

2024

THE FIRST ANNUAL

FESTIVAL
FILM
BLACK
KAMLOOPS
KAMLOOPS
BLACK
FILM
FESTIVAL



FEB
15 - 17
2024

CELEBRATING BLACK CULTURE,
HISTORY, AND ART THROUGH FILM
PRESENTED BY



WELCOME TO THE FIRST EVER KAMLOOPS BLACK FILM FESTIVAL!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MP, FRANK CAPUTO

On behalf of the Parliament of Canada, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the first annual Kamloops Black Film Festival.

Over the course of this film festival, attendees will view thoughtfully curated films, performances and art works that showcase Black, African

and Caribbean stories. As you engage with the art and film of this festival, I encourage you to consider Black history, culture and experiences more deeply and have meaningful dialogue with others.

I congratulate the Kamloops Film Society along with the Valid Dreams Foundation and The Kamloops Caribbean Cultural Society on organizing this inaugural event. I am grateful for this avenue to amplify diverse voices and am confident that the Kamloops Black Film Festival will have a lasting impact in our community.

KAMLOOPS BLACK FILM FESTIVAL: MOVIES AND EVENTS CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE.

Tickets

AT THE DOOR

Adult: \$13.50

Senior (65+): \$12.50

Children/student: \$7.50

ONLINE

Adult: \$12.50

Senior (65+): \$11.50

Children/student: \$6.50

*A student can be any age but adults may need to show Student ID at the door.

MEMBERSHIP

When you hold an annual membership at the Kamloops Film Society, you save \$2.00 off every ticket! you can purchase membership online or at the theatre.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

4:30 PM - VIP RED CARPET

5 PM - VIP RECEPTION

6 PM - SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS WITH
BIG LITTLE SCIENCE CENTRE

6:30 PM - HIDDEN FIGURES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

10:30 AM - COOL RUNNINGS
GENERAL SHOWING

11 AM - COOL RUNNINGS
EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL SHOWING

6 PM - MANDELA: LONG WALK
TO FREEDOM
FEATURING A PRE-SCREENING OF "BE RIGHT
THERE" BY DEVONLEIGH ELLIS-DURITY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

10:45 AM - BETHEL CHAPEL CHOIR
SARAFINA! PRE-SHOW EVENT

11 AM - SARAFINA!

2 PM - SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE
SPIDER-VERSE
FREE FAMILY-FLICK

5:30 PM - KING RICHARD

8:30 PM - CLOSING PARTY:
COMEDY NIGHT
FEATURING MUFARO MBUDZI
WITH OPENING PERFORMANCE BY KUDA



MARY ADERONKE FALADE

Assistant Film Festival Coordinator

I am absolutely thrilled to welcome you to Kamloops' very first Black Film Festival! Our dedicated committee has worked diligently and thoughtfully to share our community's history and stories through the captivating art of film. We envision the Kamloops Film Festival as an enduring space where the Black community can come together to celebrate their cultures, stories, and art. I also believe that this festival is an opportunity for our broader community to connect in a way that is meaningful, insightful, and unforgettable. Film is a very unifying medium, and can serve as a powerful bridge between people. And we hope to see everyone come together at the festival, united by a shared love of film.

The festival aims to amplify the creative and powerful voices of Black filmmakers, writers, and actors. And in addition to our diverse selection of Black films, our festival also features events showcasing the many creative talents that thrive within our local Black community, from singing to comedy to filmmaking. The importance of Black representation cannot be overstated. We all benefit from it and the rich, diverse stories shared by the Black community hold invaluable lessons for us all.

This is history in the making and I'm excited to be sharing this journey with you. Enjoy!

IN COLLABORATION WITH

KAMLOOPS CARIBBEAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

Kamloops Caribbean Cultural Society is a community organization dedicated to celebrating Caribbean culture in Kamloops. They actively promote and explore the achievements, history, and traditions of the Afro-Caribbean community.

VALID DREAMS FOUNDATION

Valid Dreams Foundation is committed to promoting unity and empowerment among the diverse communities in Kamloops. They work to create a safe and inclusive community for everyone.

THE BEST WAY TO GET TO KNOW A CULTURE IS TO HEAR THEIR STORIES. AND WHAT BETTER PLATFORM TO PRESENT THOSE STORIES THAN THE SILVER SCREEN!



RADHIKA TABREZ

The stories we will present to you throughout our 1st Kamloops Black Film Festival span geographies, genres, and generations. They speak of the trials and tribulations of the Black culture as well as their triumphs. Like the story of the three Black mathematicians who were instrumental in landing the man on the moon and yet the world knows regrettably little about (Hidden Figures). Like that of the first ever Jamaican Bobsled team that decided that the world wasn't going to decide which sport they could or could not participate in (Cool Runnings). Stories like that of Nelson Mandela, who taught the world, that the best way to fight oppression was a steadfast commitment to peace, respectful negotiation, and reconciliation (Mandela: A Long Walk To Freedom). Not to forget, the story of a young girl in South Africa, who showed the world that one is never too young to stand up for what is right (Sarafina). Or the story of everyone's friendly neighborhood Spiderman, which we are never too old to watch (Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse)! And last but certainly not least, the story of a Black father who wanted his daughters to rule a white-dominated, male-dominated game; armed with nothing but his love as a father, grit, and a 78-page plan (King Richard).

Each story being presented as a part of our 1st Kamloops Black Film Festival has earned its place purely on its merit. They are stories that we must hear to know the history of the Black Movement. I feel deeply honoured to have worked with a committee as experienced, dedicated, and passionate as the one we have. Their wisdom was instrumental in crafting this experience for all of you. A big shoutout also to our Assistant Festival Coordinator Mary who worked tirelessly and with a dedication that shaped this festival into what it is.

And it is on all their behalves, as well as of the Kamloops Film Society, Kamloops Caribbean Culture Society, and Valid Dreams Foundation, that I welcome you, to be a part of this momentous beginning.

Looking forward to hosting you at the Paramount.

Warm Regards,
Radhika Tabrez

Festival Coordinator - 1st Kamloops Black Film Festival
General Manager - Kamloops Film Society

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

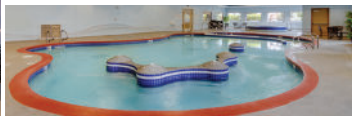


I am both honoured and excited to welcome you to the First Annual Kamloops Black Film Festival as part of our Black History Month programming. This inclusive event is open to everyone, offering an opportunity to come together to celebrate Black voices in cinema.

I want to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to making this festival a reality. Special thanks to the Kamloops Caribbean Cultural Society and Valid Dreams Foundation. To Radhika Tabrez, Mary Falade, and the BFF Committee, your passion, dedication, and creativity have been instrumental in shaping this event, and I am confident that it will be a resounding success. Thank you to our sponsors and community partners for being a part of this inaugural Black Film Festival. May it be a source of inspiration, empowerment, and celebration for everyone involved.

Colette Abbott

Executive Director, Kamloops Film Society



Visit BC's newest wine region and stay at the environmentally friendly Best Western Plus Kamloops hotel, 2021 winner of TOTA's Renovation project of the year. Stay with us while you enjoy the regions finest wineries and indulge in the cities assorted breweries and golf courses.



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THE COMMITTEE



Kimona Grant

Director, Kamloops Caribbean Cultural Society

Kimona is an adventurous person who loves to experience new things. She graduated from Thompson River University with a diploma in Tourism Management in 2016 and a Health Care Assistant certificate in 2021. She is a born Jamaican and moved to Canada in 2011. Kamloops has been her home since. She enjoys sharing her culture and history, especially her country. She is also a director/secretary of the Kamloops Caribbean Cultural Society. Things she loves to do include baking and reading. She likes short stories, poems, and clips.



Sally Martin

Founder/Executive Director, Valid Dreams Foundation

Executive Director and founder of Valid Dreams, With a roots from Kenya, Sally is an empathetic leader with a vision to build community and share stories, especially those that represent people who look like her. Her passion for cinema has recently been driven by her personal and professional experiences. Ms. Martin's commitment to this desire has led her to the film world and now the Black Film Festival and an active member of Kamloops Afro Films.

Among other films, Ms. Martin is currently working on producing a documentary film (Black Light Unveiled – Choose Life) aiming to shed light on mental health and suicide prevention which will be aired on Telus optik TV and her website in January 2025 in addition to being featured in a Kamloops Short Films House 49 produced by Kamloops Afro Films.

In addition to her work in film, Sally is also involved in community development, outreach and advocacy efforts. She is committed to using her platform to create positive change, amplify marginalized voices and connect communities. In her spare time, Sally loves dancing, reading, forest bathing and volunteering.



Jeremy Rodney

Co-Founder/Director,
Kamloops Caribbean Cultural Society

Jeremy is the proud owner of SDC Ltd and a Founder/Director for Kamloops Caribbean Cultural Society. He is a Naturalized Canadian originally from Jamaica, born in the town of Port Antonio, the capital of the parish of Portland found on the Eastern end of the island. He grew up in the tourism hub of Ocho Rios, and went to the University of Technology in Kingston where he studied both Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

He resigned from his job in public utilities and migrated to Canada in 2013 with two children and has since made a new family of six. He is a Black Advocate, passionate about his people's history and struggles, and advocates for the marginalized and previously colonized groups, encouraging unity through community.



Emmanuel Nsikan Inyang

Co-Founder, AfroFilms &
Creative Director, IMA Productions

Emmanuel Nsikan Inyang lives in Kamloops, BC, and holds a BSc in Economics Education from Nigeria and an MBA with a special interest in Human Resource Management from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). His work experience spans the banking/financial sector to customer service/HR. He is a leader and motivator for positive change among youths in his community and started

a movement called "Real Talk for Young Men," focusing on mental stability among young men. Emmanuel has been a professional stage actor for over 25 years and has transitioned into the screen as an actor/scriptwriter/content creator and producer. With several TV series and movies under his belt in Nigeria, he started his production house (IMA Productions) and has been the Creative Director since its inception. He loves sports and is "crazy" about movies, with some of his favorites including Titanic, Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, and Training Day.



Daniel Akinshola

Co-Founder, AfroFilms

Daniel has had a diverse and successful career in the theatre and media production industry. Starting as an actor in 1991, he gradually progressed to become a theatre producer and director. With academic backgrounds in Adult Education, Political Science, and a postgraduate diploma in Theatre Arts, Daniel developed a passion for social change and community development. Over a decade, he made significant contributions to the Nigerian media production scene, directing a variety of content, including commercials, soap operas, game shows, reality shows, fashion shows, concerts, and the prestigious KKB show.

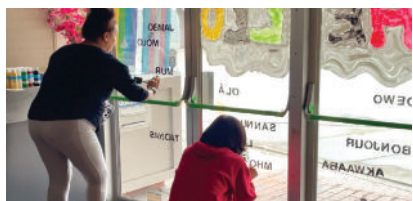
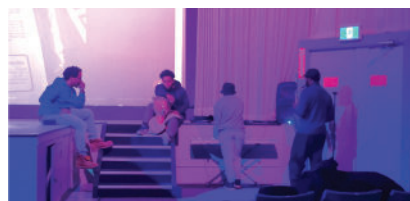
Daniel furthered his education, completing a Masters in Moving Image from the University of Sydney in 2019 and a Masters in Arts Education from Simon Fraser University in 2023. Notably, Daniel dedicated five years to working in an Aboriginal community in Western Australia, where he served as a radio station manager. During this time, he transformed the radio station, established a music recording studio, initiated a film and production arm, and trained and employed over 30 Aboriginal individuals. Daniel's creative pursuits extend to filmmaking, with his short film "Voice of Blood" garnering awards and recognition in various international film festivals. Currently residing in Kamloops, British Columbia, he is the founder of Kamloops Afro Films and One House Multicultural Communications Society. Additionally, Daniel runs Danscoachings, a life coaching service, and Daniel E. Akinshola Consults, a creative consultancy.

Hardley Williams

Events Coordinator, Unique Get Together Society

Hello from Kingston, Jamaica! I'm a born and bred event enthusiast with a knack for creating unforgettable experiences. While some may dub me as social, my true pleasure lies in orchestrating events that bring joy to others. As a self-taught coordinator of celebrations, I've garnered valuable experience planning diverse gatherings, from music festivals and art camps to lively parties. My journey has also led me to collaborate with various societies and serve on numerous committees. Beyond the event scene, I find joy in volunteering, sports, cars, exploring new destinations, and embracing the great outdoors.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE FIRST KAMLOOPS BLACK FILM FESTIVAL





FILMS & EVENTS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15TH

OPENING NIGHT VIP RECEPTION

Thursday February 15th 5 PM

An intimate and enchanting evening for our valued sponsors, esteemed guests, and contributors to the Kamloops Black Film Festival. Attendance is by invite only.

OPENING PERFORMANCE BY KUDA

We're kicking off our Opening Night VIP Reception with a special performance by local Kamloops singer Kuda. Enjoy a lively and exciting performance that will set the tone for a memorable night of celebration.



FASHION SHOW

The beauty of Black culture will be on full display at our VIP Reception Fashion Show, featuring spectacular cultural designs and outfits by local Kamloops designers.

ON THE MENU

Our VIP Reception is catered by Kamloops' newest Afro-Caribbean restaurant, The Big Jerkk, owned by Hazelyn Williams.

SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS WITH BIG LITTLE SCIENCE CENTRE

Thursday February 15th 6 PM
Hidden Figures Pre-Show

Get ready for an interactive and educational experience designed to ignite your curiosity and spark the scientist within! Free entry with ticket purchase of "Hidden Figures".



OPENING FILM

HIDDEN FIGURES

Thursday February 15th 6:30 PM

Adapted from Margot Lee Shetterly's non-fiction book of the same name, "Hidden Figures" tells the true story of three African-American women mathematicians who played pivotal roles in NASA's early space missions during the 1960s, including the Friendship 7 mission in which John Glenn became the first American to orbit around the Earth. Shedding light on the often overlooked contributions of African-American women in science and technology, the film underscores the achievements of Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), a skilled mathematician; Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer), an expert in computer programming; and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), an aspiring aerospace engineer.

RUNTIME: 127

GENRE(S): DRAMA, HISTORY

DIRECTED BY: THEODORE MELFI

COUNTRY: U.S.

STARRING: TARAJI P. HENSON, OCTAVIA SPENCER, JANELLE MONÁE, KEVIN COSTNER, KIRSTEN DUNST, JIM PARSONS, MAHERSHALA ALI, GLEN POWELL

RATED PG



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16TH

COOL RUNNINGS

Loosely based on the Jamaican national bobsleigh team's debut in the 1988 Winter Olympics, the film follows Derice Bannock (Leon Robinson), a Jamaican sprinter whose Summer Olympics dreams are shattered by a freak accident. Undeterred, Derice comes up with the unconventional idea of a Jamaican bobsleigh team, despite the tropical island having no snow or tradition in winter sports. He forms a team with his friend, Sanka Coffie (Doug E. Doug) and two other sprinters, with coaching from disgraced former bobsleigh gold medalist, Irving "Irv" Blitzer (John Candy). Despite the skepticism from the international bobsleigh community, the team remains resilient as they strive to earn the respect of their fellow athletes at the Winter Olympics in Calgary.



RUNTIME: 98 MINUTES

DIRECTED BY: JON TURTELTAUB

STARRING: JOHN CANDY, LEON ROBINSON,
DOUG E. DOUG, RAWLE D. LEWIS, MALIK
YOBA

GENRE(S): SPORTS, DRAMA, COMEDY

COUNTRY: U.S.

RATED PG

Friday February 16th 10:30 AM - General Showing

This showing is open to the general public.

Friday February 16th 11 AM - Exclusive School Screening

We're excited to invite schools in District 73 to be a part of this monumental first festival. We offer this experience as an opportunity for students in the district to celebrate Black History Month and engage with Black history and culture outside of the classroom. As a humorous sports drama with a positive message of teamwork and resilience, Cool Runnings provides strong Black representation and a story that will inspire young audiences of all cultural backgrounds.

ART/DL



A man in a pinstriped suit and tie stands in a doorway, looking off to the side with a serious expression. The background shows a patterned curtain and a wooden door with a brass handle.

MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

Friday February 16th 6:30 PM

“Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom” is a cinematic tribute to one of the most prominent figures in the battle against apartheid and the fight for human rights. Adapted from his autobiography, the film invites the audience to join Mandela (Idris Elba) on his remarkable life journey, from his early years in the rural village of Qunu through his anti-apartheid activism, imprisonment for 27 years, and eventual rise to become the first democratically elected President of South Africa.

RUNTIME: 146 MINUTES

DIRECTED BY: JUSTIN CHADWICK

STARRING: IDRIS ELBA, NAOMIE HARRIS, TONY KGOROGE, RIAAD MOOSA, LINDIWE MATSHIKIZA, JAMIE BARTLETT, TERRY PHEO, DEON LOTZ

GENRE(S): HISTORICAL DRAMA, BIOGRAPHY

COUNTRY: U.K., SOUTH AFRICA

RATED PG-13



MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM



Devon Ellis-Durity is an emerging Filmmaker born and raised on the west coast of Canada. She currently spends her time between BC and Quebec where she has established wonderful film communities. Since 2011 she has been under mentorship of Canadian filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming.

In early years she was learning the ropes of setting up rehearsals, production assistance, slating a script, and more; As the years have progressed so have her roles. After a slight film hiatus from 2015-2020 to complete her degree in geography, she reunited with film during the Covid19 Lockdown. She rejoined forces with Fleming to work on her latest project "Can I Get A Witness?" as an associate producer and actress, and applied her extensive sustainability knowledge from her degree as the sustainability coordinator. She also trained under Reel GreenBC and BAFTAs ALBERT sustainability programme to ensure that the film was produced sustainably, both socially and environmentally.

During 2021 Devon was approached by an acting agent while on set as a hand model. Since then, she has been in a few commercials, three short films, and a feature film.

Under the guidance and encouragement of Ann Marie Fleming, her father, and sister, she wrote and shot her first film in the winter of 2023.

SHORT FILM PRE-SCREENING:

BE RIGHT THERE

Guy is a lost 20 something who is struggling to connect with his art and others. Burdened by his thoughts he decides to go for a walk on a bleak cold winter's night.



The concept for this short film came to filmmaker Devon Ellis-Durity the year before, when she was on a walk along Boulevard Rosemont in Montréal, with a -30 windchill, a dead phone, and going through complex grief. She took these emotions; combined with the wintry landscape and gothic architecture of Montréal, and applied these elements to create "Be Right There"

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17TH

BETHEL CHAPEL CHOIR CONCERT

Saturday February 17th 10:45 AM
Sarafina! Pre-Show Event

Immerse yourself in the rich cultural sounds of African/Black music in this lively and moving performance by the choir of Bethel Chapel. Free entry with ticket purchase of "Sarafina!"



SARAFINA! Saturday February 17th 11 AM

Based on the 1987 Broadway musical of the same name written by Mbongeni Ngema, "Sarafina!" takes us back in time to the Soweto Uprising of 1976, a historic event in which students protested against the forced use of the Afrikaans language in schools. The film explores the political awakening of Sarafina (Leleti Khumalo) and her peers as they become increasingly aware of the injustices of the apartheid. Under the guidance of their teacher, Mary Masombuka (Whoopi Goldberg), they find inspiration and courage, rising to join the resistance against the oppressive regime.

RUNTIME: 98 MINUTES

DIRECTED BY: DARRELL JAMES ROODT

STARRING: WHOOP! GOLDBERG, LELETI KUMALO, MIRIAM MAKEBA, JOHN KANI, MBONGENI NGEMA

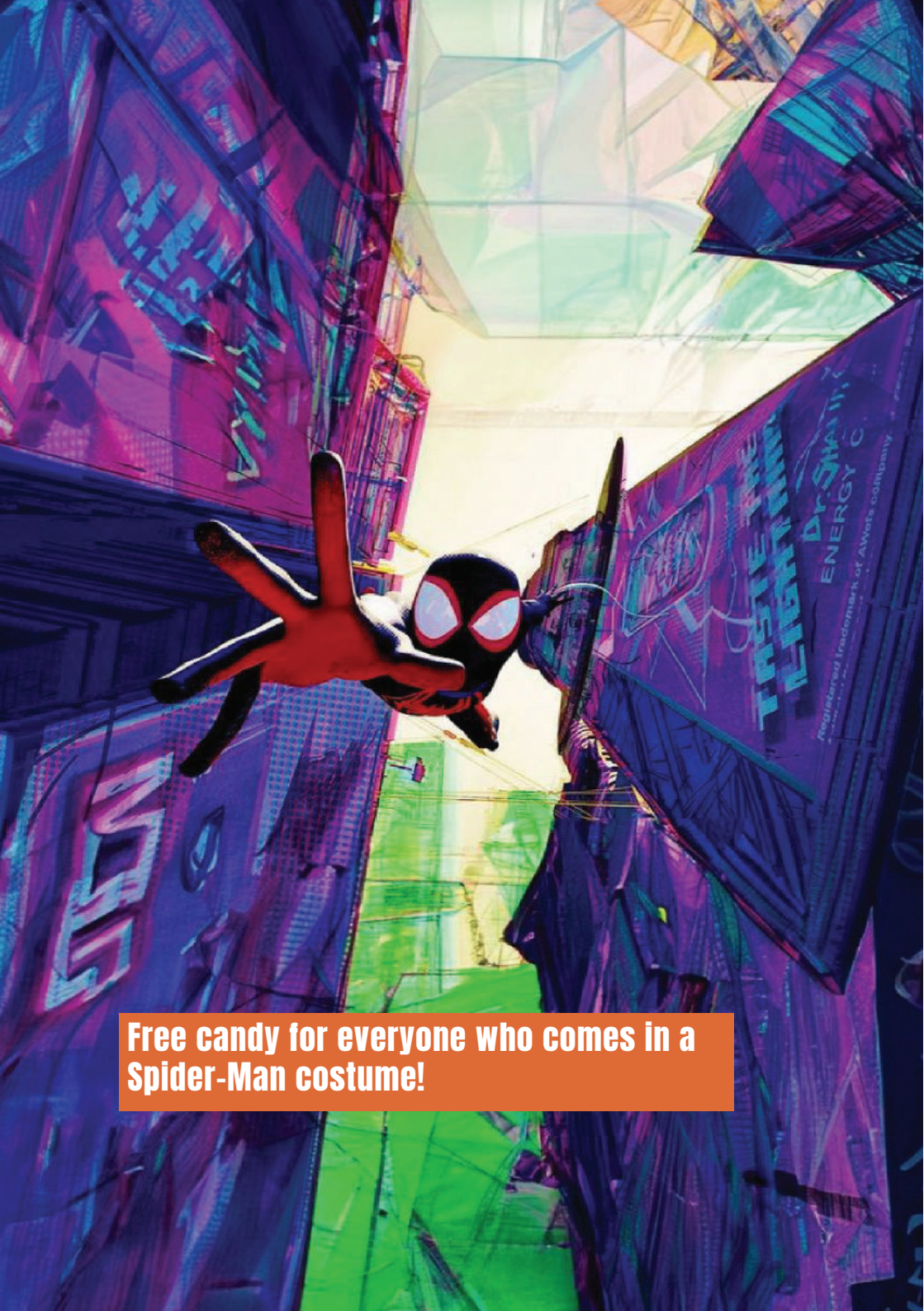
GENRE(S): MUSICAL, DRAMA

COUNTRY: U.S., SOUTH AFRICA, UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE

RATED PG-13







Free candy for everyone who comes in a Spider-Man costume!

**FREE
FAMILY-FLICK**

SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE

Saturday February 17th 2 PM

In this sequel to Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), Brooklyn's full-time, friendly neighborhood Spider-Man, reunites with Gwen Stacy (Hailee Steinfeld) on an adventure across the multi-verse. On their journey, he encounters a team of Spider-People charged with protecting the multi-verse. But the team falls out of harmony in the face of a new threat, and Miles finds himself pitted against the other Spiders. He must soon redefine what it means to be a hero to save the people he loves most.

RUNTIME: 140 MINUTES

DIRECTED BY: JOAQUIM DOS SANTOS,
KEMP POWERS, JUSTIN K. THOMPSON

STARRING: SHAMEIK MOORE, HAILEE
STEINFELD, ISSA RAE, DANIEL KALUUYA,
MAHERSHALA ALI, JASON SCHWARTZMAN

GENRE(S): ACTION, ADVENTURE, COMEDY,
SCIENCE FICTION, SUPER HERO

COUNTRY: U.S.

RATED PG



CLOSING FILM

KING RICHARD

Saturday February 17th 5:30 PM

“King Richard” captures Serena and Venus Williams’ journey to tennis greatness, centering around their father, Richard Williams (Will Smith), and his unyielding commitment to writing his daughters into sports history. This uplifting biographical sports drama chronicles a family’s triumph over adversity as they overcome barriers in the field of professional tennis and ultimately produce two of the world’s greatest sports legends.

RUNTIME: 145 MINUTES

GENRE(S): SPORTS, DRAMA, BIOGRAPHY

DIRECTED BY: REINALDO MARCUS GREEN

COUNTRY: U.S.

STARRING: WILL SMITH, AUNJANUE ELLIS,
SANIYYA SIDNEY, DEMI SINGLETON, TONY
GOLDWYN, JON BERNTHAL

RATED PG-13





CLOSING PARTY

Saturday February 17 8:30 PM

Doors Open at 8 PM

The grand finale of our monumental first Kamloops Black Film Festival! We'll close the curtains on this year's film festival with a night of side-splitting comedy! Featuring Vancouver-based comedian Mufaro Mbudzi, and an opening musical performance by Kuda, our inaugural Black Film Festival Closing Party will be a night to remember!



Mufaro Mbudzi

Mufaro Mbudzi is a Vancouver-based standup comedian and fashion designer, from Zimbabwe, and featured at Melbourne Comedy Festival, Just for Laughs Vancouver and Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival. Mufaro has hosted music concerts and is also an independent event producer, running his own sold out comedy shows in Vancouver, and growing his clothing brand, Scheduled Meditation, showcased at Vancouver Fashion Week as well as Toronto's biggest fashion week, Fashion Art Toronto. His podcast, The AY LIST, features interviews with successful creative artists.

COMEDY NIGHT

ON THE MENU

Enjoy delicious West African snacks at our Closing Night event, catered by Mercy Odiase. Snacks are included in the Closing Night ticket price.

ON DISPLAY

Paintings by Olaitan Adeyemi

Olaitan Adeyemi is a young Kamloops artist who enjoys painting for fun. See her work on display at The Paramount Theatre.

Special thanks to Charlie Napoleon and Ruby Liddy from the Kamloops Art Gallery and to Olaitan Adeyemi for leading the Black Film Festival door painting event. And a big thank you to all the kids who participated!



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