

Bank of America



newark
black film
festival

PAUL
ROBESON
AWARDS
2016

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entry Deadline:
Friday, February 26, 2016

newarkmuseum.org

CO-PRESENTERS:

New Jersey Institute of Technology
The Newark Public Library
Rutgers, The State University of NJ/Newark
CityPlex 12 Newark



NEWARK
MUSEUM

NEWARK BLACK FILM FESTIVAL PAUL ROBESON AWARDS

The Newark Black Film Festival (NBFF)—celebrating its 42nd anniversary in 2016—once again commemorates the life and times, and cinematic achievements of Paul Robeson through the presentation of the Paul Robeson Awards. We do because the Festival is an enduring tribute to Mr. Robeson.

In his 1958 autobiography, *Here I Stand*, Mr. Robeson eloquently wrote of his upbringing in Princeton, New Jersey. He was born there in 1898. Robeson referred to his Princeton birthplace as a hemmed-in world. That racially segregated world set him on a course that over time enabled him to become, by the 1930s, a citizen of the larger world of ideas, politics, activism and art revealed in song and on the silver screen. Within that world, Robeson traveled widely, studying the world's folk cultures, including that of his African ancestors. He became an avid champion of black culture and civil rights, and an individual who moved far beyond the demeaning confines of segregated black America. In this sense, he exemplified the potential of a modern African American artist. Mr. Robeson died in Philadelphia in 1976 at the age of 77.

The distinguished American historian, the late John Hope Franklin, wrote that Robeson's life symbolized an emerging 20th century moral and political conflict between democratic ideals in the United States and an old order that countenanced unfair and unjust treatment of citizens. What made Robeson especially unique during the last century, according to Franklin, is that he could have watched that conflict unfold from extremely comfortable sidelines as a successful artist. Robeson chose to engage the conflict both as an artist and as citizen of the world. He was at the center of the last century's historic struggle for civil rights, the rights of laborers and world peace.

Robeson was among the first black American artists to challenge conventional notions of proper Negro behavior, doing so increasingly after World War II, when the forces of reaction were dominant in American politics. Robeson's criticism of the racial status quo in the United States made him vulnerable to attack by those who felt that as a black man he had gone too far.

Robeson had not gone too far. He had set an enviable standard for artistic freedom, freedom of expression, artistic excellence that the Black Film Festival ennobles, once again, through the Paul Robeson Awards.

NEWARK BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

The Newark Museum will celebrate its 42nd anniversary of the annual Newark Black Film Festival (NBFF) by presenting a six-week summer series of films that heighten the historic importance of the Black experience in the United States. Held consecutively on Wednesday evenings, the Festival has screened 821 films to an audience of more than 181,000 adults and children. Produced by the Newark Museum Association, the NBFF has proven to be a successful event each year, in part because of the long-standing dedication of its audience and selection committee members.

Selection Committee:

Gloria Hopkins Buck	Lisa Payne
Patricia Faison	Mary Sue Price
Jeff Friday	Jane W. Rappaport
Wilma J. Grey	Bobby Shepard
LeRoy Henderson	Ralph R. Waller
Steven Kern	Richard Wesley

AWARD COMPETITION

The Newark Black Film Festival Paul Robeson Awards were initiated as a biennial competition in 1985. The next awards will be presented in 2016 on a Wednesday evening during the festival, in conjunction with a screening of selected winning works.

ELIGIBILITY

Original films **released since January 2013** will be considered. Only non-commercial ("independent") films over which the filmmaker has had control of the finished piece will be accepted. Excluded are films originally produced for industrial, commercial or studio purposes. Films produced for or shown on television are eligible if they meet the above criteria. Films produced in other languages or countries may be entered if they have an English-language soundtrack or subtitles in DVD (NTSC) format and meet the above criteria.

JUDGING/CASH AWARDS

The Newark Black Film Festival 2016 Paul Robeson Awards entries will be screened by a panel of judges from the film industry. Cash awards will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. The judges may choose to withhold an award if no entries are considered award caliber.

Winners are asked to include the Paul Robeson Awards in any of their subsequent publicity materials.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

A completed entry form must accompany each submitted film, along with an entry fee of \$40 per work (regardless of length). Titles in a series must be considered individually. For returns, add \$6 for U.S. postage, \$8 for works entered from outside the U.S. For judging, films must be submitted in Vimeo or DVD (NTSC) format only. All entry fees must be in U.S. currency, made payable to the Newark Museum Association.

LIABILITY

Although every possible care will be taken with films while in our possession, neither the Newark Black Film Festival/Newark Museum Association nor its judging committee assumes liability for loss or damage. Entrant also indemnifies the Newark Black Film Festival/Newark Museum Association against possible copyright infringement resulting from screening or exhibition of works.

SCREENINGS

Winning works will be screened during the Newark Black Film Festival, date and location to be announced. If length of winning works dictates, the screenings may be abbreviated.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Films accompanied by entry forms must be received at the Newark Museum no later than **Friday, February 26, 2016.**

INFORMATION

For more information, please email at nbff@newarkmuseum.org, call **973.596.6635** or log onto newarkmuseum.org to download an entry form.

FUNDING

The Newark Black Film Festival is made possible by

Bank of America 

The Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art and science, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Council on the Arts/Department of State — a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Wallace Foundation, and other corporations, foundations and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.

newarkmuseum.org





ENTRY FORM

(Please photocopy this form for multiple entries.)

Submitted by	E-mail		
Filmmaker	Daytime phone		
Address	City	State	Zip
Title of work			
Producer	Director		
Running time	Completion date		
Original format	Format submitted for judging		
	DVD	VIMEO	

How did you find out about this festival?

Newspaper Brochure Newsletter Social Media Website Word-of-Mouth Other _____

This film is best described as:

Long Narrative (over an hour) Short Narrative (under an hour) Experimental
 Long Documentary (over an hour) Short Documentary (under an hour) Animation

Payment

(Please enclose an entry fee of \$40 for each entry.)

Check payable to the *Newark Museum Association* in the amount of \$ _____
 Charge my credit card for the amount of \$ _____ Visa MC Amex Discover
Acct. # _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Brief précis of work

Clearly mark with your name and title of work, and ship to:

(By regular mail) Newark Black Film Festival
c/o Newark Museum
49 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102-3176

(By UPS) Newark Black Film Festival
c/o Newark Museum
69 Central Avenue
Newark, NJ 07102-3176

Ship all films in re-usable containers and include a pre-printed return label for each item. If padded envelopes are used, the entry should be sealed in plastic before placing it in the bag so that fiber from a torn bag will not damage the entry or equipment. All works will be returned via UPS and insured for \$200 if return postage is paid (UPS will not ship to a post office box).

Publicity

Print publicity, reproducible stills and JPEGs are used in our festival program and pre-festival publicity.

Are publicity materials enclosed? yes no

May we excerpt from your work in pre-festival publicity? yes no

Return of Entries

All works not selected for awards screenings will be returned promptly following judging, via UPS, insured for \$200 only if return postage is paid — \$6 U.S.; \$8 outside U.S. UPS will not ship to a post office box. Candidates should include permanent address. If your shipping address is different from the one on the entry form, please indicate here:

Delivery Name _____

Address _____

Apt./Flr. _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL MATERIAL. ONLY ONE WORK PER ENTRY FORM.

The Undersigned hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Newark Black Film Festival/the Newark Museum Association (the "Sponsor") from and against any and all liability, loss, cost and expense (including but not limited to attorney's fees and costs of court) occasioned by (1) any claims being made by anyone other than the Undersigned of any right, title or interest in and to the entered films (the "Work") or any part thereof, (2) any claim being made by anyone other than the Undersigned to an award made with respect to the Work or any part thereof, (3) any claim involving copyright, trademark, credits, royalties, publicity, screening, or any other matter relating to the Work or any part thereof, whether foreseen or unforeseen, and (4) any claim arising out of loss of or damage to the Work. This application constitutes the agreement of the Undersigned to all Festival rules and guidelines.

Signature _____

Social Security # _____

Date _____



49 washington street, newark, new jersey 07102-3176

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