN • 2025 • 2 min • Animation

LIL DJ TAKES A SHOT | Mychal Hunt • HARLEM PREMIERE • USA • 2026 • 2 min • Animation

BLACK HISTORY SITES OF RALEIGH NC | Raleigh-Wake Jack & Jill Jr Teens • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 7min • Student, Doc (In Person)

THE LEGACY WE CHOOSE | Ali Alowonle • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 16 min • Student, TV (In Person)

TOGETHER | Anita C Osuigwe-Spencer • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 34 min • Drama (In Person)

21 VOICES | LaVerne Cody Gittens • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 25 min • Doc (In Person)

THE REBUTTAL: ELIZABETH MEADERS COLLECTION | Nataki Fidella Alexander • NEW YORK PREMIERE • NYC • 2026 • 53 min • Doc (In Person)

TOXIC REALITY: A SHORT DOC OF BEAUMONT-PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS | Tony Clomax • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2026 • 24 min • Doc (In Person)

TRIUMPH OVER PREJUDICE: THE MONTFORD POINT | Daniel Leonard Bernardi • HARLEM PREMIERE • NYC • 2025 • 54 min • Doc (In Person)

FOOTPRINTS OF THE FORGOTTEN 14 | Earl Wallace, Casey Scott • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 39 min • Doc, Student, (In Person)

The BORDER CZAR | Raymond T. Williams • USA PREMIERE • COSTA RICA • 2025 • 12 min • Drama (In Person)

SEEDS FOR LIBERATION | Matthew Solomon • HARLEM PREMIERE • NYC • 2026 • 92 min • Doc

BLACK LUCHADOR | Adrian Jules • NEW YORK PREMIERE • NYC • 2026 • 8 min • Comedy (In Person)

LOVE IN DA TRAP | **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2025 • 10 min • New Social Media, Comedy (In Person)

THEY LIED TO US | Jason Labuda • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2026 • 10 min • Horror, Drama, Suspense (In Person)

A BRISK WALK | Jakari Jyles Lister • NEW YORK PREMIERE • NYC • 2026 • 11 min • Drama, Thriller, Crime (In Person)

NO LABELS | Sharna McCullough Jenkins, Alterik Miller NEW YORK PREMIERE • NYC • 2025 • 25 min • Drama (In Person)

THE PRESIDENT MUST DIE: TIME ZERO | Damon Jamal • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2026 • 90 min • Drama, Suspense (In Person)

FREE ON BAIL | Spartakus Santiago • USA PREMIERE • BRAZIL • 2025 • 28 min • Music Video (In Person)

UNLOCKED | Darryl Stith • **WORLD PREMIERE** • NYC • 2026 • 10 min • Doc (In Person)

LOOK AT US NOW: A COMIC BOOK MOVIE | Vee Rodriguez • NEW YORK PREMIERE • USA • 2025 • 14 min • Exp/Doc (In Person)

MURALMENTE: INSTRUCTIONS FOR INTERPRETING GRAFFITI - THE KISS OF THE INVISIBLES | Iván Darío Alba • USA PREMIERE • COLOMBIA • 2025 • 27 min • Doc (In Person)

SPRAY CAN STORIES | Emmitt H Thrower • HARLEM PREMIERE • NYC • 2025 • 38 min • Doc (In Person)

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SUNDAY MAY 31, 2026 MAYSLES CINEMA

LIVING MOMENTS | Joan Ferebee • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 11 min • Narrative (In Person)

EAST POINT AND WE GONE | Marcus L Robinson • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 14 min • Doc

HARLEM NOIR SERIES | James Gillard • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 16 min • Drama, Suspense, Noir (In Person)

AMERICAN FALLS | Be' Garrett, Josh Liveright • **HARLEM PREMIERE** • USA • 2014 • 27 min • Drama (In Person)

2 STORY HOME | Stephanie Annette • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 61 min • Drama, Romance (In Person)

OUR CROWNS OF ART | Ayomide Ojebuoboh • **HARLEM PREMIERE** • USA • 2026 • 5 min • Doc (In Person)

SILENT ECHOES: THE INVISIBLE WOMEN | Destiny Joy, Joe Hill • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 51 min • Exp | Doc (In Person)

LOVE, LAW, LEGACY - FLORIDA'S TRAILBLAZING BLACK LEGAL PIONEER | Joseline J. Hardrick • **HARLEM PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 10 min • Doc (In Person)

A FIGHT FOR TIME | E Micheaux • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 17 min • Doc (In Person)

TRUE SEE | Jamal Joseph, Mike DeCaro • **HARLEM PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 16 min • Doc (In Person)

LEVEL HEAD | Jamal Joseph, Jad Joseph • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 4 min • Music Video

CLOSING NIGHT FILM MAYSLES CINEMA

UNHEARD VOICES: A Mother's Quest for Freedom | Christopher Paul Horne • **WORLD PREMIERE** • USA • 2025 • 42 min • Doc (In Person)

THE PEOPLE'S AWARDS MAYSLES CINEMA