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**9th BLACK IS... CULTUREFEAST
CELEBRATING THE URBAN UNDERGROUND
THROUGH FILM, PERFORMANCE & DIALOGUE**

Five-day festival features an interactive “Camp Darfur” genocide exhibit, panel on the “greening” of Hip-Hop culture, and the screening of two Oscar-nominated documentaries that shed light into Bob Marley’s Rastafarian legacy and Uganda today

Denver – April 23 – 27, 2008, the "**Black Is . . . CultureFeast**" (formally known as the Denver Pan African Film Festival), produced by the Pan African Arts Society (PAAS) and BluBlak Media, launches its annual cultural celebration of the African Diaspora. Most events will be held at East High School and the new Lowenstein Complex including, Neighborhood Flix Cinema & Café (NFlix), Tattered Cover Bookstore, and Twist & Shout Records - located at 2510 E. Colfax Ave. Denver, 80206.

For schedule and ticket information go to www.panafricanarts.org or call 303-777-FLIX (3549) or 303-298-8188. Tickets range from FREE to \$20 and go on sale Saturday, April 12th. This year’s theme, “Documenting Duality” is in honor of the multi-faceted reality of urban society displayed through the select documentary films, performances, panels and parties highlighted over the 5-day event.

“The staff prides itself on exceeding the programmatic expectations of Denver’s art loving community,” says new Executive Director Suzi Smith. “We are excited about our local and national partnerships which allow us to maintain our commitment to art and social change.”

Now in its 9th year, the festival has taken on a more intimate and local, yet poignant flavor, says Ashara Ekundayo, PAAS founder and creative director. “In this ever-growing global society, it’s importance to showcase local professionals alongside national peers to cultivate our palate to appreciate good art and social development while highlighting some of what makes Denver a hip place to live.”

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, April 23: The "Black Is...CultureFeast" officially kicks off with a cocktail AfriChic Reception and screening of the concert tribute film, “**AFRICA UNITE,**” directed by Stephanie Black. Described as a Marley family travelogue, and humanitarian documentary that ignites the screen with “the spirit of world-renowned reggae icon Bob Marley in its every frame.” The film also provides a history of the Rastafarian movements and shares the thoughts of a new-age of Rasta activists and celebrated artists such as Angelique Kidjo and Danny Glover. **Location/Time/Costs:** NFlix - \$20 includes 6 p.m. cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres reception, 7:30 p.m. film – sounds from DJ Uplifter. Sponsored by Effen Vodka & VitaminWater.

Thursday April 24: Events will highlight local authors and film industry professionals with the “Books & Shots” Author Cocktail Hour and the “Whose Wooing Who? SOIL Panel. **Location/Time/Costs:** NFlix, 5:30, cocktail book signing, FREE., panel at 7 p.m. \$5 at the door. Sponsored by Izze.

Friday, April 25: Café Nuba’s monthly poetry & music showcase. Some of the nationally-featured performers new to the Nuba mic include; Hanifah Walidah, Olu Butterfly, Nikki Skies, Lizz Straight, and Baron w/ Resident DJ S.D. and Guest MC: Isis. www.CafeNuba.com. **Location/Time/Costs:** Roxy Theater at 2549 Welton St. (Five Points) at 8 p.m. (18+ /\$10 door). www.CafeNuba.com

Saturday, April 26: The youth-powered “**BrownSuga Youth Fest**” featuring **Camp Darfur**, a project of Stop Genocide Now, an interactive, educational mock refugee camp plus live hip-hop performances, Darfur Youth Slam, breakdance & graffiti demos & More. **Location/Time/Costs:** NFlix/Tattered Cover Patio/Twist & Shout, and Camp Darfur @East High School, 1545 Detroit. 11AM- 630PM. FREE. Sponsored by VitaminWater.

Saturday, April 26: SOIL Panel entitled; “**Going Green and Living Bling**” – a dialogue on going and creating “green” in an environment that has created a “bling” consumerist cultural identity, and how young folks are shifting the paradigm. **Location/Time/Costs:** NFlix at 2510 E. Colfax Ave. 400 – 530pm. Sliding scale –\$5

Saturday, April 26: Q-Poc (Queer People of Color) Collective Soiree w/ Filmmakers Q & A feat. Hanifah Waledah, Olive Demetrius and Tiona McClodden, and live music from Ian Cooke. **Location/Costs:** The Shoppe at 3103 E. Colfax Ave. starting directly after the queer-block of films at NFlix 2510 E. Colfax Ave (approx. 9:45 p.m.) \$5. All-Ages/Alcohol-Free. Sponsored by Izze.

Sunday, April 27: Closing Night Film & Fade2Black Awards Reception honoring community “Artist.” These awards are presented to organizations or individuals who work to encourage, engage and support arts education, personal creativity and community engagement, often without public recognition. This year’s honorees include; Opalanga Pugh, the Café Cultura Collective; The Flobots, Denver Open Media; and Magnet Mafia.

The closing night film, “**WAR DANCE,**” directed by Sean and Andrea Fine, is a powerful documentary that follows a group of schoolchildren as they overcome nearly insurmountable odds in their quest to participate in the annual Kampala Music Festival in spite of the fact that their homeland in Northern Uganda has been a war zone for over 20 years. The destroying of villages, kidnapping children, and murdering parents can not deter these youth determined to take home the championship prize. **Location/Time/Costs:** Film, Awards & Reception start at 7 p.m. (\$15) NFlix.

The Pan African Arts Society is a grassroots, activist-powered non-profit 501c3 organization that coordinates and executes a myriad of arts education, social change venues throughout the year and within the Denver-metro area including the Black Is...CultureFeast. Some of this year’s BICF community partners include; Nielsen, Westword, Izze, the Just Media Fund, Effen Vodka, VitaminWater, Alize, KGNU Radio, KUVU 89, the National Black Programming Consortium, the Hip-Hop Association, Stop Genocide Now, and the Marriott. For more information visit www.panafricanarts.org - 303.298.8188.

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