



PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Patron of Black Filmmakers Sandra Evers-Manly Launches “Films With A Purpose” Innovative Fund First Release Film Short “Forgiveness” by Satie Gossett

August, 2016 (Los Angeles, CA) – *Longtime patron and advocate for African American filmmakers Sandra Evers-Manly has launched a new “Films With a Purpose” film Innovative Fund.* With a firm understanding of the impact that film has on society, Sandra Evers-Manly has established an “Innovative Fund”, to provide diverse independent and student filmmakers -- who wish to tell the stories that no one else will -- a source of funding. However, those selected will receive much more than dollars, they receive a champion for their project and real mentorship with key partners.

The goal of FWAP is to support the production, completion and distribution of diverse films that inspire, and educate. To identify filmmakers who will tell stories that impact the hearts and mind of the viewer. No longer satisfied with just providing entertainment, laughter, information, these films will move the audience and are intent on catapulting them into action.

Five films have been selected for funding. The first project selected for funding is “Agents of Change.” *which* examines the untold story of the racial conditions on college campuses and in the country that led to these protests. It demonstrates how the film’s characters were caught at the crossroads of the civil rights, black power, and anti-Vietnam war movements at a pivotal time in America’s history. It serves as a vital link to the student struggles that continue today as manifested by the protest in and around Ferguson, Missouri and the nationwide student-led movements, including the I, *Too, Am* (Harvard, UCLA, Michigan, etc.) campaigns. This film is currently screening across the country.

The second film “Forgiveness” -- slated to be released early September-- originated from a simple idea. It is the story of an African American boy who explores the brutal history of America’s role in slavery. It is an allegory of innocence and redemption. The hope is that this film will generate discussions around

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the power of reconciliation and solutions in the healing of a nation long plagued by the disease of racism in all its forms. *“Daring greatly as a filmmaker helps expose audiences to new stories and ideas that if so bold and audacious can change the context of how we view the world and each other. My hope is that “FORGIVENESS” can shift the world’s context around how we deal with slavery as a people and as a country,”* states writer/director Satie Gossett.

Unlike the BHERC which Ms. Evers-Manly founded in 1996, FWAP fund is more than an advocate for filmmakers of color. It is an innovative and provocative resource for use in assaulting the ills that plague our society and screaming for action and answers. Giving a platform to voices from the least of those ignored daily. Three other films that have been funded are currently in production.

“FORGIVENESS” opens in limited release at Landmark Theatres September 7th thru 13th, 2016. For Tickets log on to Landmarktheatres.com.

FWAP is a movement that strongly urges community leaders and educators to organize and attend a public screening. By doing so they accept the challenge to replicate the FWAP effort to “Educate, Inspire, Empower” through the power of film. FWAP encourages them to gather their constituents and/or members and support with organized attendance to achieve a “sell out” at theaters during the qualifying week of each FWAP films.

For more information about the fund or how to book a screening after the limited engagement, please contact bookings@filmswithapurpose.net or call 213.293.4786.

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ABOUT FILMS WITH A PURPOSE



As if the founding of the now 22-year-old Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) was not enough to make an impact for African Americans in film, now comes the physical manifestation of another closely held passion of philanthropist Sandra Evers-Manly entitled, “Films with a Purpose” film fund.

With a firm understanding of the impact that film has on society, Ms. Evers-Manly has established an “innovative fund”, to provide independent and diverse students and filmmakers who need funding to tell the stories that no one else will. However, those selected will receive much more than dollars, they receive a champion for their project and real mentorship with key partners.

The goal of FWAP is to support the completion and distribution of diverse films. Those selected will tell stories that impact, educate and inspire the hearts and mind of the viewer. Not just satisfied with providing entertainment, these films will move the audience intent on catapulting them into action around critical issues such as health, impacting violence, race relations, innovation and history. Stories emphasizing both the struggle AND joy of life.

Unlike the BHERC which she founded in 1996, FWAP film fund is more than an advocate for filmmakers of color. It is an innovative and provocative resource for use in assaulting the ills that plague our society, that scream for action and answers; giving a platform to a new generation of diverse filmmakers and artists.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER - SANDRA EVERS-MANLY

Sandra Evers-Manly is noted corporate executive, community activist and patron to African American Filmmakers and artists who has been making a difference across the nation in diverse communities for more than 25 years. She believes in the power of films as a viable tool to educate and uplift.

Through the founding of the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC)– a nonprofit benefit organization– Evers-Manly and her team advocates, educates, researches, develops and preserves the history and future of Blacks in Film and Television. With the founding of FWAP, she brings viable tool that organizations can use in their communities to support and promote diversity both in front of and behind the camera.

A filmmaker herself, Evers-Manly was executive producer for 5 short films in 1990 about Gang Violence thru Fight Back with Films, an organization she founded. She established the S.E. Manly Film Short Festival, the African American Film Festival and Marketplace, Sistah’s are Doin’ It For Themselves, Reel Black Men and Youth Diversity Film Festivals which take place annually in Los Angeles, CA.

Making a difference is simply in her blood. *“I came from a Civil Rights family in Mississippi. We were raised by the letter L. Love. Lift. Lead. Learn. Laugh. Listen with your heart,”* says Sandra Evers-Manly.

With the founding of FWAP, Evers-Manly brings a viable tool that organizations can use in their communities to promote diversity and win the “battle” to make our communities safe and improve the quality of life regardless of where we reside. A difficult task for most. A must-do for a powerful executive who is also a valiant champion of charitable giving. Films with a Purpose in certainly destined to make a difference in innumerable lives.



FORGIVENESS SYNOPSIS

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“**Forgiveness**” is the story of a young African American boy who enters a national essay contest issued by the President of the United States. President McGovern needs inspiration from the youth about how to fix America. Oliver Burroughs, learning about slavery in his class declares that the President needs to apologize so he submits his solution and enters his essay in the contest.

Oliver learns about the profound impact of slavery on America and different perspectives from everyone in his life. Destiny lays a path for Oliver’s essay to win the President’s contest and now President Burroughs has the task to fulfill this young man’s request to make a national apology for America’s involvement in slavery so healing in the nation can begin.

FILMMAKER SATIE GOSSETT

Satie Gossett is storyteller, thinker and an image builder. Satie began his film career re-creating favorite movie scenes from Star Wars and other movies with his childhood friends and a Super 8 camera. His childhood was filled with legendary people from Muhammad Ali, to playing games with Sidney Poitier. While working for his father, Academy-Award winner Louis Gossett, Jr., Satie became renowned for his filmmaking skills and was granted unprecedented access to political happenings, Hollywood events and philanthropic ventures.

A graduate of Syracuse University, Satie holds a bachelor’s degree in communications and a minor in film studies and is currently a writer, director and producer at Goose Egg Entertainment. Satie creates feature and short film content for various media outlets.

Satie is best known for his comedic short film, “Jewtholic,” a religious comedy narrated by Louis Gossett, Jr and featuring Deep Roy. Satie’s first short film, “Pillow Talk,” was an experimental piece examining the common denominators in grief. He also produced and directed “Departure,” a short film, which was featured at the MacWorld Conference in San Francisco. Complimented by the official Tom Cruise blog, the film included footage, shot exclusively with an iPhone 4s, from three different directors in the United States, France, and Belarus and included original music by Public Enemy Founder Hank Shocklee.

Satie completed his latest short film, “**Forgiveness.**” A dramatic story about the President of the United States of America apologizing for America’s role in slavery. His previous short film, “10 Minutes,” a crime drama short film, featuring Louis Gossett, Jr. and starring Glenn Plummer and Kent Faulcon screened at the Cannes Film Festival along with “Departure” in 2015. He has also produced the documentary feature, “American Addict 2,” which is available on Amazon Prime.

Satie’s producer credits include: “Cursed,” a web-series, which aired last year on KDOC, Los Angeles; and “An Unfinished DREAM.” Satie has written and directed six short films, all of which have been screened at various film festivals and gained distribution worldwide. Throughout the years, Satie has lent his talents to multiple studios, such as, 20th Century Fox Digital, CBS Entertainment, Logo Entertainment and Wrapped Productions.



FORGIVENESS CAST & CREW

Executive Producer, Sandra Evers-Manly

Written and Directed by Satie Gossett

Produced by: Sandra Evers-Manly
Co-Produced by: John Forbes and Boman Modine
Director of Photography: Sara Garth
Production Designer: Alex Choate
Edited by: Ambika Leigh
Casting Director: Zora Dehorter
Original Music by: Jongnic Bontemps
First Assistant Director: Marcus Friend and Boman Modine
Second Assistant Director: Bradley Specht

Cast

Roland Kilumbu
JD Hinton
Robert Peters
Randy Ross
Connie Jackson
Jennifer Fontaine
Kim Webster
Sara'h D. Gibson
Charles Lott, Jr
Nicki Micheaux
Simone Micheaux
Classroom extras:
Oliver Burroughs
President McGovern
Vice President Gear
Secretary of State Norwood
Mabel
Tracy
Mrs. Shannon
Edith the Librarian
Ray Burroughs
Helena
Marci
John Adamia, Mariam Adamian, Masai Mason, Arturo Aguilar,
Adrian Aguilar and Kevin Kilumbu

Crew

First Assistant Camera: Nacias Schreiner, Paulina Bryant and Jeff Etheridge
Second Assistant Camera: Danaya Wattanapan
Gaffer: Marc Villafan and Brien Chatfield
Best Boy Electric: Quinton Farina
Grip: Raulito Bachez
Make Up/Hair: Shauna Thomas, Monique Paredes and Anna Parades
Sound by: Jason Kubota
Sound design by: Lorita De la Cerna
Sound Editing: Kurt Jones
Dialog Editing by: Lorita De la Cerna
Sound Supervisor: Lorita De la Cerna
ADR: Brian Gaskill, Ambika Leigh, Alabama, Gaskill, Satie Gossett
Colorist: Ambika Leigh
Set PA: Dan Moyer
Unit Publicist: Lura Daniels-Ball, Heartsung

Original Song:

"New Day"

Performed by Topher Mohr.
Produced by Topher Mohr and Alex Elena

Special Thanks:

Black Hollywood Education & Resource Center, Writers Boot Camp, Shirley Evers-Manly,
Charles Drew University, DC Stages, Diane Markoff, Gourmandise School. Gergana Angelove