



CREATIVE WE STAND

SPECIAL EDITION: FILM IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

May 2020

A Note from our Executive Director:

Prince George's County is proud of its expansive array of talented creatives. This month, we put a spotlight on the burgeoning film industry here in the County. There is such depth and breadth of what the film industry can do in telling our stories through our voices. We have everything and everyone that feature films, TV shows and video projects need to move from concept to the screen. Award winning writers, directors, producers, actors, editors, researchers, costume designers, casting directors and much more live and work right here in Prince George's County.



The film industry is vibrant in our County. We have much to highlight and share. Join me in celebrating Prince George's County's film industry innovators!

Creative We Stand,

Rhonda Dallas - Executive Director and Chief Curator
Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council



Prince George's County's Film Movers and Shakers

Jimmy Jenkins, Prince George's County Producer/Director Slam Dunks with new film 'Basketball County: In the Water,' Which Premiered on Showtime This Month!



Local breakthrough Producer/Director Jimmy Jenkins brings Prince George's County into the limelight with his latest sports documentary film 'Basketball County: In the Water.' Produced in conjunction with NBA All-Star Player Kevin Durant, the film takes a look at the exceptional NBA talent born and raised in Prince George's County. Shot on location throughout Prince George's County, the film not only showcases talent on the court, but also off the court, in our schools, and our film industry.

This riveting documentary premiered on May 15th on Showtime. View the trailer below:



Jenkins has been making waves in the film industry for some time. The native Prince Georgian, and son of First Baptist Church of Glenarden Pastor John Jenkins, developed his passion for theater and film at Chicago's Elmhurst College. A severe injury while he was a student athlete forced him to return home where he founded United Empire, a multi-dimensional company offering production, film, music and athletic services. He became known as one of the youngest directors to produce a full-length stage play and the youngest to sell out the Magic Johnson Theater in Largo, MD. He is currently the founder and co-owner of the production company, Jenk Ink, LLC.

Connect with Jenkins at <https://www.instagram.com/jimmyjenkins22/>.

Local Filmmaker Catherine Murphy and Researcher Malkia Lydia Bring History to Life in Recently Released Film, 'They Say I'm Your Teacher'

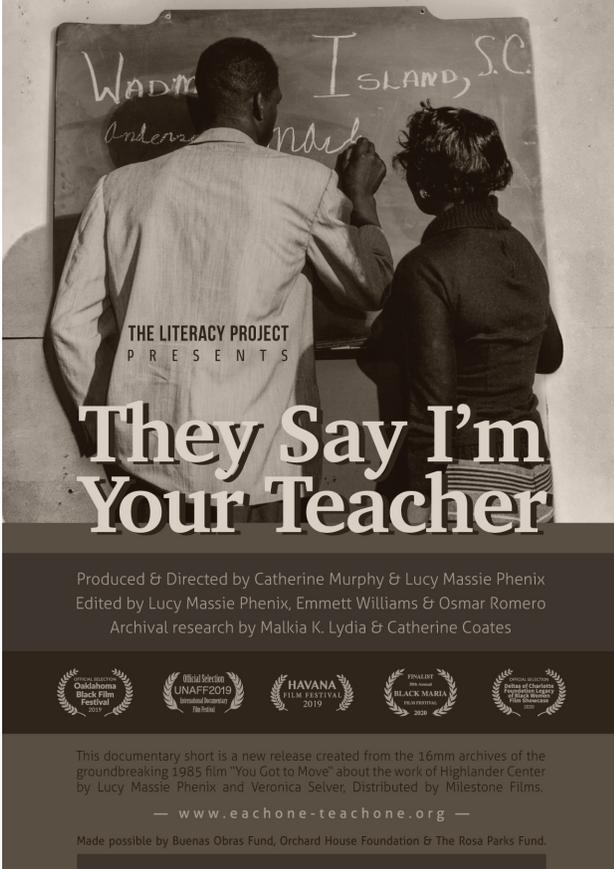


Catherine Murphy



Malkia Lydia

The Literacy Project teamed up with Filmmakers Lucy Massie Phenix and Catherine Murphy to release their latest



short film, 'They Say I'm Your Teacher.' The film explores the birth of Citizenship Education Schools which taught adult literacy and voter registration in the 1950s. Bernice Robinson, an African American beautician from South Carolina, was the first teacher at the Citizenship School. The school helped cultivate community organizations and Black leadership training and was instrumental in setting the stage for the freedom struggle for the next decade. Catherine Murphy and the film's archival researcher Malkia K. Lyda of Kuyamba Media are both Prince George's County residents.

Learn more about The Literacy Project at <https://www.theliteracyproject.org/>.

Stream the movie below!



Award Winning Visionary Filmmaker Harold Jackson III Continues on His Winning Streak with his latest film 'Unarmed Man'



Coming off his film's 'LAST NIGHT', (which has just surpassed 5 million views worldwide) and 'THE MEEK', Producer and Director Harold Jackson III's newest release is the HBO Best Feature Award winner UNARMED MAN. Called "absolutely stellar," by Film Threat, and "the



kind of storytelling that creeps into your bones," by The Independent Critic. 'UNARMED MAN' features superb acting and white knuckle tension. It's also the recent winner of 3 TIVA Peer Awards, Best Independent Feature, Best Actor for Danny Gavigan, and Best of Show.

In 'UNARMED MAN', Civil unrest erupts after a Police Officer shoots and kills an unarmed man. Forced to give a statement, the Officer recounts his version of events. A scathing examination of racial profiling, fear, and violence unravels the mystery in search of the truth.

Harold is a former US Marine who served as a combat camera operator in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition to filmmaking, Harold runs 8 Picture House, a multi service hub for creative video, film and audio needs based in Prince George's County. Harold says "from feature films, commercials and corporate video, 8 Picture House can service all your audiovisual needs".

Connect with Harold Jackson, III at <https://www.haroldjackson3.com/>.

'UNARMED MAN' is streaming now on [Amazon Prime](#).

View the Trailer below:



Prince George's County Publisher Tressa "Azarel" Smallwood Continues Turning Pages in the Film Industry.

Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is pleased to spotlight award-winning Book Publisher, and Movie Producer, Tressa "Azarel" Smallwood. The Prince George's native is the co-owner of MegaMind Media, an American Film & Production



Company specializing in book to film adaptations and original television programming. Tressa is scheduled to begin production on 4 short films for 'BET Her' as part of BET's Breast Cancer and Minority Health Care Initiatives. The short film series, called 'The Waiting Room and the Couch,' highlights the disproportionate challenges black women and families face when it comes to healthcare and mental health.

'A Long Look in the Mirror' tells the story of a broken mother-daughter relationship that is tested when the youth-obsessed mother receives a cancer diagnosis. The film follows their struggles to cope with the disease and their relationship issues.

'Like, Comment, Scribe' follows a newly engaged and popular vlog on Media Box. Her dreams of a fairytale wedding are shattered when she is diagnosed with Stage III breast cancer and now faced with vlogging the fight for her life.

'Everything is Fine' takes us inside the life of a middle-class family living their best life in the suburbs while ignoring the family's biggest issue. Can this picture perfect family do what's needed to save their teenage son?

'Baby Blue' drops us into the world of a first time mother who struggles to adapt to motherhood and quickly finds herself spiraling out of control.

Azarel has recruited legendary female directors, Kim Fields, Vanessa Bell Calloway, and Meagan Goode, to bring these stories to life when they begin filming this year in the DMV area.

Azarel says, "each upcoming project is written, directed and produced by black women showcasing the skills, talent and unique perspective black women bring to the cinema and specifically to the telling of black stories and experiences that are often overlooked and ignored."

Tune into 'BET Her' to support Prince George's County's very own Tressa "Azarel" Smallwood.

Connect with Azarel at <https://www.instagram.com/ceoazarel/>.



Dem Gibsons Films Bring Double Trouble to 'Double Cross' TV Series

(L-R: Howard Gibson; Christel Gibson)

Capitol Heights natives Christel & Howard Gibson of Dem Gibsons Films are the brains behind the hit TV series, 'Double Cross.' Directed and Executive Produced by the sister & brother duo, the series is set to air May 21st, 2020 on the [UMC Network](#).

Christel Gibson and Howard Gibson have 30 years of combined experience in media production. In addition to their new TV series, they are currently producing several movies that are slated to go into production in 2020 and 2021.

'Double Cross' follows the lives of Dr. Erica Cross and her fraternal twin brother Eric Cross. The two couldn't be more different. Erica is a beautiful, caring and prominent Emergency Physician. Eric is a drug dealer who runs "The Heights." They love and protect each other at all costs, but weeks before Erica is set to get married her world falls apart. She makes a choice that takes her life's journey into a downward spiral. Her brother Eric comes to her aid. She soon discovers that he is fed up with the injustice of innocent victims being kidnapped in their community; he is out for justice!

Learn More:

Instagram: [@demgibsonsfilms](https://www.instagram.com/demgibsonsfilms)

Hashtags: #doublecrossumc #DoubleCrossseries

Click the image below to view the trailer:



Put The Finishing Touches On Your Latest Production at:

DPARK 3311
Community of Creative Entrepreneurs



Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council recently opened Design Park 3311(DPARK3311) in the Gateway Arts District, Mount Rainier. The facility boasts many resources that are available to the County's filmmakers.

DPARK3311 provides access to a post-production suites with Mac stations outfitted with the latest Final Cut Pro and Adobe Premier Pro editing software.

A state-of-the-art sound recording studio is also available for use. The recording studio is outfitted with a sound booth with multiple types of condenser microphones, audio-input for instruments, podcasting, and a control room with both Pro-Tools and Logic digital audio workstations. DPARK3311 is available for all of your post-production needs!

In addition to the editing and recording suites, DPARK3311 provides access to film costume designers. Contact Maggy Francois at dparkfashion@pgahc.org to get connected to our Designers in Residences (DIRs) who can bring your vision to life!

Email Michelle Darden-Lee at dpark3311@pgahc.org to learn how you can access these great resources!

DPARK3311 is a Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council project in collaboration with the City of Mount Rainier Department of Economic Development and Gateway CDC Film and Media Arts Lab.

Academic Spotlight:

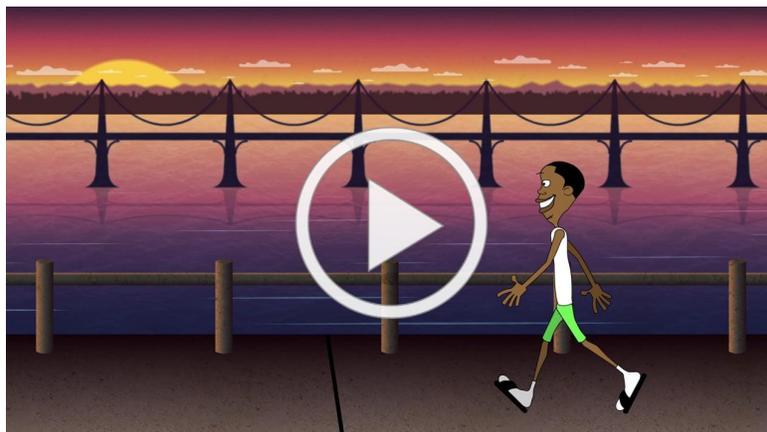
Start a Career in Animation & Motion Graphics at Bowie State University!



In search of a career in Animation and Motion Graphics? Consider Bowie State University. Under the leadership of Professor Tewodross "Teo" Melchishua, BSU's animation and motion graphic program is providing innovative education and training for the next generation of animators. Professor Teo says, "Our goal in VCDMA is to empower our graduates with technical, creative, research, and soft skills; as well as with expertise in problem-solving, collaboration, and innovation as they enter the fields of film, television, and animation."

The concentration provides students with an overview of animation and motion graphics design. It also allows students the opportunity to focus on a highly competitive and successful career option and enter a career in animation (2D/3D), motion graphics, compositing, special effects, and new media. Students will focus primarily on sequential and time-based art and the integration of video and film production. Students also merge skills in illustration and new media.

Click [here](#) to Learn more about Bowie State University's Animation program!



PGAHC Film Artist in Residences Goes Virtual!



Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is successfully inspiring hundreds of students to become future filmmakers through an Artist in Residency film program led by filmmaker Lisa Simmons. This year, students at Flintstone Elementary School, Maya Angelou French Immersion, Bowie High School and Henry Wise High School learned about all aspects of film production, prior to making their own documentaries. Plans are underway for hosting a virtual film festival to showcase our talented students.

Contact Eileen Cave at ecaveart@pgahc.org to learn more about the Virtual Artist in Residency Program!

Film Festivals

The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council and Prince George's Film Office Continue Their Commitment to Area Filmmakers and the Visual Arts Through Their Sponsorship of Several Area Film Festivals.

Soul-4-Reel International Film Festival

Date: August 16th, 2020

Location: Busboys n Poets – Hyattsville, MD

Soul 4 Reel International Film Festival spotlights independent films from around the world with a goal to enlighten, inspire and build the imagination and lives of creative visual artists who enjoy making films.

Proceeds from submission fees and ticket sales goes to "Kids Eat Free - Backpack Lunch Program."



Deadline for Submissions:

Closed

More information:

<http://www.rockabyemedia.com/soul-4-reel>

Heritage Film Festival

Date: October 8,9, & 10, 2020

Location: On-line Streaming

The Heritage Film Festival is a community-based event that brings together short films of all genres from novice and seasoned filmmakers, to celebrated independent media. In addition to 2 days of general film screenings, the Heritage Festival includes a popular Student Film Festival and Student Awards Ceremony.

Cost:

Free event with requests for audience members to bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry.

Deadline for Submissions:

August 15, 2020

More information:

<https://www.heritagefilmfestival.org>



Utopia Film Festival

Date: October 24-25th, 2020

Location: Historic Greenbelt Theater,
Greenbelt, MD

The Utopia Film Festival seeks and presents documentaries, feature films, shorts and animation which creatively entertains, enlightens and explores personal, social, political, cultural and environmental issues which reflect a utopian spirit and challenges humanity's never ending quest for a better world.

Deadline for Submissions:

September 7, 2020

For more information:

<https://www.utopiafilmfestival.org>



Nepal American International Film Festival

Date: Postponed until 2021

Location: TBD

The Nepal American International Film Festival focuses on bridging Nepali and American culture through cinema. The festival showcases all genres of films from Nepal, by Nepali and non-Nepali filmmakers. Screenings will be followed by Q&A sessions and panel discussions.

Deadline for Submissions:

Cancelled

For More Information: <https://nafilmsociety.org>



Virtual Call For Actors:
Get Booked in an Upcoming Film Project in
Prince George's County!

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**NOW CASTING ACTORS
FOR FILM & TELEVISION**
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Email reel and image to:
megamindcasting@gmail.com

Megamind Media is NOW casting #actors for upcoming Film & Television projects.

Please send all info to megamindcasting@gmail.com with specific requirements for film submissions. Please send the following:

1. One recent image
2. Email & phone
3. Video reel, links or digital portfolio*

*Please note background extras do not need to submit reels.

Questions? Email francoismaggy@gmail.com!



Contact Donna Foster-Dotson at donnafoster@princegeorgesfilm.org
to learn more about the Prince George's Film Office!

Please click [here](#) to join our Production Resource Database!

PGAHC Thanks Our FUNDERS For Helping Us Bring The Arts To A Larger Audience!



CONNECT WITH US

