



# BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE

## July 2022 Newsletter

**Filmmaker Amandine Gay  
donates copies of films and posters!**



[Caption: Posters and DVDs for Speak Up and A Story of One's Own donated by Amandine Gay]

In March 2022, the BFC&A was honored to entertain a visit from French Afro-feminist filmmaker and activist Amandine Gay and her producer/editor Enrico Bartolucci, who were at Indiana University for a lecture and screening of their 2017 documentary Speak Up (Ouvrir la voix). Ms. Gay has generously donated posters

and DVDs for *Speak Up*, as well as for her 2021 film on transracial adoption *A Story of One's Own (Une histoire à soi)*, for addition to and preservation in the BFCA's General Collection.



[Caption: Enrico Bartolucci and Amandine Gay pose with BFCA Interim Director Akin Adesokan (far right) during their visit to the BFCA office in March 2022]

## Upcoming Event: Soyinka Film Series

Alongside our partner, the [Wole Soyinka International Cultural Exchange](#), we are hosting a film series and virtual panel discussion in honor of Soyinka's 88th

birthday. There are screenings scheduled where we are located, as well as in Lagos! We invite you to join the celebration when and wherever you are able.

# SOYINKA

## CITIZENSHIP & THE MOVING IMAGE

This film series and panel discussion is a collaboration between the Black Film Center & Archive and the Wole Soyinka International Cultural Exchange on the occasion of the Nobel Laureate's 88th birthday, July 13, 2022.



### Dual Screenings

#### BLOOMINGTON, IN

Wells Library, Room 044B / 5:30pm EST

TUESDAY, JULY 12

*Kongi's Harvest* (1971)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

*Culture in Transition* (1963)

*So Be It* (1997)

#### LAGOS, NIGERIA

Bariga, Crown Arts Factory / 5:00pm WAT

TUESDAY, JULY 12

*Kongi's Harvest* (1971)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

*So Be It* (1997)

THURSDAY, JULY 14

*Culture in Transition* (1963)



#### Virtual Panel Discussion

THURSDAY, JULY 14

Zoom: **811 2278 5380** | 1:00pm EST | 6:00pm WAT



**Tuesday, July 12th, 5:30pm EST**

**Kongi's Harvest (1971)** is a play written by Wole Soyinka and adapted for the screen with Ossie Davis as director. Fictional African country, Isma, is transitioning from governance by traditional ruler Oba Danlola to President Kongi. As the

national harvest celebration approaches, these two leaders struggle with power, ego, a yam, and the good of their fellow citizens. Soyinka stars as Kongi. (1 hour, 18 minutes)

**Wednesday, July 13th, 5:30pm EST**

In dialogue with the play *The Strong Breed* by Wole Soyinka, **So Be It (1997)** is the story of a doctor struggling in a rural Senegalese village against practices he abhors, including that of the sacrificial lamb. Boasting a brilliant jazz score to match its visual beauty, *So Be It* is the work of Jo Gaï Ramaka, a director drawn to challenging subjects and willing to take risks. (31 minutes)

**Thursday, July 14th, 5:00pm WAT**

Written and narrated by Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, **Culture in Transition (1963)** introduces viewers to Nigerian folk traditions and the emergent arts scene in the 1960s. There's sculpture, mythology, dance, a performance of Soyinka's play *The Strong Breed*, and much more. The documentary aired on US television in 1963. (58 minutes)

**[All Bloomington screenings will take place at the Phyllis Klotman Room LI 044B, and introduced by Essence London.]**

**Thursday, July 14th, 1:00pm EST / 6:00pm WAT**

**Virtual Panel Discussion**

Zoom: 811 2278 5380

**Panelists:**

Rejoice Abutsa, Cornell University  
Tunde Awosanmi, University of Ibadan  
Essence London, Indiana University  
Deji Toyé, Lawyer & Culture Critic, Lagos

**Moderator:**

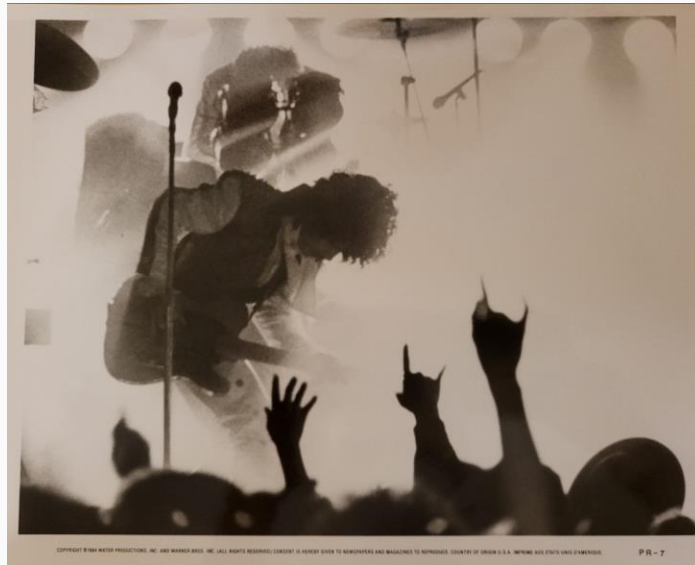
Akinwumi Adesokan, Indiana University

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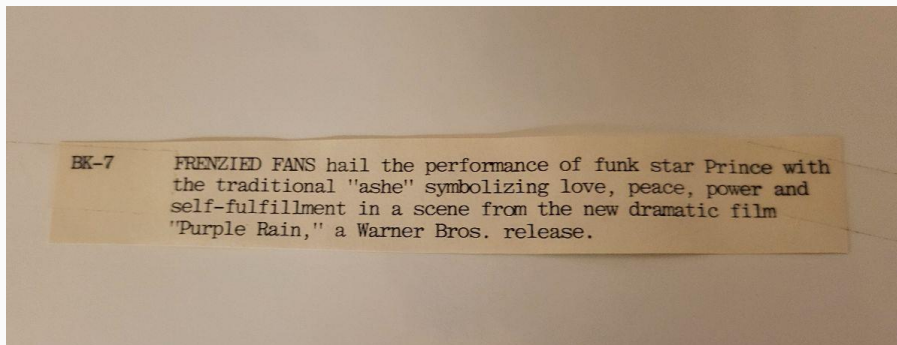
**Social Media Highlights**



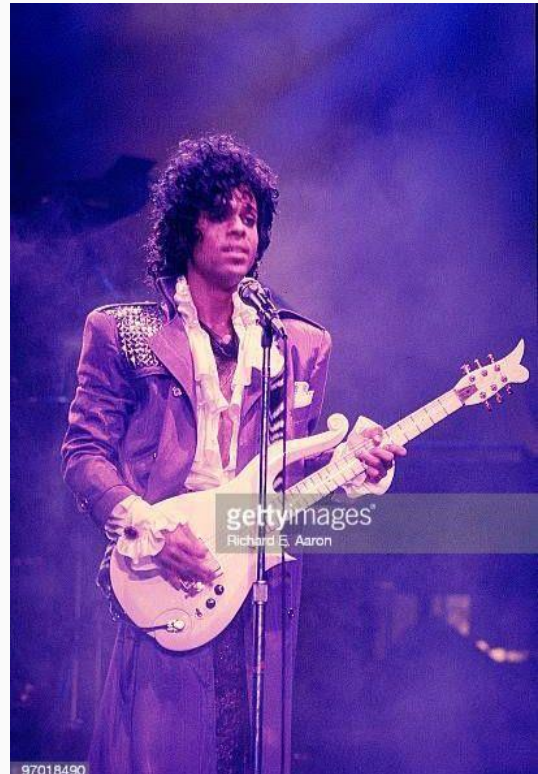
## Prince



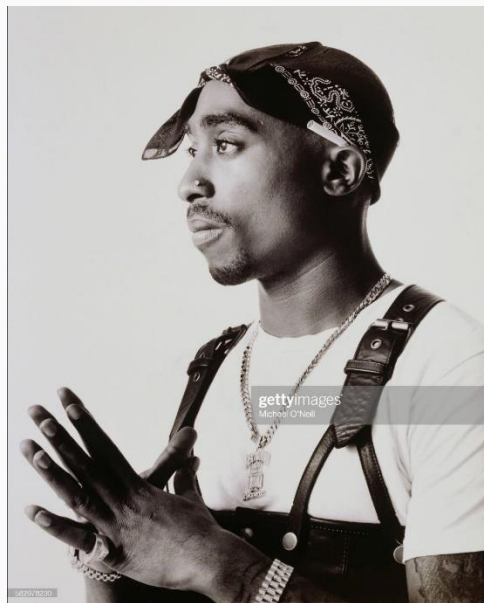
On June 7, we honored artist, actor, and musician Prince (1958-2016). In addition to his proudly flamboyant, generation-defining, genre-bending music persona and starring role in *Purple Rain* (1984), Prince also worked extensively behind the camera, directing himself in the musical dramas *Under the Cherry Moon* (1986) and *Graffiti Bridge* (1990), as well as the concert film *Sign o' the Times* (1987).



[Promotional photo for *Purple Rain* from the African American Contributions to Film Collection; original photo caption reads: "Frenzied fans hail the performance of funk star Prince with the traditional 'ashe' symbolizing love, peace, power, and self-fulfillment in a scene from the new dramatic film 'Purple Rain,' a Warner Bros. release."; Japanese poster for *Under the Cherry Moon* from the BFCA's General Collection; Richard Aaron via Getty Images, 1984]



## Tupac Shakur



On June 16, we wished happy birthday to Tupac Shakur (1971-1996), era-defining hip hop artist, poet, and performer. Tupac made a mark in both the music and film industries, starring in early “hood” films like *Juice* (1992) and *Poetic Justice* (1993) that explored inner-city gang violence and inequality, in addition to taking roles in *Above the Rim* (1994), *Bullet* (1996), *Gridlock’d* (1997), and *Gang Related* (1997). His life, music, and tragic death have been the basis for numerous documentaries, retrospectives, and tributes, including a 2017 biopic *All Eyez on Me*, starring Demetrius Shipp Jr. (Photo by Michael O’Neill via Getty Images, 1996; Films in our BFCA general collection.)



## Joie Lee



On June 22, we wished a happy birthday to screenwriter, producer, and actor Joie Lee, born in 1962. A key and frequent collaborator with her brother Spike Lee, Ms. Lee has appeared in front of the camera in *She's Gotta Have It* (1986), *School Daze* (1988), *Do the Right Thing* (1989), *Mo' Better Blues* (1990), *Girl 6* (1996), *Get on the Bus* (1996), *She Hate Me* (2004), and *Da Sweet Blood of Jesus* (2014), in addition to writing screenplays for *Crooklyn* (1994) and the *She's Gotta Have It* TV series (2017-2019). In 2003, Ms. Lee also featured in a prominent role in Jim Jarmusch's film *Coffee and Cigarettes*. (Mo' Better Blues lobby card from the BFCA's Edward Mapp Collection; photo by Patrick McMullan via Getty Images.)

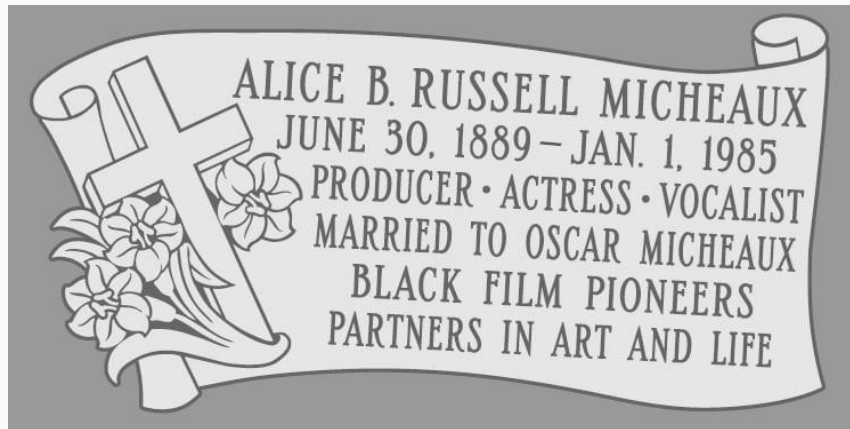




## Alice B. Russell



On June 30, we recognized the birthday of Alice B. Russell (1889-1985), pioneering actress and producer of early "race films" featuring all-Black casts that were distributed to predominantly Black American audiences from the 1920s through 1940s. Along with her husband, filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, Mrs. Russell administered the independent Micheaux Film Company, where she produced and/or starred in Oscar's feature films like *Wages of Sin* (1929), *Veiled Aristocrats* (1932), *The Girl from Chicago* (1932), and *Murder in Harlem* (1935). Today, these works stand as some of the earliest surviving Black American film productions, presenting a richer range of roles and narratives with Black characters than the limited stereotypes found in Hollywood. Largely ignored by historians between Oscar's death in 1951 and her own passing in 1985, Mrs. Russell has recently gained more recognition for her place in early film history. In 2018, the BFCA helped spearhead an initiative to place a new memorial headstone (pictured) at Alice Russell's unmarked gravesite.



**The BFCA celebrated IU Day, this year!**



On April 20, the BFCA joined other programs across the Indiana University campuses and alumni worldwide in recognizing IU Day. In addition to open house tours of our office throughout the afternoon, we also participated in the IU Day block party by the Showalter Fountain, where we met hundreds of undergrads and passed out BFCA-branded pens, magnets, buttons, bookmarks, and other cool swag. Thank you to everyone who donated or stopped by our table to say hi! If you missed us, feel free to stop by our office at Wells 044 and pick up some swag. Additionally, you can still donate! Please click the link below, to support our mission.

## Donate to the BFCA

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### **Reminder: We have a New Name, a New Logo, and a New Website!**

Starting January 18, 2022, we are officially the Black Film Center & Archive. Our new name can be abbreviated as “BFCA”. We are also proud to debut a new logo design and a fully updated website, featuring a cleaner, more user-friendly interface for exploring the BFCA’s history and collections. Visit us at [bfca.indiana.edu](https://bfca.indiana.edu) to check it out. An example of our new logo is in the title above. We also invite you to email us at [bfca@indiana.edu](mailto:bfca@indiana.edu) with any feedback about the new site's appearance or usability, or if you encounter a technical problem.

### **Matterport Scan - We've Gone 3D!**

Can't physically visit our office? How about a virtual visit instead? The BFCA office on IU Bloomington's campus was recently given a Matterport 3D scan courtesy of the Indiana University IU3D Team. Check out this unique interactive virtual tour, featuring our space, amenities, and several featured items from our archival collections, such as the item pictured below! (Simplex 35mm Projector donated by Jon and Jennifer Vickers from the Vickers Theatre and the collection of Kenneth Marks).

Click the link below and then the play button in the bottom left corner for an automated tour or click around and explore the space at your leisure.

<https://bfca.indiana.edu/about/virtual-tour.html>



For more information about the BFCA, please visit our website [www.bfca.indiana.edu](http://www.bfca.indiana.edu). To subscribe to our blog, please visit our blog page <https://blogs.iu.edu/bfca/> and click on “Subscribe” in the bottom right of the screen. [Please consider ways to give](#), to continue our efforts and supporting our [mission](#). We sincerely thank you all for your support. We would not be able to complete all of our wonderful programs and awesome events, without your help.

Warmest regards,  
BFCA Interim Director and Staff



THE MEDIA SCHOOL

**BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE**

Indiana University Bloomington







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