

# SUMMER 2018



**Can you believe the summer is already over?!!** For some of us, it hasn't even started yet! Whatever category you fall in, we're right there with you!! Summer 2018 has been pretty *lit* at Youth FX! From a wide range of guest speakers, film screenings, story ideas, productions to quality time spent building community with our 23 amazingly talented participants, we're left feeling: inebriated, intoxicated, full of happiness, joy, love, hope and inspiration as we wind back down into the groove of things. *The future of Youth FX is in good hands!!*

## 2018 Youth FX Summer Participants



Xjia-Anne, 17



Tay, 17



Hamlin, 17



Jy'Quan, 16



Mohammed, 19



Camille, 18



Brianna, 15



Anais, 17



Aurora, 14



Ahmari, 16



Ella, 17



LeiAvion, 15



Batool, 18



Alexia, 16



Chauntalae, 17



Frank, 18



Maura, 16



Epiphany, 15



Sareejah, 15



Nasir, 18



Calum, 17



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# 2018 Youth FX Summer Presenting Filmmakers



## KHALIK ALLAH

Khalik will present his latest film *Black Mother* (2018), which has screened at over 30 film festivals across the world. The screening will be followed by a Q & A and an open discussion and breakdown of his unique documentary film and photographic aesthetic style.



## NIJLA MU'MIN

Nijla will present her first feature film *Jinn* (2018) which won best screenplay at the 2018 SXSW Film Festival. She will discuss her path as a young Black female filmmaker from the Muslim community, her work with Ava Duvernay and the importance of finding your filmmaking community.



## ROSA CLEMENTE

Rosa will screen short films which she produced as part of the *PR On The Map* project, a response to the lack of Boriqua media-makers telling stories of the aftermath of hurricane Maria. She will dialogue with students about the power of the people's media and representation of Black and Brown people in film.



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# WEEK ONE

We began **WEEK ONE** strong with intro's, ground rules, community building exercises, Scavenger Hunts, Decolonizing Cinema Workshops, short and feature film screenings -- all led by our amazing staff made up of young people who have gone through the summer program. Shout out to Michael Mejia, Ejaniia Clayton, Rashid Howell, Aden Suchak, Darian Henry, and Maya Suchak. We'd like to give a special shout-out to our executive director Bhawin Suchak who continuously challenges us to be our best and supports all our crazy ideas while helping us maintain a safe and positive space for those ideas to exist. Also, a shout-out to our visiting artists: Noelle Gentile, Aaron Moore, Cassandra Pintro, and Gaetano Vaccaro who all contributed to the success of our summer as well.



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# WEEK TWO

**WEEK TWO** couldn't have started any better. We welcomed local superwoman, nationally renowned artist-activist, and journalist [Rosa Clemente](#) who led our first master class for the summer, speaking on her life and work as an activist, journalist, and filmmaker, Rosa was a great inspiration offering perspective into the different pathways that are available for young people to learn about themselves and document injustices that take place in their own communities as well as the significance of knowing your history and telling your own story.



We then spent Tuesday rotating participants through workshops on how to use the Canon Mark ii C100 -- A professional-level cinema camera that all films were shot on for the summer -- led by Michael Mejia and a workshop on Story Structures and Development led by Ejanii Clayton and Noelle Gentile. Wednesday marked the beginning of our second summer challenge where participants group up and put into practice what they learned on camera in our Scene Recreation workshop.





Thursday, we screened each group's recreations and closed with an Audition exercise led by Noelle for all of our actors who have an interest in the industry process. We ended the week with the same energy we started with. Participants pitched their projects that were then voted on and announced at the end of the day. We then welcomed Oakland-based writer/director [Nijla Mu'min](#) who screened her latest feature-film [JINN](#) -- a coming of age story about a 17-year old carefree black girl, whose world is turned upside down when her mother abruptly converts to Islam, prompting her to reevaluate her identity -- after the screening, Nijla spoke on her experience as an up-and-coming writer and director, as well as her sources of inspiration and how she ended up directing an episode of Ava DuVernay's *Queen Sugar* in our second Master Class of the summer.



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# WEEK THREE

We started **WEEK THREE** with a Screening Writing and Anatomy of a Scene workshop on Monday. Tuesday, our third and final master class took place with iconic, internationally known filmmaker and photographer [Khalik Allah](#) who screened his latest film *Black Mother*.



Wednesday, we kicked off our first week of production with the first of the six chosen films -- a powerful short narrative film about the choice a young man has to make after his best friend is shot and killed. We were also really excited to welcome our youngest ever Youth FX actor, Alaiyah Hamlin, a 2-year-old prodigy on the rise. Are y'all ready for her debut?



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# WEEK FOUR

First and foremost, SHOUT OUT to everyone who donated to our [BlackStar Film Festival](#) campaign. We made it to Philly!! An entire crew of ten from Youth FX including Camille Dobbs, Ejaniia Clayton, and Majestic Tilman who's films were selected and screened at the festival. We couldn't have done it without your support. Regarded as one of the best new film festivals in the country, it was absolutely amazing to be surrounded by so many talented black and brown filmmakers from all over the country and the world. We also got to see some amazing films, reunite with some of our [NeXt Doc](#) fellows and connect with old and new friends like Lyric Cabral, Assia Boundaoi, Nijla Mu'min, Bradford Young, Ralston Smith, Terrance Nance, Ephraim Asili and everyone else we're forgetting to mention.



We also went into production on another film that was selected this summer directed by 14-year-old superstar and first time Youth FX Summer participant Aurora Sikelianos.



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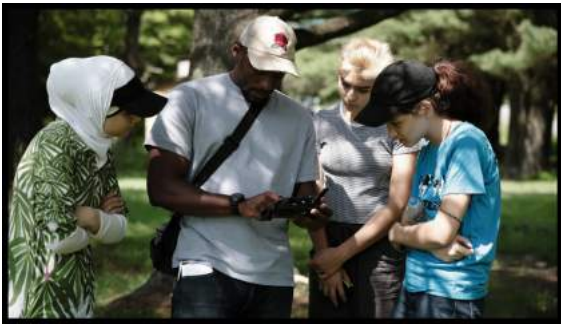
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# WEEK FIVE

Our final week was jam-packed and intense with several projects simultaneously in production. Although Friday, August 10th was our designated "last day", it didn't feel like it as several of our directors, assistant directors, writers, actors and cinematographers busied around working to revise scripts, plan make-up shoots, organize equipment, develop shot lists, run lines -- the whole nine -- after our mini-community meal. We have still yet to officially wrap, our wrap party is soon to be announced.

Overall, the last week was definitely a sentiment to the safe space we managed to co-create with 23 diverse, highly-skilled and thoughtful individuals who came in and out Monday through Friday, 7 hours a day, for five weeks straight. Again, *the future of Youth FX is in good hands.*



As always, if you think there's someone who'd be interested in the work that we do at Youth FX, please **SPREAD THE WORD!** Also, if you're not following us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#), please do so *now* to stay updated on our activities.



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# 23

## Participants

61%

Female

39%

Male



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**50%**

**Black**

**23%**

**White**

**9%**

**Latin(x)**

**9%**

**Middle Eastern**

**9%**

**Asian**



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Support for Youth FX is provided by our Trustees and generous individuals and institutions in our community; by funding from NYSCA (New York State Council on the Arts), Charles Touhey Family Foundation, The Bender Family Foundation, The Alliance, The Community Foundation, The Albany Free School, Film Albany, Albany Public Library's and the City School District of Albany.



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**YOUTH FX IS A REGISTERED 501c3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

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# GET INVOLVED

Support Youth FX by visiting our website at [www.youthfx.org/donate](http://www.youthfx.org/donate) to make a tax-deductible contribution. All donations will continue to support all of our FREE programming offered at Youth FX. For sponsorship opportunities, please email us at [info@youthfx.org](mailto:info@youthfx.org)

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