

AAFCA Forms a Non-Profit

Over the summer the African American Film Critics Association (AAFCA) reached a new benchmark with the formation of the African American Film Critics Association non-profit. Under the direction of Karen Chappelle, the newly minted organization will pilot a literacy program in 2018 that will utilize the cinematic arts to trigger independent intellectual curiosity among grade school students to develop an independent desire to read. More information to come...

**AFRICAN AMERICAN
 FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION
 NON PROFIT**



IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH FILM

AAFCA Summer 17 Update



AAFCA recently completed a busy summer of successful collaborations with several of our institutional partners.

Things kicked off in June with the panel “Critical Voices: Film Critics of Color,” co-produced with the National Assn. of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP) for their 2017 Media Summit. Our session brought together leading voices from the multicultural landscape for a lively and informative dialogue on the current state of TV and film.

Also in June, AAFCA presented a Master Class “The Art of Film Criticism” for Film Independent’s 2017 Class of Emerging Filmmakers. In July, several AAFCA members traveled to Dallas, TX to participate in a panel on film criticism for the T.D. Jakes’ MegaFest conference. For August, AAFCA produced its 6th Annual SYNERGY program in Atlanta, GA that included a salute to the trailblazing TV & film producer/director, Rob Hardy before finally wrapping our summer programming by partnering with the National Association of Black Journalists to produce Transitions: Taking Your Journalist Skills to Hollywood – an insightful conversation on career development with former AMPAS president, Cheryl Boone Isaacs

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MOVIE PREVIEW

‘SEGFALT’

Congratulations to AAFCA’s co-founder, Shawn Edward who recently co-produced the contemporary thriller, SEGFAULT. The movie follows Blair, a young woman suffering from amnesia who awakes in her hotel room with a dead body. After receiving a mysterious phone call, she flees in search of answers and is immediately pursued by a corrupt organization that is determined to keep the truth of her identity concealed. With the help of Victoria (Cassie Shea Watson) and Frank

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■ AAFCA goes to TIFF

AAFCA launched its fall 2017 schedule by collaborating with the Toronto International Film Festival to present “DIALOGUES at the Table.” Featuring industry stalwarts Syrinthia Studer (Paramount); Graham Taylor (WME); Gaylene Gould (BFI); Trev’ell Anderson (LA Times) and Franklin Leonard (“The Blacklist”), the candid discussion examined the importance of bringing more diverse perspectives to key decision-making roles in film. This fall, AAFCA will begin a year-long collaboration with Emerson College in Boston on the art of film criticism. “Partnering with Emerson is a perfect fit for AAFCA because of its long history and dedication to communication and the arts,” says AAFCA president Gil Robertson. “We are very excited about this opportunity to interact with the faculty to construct programming for the Emerson students who will represent the next wave of content creators in the industry.”

■ AAFCA Member Profile: Jamaal Finkley

As CEO and Executive Producer of BlackTree TV, one of the premiere distributors of online urban entertainment and lifestyle information, Jamaal Finkley has produced a news portal which garners more than 15 million unique visitors each month and half a billion video views worldwide. BlackTree TV is ranked among YouTube’s top 25 content channels and is featured on more than 3,000 websites, including AllHipHop.com and XXLMag.com. The content is distributed on nearly 17 different platforms.

Finkley launched BlackTree TV (2007) under the umbrella of BlackTree Media, which he founded in 1996. In 2002, Finkley formed a media partnership with BET Networks to provide additional coverage of their premiere events. He has produced news segments for Hollywood’s top awards shows and red carpets, such as the Academy Awards, Grammy Awards and Fashion Week.

Finkley began his entertainment career as a production assistant for the legendary Spike Lee during the production of the movie, “Get On The Bus.” This experience inspired him to change his career path from his childhood dream of medicine to his new passion: entertainment. Finkley studied biomedical engineering at Vanderbilt University and mass communications at Dillard University. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., the National Society of Black Engineers and the African American Film Critics Association.



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(Stephen Brodie), Blair is confronted with a sequence of startling discoveries that exposes a reality she never could’ve imagined. Shot in less than 24 hours, the film was directed by Robert Paschall and stars Shannon Lucio. Expect to see it in theaters soon!

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and “Luke Cage” executive producer, Cheo Hardi Coker. It was an exciting summer and we anticipate an even busier fall season.

AAFCA’s Mission

The African American Film Critics Association (AAFCA), is the nation’s premiere film critic’s group dedicated to providing a safe-haven of support and respect for African-American film journalists and the Black filmmaking community. Established in 2003, our membership actively reviews cinema at-large with a particular emphasis on films produced, written, directed and starring persons from the African Diaspora. Our members are also involved in our advocacy work that includes programming for students in film criticism and journalism.teresting in film criticism and journalism.

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