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THE NEWARK MUSEUM

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**THE NEWARK BLACK FILM FESTIVAL
TURNS THE SPOTLIGHT ON EMERGING FILMMAKERS –
WINNERS OF THE 2008 PAUL ROBESON AWARDS**

Paul Robeson Jr. to Speak in Newark, Trenton, Asbury Park

NEWARK, NJ (July 17, 2008)-- The Bank of America Newark Black Film Festival (NBFF), produced by The Newark Museum, is turning the spotlight on emerging filmmakers with screenings in Newark, Trenton, Asbury Park and Camden of the 2008 Paul Robeson Awards, a biennial competition established in 1985 to honor the activist, scholar, performer and athlete. The NBFF, the longest running Black film festival in the nation, is celebrating 34 years of defining the independent film experience. Paul Robeson Jr. will be the guest speaker at Newark, Trenton and Asbury Park screenings.

First Prize and Honorable Mention recognition were awarded to eight filmmakers selected from among 38 entries in four categories – documentary, short narrative, long narrative and experimental. Robeson Award-winning films will be screened at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30, at Newark Screens on Springfield Ave., Newark; 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, at the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton; 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 1, Asbury Park High School, Asbury Park, and 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 26, Rutgers-Camden Center for the Performing Arts, Camden. The filmmakers will participate in a question-and-answer session following each screening.

Produced since 1974 by The Newark Museum, the festival has grown in recent years through the generous support of Bank of America. In 2004, NBFF expanded to Trenton under the auspices of the New Jersey State Museum; in 2005, to Asbury Park, presented by the Monmouth County Arts Council, and this year to Camden, presented by Rutgers – Camden Center for the Arts.

Jurors of the 2008 Paul Robeson Award competition include Henrietta Parker, filmmaker, NJN; Quincy Corker, filmmaker; Pete Chatmon, filmmaker and 2006 Robeson Award-winner for his film, “Premium”; Wanda Pendleton, Newark Museum community coordinator; Ghitana Dickerson, Newark Museum grant writer; Anthony G., Clark, coordinator of library programs, Newark Public Library; Peggy Dougherty, director of development, The Newark Museum, and Joyce Anne Judd, educator. NBFF committee members serving as jurors included Gloria Hopkins Buck, NBFF chair; Iris M. Orellana, director of development and special programs, NJ Department of State; Miriam Petty, Ph.D., and Jane W. Rappaport, former NBFF coordinator.

“The biennial Paul Robeson Awards is given to a select group of filmmakers who believe that black films should rise to the highest possible standards of cultural and historical integrity,” said Dr. Clement A. Price, Professor of History at Rutgers University-Newark and a charter member of the NBFF Selection Committee. “On this thirty-fourth anniversary of the festival and the 22nd anniversary of the

Festival's Paul Robeson Awards, black film, as a genre and as a way of better understanding ourselves, is alive and well. Hallelujah."

2008 PAUL ROBESON AWARDS

Documentary

Winner: *PRINCE AMONG SLAVES*

Filmmaker/Producer: Andrea Kalin. Directors: Andrea Kalin & Bill Duke

Prince Among Slaves documents the life story of Abdul-Rahman, prince of a large African kingdom in what is now Guinea, captured in a battle in 1788 at the age of 26 and sold into slavery. Abdul-Rahman, well-educated and well-versed, became arguably the best known slave in North America, attracting the support of President John Quincy Adams and Secretary of State Henry Clay. (57 minutes)

Honorable Mention: *BODEGA*

Filmmakers: Dallas Penn, Rafi Kam, writers, and Casimir Nozkowski, director. Producer: Internets Celebrities

A humorous look at the nutritional choices made by people who live in America's urban counties, with close attention inside the food pyramid. (7 minutes)

Short Narrative

Winner: *REFLECTIONS*

Filmmaker: Keyana Rey. Director: Gung Prince-Bythewood. Producer: Billy Higgins

Three best friends learn to take HIV/AIDS seriously as they navigate romantic relationships in an urban environment. (20 minutes)

Honorable Mention: *THE MEETING*

Filmmaker and Director: Jeremiah Jahi. Producer: Jacques Durand

Rodney, a family man, goes to meet his father for the first time with hopes of building a relationship only to entangle in loss, anger and hurt. (20 minutes)

Long Narrative

Winner: *ALGENY: THE GENETIC FACTOR*

Filmmaker, Producer and Director: Andrew Burroughs

Justin Thomas is a walking mystery – a young man trying to make a life for himself in adulthood. But when he discovers secrets of his past, his hopes for the future and his life are put in jeopardy.

Honorable Mention: *DEATH OF A B-BOY*

Filmmaker and Director: Willis L. Petrie. Producers: Karen Williams and Willis L. Petrie

The evolution of an artist....The degradation of a genre....The film deals with the death of Hip Hop. (90 minutes)

Experimental

Winner: *BIRTHMARKS*

Filmmaker, Producer and Director: Naima Lowe

Naima and Bill Lowe relate the story of how fathers and daughters make beauty out of trauma and art out of living. (29 minutes)

Honorable Mention: *AMIRI BARAKA'S "SOMETHING IN THE WAY OF THINGS (IN TOWN)"*

Filmmaker, Producer and Director: Bryan Green

Story of a young man falsely incarcerated and a troubled single mom. (9 minutes)

Co-presenters of the Newark Black Film Festival Paul Robeson Award-winning films include New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT); Newark Public Library; Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience, Rutgers, The State University (Newark Campus); Newark Screens on Springfield Ave. in

Newark; Monmouth County Arts Council – Asbury Park High School; the New Jersey State Museum in partnership with the New Jersey Department of State and Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts.

All screenings are FREE TO THE PUBLIC. Films in Newark and Asbury Park will begin at 7:00 p.m. The State Museum in Trenton will begin at 6:00 p.m. Seating for all screenings is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the theater is filled to capacity, additional seating will not be provided. Group seating is limited to two groups of 25 for each screening. To reserve group seating, in Newark, call 973-596-6550; Trenton, 609-292-6464; Asbury Park, 732-212-1890/Ext 3; Camden, 856-225-2700. Group seating will be held only until 6:40 p.m.

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About Bank of America

Bank of America is one of the world's largest financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small and middle market businesses and large corporations with a full range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk-management products and services. The company provides unmatched convenience in the United States, serving more than 59 million consumer and small business relationships with more than 6,100 retail banking offices, nearly 19,000 ATMs and award-winning online banking with nearly 24 million active users. Bank of America is the No. 1 overall Small Business Administration (SBA) lender in the United States and the No. 1 SBA lender to minority-owned small businesses. The company serves clients in 175 countries and has relationships with 99 percent of the U.S. Fortune 500 companies and 83 percent of the Global Fortune 500. Bank of America Corporation stock (NYSE: BAC) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

ABOUT THE NEWARK MUSEUM

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street in the Downtown/Arts District of Newark, New Jersey, just 3 blocks from NJPAC and 10 miles west of New York City. The Museum is open all year round: Wednesdays through Fridays, from Noon - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., October 1 – June 30; and Saturdays and Sundays, from Noon – 5:00 p.m., July 1 – September 30. Suggested Museum admission: Adults, \$9.00; Children, Seniors and Students with valid I.D., \$6.00. Members are admitted free. The Museum Café is open for lunches Wednesday through Sunday. Convenient parking is available for a fee. For general information, call 973-596-6550 or visit our web site, <http://www.NewarkMuseum.org>. The Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State 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.

The Newark Museum is just a few steps from the NJTransit Light Rail Washington Park Station. Direct connection with the Light Rail at the Broad Street Station and through Penn Station makes the Museum a convenient ride from all points in the region.

About the New Jersey State Museum

The New Jersey State Museum was established in 1895 - one of the nation's first state museums founded with an educational mission. Today, that mission comes alive across four distinct subject areas – Archaeology/Ethnology, Cultural History, Fine Art and Natural History – offering a dynamic experience of "four museums in one" and a galaxy of activities for every member of the family. Treasures are exhibited thematically across an expansive, three-building campus that includes the newly renovated four-level main building, a 384-seat auditorium, and a 150-seat planetarium, which is undergoing renovations. Together, the State of New Jersey and the foundations, corporations and citizens of the state are transforming the "People's Museum" into a premiere location for cultural exchange and education. For more information go to www.newjerseystatemuseum.org.

About Monmouth County Arts Council

The Monmouth County Arts Council, a private, nonprofit agency, is dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the county by providing resources to support, inspire and foster the growth and development of the arts. MCAC is made up of hundreds of artists, patrons of the arts, businesses, and 75 arts and community groups which produce theatre, visual art, music film, storytelling, writing and dance. MCAC publishes the only arts magazine in the country, *State of the Art*. A calendar of arts events and programs is available on www.monmouthartscouncil.org with links to county arts organizations.

About Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts

Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts (RCCA) is South New Jersey's premier performing arts, visual arts and arts education institution and has been designated a "Major Arts Organization of New Jersey" by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State. RCCA's mission is to provide performances, exhibitions, education programs, and community projects, that inspire a full appreciation and enjoyment of the arts, create meaningful opportunities to participate in the arts, advance the central role of the arts in preK-12 education, and increase awareness of the arts as essential to cultural, economic, and community vitality. Located on the Camden waterfront, the RCCA venues include the Walter K. Gordon Theater, Stedman Gallery, and Black Box Studio.