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# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL



**The International Black Film Festival (IBFF)**, established in 2006 as a non-profit 501 c(3), was founded by Chief Executive Officer and Owner Hazel Joyner Smith. IBFF also relies on a highly competent team of committed professionals who invest their time and expertise in this effort to bring culturally diverse communities together to showcase their work as emerging and skilled independent filmmakers, actors, composers, screenwriters, directors and other film industry professionals.

***“Defining Our Stories, Transforming Our Image”*** as its organizational theme, IBFF strives to insure culturally accurate depictions in film with special emphasis on telling the stories in our on voice, providing a forum for unheard, unseen and unknown viewpoints, and to showcase the rich creativity and diversity found in communities of color locally, nationally and internationally.

***IBFF is committed to:***

- Hosting a celebratory, culturally diverse, community inclusive, family friendly, festival that provides a source of education and entertainment for all participants.
- Engaging people of all races and cultures in the support, development and enjoyment of culturally relevant depictions in film.
- Provides a venue/avenue that showcases the work of independent filmmakers from around the globe, with a special focus of those from and in Tennessee;
- Provides access to top film industry leaders and networking opportunities;
- Introduces the latest in technique and technology via workshops, master classes, demonstrations and industry panels;
- Affects economic growth and opportunity for its participants and the State of Tennessee;
- Provides a family friendly event for which all communities can participate;
- Connects and build ongoing relationships in all aspects of the business of film;
- Partners with and provide quality programming to school systems, colleges, universities and civic organizations across the state;

If you're interested in membership or becoming a volunteer please email [info@ibffnashville.com](mailto:info@ibffnashville.com)

# WELCOME

## FROM OUR FOUNDER



**O**n behalf of International Black Film Festival of Nashville, I would like to you welcome you to our 2019 festival as we mark our 14th year of celebrating the richness, diversity and creativity of storytelling for the cultural enrichment, progression, and education of communities worldwide.

Since our inception in 2006, the festival has been received by the film community with much enthusiasm and has offered a venue for the underserved, emerging and veteran filmmaker to screen their work.

Through the art of film, the International Black Film Festival remains the only ongoing festival series in Nashville and the state of Tennessee to highlight the contributions of African-American filmmakers.

In continuation of our dedication and determination to highlight and share the stories made for and about people of color, we embrace the growth of the industry and work to develop our brand to fit a standard of excellence. While each of our local, national, and international filmmakers each have different stories to tell, we appreciate the depth and diversity they offer to our festival and the relationship we have fostered as a result of their artistic efforts.

As a nonprofit organization, we continue to seek resources that support a community effort to bring African-Americans and other communities together to showcase their work as emerging and skilled independent filmmakers, actors, composers, screenwriters, directors and other film industry professionals. Our mission is to educate, engage and empower communities within the diaspora

by telling their stories, sharing their experiences in their own voice through the art of film, music, and television. We believe your attendance and participation is an example to others in the industry of the impact have made and the significant value of our festival. We hope that in your own way, you will become an ambassador of IBFF championing our cause and vision.

With the support of sponsors, partners, and volunteers, IBFF is committed to supporting our community and those that are passionate about the film industry. Whether it our workshops or our screenings, the networking or the learning, we believe that you will gain an enlightened perspective on the possibilities of film in our ever-changing society and your role in contributing to that change.

Thank for deciding to participate with us in this year's film festival. We are excited to make this an unforgettable year for the aspiring filmmakers, writers, actors, industry executives and attendees from across the world. We hope that you take advantage of all of the opportunities we have put in place for you. Enjoy this year's event and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Sincerely,

Hazel Joyner Smith  
President and CEO

# SCREENING SCHEDULE

THURS. **October 3**

## **BLACK & BLUE**

7:30 – 9:15PM

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

FRI. **October 4**

## **SHORTS SUITE 1**

1:15 – 3:15PM | WATKINS THEATRE

SOMETHING FOR CYNITRA

SIMMER

BURYING MITCHELL

I'M SORRY

THE COLOR OF ME

DISCHARGED\*

## **THE SIXTRIPLEEIGHT**

3:15 – 4:30PM | WATKINS THEATRE

SPECIAL FEATURE:  
**WORLD WIDE NATE**

3:30 – 4:30PM | WATKINS THEATRE

FRI. **October 4** (Watkins)

## **BEAST OF THE WATER**

6:30 – 8:00PM

## **FOSTER BOY**

8:15 – 10:30PM | BELMONT UNIVERSITY

## **SKIN I'M IN**

8:15 – 8:20PM | BELMONT UNIVERSITY

# SCREENING SCHEDULE

SAT. **October 5**

## **IMAGINE ME CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM**

9:00 – 10:00AM | WATKINS THEATRE  
WHAT IF...THEN WHAT?  
CHI-NANIGANS

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## **SHORTS SUITE 2**

9:00 – 10:00AM | WATKINS THEATRE  
THE PAST IS PROLOGUE: CAMERON CLASS  
OF 1969  
LOVELY BURDEN  
SAVING BILLY  
HERCULANEUM'S FIRST BLACK HOME-  
COMING QUEEN  
FLIGHT  
TUITION

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## **SHORTS SUITE 2**

2:15 – 3:45PM | WATKINS THEATRE  
NIA'S SHADOW  
ASIA A  
IN THE SHADOWS  
FIRST DAY BACK

SAT. **October 5**

## **SOUTH CENTRAL LOVE**

4:00 – 5:30PM | WATKINS THEATRE

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## **ITERATION 13**

5:30 – 5:36PM | WATKINS THEATRE

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## **E:60 - IDENTITY: THE JOURNEY OF DELAND MCCULLOUGH**

5:36 – 6:06PM | BELMONT UNIVERSTIY

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## **TWO BEATS, ONE SOUL**

6:06 – 7:36PM | BELMONT UNIVERSTIY

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## **LOREEN'S GOTTA BOOGIE**

7:45 – 8:00PM | BELMONT UNIVERSTIY

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## **SPOTLIGHT FEATURE**

8:00 – 10:00PM | BELMONT UNIVERSTIY

# SCREENING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY **October 6**

## **INDIE FILM COMPETITION**

**11:00a - 2:00p**

**WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART**



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

THURS. **October 3**

## **REGISTRATION & BOX OFFICE**

5:00-8:00PM

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

## **MASTER CLASS**

WITH DIRECTOR DEON TAYLOR

3:30 - 5:00p

STRANGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## **OPENING NIGHT RED CARPET**

6:30 - 7:00P

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

OPENING NIGHT INDIE SHORT

## **THE TALK**

7:15- 7:25P

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

THURS. **October 3**

OPENING NIGHT FEATURE FILM

## **BLACK AND BLUE**

W/DIRECTOR DEON TAYLOR

7:30P.- 9:15P

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

## **OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**

9:00P - 1:00A

SPONSORED BY

ANNE DALLAS DUDLEY PARK  
505 NASHVILLE

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY **October 4**

### **REGISTRATION & BOX OFFICE**

8:00A - 8:30P

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### **TECHNOLOGY GAME CHANGERS FOR CONTENT CREATORS**

9:45a – 11:00a

SPONSORED BY CODIGO

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### OUR CULTURAL ECONOMY: **A DISCUSSION ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BLACK-FOUNDED BUSINESSES AND EVENTS ON NASHVILLE'S ECONOMY**

9:45a – 11:00a

SPONSORED BY MOJO MARKETING + PR

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

## FRIDAY **October 4**

### **INDIE FILM COMPETITION**

12:00p - 6:00p

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### **PITCHING TO WIN**

4:00p– 5:00p

A PITCH TUTORIAL WITH SQUEAKY MOORE

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### THE PERFECT SCORE: **CREATING POWERFUL SCENES WITH MUSIC**

5:00p– 6:00p

SPONSORED BY SAGINDIE

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER

BELMONT UNIVERSITY

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY **October 4**

### **"REAL" CONVERSATIONS WITH CELEBRITY CASTING AGENT TRACY "TWINKIE" BYRD**

FEATURING CELEBRITY ACTORS GABRIELLE  
DENNIS AND WOODY "THE GREAT" MCCLAIN

**6:15p - 7:15p**

**R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY**

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### **CENTER STAGE RED CARPET**

**7:30P – 8:00P**

**R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY**

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### **SKIN I'M IN**

CENTER STAGE INDIE SHORT

**8:15P – 8:20P**

**R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY**

## FRIDAY **October 4**

### **FOSTER BOY**

CENTER STAGE MARQUEE FILM

**8:20P – 10:30P**

**R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY**

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### **CENTER STAGE PARTY**

**9:00P – 1:00AM**

**AT 624**

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY **October 5**

### **REGISTRATION & BOX OFFICE**

8:00A - 8:30P

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### **FILMMAKERS BREAKFAST**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
DAVID WHITE, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF SAG-AFTRA

7:30a – 9:00a

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY  
SHAMBLIN THEATER

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### **“IMAGINE ME”**

### **CHILDREN’S PROGRAM**

CHI-NANIGANS (FEATURE FILM)  
WHAT IF...THEN WHAT? (FEATURE FILM)

9:00a – 10:00a

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

## SATURDAY **October 5**

### **CROSSING FROM INDIE TO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION**

9:30A – 10:30A

SPONSORED BY TENNESSEE  
ENTERTAINMENT, FILM & MUSIC  
COMMISSION

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### **INDIE FILM COMPETITION**

10:00a - 6: 00p

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### **CREATING BINGE-WORTHY CONTENT AND SECURING A DEAL**

11:00a – 12:00p

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY **October 5**

### RECEPTION

12:00P – 2:00P

SPONSORED BY WOMEN IN FILM  
AND TELEVISION  
WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### FAST PITCH

1:00P – 2:15P

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### SPOTLIGHT RED CARPET

7:20P – 7:50P

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

## SATURDAY **October 5**

### SPOTLIGHT INDIE SHORT

#### LOREEN'S GOTTA BOOGIE

7:45P – 8:00P

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

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### SPOTLIGHT FILM

8:00p – 9:45p

R. MILTON & DENICE JOHNSON CENTER  
BELMONT UNIVERSITY

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### SPOTLIGHT PARTY

9:00p – 1:00am

IBFF & R&BAE PRESENT THE  
SPOTLIGHT PARTY AT ANALOG AT THE  
HUTTON HOTEL

# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY **October 6**

### **BOX OFFICE**

9:00A - 4:30P

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

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### **INDIE FILM COMPETITION**

11:00a - 2:00p

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART

## SUNDAY **October 6**

### **SOUNDS OF CINEMA LIVE**

A GOSPEL JOURNEY THROUGH FILM

4:00P - 6:30P

SPONSORED BY YES LORD RADIO &  
LOVEJADE INC.

WATKINS COLLEGE OF ART



HCA Healthcare and TriStar Health are proud to support the *International Black Film Festival of Nashville* and its efforts to showcase the rich creativity and diversity found in communities of color locally, nationally and internationally.



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# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## David P. White

David White is the national executive director and chief negotiator of Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artist (SAG-AFTRA). In this role, White serves as chief executive officer and strategist for the world's largest entertainment union with approximately 160,000 members worldwide who work in film, television, broadcast news, commercials, music, video games and emerging media.

Prior to rejoining SAG-AFTRA, where he previously served as general counsel from 2002 to 2006, White was managing principal of Los Angeles-based Entertainment Strategies Group LLC, providing consulting services to the entertainment industry. He was a labor and employment attorney at O'Melveny & Myers LLP before joining the executive ranks of

SAG-AFTRA. Prior to law school, White was the executive director of an innovative youth services organization, Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

A Rhodes Scholar, White is a graduate of Grinnell College, Stanford Law School and The Queen's College, Oxford University. He serves as a board member of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. He is former chair of the board and current trustee of the SAG-AFTRA Health Plan, former chair and current trustee of the SAG-Producers Pension Plan, former chair of the board of trustees of Grinnell College, and former vice chair of the Industry Advancement and Cooperative Fund. He is a trustee of the AFTRA Retirement Fund, a board member of the Motion Picture and Television Fund, the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, and The Actors Fund. White serves as a Commissioner for the Industry Commission on Eliminating Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality in the Workplace, and is a member of both the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

White has served as a Los Angeles area commissioner for urban planning and development. He has been a contributing writer for the Los Angeles Lawyer, has been featured in various publications including the Los Angeles Magazine, and has served as a commentator on national and industry publications and radio shows. He has received numerous awards throughout his career, including the John M. Langston Bar Association's Attorney of the Year award in 2014, the National Bar Association's Entertainment, Sports & Art Law Section Attorney of the Year in 2010, and the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel's Labor and Personal Representation Counsel of the Year in 2009.



# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## **Darrien Michele Gipson**

Darrien Michele Gipson is the Executive Director of SAGindie. An M.F.A. recipient from the Peter Stark Producers Program at the University of Southern California, Darrien was formerly the Vice President of Production for DEF Pictures. As Executive Director of SAGindie, Darrien leads a team that is responsible for independent filmmaker outreach and specializes in teaching low budget production focusing on the process for hiring professional actors via SAG-AFTRA's low budget contracts. She is a frequent moderator and speaker on panels and production workshops, negotiates sponsorship agreements with film festivals around the country, spearheads SAGindie's annual national advertising campaigns, oversees SAGindie.org, and throws several epic filmmaker parties. Darrien has traveled to over 55 film festivals in more than 25 states and 5 countries to consult with independent filmmakers.



## **Jabari Ali**

Jabari Ali is a Guild Award nominated, veteran music supervisor with a great desire to use his skills to enhance, encourage and empower those around him. While Jabari has worked in several industries including education, coaching, mentoring, marketing, publishing, and management, music supervision is his strongest passion. Jabari has leveraged a propensity for deal making and an immense knowledge of the film, music and entertainment industries to operate Paragon Film Music, one of the industry's premiere companies. Jabari has used his network and solid relationships to be invited to work on some of Hollywood's most notable projects.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Tracy “Twinkie” Byrd

Tracy “Twinkie” Byrd has built a reputation in this business as a Casting Director, for films such as “Fruitvale Station”, “Fig”, “Filly Brown” and “Southside With You”, and worked with Directors such as Ryan Coogler, Richard Tanne and Michael Olmos. After a decade of quietly nurturing her own creative eye, she is now expanding her focus to the Director’s chair.

In doing so, Tracy’s aim is to help cultivate a conversation bridge between races and generations, on diversity, equality, change, and inclusion in Hollywood and around the world. As her artistic energies continue to spawn a varied body of work, it is her hope that she will be making a significant contribution toward shifting perceptions toward a better world for all.



## Ingrid L. Brown

Ingrid Brown is the founder, President and CEO of the new tech startup Codigo LLC. Codigo, which means, “code” in Spanish, is a full-service technology consulting firm specializing in crafting and executing coherent solutions in technology, business development and training no matter the industry.

Over the past 15 years, Ms. Brown has been an independent Information Technology Consultant successfully leading software implementations, creating and executing training, mainly in the Peoplesoft /Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) space for national and international, fortune 50 to 500 companies.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Deon Taylor

Deon Taylor is an unabashed creative force in the world of film and television. In Hollywood, roles vary and job functions are often blurred and blended and few in Hollywood exhibit the capacity and skill set necessary to bridge all functions and roles successfully – Deon is one of the few who does through his production company Hidden Empire Film Group.

A prolific writer, filmmaker, director and idea generator, Taylor forges his own path, bringing fresh, original content with a unique voice behind it to audiences. Taylor recently wrote, directed and produced the thriller *The Intruder* starring Dennis Quaid, Michael Ealy and Meagan Good. The film was acquired by Sony's Screen Gems and released May 3, 2019. He also produced, with Jamie Foxx, the comedy feature *All-Star Weekend*, starring Foxx, Robert Downey Jr., Gerard Butler, Eva Longoria, Jeremy Piven, Jessica Szohr, which Jamie Foxx directed.



## John Minton III

John is a producer and director of features, documentaries and episodic series from Commack, New York. He studied Sports Information and Journalism at the University of Connecticut, graduating in 2004. Since then he has worked at ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut. He began producing features for programs like *Sunday NFL Countdown* and *Sportscenter* in addition to producing stories for the award-winning, *Outside the Lines*. In 2011, John began producing content for ESPN's award-winning news magazine show, *E:60*.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Brett Dismuke

Before returning to UMC to helm the subscription service of UMC, Brett Dismuke maintained his own entertainment outfit, So Chi Entertainment as well as served as President/COO of The Swirl Group, President of Moguldom Entertainment, and previously as the Senior Vice President of Acquisitions and Urban Programming for RLJ Entertainment's One Village studio. Brett has over 25 years of marketing, production, sales and branding experience.

Through partnership with Swirl Films in 2014, Dismuke formed The Swirl Group. Through the power of their collaboration, the company established itself as the leading urban independent production company in North America, with over 80 productions in their catalog. This multi-hyphenate outfit was devoted to offering high-quality production value at lower costs, including production of independent features and multi-camera content, casting, budget creation, scheduling, post-production, talent relations and distribution.



## Mychael G. Chinn

Mychael G. Chinn is the Manager, Original Movies for Lifetime Television, based out of Los Angeles, CA. He graduated with a BFA in Acting from the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University.

He graduated with a BFA in Acting from the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University. He started his career working under casting director Tracy "Twinkie" Byrd on the casting of films such as Notorious, The Blind Side, Secret Life of Bees among others. He also was an original member of The Movement Theatre Company in New York City. He then left theatre, film, and television to work as the Assistant Company Manager for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 4 seasons. Upon leaving Alvin Ailey, Mychael went to work as a Producer and Production Manager for BET Digital and BET Her and then landed at Lifetime Television, where he has been for the past 3 years, working first on the Acquired Content team, then segued onto the Original Movies front, where he has helped shepherd over 55 movies to broadcast.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS

## Gabrielle Dennis



Gabrielle Dennis is a multi-hyphenate best known for her work in television as an actress on series like “Rosewood” (Fox), “Marvel’s Luke Cage” (Netflix), and her stellar performance as Whitney Houston in “The Bobby Brown Story” mini series for BET. Although Gabrielle has been recognized as a dramatic actress and singer in recent years, she actually started her professional career as a stand up comedian and sketch performer in Los Angeles where she was discovered by Damon Wayans to star as a series regular on his short lived sketch show “The Underground” on Showtime. Other prominent comedy credits include “Blue Mountain State” (Spike TV), “The Game” (CW) and “Insecure” (HBO).

This year Gabrielle returns to her comedy roots in a major way as one of the leading ladies on HBO’s “A Black Lady Sketch Show” where she credits Robin Thede (creator/EP) for the full circle experience as it was Robin who first met Gabrielle as a comedian and sketch performer at the beginning of her career. Viewers get to rediscover Gabrielle as a comedic actress alongside Robin and the rest of the talented cast assembled for this hilariously magical new sketch show. A Black Lady Sketch Show premieres August 2nd on HBO.



## David Smith

David Smith is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, and photographer. His work in commercial video production has earned him two corporate top-honor awards from KINKO’s and The Bridgestone Group, as well as three Telly Awards for his work with the Tennessee Center for Child Welfare. His latest short film, BRAINCHILD, was an official selection at numerous Film Festival throughout the south. He is currently the Film Crew Technology Program Director and Associate Professor of Film at Columbia State Community College in Franklin Tennessee. As a bit of trivia, his first paid film production gig was when he was a freshman in college. He was an un-credited local (Nashville) Production Assistant for the film “Starman,” starring Jeff Bridges and Karen Allen.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS

## Angela Northington



A seasoned executive in diverse programming, Angela has an extensive background in content strategy, acquisitions, development and production. After graduating from film school, Angela started her career path as a producer, working on numerous independent feature films, commercials and music videos. Angela credits her fundamental foundation as a producer as pivotal to her growth as an executive.

Angela most recently served as Senior Vice President, Content Acquisitions & Programming for UMC – Urban Movie Channel, a division of RLJ Entertainment, overseeing the company's acquisitions, programming and development for the proprietary subscription VOD platform UMC ([www.UMC.tv](http://www.UMC.tv)), launched by RLJE Chairman and BET founder Robert L. Johnson. While there, Angela spearheaded UMC's original content initiative, bringing award-winning scripted and unscripted series to the OTT platform; and also served as General Manager, overseeing business operations, marketing and scheduling.

## Shannon Sanders



Shannon Sanders, former President of the Nashville Chapter Recording Academy, has the kind of list of accomplishments that truly makes you wonder if he's somehow been blessed with more hours in the day than the rest of us. Nationally, he's best-known for his GRAMMYs (2), Emmys (2) and Dove (1) award. But in Music City, the place that is perhaps the most-fitting for his resume, SHANNON holds an endless list of titles and positions.

Not only is he the founder and program director of Nashville Scene's "2018 Best Soul Radio Station" pick, 102.1 FM THE VILLE and a National Trustee of the Recording Academy, SHANNON is also a city commissioner for the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation, a board member of the Nashville Ballet, a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Inc. and, he was one of the music industry leaders selected for Leadership Music's Class of 2017



# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Brandi N. Payne

Brandi Nicole Payne is an actor, writer and “artist” who splits her time between Memphis and LA. An HBO Access Writing Fellow, her work has been featured on television, won multiple awards and has been selected for prestigious programs including the Ryan Murphy Half Initiative and the Emergence grant for female filmmakers. Brandi recently made her directorial debut with her short film Aloha, which was crowdfunded on Seed & Spark and supported by a grant from Grant Larson Productions. In her personal life, Brandi is married and has three sons. She serves as a Sexual Assault Victim’s Advocate as a proud member of RAINN’S Speakers Bureau.



## Ruth T. Paul

For the last 21 years Ruth T. Paul has held post for the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and intermittingly The American Federation of Television and Radio Artist (AFTRA). Most currently and for the last 11 years Ruth has held the position of Business Representative, and now Senior Business Representative for SAG-AFTRA in the South East. As of October 8, 2017, Ruth Paul relocated to the Atlanta Local.

Ruth Specializes in the SAG-AFTRA Low Budget Contracts.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Shane Paul McGhie

Shane started acting at Beverly Hills High School and furthered his acting studies at University of Southern California in their BFA program. After graduating in 2016, Shane booked the "My Player" role for the NBA 2K18 video game. He then booked a few more roles on, "Rebel" (BET), "Criminal Minds" (CBS), "Shameless" (SHOWTIME), and also the lead in "Foster Boy," a timely Independent movie starring Matthew Modine and Louis Gossett Jr. He can most recently be seen in Facebook Watch's "Sacred Lies," Aviron Pictures' "After," Paramount Players' "What Men Want" starring Taraji P. Henson and Tracy Morgan, and Netflix's "Unbelievable."

Within the last year he has worked on the Charlie Day & Wrigley Pictures' "El Tonto," the Dolly Parton anthology series, "Dolly Parton's Heartstrings," the Steven Spielberg produced Apple TV+ anthology series, "Amazing Stories," and the upcoming fourth season of BET's "Greenleaf." Most recently he completed the independent movie "The Last Shift" in which he stars opposite Richard Jenkins. On the horizon, Shane will be able to be seen as a series regular on the upcoming FOX series "Deputy" and in Nate Parker's new film "American Skin" which is premiering at the Venice Film Festival. Shane is repped by Innovative Artists.



## Nathan Fluellen

Nathan Fluellen is the creator, executive producer and host of World Wide Nate: African Adventures. The reality travel show follows the Chicago native, who is a thrill-seeker with a magnetic personality and penchant for pushing himself outside of his comfort zone. The international travel vlogger ([worldwidenate.com](http://worldwidenate.com)) hikes the Democratic Republic of the Congo mountains to the world's largest lava lake, rappels alongside a 600-foot-tall waterfall in Lesotho, and treks through the Rwandan jungle alongside silverback gorillas, and more. His show is produced by 31 Dogwood Productions, TAC studios and is streaming on Amazon Prime.

[www.ibffevents.com](http://www.ibffevents.com)



# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS

## Woody McClain



Woody McClain was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and raised in Jacksonville, Florida before moving to Los Angeles in 2012 to pursue a career as a professional dancer. He has since performed with numerous artists including Chris Brown and Fifth Harmony.

Woody's first venture into acting proved incredibly successful when he was sent to audition for BET's *The New Edition Story* and booked the lead role, playing Bobby Brown. He recently signed on to reprise his role as Bobby Brown in BET's *Bobby Brown Story*. Next up, he will be seen on the big screen in *Canal Street* playing "MayMay," set to release in February 2018. His upcoming projects also include a role in USA's series "Unsolved," currently in production.

Alongside his acting, Woody is currently executive producing his own creation titled *Stories with Kev*. He has teamed up with Kevin Hart for a streaming series in which he plays Kevin, based on Hart's most iconic stories and stand-up bits. New episodes release every Friday on Hart's #1-rated streaming video service, "Laugh Out Loud".

## Angela Green, ESQ.



Angela Green is an attorney in Memphis and Founder/CEO of Positioned for Millions: Entertainment Business Affairs Service. Ms. Green is also Executive Director of On Location: Memphis, Inc. (OL:M), which is a non-profit known for producing the International Film and Music Festival in Memphis for 17 years. In 2016, OL:M launched the Memphis Music Banq, which is a music licensing house for Film, TV and other visual media.

Over the years Ms. Green has represented or worked with such artists and entertainment companies such as Larry Dodson, lead vocalist for the Bar-Kays, The Funk Masters Tour, Mr. Del, Mali Music, Lil Rounds, Black Rock Revival, D'Mario, The Tennessee Mass Choir and various other artists and companies across the country.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Monchiere' Holmes-Jones

Founder of MOJO Marketing + PR, a marketing agency in Nashville, TN known for amplifying brands that shape community cultures.

Her current claims to fame include curating marketing campaigns and experiences for Tennessee State Parks, New Orleans CVB, Harrah's New Orleans, MetroPCS, United States Postal Service, HCA Healthcare, Hiller Plumbing Heating Cooling & Electrical, Mr. Roof and many more. Either through creating media exposure, energizing integrated marketing campaigns or activating experiential events.



## Gisela Moore

Gisela Moore, Project Manager for the TN Entertainment Commission which is under ECD for the State of TN for the past 14 years has helped approximately 200 projects per year with permits, research and crew. She has worked with Scripps Network, Discovery, ABC's "Nashville" TV Series, Motor Trends, Ride with Norman Reedus, Warner Bros. International, Chrisley Knows Best, countless music videos, photo shoots and commercials. Passionate about sharing information on opportunities that can help Tennesseans get employed.



## Cedric T. Bradley

Cedric's love for cooking started at the very young age of 14 where he worked as a dishwasher at a local restaurant in Texas. After graduating from High School, he enrolled in Houston-Tillotson University in Austin Texas. After receiving a B.A. in Hotel Restaurant Management, he moved to Atlanta Georgia. He immediately enrolled in the Art Institute of Atlanta. After receiving a Culinary Arts Degree, the next 5 years he worked in some of Atlanta's most exquisite hotels and restaurants. Cedric later took his experiences as a Chef and wrote, directed and produced a feature film about his life as an African-American Chef working in European kitchens and pastry shops.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Joshua Miller

Joshua Miller is the one of the most experienced Grips in TN! He worked on ABC's "Nashville" TV Series, "Soul Men" with the late Bernie Mac and Chattanooga's own Samuel Jackson, Miley Cyrus's Hannah Montana, The Help with Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer and Stoker with Nicole Kidman. Right now he's working on the Memphis NBC Series "Bluff City Law" which premieres September 23rd.



## Peter Kurland

Peter Kurland was raised in Nashville and has been in production sound for 36 years including all Coen Brothers films, booming on 'Blood Simple' then mixing 'O Brother' through "Ballad of Buster Scruggs". He also mixed "Walk The Line" and many Barry Sonnenfeld films including "Men in Black" I, II, and III. He has won two Grammys, four Oscar nominations, a BAFTA and three CAS Awards. He lives in Nashville where he is Business Agent for IATSE Local 492 when otherwise unemployed.



## Nathan Thompson

Nathan Thompson is the owner of production company Contrast Visuals, rental house Contrast Cine, and is President of the Nashville Filmmakers Guild.

He's filmed everything from narrative, music videos & commercials, to struggles in remote Africa and the war in Afghanistan. He is a 19 time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and has DP'ed productions for ESPN, Amazon, Bridgestone, Taylor Swift, Nicole Kidman, Wayne Gretzky & more. Outside of work he enjoys rock climbing, running and drumming.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS

## Sounds of Cinema



Bishop Kenneth H Dupree



Lawrence Thomison



Shonka Dukureh



Tim Dillinger



Everett Drake



Renee Craig



Terry Cade



Herchel Bailey



Ronnie Robertson



Herchel Bailey

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Marquis Smalls

Marquis Smalls was born and raised in Bed-Stuy Brooklyn, where he graduated Brooklyn Technical High School, one of the most respected and distinguished secondary schools in the world. He then went on to graduate from The Pennsylvania State University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in African/African-American Studies and a minor in Sociology.

Upon graduating from Penn State, Marquis joined Teach for America and concurrently enrolled at New York University's continuing education screenwriting program to enrich his skills and gain knowledge that would later afford him the opportunity to pursue his passion while becoming an award-winning educator, coach, screenwriter, director, and producer. During his fifteen year career as an educator in New Jersey and New York City, Marquis enhanced the lives of many students, leaving a positive and lasting impression in the classroom.



## Mignon Francois

Mignon Francois is the founder and CEO of The Cupcake Collection—a wildly successful destination bakery with locations in Nashville and New Orleans.

Building her multimillion-dollar bakery from nothing, she's received numerous business awards, including the "Woman of Legend and Merit" from Tennessee State University. In her spare time, she loves to spend time with her six kids, walk the Nashville Greenway, and sample donuts.

# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Geoff Koch

Geoff has worked professionally as a composer for film, TV, and media for over 2 decades, including credits from National Geographic to Saturday Night Live to the feature film Beautifully Broken. He earned his Bachelor of Music between Oberlin Conservatory's TIMARA program, and Belmont University's commercial music program. He was featured in Keyboard Magazine in 1996 and had his first choral piece accepted for publication when he was just 20.



## Ashley Lawal

Ashley Lawal is a freelance marketing consultant, web designer and Founder/Editor of Urbaanite, an urban city guide sharing Nashville's food, art, culture and happenings through the eyes of the people. As a Nashville native with some Midwest living in between, she has a natural proclivity to connect people (over food, stories and shared interests) whenever possible.

After returning to her hometown upon graduating from Northern Illinois University, she noticed the city she knew (and previously could get around in 15 minutes or less) was changing and there was a narrative missing – the urban professional. With so many people moving to the “It” city, she knew inclusion of diverse voices in local media was a must for a city to truly have growth and be a welcome place for all.



# PANELISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



## Squeaky Moore

Squeaky Moore is an award-winning director, writer, producer, and author of #100Pitches: Mistakes I've Made So You Don't Have To. The book is a film and television pitching guide geared towards independent content creators and the do's and don'ts of pitching television and film projects. She also created The Pitch 101 blog as a resource to help content creators bridge the gap between independent projects to the small and big screens.



## Fallon Wilson

Dr. Fallon Wilson is the CEO of Black in Tech Nashville and Research Director of Black Tech Mecca which seeks to build a national black tech ecosystem. She's 2019 TEDx Speaker (e.g. Stop Ignoring Black Women and Hear of Our Tech Prophecies). She's a Board Member of the State of Tennessee's Future of Work Taskforce and Co-Chairs Nashville's smart city plan. Given her tech activism, she's a 2017 recipient of the ISTE Digital Equity Award. Dr. Wilson's research on first generation black college students' alternative tech pathways and tech ecosystems has garnered notable research grants from Kapor Center for Social Impact & Kauffman Foundation. She's a Board Member for Tennessee Higher Education Commission's HBCU Success Board.



## Nekasha Pratt

Nekasha is currently Director of Marketing for Tennessee Tourism, where she assists in overseeing marketing campaigns that promote state-wide tourism – an industry that generated \$1.8 billion in state tax revenue in 2018. She focuses primarily on digital and social media marketing, branding, content and creative services. Nekasha is also a nationally recognized speaker, having presented for organizations such as The 36|86 Conference, Government Social Media Conference, US Travel, Together Digital and Red Letter Day Conference.

# FESTIVAL SPONSORS



ET AL FILMS  
Illuminating the B-side





# MARQUEE & SPECIAL FEATURE FILMS



## Black And Blue

A fast-paced action thriller about a rookie cop (Academy Award® nominee Naomi Harris) who inadvertently captures the murder of a young drug dealer on her body cam.

Directed by Deon Taylor



## Foster Boy

Micheal Trainer is a lawyer at the center of a trial in which a for-profit foster care agency puts a known sex offender into the same foster home as his young client Jamal, with catastrophic results.

Directed by: Youssef Delara



## E-60: Identity The Journey of Deland McCullough

Kansas City Chiefs running backs coach Deland McCullough went searching for his biological parents. He found them where he never would have expected.



## World Wide Nate

World Wide Nate travels to Nicaragua, a country known for its food, volcanoes; and beaches, where he will eat fresh lobster tails, and surf atomic size waves in his ongoing quest to reach the black man's nirvana!

Directed by: Nate Fluellen



## The Talk

A father and son discuss police shootings in America

Directed by:  
Sekuleo Gathers



## Skin I'm In

An African American teenage girl struggles with issues of her skin color. She decides to ask her best friend to be her date to the school dance.

Directed by Chavez Caley



## Always And Forever

It's 1978. Loreen is torn between her dreams of being a Soul Train Dancer & honoring her traditional Filipino heritage.

Directed by Bobby Yan



## Iteration 13

6 days with no food or drink. 2 desperate men, trapped in an attic & on the brink of death, discover a small bottle of water in their midst. What happens when survival becomes the only option?

Directed by: Jaire George

# NARRATIVE DOCUMENTARIES



## Six Triple Eight

855 black women soldiers, led by the highest-ranking black woman in the US Army, were sent overseas in 1945 to clear over 17 million pieces of backlogged mail. They faced racism, sexism, and the Nazis. Just when you thought every American story about World War II had been told, along comes this one--the detailed account of the only all-black female unit to serve in Europe during the war. Led by the highest-ranking black female in the Army, they faced racism, sexism, and the Nazis.

DIRECTED BY: James William



## Two Beats One Soul

Husband and wife music producers Ray Chew and Vivian Scott Chew embark on an ambitious journey to Cuba: Two weeks in Havana to create a collaboration of sounds which originated from Afro-Caribbean roots that has evolved into what we now consider modern day Salsa music. Bringing together artists from the U.S. and Cuba, the film shines a light on Cuban culture and takes the viewer through the creative process and challenges of producing an album while providing an auditory sensation that touches the soul. Featuring Eric Benét, Louie Vega and Sergio George—who has produced albums for Jennifer Lopez, Marc Anthony and more. Audiences will walk away feeling the passion, positive energy, triumph, and love that keeps this musical marriage strong.

DIRECTED BY: Vivian Scott Chew

# SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

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## Beating the Odds

In this documentary, Marthe Djilo Kamga takes Communities In Schools of Atlanta (CIS Atlanta) is a drop-out prevention program founded in Atlanta, GA in 1972.

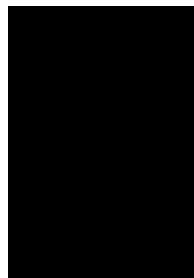
Directed by Jessica Young, Jason Young



## The Loving of Caridad

The Loving of Caridad follows one woman through a cycle of abuse and trauma as she exits the foster care system, haunted by a history of sex trafficking. Now she is at a crossroads and must piece together her past, present and future in search of the elusive thing so many of us take for granted: home.

Directed by Lisa Hornak



## Ghetto Steps

Ghetto Steps chronicles the journey of high school students from Pittsburgh as they journey to Poland with Classrooms Without Borders to investigate and learn from a first hand perspective about the Holocaust.

Directed by Emmai Alaquiva

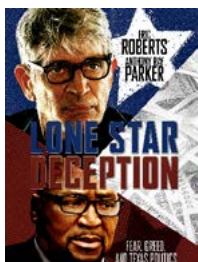
# NARRATIVE FEATURES



## Beast Of The Water

A research group makes a curious discovery that may lead to the fountain of youth. Meanwhile, an ancient Native American fable sends an ominous warning that those who disrespect nature will learn to fear the rain. Nature's law has no mercy.

Directed by Rashaad Santiago Written and Produced by Rick Prince



## Lone Star Deception

Tim Bayh (Anthony Ray Parker) followed his Marine deployment in Afghanistan with 15 years in the oil business working for Bill Sagle (Eric Roberts) and finds himself as the first black candidate for Governor of Texas. Neither man is prepared for the consequences of the candidacy as Tim has to decide to quit the race or risk his life

trying to make history.

Directed by Robert Peters, Don Okolo, Wayne Slayten



## South Central Love

In the unforgiving streets of Los Angeles, the story follows a couple who comes from two different worlds. But through their trials and tribulations, they realize their broken families assist in bringing them closer together. Throughout the movie, characters learn to trust their intuition in their own love and life story, especially Davonte. Many don't see his strength but he refuses to fall victim to the streets and learns forgiveness can help stop the cycle of gun violence. This film was created to encourage love within our city streets and to put an end to gang and gun violence. This is not your regular love story. South Central Love. The type of love money can't buy.

Directed by Christina Cooper

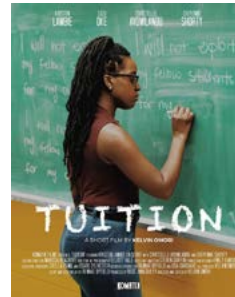
# NARRATIVE SHORTS



## Asia A

Inspired by a true story. A recent spinal cord injury patient struggles to reconcile his sense of self-worth with his new reality as a paraplegic.

Directed by Andrew Reid



## Tuition

A struggling finance student looks to her former friend turned escort to help her make money for her looming tuition deadline, however, the business deal costs more than she bargained for.

Directed by Kelvin Omor



## Nia's Shadow

An inner city's polluted conditions awaken within some young residents a dormant superhuman gene produced by eugenics during slavery (the practice of selective breeding to improve the genetic composition of their ancestors). Now, one woman must confront her friend who chooses to use his powers for wrong.

Julien Turner, Justen Turner



## First Day Back

It's the first day back at school for the faculty and students of Lincoln High School in Philadelphia, after a fight between two students from rival neighborhoods resulted in the death of a fellow student, left others injured and changed the community forever.

Directed by DeShawn Plair

# NARRATIVE SHORTS



## In The Shadows

African American middle school girls deal with the difficult “truths” of black female identity and how they feel misunderstood, shadowed, and silenced in society. Through poetry, the girls are able to step out of the shadows to be heard.

Directed by Meleisha Edwards



## Something For Cyntra

Fante Mingo is a famous novelist who finds the cure for his writer's block. The mystery of his wife's death as the backdrop of his most personal novel and possibly his magnum opus. Leads him in world of drugs, gangsters, and many more unsavory things to create this great modern day neo Noir film. Directed by Jahni Kwatrae



## Simmer

While incarcerated, Cyrus Bishop found solace in the prison kitchen, befriending the prison chef and discovering a passion for cooking. Now that his sentence is up, he must decide whether to return home to Tremé, New Orleans, or pursue his newfound passion by enrolling in a prestigious, all-white culinary arts school. ‘Simmer’ is a 15-minute short film, and a proof of concept for a feature screenplay by Owen Schwartzbard and Derrick Haggerty.

Directed by Owen Schwartzbard

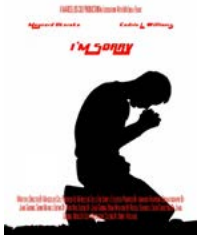
## Burying Mithcell



Having loved and lost the same man, two women meet at the funeral of their ex-husband for the first time to settle a \$1M life insurance policy. Working together they put their past in the ground once and for all.

Directed by: Sam Williamson

# NARRATIVE SHORTS



## I'm Sorry

A Award Winning Drama about a young African American man who spends his last free day before heading to prison apologizing to everyone near and dear to him for betraying their trust in him.

Directed by Marcellus Cox



## Flight

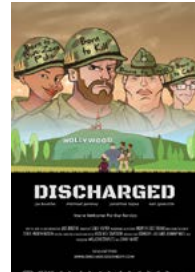
From Jamaica, the little island of big dreams, an inner city youth KEMAR has the biggest dream of all – to fly to the moon.

Directed by Kia Moses, Adrian McDonald



## The Color of Me

An adopted African-American named Lewis Clark, falls in love with a young woman named Lisa Adams, who has an unusual condition. Every hour, her skin magically changes color and she turns into 5 different races. Directed by Sreejith Nair



## Discharged

A mismatched quartet of not-so-honorably discharged military veterans unleash the good, the bad and the dark side of patriotism on Hollywood. Discharged follows four veteran friends navigating their military transition.

Directed by Jas Boothe



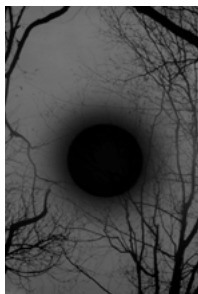
## What If...Then What?

What if...Then What? is a dramatic story of a friendship being torn apart by bullying. It follows 11-year-old, Cameron Walker and his friendship with Kyle Morris. Cameron is aware that they are growing apart from one another which started when Kyle joined the school's basketball team. What begins as harmless "roasting" from Kyle's teammates, turns into full blown bullying. Though it bothers Cameron, he tolerates it because he knows how important basketball is to Kyle. But he can no longer take the public disgracing. Cameron is determined to get even with Kyle and his teammates for bullying him.

Directed by Squeaky Moore



# NARRATIVE SHORTS



## THE PAST IS PROLOGUE: CAMERON CLASS OF 1969

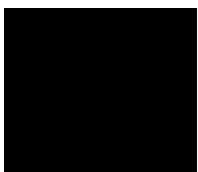
In the turbulent year of 1968, a black Nashville, TN high school fights back, in the streets and in Federal Court, when it is unfairly stripped of its sports programs, following unrest at a basketball game. Producer and Director: Mark Schlicher



## Saving Billy

Homelessness is not a choice. A bad decision, a natural disaster, or even the loss of a job can result in homelessness.

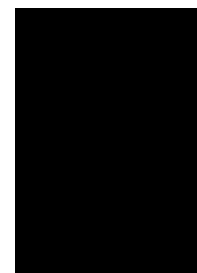
Directed by Vickie Adams



## Lovely Burden

A married couple... an accident...an unfortunate result...a reversal of fortune....a healing.

Directed by Robert Vickers



## Herculaneum's First Black Homecoming Queen

Linda Rockmore was voted homecoming queen in 1968 in Herculaneum Mo. Their will be a full documentary on this subject next year.

Directed by Aurielle Weaver

# WEB SERIES



## CHI-NANIGANS

CHI-nanigans follows the adventures of mischievous tween-aged siblings, Foster and Marie, as they come of age in a diverse neighborhood learning how to accept and understand their own differences, and those of the other's they interact with at school and in their community. Directed by Jill Ross



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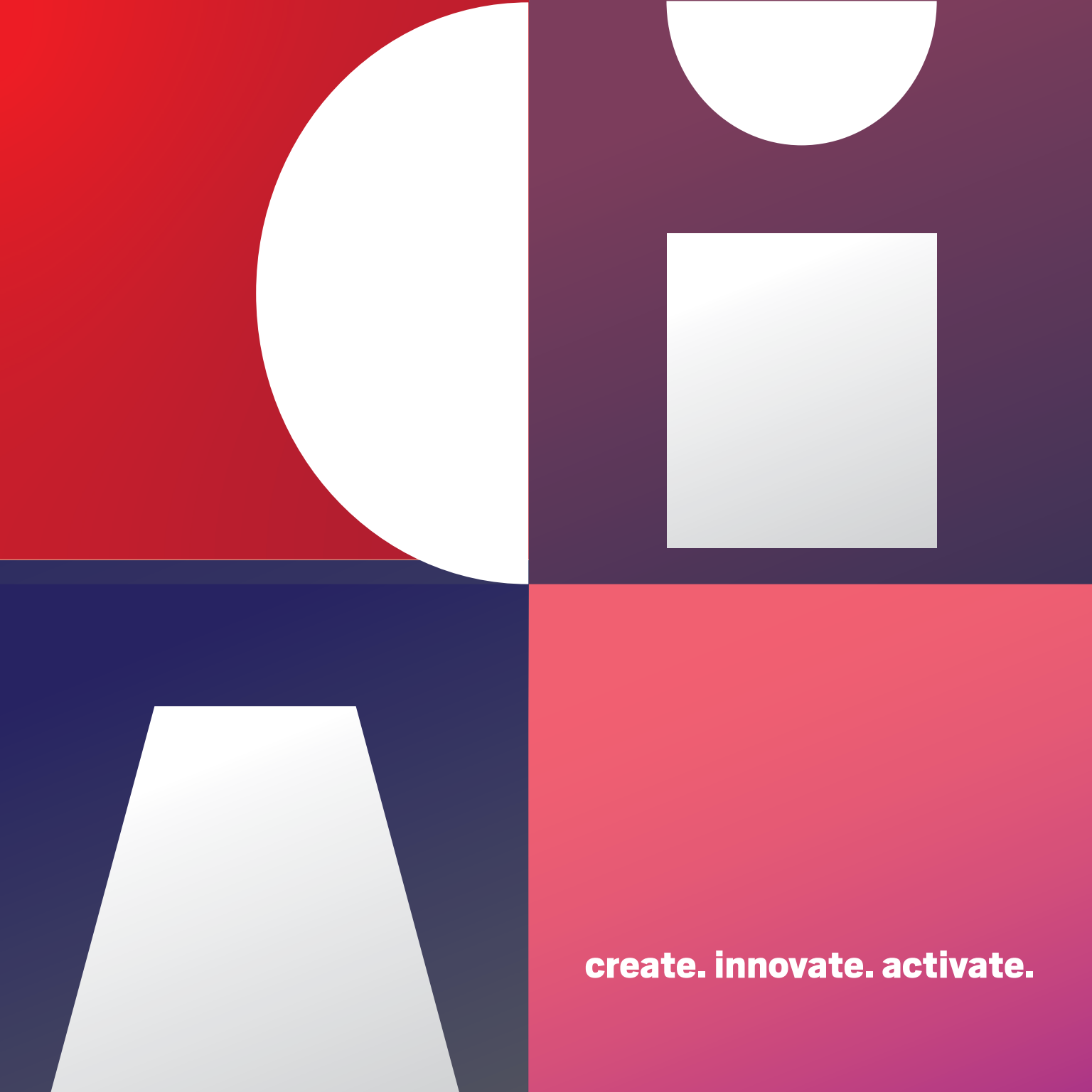
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