About Us

BlackStar Projects creates the spaces and resources needed to uplift the work of Black, Brown, and Indigenous artists working outside the confines of genre. We do this by producing year-round programs including film screenings, exhibitions, a filmmaker seminar, a film production lab, a journal of visual culture, and this annual film festival.

We prioritize work that is experimental in its aesthetics, content, and form and builds on the work of elders and ancestors to imagine a new world. We elevate artists who are overlooked, invisibilized, or misunderstood and celebrate the wide spectrum of aesthetics, storytelling, and experiences that they bring. We bring that work to new audiences and place it in dialogue with other past and contemporary work. And we curate every aspect of our events to be intentional community-building efforts, connecting diverse audiences in a Black-led space centered on joy and thriving.

Learn more at blackstarfest.org/about.
Our Funders


About BlackStar Film Festival

BlackStar Film Festival is an annual celebration of the visual and storytelling traditions of the African diaspora and global communities of color—showcasing films by Black, Brown, and Indigenous people from around the world.

For over a decade the film festival has brought together filmmakers, supporters, and enthusiasts through screenings, panels, workshops, and conversations. This yearly gathering creates space for dialogue and opens the opportunity for greater understanding within and across our communities. The films presented by BlackStar constitute a dynamic and important collection—one that is unlike any other—because they highlight both independent and cultural communities.

Through the festival and our other projects, BlackStar is building a liberatory world in which a vast spectrum of Black, Brown, and Indigenous experiences are irresistibly celebrated in arts and culture.

#ByIndieMeansNecessary
Accessibility Statement

In our vision statement, we state that our aim is to build a liberatory world in which a vast spectrum of experiences are celebrated in the world of arts and culture. We do this by curating our events to be intentional community-building efforts that connect diverse audiences in a Black-led space centered on joy and thriving. In order to reach that vision and achieve our mission, BlackStar is working to make our spaces accessible to as many people as possible, including and especially disabled Black, Brown, and Indigenous folks.

In this guide, you can find our accessibility offerings and considerations for the 2022 BlackStar Film Festival. Please note that this guide is meant to accompany the 2022 BlackStar Program Guide, which has details about locations, showtimes, and more. We encourage all of our attendees — disabled and nondisabled alike — to review this guide. These considerations may affect and even benefit more than just people who currently identify as disabled.

We know that we are far from perfect stewards of accessibility and disability justice. As such, we invite you to make known to us any access needs or considerations not covered by this guide. Please email Jo Brown jo@blackstarfest.org, our Accessibility Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns not addressed herein.

General Accessibility

We will have a specific table for all accessibility-related questions or concerns located in the lobby of Penn Live Arts. When purchasing a festival pass or individual tickets, attendees can list any access needs not covered by this guide. The full BlackStar Program Guide will also be available virtually.

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

For all in-person events, we will be requiring COVID-19 vaccinations. Once you present proof of vaccination, you will receive a wristband for the day acknowledging your vaccination status. You only need to display proof of vaccination once per day in attendance. Masks will be required at all indoor events. There might be times when attendees and/or staff remove their masks to eat; we ask that folks respect one another and practice social distancing.
Accessibility of Physical Spaces

All venues include the following for those using mobility devices.

- For all events taking place at Penn Live Arts (the Zellerbach, Prince, and Montgomery Theaters), please view the venue’s [accessibility offerings webpage](#). especially note the accessible entrance at the base of the front entrance staircase.

- For the Opening Night Party at Bartram’s Garden, please view the venue’s [accessibility offerings webpage](#).

- For First Fridays! at the Barnes, please view the venue’s [accessibility offerings webpage](#).

- For the panel in the Rainey Auditorium at the Penn Museum, please view the venue’s [accessibility offerings webpage](#).

- For workshops taking place at the Annenberg School for Communication, please [view this map](#).

Sensory-Friendly Room

Throughout the 2022 BlackStar Film Festival, attendees, volunteers, and staff will have access to a dedicated sensory-friendly room at Penn Live Arts. This room will have chairs, yoga mats, and some fidget toys (such as pipe cleaners, slime, and coloring books).
Several of the feature and short films that are screening at the festival are audio described. Unless otherwise indicated, films will screen in-person and virtually. In-person showtimes and locations are listed below; please refer to the BlackStar Program Guide or the virtual schedule at the end of this guide for virtual showtimes. Below is a list of feature films and short film programs with audio description, listed in order of screening date and time.

**Features**

*Storming Caesars Palace*, directed by Hazel Gurland-Pooler (opening night film)
Wednesday, August 3 at 8:30pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater

*Jasmine Is a Star*, directed by Jo Rochelle
Thursday, August 4 at 5:00pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Montgomery Theater

*Teine Sa*, directed by Matasia Freshwater, Mario Gaoa, Miki Magasiva, Anapela Polataivao, and Mario Faumui
Thursday, August 4 at 8:30pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater

*Wisdom Gone Wild*, directed by Rea Tajiri
Saturday, August 6 at 3:00pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater

**Shorts**

*Gather Me short films program*
Wednesday, August 3 at 5:00pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Montgomery Theater

- *The Fourfold*, directed by Alisi Telengut
- *Barry The Beekeeper*, directed by Ikram Ahmed
- *Weidle’s*, directed by Kevin Jerome Everson (silent)
- *For Love*, directed by Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor
- *You Can Always Come Home*, directed by Juan Luis Matos
- *Night*, directed by Ahmad Saleh (Arabic w/English subtitles)

*Revivify short films program*
Thursday, August 4 at 10:00am EDT
Penn Live Arts — Montgomery Theater

- *The Ritual to Beauty*, directed by Shenny De Los Angeles and Maria Marrone
- *Woman of the Earth*, directed by Evelyn Mercedes Muñoz Marroquin (Spanish w/English subtitles)
- *Still Waters*, directed by Aurora Brachman

*Tomorrow Is Another Day*, directed by Ng’endo Mukii

*Sillage short films program*
Thursday, August 4 at 11:00am EDT
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater

- *Quarantine Kids*, directed by Bilal Motley and Bria Motley
- *Hoop Dreams*, directed by Kasey Elise Walker
- *One Magenta Afternoon*, directed by Vernon Jordan, Ill
- *Half-Day*, directed by Morgan Mathews
- *My Parents’ Bazaar*, directed by Rakesh Narwani (Spanish w/English subtitles)
CAPTIONS

Open captions, subtitles, and closed captions are available for several of the films that are screening at BlackStar. Captions for films with closed captions can be accessed through the All4Access mobile app during the in-person screenings (How To Use All4Access), and by toggling the captions button on during the virtual screenings. Unless otherwise indicated, films will screen in-person and virtually. In-person showtimes and locations are listed below; please refer to the BlackStar Program Guide or the virtual schedule at the end of this guide for virtual showtimes. Below is a list of features and short films with open captions, subtitles, and closed captions, listed in order of screening date and time.

OPEN CAPTIONS
for in-person screenings

Storming Caesars Palace, directed by Hazel Gurland-Pooler (opening night film)
Wednesday, August 3 at 8:30pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater

Selahy “My Weapon”, directed by Alaa Zabara
Friday, August 5 at 1:00pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Montgomery Theater
Short films program: Pulsate

Night Shift, directed by Bim Ajadi
Saturday, August 6 at 11:00am EDT
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater
Short films program: Effectuate

Strictly Two Wheel, directed by Ania Freer
Saturday, August 6 at 11:00am EDT
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater
Short films program: Effectuate

Another Story (with Esperanza Spalding), directed by Adrien Gystere Peskine & Anthony Peskine
Sunday, August 7 at 5:00pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Montgomery Theater
Short films program: Withstand

SUBTITLES
virtual and in-person refer to schedules at the end of this guide for screening times

Features

Lingui, directed by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun (Chadian Arabic & French with English subtitles)
Wednesday, August 3
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater

Bonded, directed by Shobhit Jain (Hindi with English subtitles)
Wednesday August 3
Virtual Screening only

Kash Kash, directed by Lea Najjar (Arabic with English subtitles)
Saturday, August 6
Penn Live Arts — Montgomery Theater

Tug of War, directed by Amil Shivji (English & Swahili with English subtitles; brief moments of English without subtitles)
Sunday, August 7
Penn Live Arts — Zellerbach Theater

Another Story (with Esperanza Spalding), directed by Adrien Gystere Peskine & Anthony Peskine
Sunday, August 7 at 5:00pm EDT
Penn Live Arts — Montgomery Theater
Short films program: Withstand

SUBTITLES

AJÄI: The Headball Game of the Myky and Manoki, directed by Typju Myky and André Lopes (Portuguese with English subtitles)
Sunday August 7
Virtual Screening only

Shorts

The Fourfold, directed by Alisi Telengut (Mongolian with English subtitles)
Wednesday August 3
Short films program: Gather Me

Night, directed by Ahmad Saleh (Arabic with English subtitles)
Wednesday August 3
Short films program: Gather Me

Sunday Morning, directed by Bruno Ribeiro (Portuguese with English subtitles)
Thursday August 4
Short films program: Revivify

Woman of the Earth, directed by Evelyn Mercedes Muñoz Marroquín (Spanish with English subtitles)
Thursday August 4
Short films program: Revivify

My Parents’ Bazaar, directed by Rakesh Narwani (Spanish with English subtitles)
Thursday August 4
Short films program: Sillage
The Town, directed by Lindiwe Makgalemele (Tswana with English subtitles) Friday August 5 Short films program: Savvy

A Morsel of Love, directed by Helia Behrooz & Sana Norouzbaji (Farsi with English subtitles/open captions) Friday August 5 Short films program: Pulsate

Angakusajaujuq: The Shaman’s Apprentice, directed by Zacharias Kunuk (Inuktitut with English subtitles) Saturday August 6 Short films program: Effectuate

My Saints Recognize Your Saints, directed by Rodrigo Antonio (Portuguese with English subtitles) Saturday August 6 Short films program: Observer Effect

Foreign in a Domestic Sense, directed by Sofia Gallisá Muriente and Natalia Lassalle Morillo (Spanish with Spanish & English subtitles) Sunday August 7 Short films program: Rising Tides

Men Nan Men, directed by Wilson Edmond (Haitian Creole with English subtitles) Sunday August 7 Short films program: Withstand

CLOSED CAPTIONS: virtual and in-person refer to schedules at the end of this guide for screening times

Features

Let the Little Light Shine, directed by Kevin Shaw Wednesday August 3 Virtual screening only

The Passion of Remembrance, directed by Maureen Blackwood & Isaac Julien Wednesday August 3

Jasmine Is a Star, directed by Jo Rochelle Thursday August 4

One Take Grace, directed by Lindiwe Matshikiza Thursday August 4

Aftershock, directed by Paula Eiselt and Tonya Lewis Lee Friday August 5

Silent Beauty, directed by Jasmin Mara López Friday August 5

Hazing, directed by Byron Hurt Saturday August 6

Wisdom Gone Wild, directed by Rea Tajiri Saturday August 6

Rewind & Play, directed by Alain Gomis Sunday August 7

Shorts Programs

all films in these program are closed captioned

Gather Me short films program Wednesday August 3

Pulsate short films program Friday August 5

Effectuate short films program Saturday August 6

Withstand short films program Sunday August 7

Individual Shorts Films

these films are closed captioned, but not all the short films in the program are closed captioned. Films are listed in the order that they will screen.

Tomorrow Is Another Day Wednesday August 3 Short films program: Revivify

Half-Day Thursday August 4 Short films program: Sillage

One Magenta Afternoon Thursday August 4 Short films program: Sillage

Body Language Friday August 5 Short films program: Savvy

O’Só (What They’ve Been Taught) Friday August 5 Short films program: Savvy

Black Beauty Friday August 5 Short films program: Locomote

Echolocation Friday August 5 Short films program: Locomote

Sub Eleven Seconds Friday August 5 Short films program: Locomote

One Magenta Afternoon Thursday August 4 Short films program: Sillage

Body Language Friday August 5 Short films program: Savvy

O’Só (What They’ve Been Taught) Friday August 5 Short films program: Savvy

Black Beauty Friday August 5 Short films program: Locomote

Echolocation Friday August 5 Short films program: Locomote

Sub Eleven Seconds Friday August 5 Short films program: Locomote
Film Accessibility

ASL INTERPRETATION AND CART:

American Sign Language Interpretation will be available in-person for the events listed below, and CART will be provided for the virtual stream. Events are listed in the order they are taking place.

BlackStar Pitch*
Wednesday, August 3 at 12:00pm EDT
*Available for pass holders and invited guests
**Virtual only**

Post-screening conversation,
The Passion of Remembrance
Wednesday, August 3 at 3:30pm EDT
**In-person only**

Seen with Dindga McCannon Conversation
Wednesday, August 3 at 5:00pm EDT
**In-person only**

Post-Screening Q&A:
Gather Me Shorts Program
Wednesday, August 3 following the 5:00pm screening
**In-person only**

The Daily Jawn
Wednesday, August 3 at 7:00pm
In-person and virtual stream; watch virtually with CART at watch. blackstarfest.org

Post-screening Q&A:
Storming Caesars Palace
Wednesday, August 3 following the 8:30pm screening
**In-person Q&A only; virtual Q&A is closed captioned**

Childhood on Screen Panel
Thursday, August 4 at 1:00pm
In-person and virtual stream; watch virtually with CART at watch. blackstarfest.org

Horror and Sound Panel
Thursday, August 4 at 5:00pm
**Virtual only**

Post-screening Q&A: Jasmine Is a Star
Thursday, August 4 following the 5:00pm screening
**In-person only**

The Daily Jawn
Thursday, August 4 at 7:00pm
In-person and virtual stream; watch virtually with CART at watch. blackstarfest.org

From Reflection to Release: Uplifting a Values-Based Filmmaking Practice workshop
Friday, August 5 at 1:00pm
**Virtual only**

Post-screening Q&A:
Pulsate Shorts Program
Friday, August 5 following the 1:00pm screening
In-person Q&A only; virtual Q&A is closed captioned

Many Lumens: Mira Nair and Maori Karmael Holmes Conversation
Saturday, August 6 at 1:00pm
**Virtual only**

Post-screening Q&A:
Wisdom Gone Wild
Saturday, August 6 at 3:00pm screening
**In-person only**

Post-screening Q&A:
Effectuate Shorts Program
Saturday, August 6 following the 11:00am screening
In-person Q&A only; virtual Q&A is closed captioned

Expressions of Spirit Panel
Friday, August 5 at 5:00pm
**Virtual only**

The Daily Jawn
Saturday, August 6 at 7:00pm
In-person and virtual stream; watch virtually with CART at watch. blackstarfest.org
Post-screening Q&A: Hazing
Saturday, August 6 following the 8:30pm screening
In-person only

Disability Justice and Filmmaking Panel
Sunday, August 7 at 1:00pm
Virtual only

Loss, Grief, Legacy Panel
Sunday, August 7 at 5:00pm
Virtual only

Post-screening Q&A:
Withstand Shorts Program
Sunday, August 7 following the 5:00pm screening
In-person only

The Daily Jawn
Sunday, August 7 at 7:00pm
In-person and virtual stream; watch virtually with CART at watch.
blackstarfest.org

Post-screening Q&A: Hazing
Sunday, August 7 following the 8:30pm screening
In-person only
### Virtual Events

Most of the festival program (with the exception of parties, yoga sessions, live post-screening Q&As, and a few of the conversations and panels) will be available virtually. Virtual programs with audio description tracks, closed captioning, and subtitles are listed in this Accessibility Guide.

All virtual screenings will be released and available on a timed schedule. Individual ticket holders and pass holders can unlock a film screening within 48 hours of its release, and they have 24 hours to finish watching from the moment they hit play.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday August 3</th>
<th>Thursday August 4</th>
<th>Friday August 5</th>
<th>Saturday August 6</th>
<th>Sunday August 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lingui, the Sacred Bonds 10:00am</td>
<td>Storming Caesars Palace 10:00am</td>
<td>Savvy (shorts) 10:00am</td>
<td>Lowndes County and the Road to Black Power 10:00am</td>
<td>Ájãí: the Headball Game of the Myky and Manoki (Àjáí: o jogo de cabeça dos Myky e Manoki) 10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revivify (shorts) 12:00pm</td>
<td>Sillage (shorts) 12:00pm</td>
<td>The African Desperate 12:00pm</td>
<td>Effectuate (shorts) 12:00pm</td>
<td>Tug of War 12:00pm</td>
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<td>Let the Little Light Shine 2:00pm</td>
<td>One Take Grace 2:00pm</td>
<td>Pulsate (shorts) 2:00pm</td>
<td>Observer Effect (shorts) 2:00pm</td>
<td>Rewind &amp; Play 2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonded (Bandhua) 4:00pm</td>
<td>Rising Tides (shorts) 4:00pm</td>
<td>Aftershock 4:00pm</td>
<td>Wisdom Gone Wild 4:00pm</td>
<td>Philadelphia Filmmaker Lab Films (shorts) 4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gather Me (shorts) 6:00pm</td>
<td>Jasmine Is a Star 6:00pm</td>
<td>Silent Beauty 6:00pm</td>
<td>Kash Kash 6:00pm</td>
<td>Withstand (shorts) 6:00pm</td>
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<td>We Still Here / Nos Tenemos 8:00pm</td>
<td>Teine Sā — the Ancient Ones 8:00pm</td>
<td>Locomote (shorts) 8:00pm</td>
<td>Hazing 8:00pm</td>
<td>Mars One (Marte Um) 8:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Passion of Remembrance 10:00pm</td>
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In-Person Events

Wednesday
August 3

Lingui, the Sacred Bonds
11:00am

BlackStar Pitch
12:00pm

The Passion of Remembrance
(followed by conversation)
2:00pm

Gather Me (shorts)
5:00pm

Seen with Dindga McCannon Convo
5:00pm

The Daily Jawn
Evening Show
7:00pm

Storming Caesars Palace
8:30pm

Opening Night Party
@ Bartram’s Garden
9:30pm

Thursday
August 4

Family-Friendly Yoga
@ Drexel Square
9:00am

Revivify (shorts)
10:00am

Sillage (shorts)
11:00am

Childhood on Screen Panel
1:00pm

One Take Grace
3:00pm

Jasmine Is a Star
5:00pm

Horror and Sound Panel
VIRTUAL
5:00pm

The Daily Jawn
Evening Show
7:00pm

Teine Sa — the Ancient Ones
8:30pm

Friday
August 5

Yoga
@ Drexel Square
9:00am

Savvy (shorts)
10:00am

The African Desperate
11:00am

Pulsate (shorts)
1:00pm

From Reflection to Release Workshop
1:00pm

Aftershock
3:00pm

Silent Beauty
5:00pm

Expressions of Spirit Panel
VIRTUAL
5:00pm

First Friday! at the Barnes,
featuring Blackalachia
6:00pm

The Daily Jawn
Evening Show
7:00pm

Locomote (shorts)
8:30pm

Saturday
August 6

Yoga
@ Drexel Square
9:00am

Lowndes County and the Road to Black Power
10:00am

Effectuate (shorts)
11:00am

Observer Effect (shorts)
1:00pm

Mira Nair Spotlight Convo
VIRTUAL
1:00pm

Wisdom Gone Wild
3:00pm

Kash Kash
5:00pm

The Daily Jawn
Evening Show
7:00pm

Hazing
8:30pm

Sunday
August 7

Yoga
@ Drexel Square
9:00am

Rising Tides (shorts)
10:00am

Tug of War
11:00am

Rewind & Play
1:00pm

Disability Justice & Filmmaking Panel
VIRTUAL
1:00pm

Philadelphia Filmmaker Lab Films (shorts)
3:00pm

Withstand
5:00pm

Loss, Grief, Legacy Panel
VIRTUAL
5:00pm

The Daily Jawn
Evening Show
7:00pm

Marte Um/Mars One
8:30 pm

Closing Night Party
@ PLA Courtyard