



**2024 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**  
(Updated 5/16/2024 and subject to change)

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12**

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

**Festival Registration Center**  
Miami Beach Convention Center

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Cadillac Lounge**  
The Fillmore Miami Beach

11:15 am – 7:35 pm

**Official Selection Screenings**  
Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 2)

7:30 pm - 10:15 pm

**Festival Welcome & Opening Night: HBO Short Film Award Showcase**

New World Center – Performance Hall

In its 27th year, the HBO® Short Film Award is regarded as one of the country's most prestigious short film showcases. Five filmmakers are selected as finalists to screen their short films and compete for a chance to win \$10,000. The ABFF is an Academy Award-qualifying festival for the Short Film category.

10:00 pm - 2:00 am

**Opening Night: The Legendary White Party - Separate Ticket Required**

M2 Miami

Host: Terence J

Music: DJ VYBZ

Attire: All White

Tickets: \$100

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 13**

9:00 am – 11:00 am

### **Act It Out: Scene Exploration with Patrice DeGraff Arenas - Separate Ticket Required**

Presented by New York Film Academy

NYFA Miami (South Beach)

Lights, Camera, Acting! Step into the actor's masterclass where you'll learn scene study, audition skills, and the language of winning performances. Explore acting's physicality and nuances, honing techniques through partner scenes. Dive into pre-selected scenes for immersive role-playing. Inspired by Adler, Meisner, and Chekhov, this class offers a comprehensive approach to acting.

10:00 am – 7:00 pm

### **Festival Registration Center**

Miami Beach Convention Center

10:00 am – 11:15 am

### **It's All Location, Location, Location**

Presented by Fulton Films

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 1)

Film, TV and Digital producers, actors and directors are all descending in Atlanta/Fulton County to create projects thanks to the peach state's affordable housing market, the government's enticing film tax credits, and the year-round ideal climate. So how is it working out for some of the stars who now call the ATL home? Join the stars of the popular BET series "The OVAL" and a YouTube social sensation to hear why they chose to Live, Work, Play and Stay in Fulton County, GA, and why they encourage other creatives to do the same.

Moderator: Shaunya Chavis-Rucker

Panelists: Javon Johnson, Kaye Singleton, Rogirl

10:30 am – 11:45 am

### **Navigating the Pathways to Representation**

Presented by WME

New World Center – Truist Pavilion

This panel brings together the agent and manager perspectives from WME and Color Creative to provide insights and expertise to creatives and industry professionals. Our panelists will discuss the ecosystem of representation from their respective roles, the intersection of their services, and the importance of collaboration and advocating for their clients.

Moderator: Antonio Hairston

Panelists: Eric Darnell, Chelsea Dern, Ashley Calloway

10:30 am – 10:00 pm

### **Official Selection Screenings**

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 2) & O Cinema South Beach

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

**UnPrisoned (Season 2 World Premiere) with Kerry Washington**

Presented by Onyx Collective

New World Center – Performance Hall

Join the world premiere screening of the second season of Hulu’s heartfelt dramedy “UnPrisoned,” starring Kerry Washington and Delroy Lindo, followed by a fireside chat with executive producers Kerry Washington and Tracy McMillan. In season two, the Alexander family is still a mess. Paige’s therapy practice is in trouble, Finn’s anxiety is through the roof, Edwin is still figuring out how to get his life together outside of prison, and their relationships are more complicated than ever. The family needs help, and it’s time to call in a professional – OTHER than Paige. The Alexanders turn to a “family radical healing coach,” who throws out all the rules to free them of the issues, old wounds and family secrets holding them back.

Panelists: Kerry Washington, Tracy McMillan, Yvette Lee Bowser

12:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Cadillac Lounge**

The Fillmore Miami Beach

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

**Sonic Force: Storytelling Through Voice Acting**

Presented by Meta

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 1)

The voice of your project or brand, whether expressed through film, podcasts, TV, or social media reels, communicates your story. Bringing this voice to life ultimately falls to the content creator's choice of the voice actor(s). With carefully guided direction, the voice actor becomes a powerful means for establishing your story concept from pitch to fundraising, to production and advertising. Daughters of Eve Media in conjunction with the Society of Voice Arts and Sciences will explore the ways filmmakers and content creators can enrich their storytelling—and leverage their marketing power—by fully envisioning the endgame before reaching the post-production phase and highlighting the critical value of diverse voices.

Moderators: Dr. Michele Prettyman and Terri Prettyman Bowles, Daughters of Eve Media

Panelists: Joan Baker, author of "Secrets of Voice-over Success," and Emmy Award-winning producer Rudy Gaskins, founders of the Society of Voice Arts and Sciences, the Voice Arts Awards, and the That’s Voiceover Career Expo Dave Fennoy (*Voice Arts Award winner known as the voice of Hulu, the NAACP Awards, and countless movie trailers and commercials*).

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

**NBCU LAUNCH Talks: The Art of Content Acquisitions at NBCUniversal**

Presented by Comcast NBCUniversal

New World Center – Truist Pavilion

NBCU executives will demystify the acquisition process from pitch to final delivery, discuss the type of content they seek, and share best practices on pitching your projects. They will also provide insight into the company’s acquisitions strategy across its television and film portfolio, including Peacock and Universal Pictures. During the panel, the executives will also share how they secured projects such as “Monkey Man” and “Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul.

Panelists: Jeanne Mau, Britney Williams, Tony Ducret

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

**Women & Wealth: A Conversation with Nia Long**

Presented by Ally Financial

New World Center – Performance Hall

Ally will host an intimate one-on-one conversation with beloved actress Nia Long, a visionary storyteller who has shattered barriers and transformed the landscape of television and/or film, telling not-so-often-told stories from the African American perspective.

Moderator: Jack Howard

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

**Black & Unlimited Fatherhood Project: Director's Showcase**

Presented by Walmart

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 1)

Three unique and profound films centered on Black fatherhood, screen as a part of the ABFF and Walmart initiative to celebrate Black fathers and amplify the presence of Black men in their families and communities. Q&A to follow.

After These Messages (25:52 min), written and directed by Khalid Abdulqaadir

Black Santa (10:03 min), written and directed by Travis Wood

It Takes A Village (13:36 min), written and directed by: Joshua Kissi

4:30 pm - 5:45 pm

**Lights, Camera, Access: A Director's Journey**

Presented by Warner Bros. Discovery

New World Center – Truist Pavilion

Step into the world of cinematic mastery with our Director's Craft Workshop, where imagination meets technique and creativity knows no bounds! Whether you're a budding filmmaker looking to hone your skills or a seasoned director seeking fresh inspiration, our Director's Craft Workshop is designed to ignite your passion for storytelling and elevate your craft to new heights. Join us for an unforgettable experience that will leave you empowered, inspired, and ready to take on the world of cinema like never before!

Moderator: Bevy Smith

Panelist: Rashaad Ernesto Green

5:15 pm - 6: 30 pm

**Tyler Perry's Divorce in the Black: An Exclusive First Look with film stars Meagan Good and Cory Hardict**

Presented by Amazon MGM Studios

New World Center – Performance Hall

Tyler Perry's "Divorce in the Black" follows Ava (Meagan Good), a young bank professional who is devastated when her husband Dallas (Cory Hardict) abandons a marriage she is determined to fight for until fate intervenes, revealing Dallas' wicked deeds that have trashed their marriage, and once upon a time sabotaged Ava's destiny to be loved by her true soulmate. During this conversation, film stars Meagan Good and Cory Hardict will sit down together to discuss the film, and to give an exclusive first look at the trailer for the first time, anywhere. The film will be released on Prime Video on July 11.

Moderator: Latasha Gillespie

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**ODB: A Tale of Two Dirtys**

Courtesy of A&E Networks

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 1)

The definitive documentary on Wu-Tang Clan founding member Ol' Dirty Bastard. The film explores how Russell Tyrone Jones created Ol' Dirty Bastard, a Hip Hop alter ego superhero that would ultimately consume him. Featuring interviews with Mariah Carey, Wu-Tang Clan's Raekwon and Ghostface Killah, family members, and more.

8:15 pm - 9:30 pm

**UNCENSORED Live w/ Trina**

Presented by TV One

New World Center – Performance Hall

Moderator: Chris Spencer

**FRIDAY, JUNE 14**

9:00 am - 11:00 am

**Write Here, Write Now! A Mock Writers' Room with Mike Gauyo & Amy Aniobi - Separate Ticket Required**

Presented by HOORAE

NYFA Miami (South Beach)

Grab your key to the writers' room! This mock writers' room is a seat at the table for attendees to collaborate and learn the craft of writing a half-hour comedy pilot. Esteemed television writers Amy Aniobi and Mike Gauyo lead an interactive, engaging and comedic lesson in TV writing.

10:30 am – 9:00 pm

**Official Selection Screenings**

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 2) & O Cinema South Beach

10:30 am - 11:45 am

**Meet the Streaming Alliance**

Presented by MPA

New World Center – Truist Pavilion

Meet the united voice of the streaming community – driving a new era of creativity, opportunity, diversity, value, and choice in home and mobile entertainment. SIA fights for smart policies that will continue to meet audiences where they are and propel streaming innovation forward. Alliance members include groundbreaking platforms providing opportunities and access to Black and historically marginalized content creators. Join John Gibson, Vice President for External and Multicultural Affairs at the Motion Picture Association for an engaging conversation with the creative forces behind alliance founding streamers AfroLandTV, AmericaNU, ForUsByUs Network, and VAULT Access. Delve into a world of diverse storytelling and learn how these platforms are reshaping the streaming landscape for independent content creators.

Moderator: John Gibson

11:30 am – 12:15 pm

**2024 ABFF Social Media Ambassadors Meet-up**

Location: Miami Beach Convention Center

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

**Storyteller's Panel with Raamla Mohammed, Yvette Lee Bowser**

Presented by Onyx Collective

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 1)

1:30 pm -2:45 pm

**Pitch Perfect: Promoting Yourself & Connecting with Others**

Presented by TV One

New World Center – Truist Pavilion

Join us for an insightful and fun discussion on the art of pitching yourself and making meaningful connections. In today's competitive landscape, the ability to effectively promote your uniqueness and establish valuable, long-term relationships is essential for continued success. We will share practical tips, real-world experiences, and proven strategies to help you master the art of pitching and networking. From crafting an impactful elevator pitch to navigating networking events with confidence to pitching virtually, this discussion will equip you with the tools and techniques needed to stand out and forge meaningful connections in any setting. Whether you're a seasoned professional looking to enhance your networking skills or a newcomer eager to make a memorable impression, this panel promises valuable insights and actionable advice to propel your pitching and networking game to the next level!

Panelist: Austyn Biggers

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Affion Crockett Presents Microphone Masters: Comedy, Community, and Collaboration**

Courtesy of Comcast NBCUniversal

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 1)

Affion Crockett Presents Microphone Masters: Comedy, Community, and Collaboration” moderated by Talitha Watkins, President & Head of ColorCreative, with panelists Affion Crockett, Actor, Comedian, and Producer; Delmar Washington, Director and Producer; and Keesha Boyd, VP, Entertainment Products, Comcast and Executive Producer for the Black Experience on Xfinity. Enjoy a full episode screening and discussion centering on the creative process and collaborative work in bringing this 3-part stand-up comedy docuseries to life. Gain exclusive insights into the team’s process and goals to uplift emerging comedic talent and the partnership with Black Experience on Xfinity to further the mission of growing opportunities for Black storytellers and filmmakers.

4:30 pm - 5:45 pm

**Insuring Your Future**

Presented by Northwestern Mutual

New World Center – Truist Pavilion

Join us for cocktails and conversations. Hear thought-provoking insights about tools that can help protect your income—and leave a legacy for your family when you pass. This panel discussion with Northwestern Mutual financial advisors Julian Pouncy, MBA and Mshon K. Pulliam, Sr. CLTC® will be followed by a complimentary happy hour and one-on-one advising. Let us help you build a legacy plan!

Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company (NM) (life and disability insurance, annuities, and life insurance with long-term care benefits) and its subsidiaries in Milwaukee, WI. Julian Pouncy and Mshon Pulliam Sr. are agents of NM.

Panelists: Julian Pouncy, MBA, Mshon K. Pulliam, Sr. CLTC®

5:00 pm

**Friday Night Vibes Goes Off the Field with All American and All American: Homecoming**

Presented by Warner Bros. Discovery

New World Center – Performance Hall

Warner Bros. Television Group presents an ALL-AMERICAN franchise takeover with cast members from ALL-AMERICAN and ALL-AMERICAN: HOMECOMING for an intimate conversation about celebrating and shaping Black culture through family, sports and education.

Hosts: KevOnStage, Nina Parker

Panelists: Bre-Z, Daniel Ezra, Michael Evans Behling, Geffri Maya, Cory Hardrict

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**Down in the Valley**

Courtesy of STARZ

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 1)

Down in the Valley, a documentary series inspired by the vibrant world of “P-Valley,” set to air in 2024. The six-half-hour episode series hosted, and executive produced by Nicco Annan (“P-Valley”) will take viewers on a tantalizing tour of the Deep South, unveiling a complex South that is equal parts poignant, joyful, and magical.

Panelist: Nicco Annan

9:30 pm - 11:00 pm

**Because They’re Funny @ ABFF Comedy Show Hosted by Janelle James**

New World Center – Performance Hall

Emerging stand-up comedians Alfred Kainga, Anthony Oakes, Apple Brown Betty, Mason King, and Rashaun Reese take the stage in the annual ABFF comedy show.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15**

9:00 am - 11:00 pm

**Low Budget, Big Film: Filmmaking with Miguel Parga - Separate Ticket Required**

Presented by New York Film Academy

NYFA Miami (South Beach)

Join an evocative exploration of the essential skills and principles of filmmaking. From conceiving a story idea to production planning and editing, these skills will help you configure the major pieces to make and budget for a film.

10:30 am - 12:15 pm

**“Best of ABFF Awards” Ceremony hosted by Dondré Whitfield**

New World Center – Performance Hall

Join us for the announcement of the festival winners of this year’s competitions including: Best Narrative Feature, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Documentary Feature, Best Series, Black & Unlimited Fatherhood Project Director’s Showcase and HBO Short Film Award.

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

**Uplifting Talent and Stories from Untapped Spaces**

Presented by Comcast NBCUniversal

New World Center – Truist Pavilion

This panel will spotlight the partnership between Universal Pictures and Monkeypaw Productions and their shared commitment to creating access and discovering new talent. This discussion will explore the various strategies championed by Universal Pictures and Monkeypaw Productions, both above and below-the-line, including: the Universal Filmmakers Project 'NO DRAMA', Universal Below-the-Line Traineeship and Universal Composers Initiative. Through this engaging discussion, we hope to inspire those in the audience as to how these programs are reshaping the industry's talent, workforce and creative innovation.

Moderator: Candace Afia

Panelists: Keisha Senter, Emerlynn Lampitoc, K. Nicole Mills

1:00 pm – 9:30 pm

**Official Selection Screenings**

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 2) & O Cinema South Beach

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Beyond the Basement: NBC's "Found"**

Courtesy of Comcast NBCUniversal

Miami Beach Convention Center (Theater 1)

Ahead of its official season 2 release, experience a heart-pounding early screening of NBC's hit drama series, "Found," followed by an intimate conversation with Co-Showrunner/Executive Producer, Sonay Hoffman and stars Shanola Hampton and Mark-Paul Gosselaar. The thrilling crime drama returns for an electrifying sophomore season and follows PR specialist Gabi Mosely (Shanola Hampton) as her biggest secret has become everyone's biggest threat. With her kidnapper, Sir (Mark-Paul Gosselaar), on the loose, Gabi juggles the delicate balance of saving the forgotten ones while desperately trying to save those closest to her.

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

**Black & Unlimited Fatherhood Project - Celebrity Conversation**

Presented by Walmart

New World Center – Performance Hall

A blend of perspectives in both fatherhood and the TV and film industry; meaningful discussions on the joys and challenges of being a Black father in the entertainment world.

Moderator: David Talbert

Panelists: Lance Gross, Carl Jones

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

**Music For Media: Secrets of a Successful Collaboration**

Presented by New World Symphony

New World Center – Truist Pavilion

Michael Abels is the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer of scores for the Jordan Peele films GET OUT, US and NOPE, and is the first black composer to score a scripted series for LucasFilm ("Star Wars: The Acolyte" on Disney+). In this session, Abels discusses his process, his journey through Hollywood, the relationship between composer and director/showrunner, and provides insights to achieving an evocative score for any size project.



5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Devil In A Blue Dress**

Courtesy of Sony Pictures

It's 1948 and Los Angeles is booming, but Easy Rawlins (Denzel Washington) has seen better days. He's just been fired and he's got house payments to make, so when Easy is offered a job locating the mysterious Daphne Monet (Jennifer Beals), he doesn't waste much time saying yes. Now he finds himself drawn into a web of murder, blackmail, brutal cops, and corrupt city politics. Devil In A Blue Dress also stars Tom Sizemore as DeWitt Albright, who hustles Easy into this dangerous game, and Don Cheadle as Mouse, Easy's extremely volatile friend. Reminiscent of film noir, this stylish production is based on the acclaimed novel by mystery writer Walter Mosley.

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

**ABFF Retrospective: Denzel Washington**

New World Center – Performance Hall

Journey with Denzel Washington through the highlights of his illustrious career, as he talks Hollywood, his evolution as an actor, director, producer and his love for the work of August Wilson.

Moderator: Chaz Ebert

10:00 pm - 2:00 am

**Closing Night: Yacht Gala - Separate Ticket Required**

SeaFair Miami- 100 Chopin Place

Join NICE CROWD and HOORAE for an unforgettable evening aboard the luxurious Seafair as we sail the Miami Bay. Admission includes DJ, live music, casino games, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and a premium open bar all night.

Music by DJ Don P

Attire: Miami Chic

Tickets: \$350

**Please note: Boarding begins at 10 pm. All guests must arrive no later than 10:45 pm and the Yacht will not return to the dock until 1:30 am.**

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 16**

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### **ABFF Community Day- Free Event**

Sponsored by the *Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB)*

The Black Archives Historic Lyric Theater

ABFF Community Day offers an afternoon of entertainment and inspiration in Overtown, featuring exclusive film screenings and a vendor expo for local residents.

1:00 pm

### **The Waterboyz**

An encore presentation of the 2024 ABFF official selection “The Waterboyz” which follows Drew (Akili McDowell) as he tries to navigate the rough and tumble streets of ATL. Drew earns a living selling water on bustling street corners. His mother Rose (La La Anthony) is constantly worrying about the often-volatile occupation he has chosen. He finds a mentor in local entrepreneur Charles Williams (Omar Dorsey) who attempts to steer him away from the street corners as well. Drew continues selling water and eventually finds himself in the crosshairs of local gangster Lil Zoo (Quavo) and situations eventually turn deadly. Q&A to follow.

3:00 pm

### **Power of the Dream**

Courtesy of Amazon MGM Studios

A new documentary film about the empowering and unlikely true story of how a group of professional women's basketball players took on a WNBA team owner and rallied behind now-Senator Raphael Warnock, forever changing the landscape of their sport and the course of U.S. politics. Q&A to follow.

Panelist: Dawn Porter