

BLACKSTAR FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS

THE AGITATORS

Portraits of BlackStar Film Festival Alumni (2012-2016)
Photographed by Lendl Tellington & Rashid Zakat



JULY 26 - AUGUST 7, 2016
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE PHILADELPHIA

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

When developing a black and white photo negative, the undeveloped film must be submerged into an airtight bath of chemicals and rotated at regularly-timed intervals. This process is called agitation, and it is critical in film development. Merely putting the necessary chemicals in contact with the negative isn't enough to properly expose the undeveloped film. The solution needs to collide with the negative to be effective. With each collision, it progressively exposes the unseen image.

Similarly, our agitators represent an important, but by no means exhaustive, list of people who are putting into collision the craft, technique, and institutions of filmmaking with ongoing conversations about blackness. Over time, these collisions have developed fuller and more complex images of contemporary and historical Black experiences. Our agitators do this by producing work, teaching the craft, cultivating community, and providing resources.

The Agitators is a photo exhibit that celebrates five years of BlackStar with 15 portraits of filmmakers, scholars, and cultural workers whose creative work and support have contributed to shaping the festival. They are our friends, mentors, and inspirations.

—Rashid Zakat & Lendl Tellington, 2016.

ag-i-ta-tor
noun.

noun: agitator; plural noun: agitators 1. an apparatus for stirring liquid, as in a washing machine or a photographic developing tank. 2. a person who urges others to protest or rebel.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Lendl Tellington is a filmmaker and photographer raised in Baltimore and based in Philadelphia. He utilizes imagery as means for chronicling communities whose stories are seldom told. This past year, his photography was shown apart of Back To School, a photo series exploring the human toll behind Philadelphia's public schools. His latest film, *...that's why He made momma*, jumps between the Great Migration and the present day revealing a nuanced look at the life of a matriarch. This film is being shown a part of BlackStar 2016.



Rashid Zakat is a multi-media artist and documentarian born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. His focus lies in telling visually compelling stories for the big screen and for the web. A graduate of Temple University, Rashid has spent the last decade documenting Philadelphia music culture through photos, short documentaries, and interactive web projects. He's made films for big famous companies, art museums, cultural institutions and friends.

THE AGITATORS was organized by Maori Karmael Holmes and Farrah Rahaman.

PORTRAITS



Elissa
Blount-Moorehead



Frances
Bodomo



Nuala
Cabral



Ja'Tovia
Gary



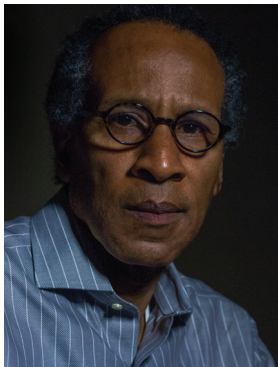
Sabrina Schmidt
Gordon



Arthur
Jafa



Tahir
Jetter



Louis
Massiah



Darius Clarke
Monroe

PORTRAITS



Nijla
Mu'min



Terence
Nance



Nefertite Nguvu



Chanelle Aponte Pearson



Shawn
Peters



Sam
Pollard

ABOUT BLACKSTAR

BlackStar is a gathering of filmmakers, supporters and enthusiasts who will attend screenings and participate in panels, workshops, and conversations to expand the vision and understanding of the global black experience. Acknowledging the diversity and complexity of identity within several diasporas creates space for dialogue and opens the opportunity for a greater perspective of what it means to be black.

The films presented by BlackStar comprise a dynamic and important collection—one that is unlike any other—because they highlight both independent and cultural community. Overall, the festival aims to provide a 360° view about art and its place in our daily lives, and celebrate the varied landscape of black life.

Join us for the 5th Annual festival August 4-7, 2016.

blackstarfest.org

#BlackStar16

#ByIndieMeansNecessary

#TheAgitators



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