



BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE

September 2022 Newsletter

**This week: Open House
at the Black Film Center & Archive**



BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE!!



- Wednesday, September 7th 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
- Thursday, September 8th 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Feel free to attend either day and bring a friend!



**IU Wells Library
1320 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, IN 47405
Room 044**



Email: bfca@indiana.edu
Phone: (812) 855 - 6041

 THE MEDIA SCHOOL
BLACK FILM CENTER & ARCHIVE
Indiana University Bloomington

Website: www.bfca.indiana.edu

Come and check out the BFCA on [September 7th](#) or [September 8th](#), 3:00pm - 4:30pm! As the semester starts, we wanted to open our doors to welcome you all to come take a look, meet us, and learn about our resources, facility, and

history.

We are located in Herman B. Wells Library Room 044, on the ground floor, across from Media Services and the Bookmarket Eatery.

Our BFCA team is looking forward to meeting you or reconnecting with you! Please join us and bring a friend!

Upcoming Events: Maya Cade program + IU Cinema Exhibit



Photo Credit: Gioncarlo Velentine

CURATED BY MAYA CADE, FOUNDER OF THE BLACK FILM ARCHIVE
IU CINEMA GUEST PROGRAMMER IN RESIDENCE



FAMILY AS HOME

**YOUR CHILDREN COME
BACK TO YOU & CLAUDINE**

+ SPECIAL INTRODUCTION
SEPT. 1, 7PM

BODY AS HOME

**A DIFFERENT IMAGE
& ALMA'S RAINBOW**

+ SPECIAL INTRODUCTION
SEPT. 8, 7PM

ANCESTRY AS HOME

**DREAMING RIVERS
& BLACK MOTHER**

+ SPECIAL INTRODUCTION
SEPT. 22, 7PM



TRANSITION AS HOME

**AFRICAN WOMAN, U.S.A.
& MY BROTHER'S WEDDING**

+ SPECIAL INTRODUCTION
SEPT. 30, 9PM

JORGENSEN GUEST FILMMAKER SERIES:

MAYA CADE

IN CONVERSATION WITH
FILMMAKER ISABEL SANDOVAL
SEPT. 30, 7PM

QUEERNESS AS HOME

**BEHIND EVERY GOOD MAN
& PARIAH**

+ SPECIAL INTRODUCTION
OCT. 1, 7PM

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS: BLACK CINEMA'S EXPLORATION OF HOME

Maya Cade is the creator and curator of Black Film Archive and a scholar-in-residence at the Library of Congress. The Black Film Archive—a register of Black films from 1915 to 1979 that are available to stream online—is a living, breathing, publicly accessible archive of Black film history, craft, and storytelling.

Maya's program HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS: BLACK CINEMA'S EXPLORATION OF HOME is an expansive look into the many mutations of the idea of "home." Film programming will be augmented by a display of archival holdings from IU's Black Film Center & Archive in the Cinema's lower lobby and a Jorgensen Guest Filmmaker conversation. All events in this series will be free but ticketed.



FILM FOR ALL!



BLACK PHILANTHROPY CIRCLE

cinema.indiana.edu



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
CINEMA

@iucinema

812-856-CINE (2463)

This September, the IU Cinema welcomes [Maya Cade](#) as their guest programmer-in-residence. The creator of the [Black Film Archive website](#) tracking Black films available to stream online, Maya is curating a series of five programs with the Cinema collectively titled “Home Is Where the Heart Is: Black Cinema’s Exploration of Home.”

Past and upcoming screenings/events for this series include:

- September 1, 7:00pm
 - Your Children Come Back to You (1979), directed by Alile Sharon Larkin
 - Claudine (1974), directed by John Berry

- September 8, 7:00pm
 - A Different Image (1982), directed by Alile Sharon Larkin
 - Alma’s Rainbow (1994), directed by Ayoka Chenzira

- September 22, 7:00pm
 - Dreaming Rivers (1988), directed by Martina Attille
 - Black Mother (2018), directed by Khalik Allah

- September 30, 7:00pm
 - Jorgensen Guest Filmmaker Lecture featuring Black Film Archive founder Maya Cade

- September 30, 9:00pm
 - African Woman, U.S.A. (1980), directed by Ijeoma Iloputaife
 - My Brother’s Wedding (1983), directed by Charles Burnett

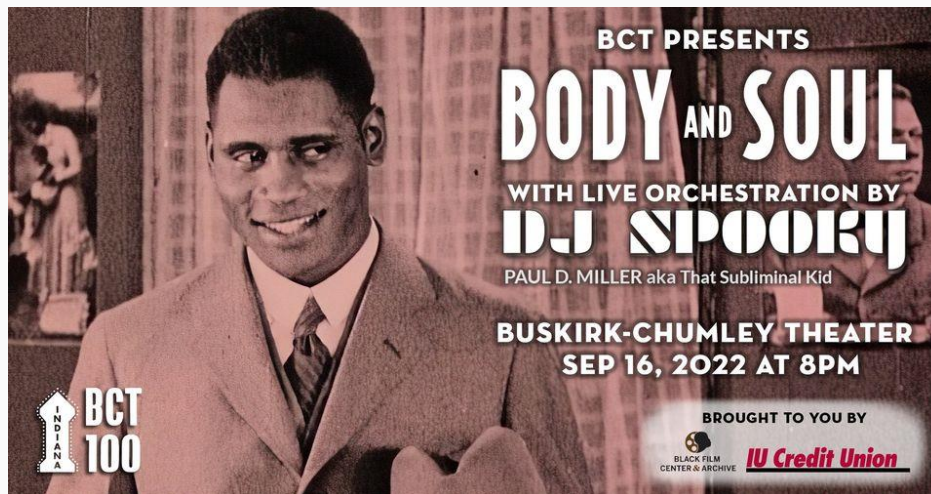
- October 1, 7:00pm
 - Behind Every Good Man (1967), directed by Nikolai Ursin
 - Pariah (2011), directed by Dee Ree

To accompany these screenings, the BFCA has contributed an exhibit in the basement level of IU Cinema. Included in the exhibit are original production and publicity materials for several of the programmed films (including original scripts for My Brother’s Wedding and promo stills for Claudine), in addition to other items from our collections that explore themes of Black homemaking.

Stop by and check out the exhibit the next time you are at the Cinema! And visit the [IU Cinema's site](#) for more information on individual screenings and ticketing for this series.



Upcoming Event: *Body and Soul* at the Buskirk-Chumley, featuring DJ Spooky!



On September 16, the BFCA is co-sponsoring a screening of race film pioneer Oscar Micheaux's silent masterpiece *Body and Soul* (1925) at the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre in Bloomington, IN -- featuring an original live score by Paul D. Miller, aka DJ Spooky!

Starring the great Paul Robeson in his screen debut, *Body and Soul* is an excoriating critique of gender relations and religious hypocrisy in the Black church, now widely considered one of Micheaux's most ambitious films. DJ Spooky is an internationally-acclaimed composer, author, and multimedia artist who uses electronic music to bend genres and comment on social and environmental issues. He previously visited Bloomington in 2017 to screen *Rebirth of a Nation*, a remix and reimagining of D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation*.

Further information and ticketing can be found at the [Buskirk-Chumley's website](#).

Check out the new poster display in our shared study table area.



The BFCA's collections include hundreds of original posters and promotional materials from productions across the breadth of Black film history. We recently rotated in a new themed exhibit of posters (entitled "A Woman's Touch: Black Women and the Power of Solidarity") to observe the start of the fall 2022 semester. If you are in Wells library, please stop by our reception area on the ground floor level for a quiet place to hang out or study while being surrounded by beautiful historical examples of Black film promotional art.

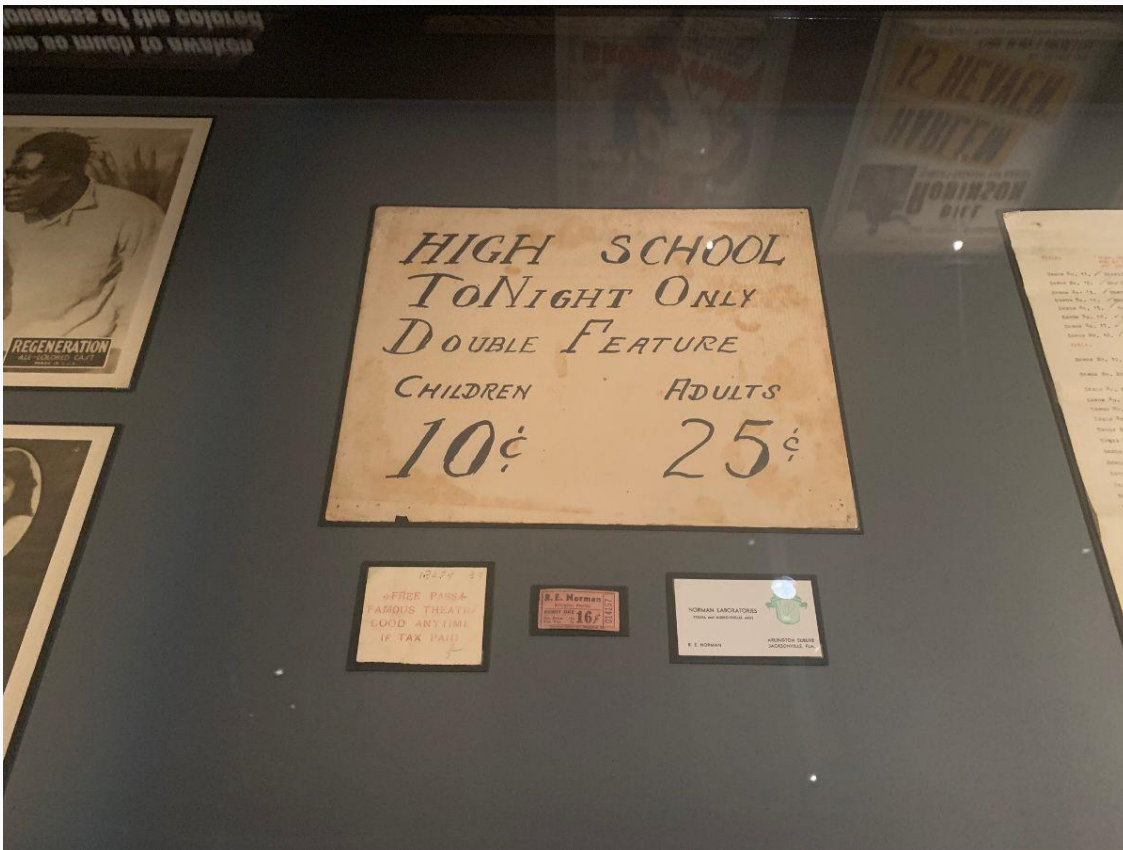


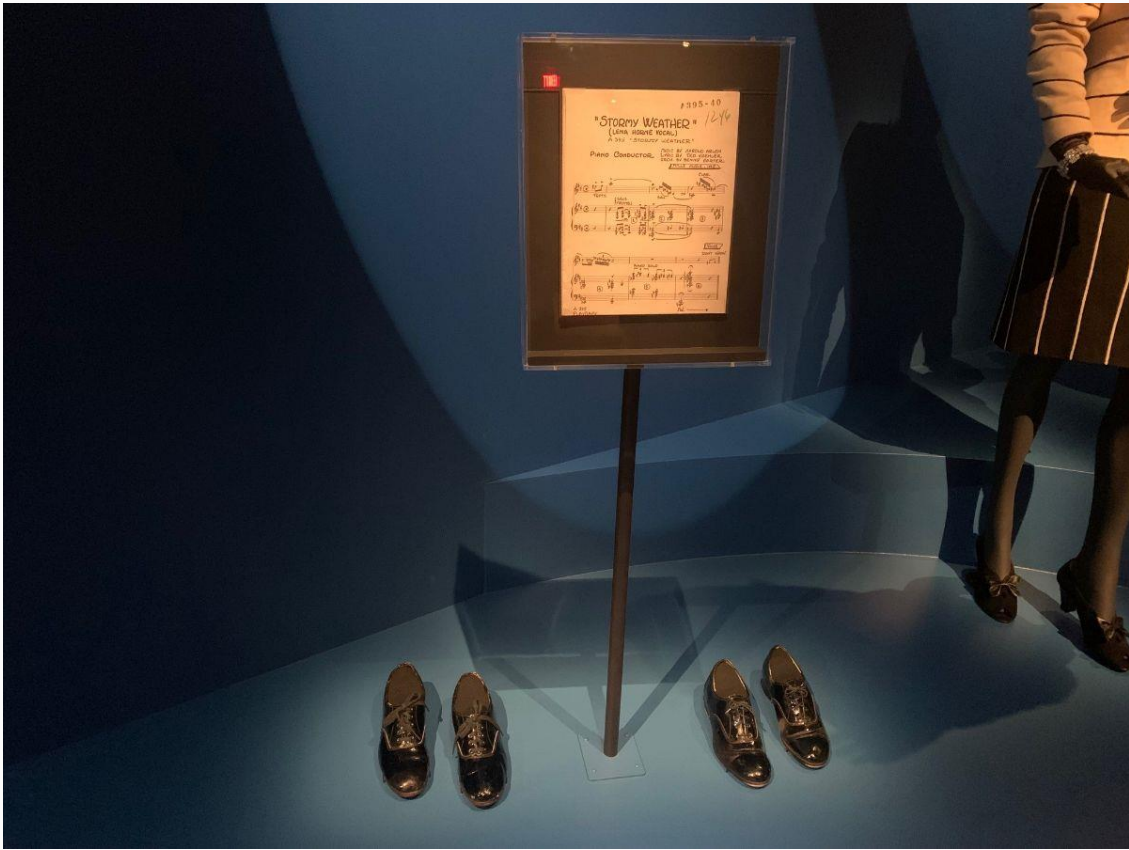
BFCA materials on display at the Academy Museum's exhibition

Regeneration: Black Cinema 1898-1971

The Black Film Center & Archive was very honored to loan objects from our collections to the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures' exhibition, *Regeneration: Black Cinema 1898 – 1971*. The exhibition, open from August 21, 2022 – April 9, 2023, explores the contributions of Black performers and filmmakers in the United States from cinema's infancy in the 1890s through the

height of the civil rights movement. It fills seven galleries in the museum and features rarely seen moving images, as well as photographs, scripts, drawings, costumes, equipment, posters, and historical materials that document the Black experience in both independent production and the studio system. Some of the items on display from the BFCA include sheet music for Stormy Weather, tap shoes worn by the Nicholas Brothers, an original poster for Reform School (1939), and ephemera from Norman Studios. If you would like to learn more about the exhibition or how to visit, you can do so at the following link: <https://www.academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/regeneration-black-cinema>





Social Media Highlights

William Marshall



On August 19, we celebrated the birthday of actor William Marshall (1924-2003)! Born in Gary, Indiana, Marshall channeled his towering 6'5" frame and

commanding bass voice into a rich Broadway career, including a long-running performance as Othello widely acclaimed as one of the greatest renditions of the role. His screen career suffered in the 1950s after being blacklisted as a communist sympathizer, but he eventually built an impressive TV resume, with roles on Bonanza (1964), The Alfred Hitchcock Hour (1964), Star Trek (1968), The Jeffersons (1982), as the voice of Iron Man on Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends (1983), and as the King of Cartoons on Pee-wee's Playhouse (1987-1990). Marshall cemented his place in film history with his title role in Blacula (1972)--one of the top-grossing Blaxploitation films of the '70s and a milestone in black horror--and its sequel Scream Blacula Scream (1973).



(All images from the BFCA General and Mary Perry Smith Collections.)

Ava DuVernay





August 24 was the birthday of Ava DuVernay (born 1972). Since taking up filmmaking at age 32, Ms. DuVernay has risen as a multi-hyphenate powerhouse as director, producer, and/or writer of dozens of shorts, features, music videos, and series. Her work—including *Middle of Nowhere* (2012), *Selma* (2014), *13th* (2016), *A Wrinkle in Time* (2018), *When They See Us* (2019), and *Colin in Black & White* (2021)—has netted multiple historic award nominations and wins, and as member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences board of governors, she has continued to fight for the elevation of BIPOC talent and social issues in the entertainment industry. In 2013, DuVernay visited the BFCA and then-director Michael T. Martin during a visit to Indiana University. A *Middle of Nowhere* poster she autographed hangs proudly in the BFCA lobby.

To My Friends at
BFC/A

This feels like home.
My true thanks for all you do.

What a wonderful, nourishing visit.

Onward!
Jon DuVernay

Seret Scott



On September 1, we recognized the birthday of actor, activist, and theater artist Seret Scott (born 1949)! Ms. Scott has been deeply immersed in activist theater scenes for over 50 years, directing, writing, and/or starring in dozens of Broadway, off-Broadway, and regional productions. In 1982, she starred as philosophy professor Sara Rogers in Kathleen Collins's *Losing Ground*, one of the first feature films directed by a Black American woman. Initially overlooked and not theatrically distributed, *Losing Ground* has been reappraised as a landmark of American independent cinema since its 2015 restoration and rerelease. In a 2011 assessment of the film in the journal *Black Camera*, L.H. Stallings argued for Scott's sensual and cerebral performance as "required viewing for any black woman" for the ways it challenges common ideas about "intellect, creativity, desire, ecstasy, and black women's agency."



(Production stills of Scott in *Losing Ground* from the BFCA General Collection.)

The BFCA welcomes new Interim Director, Rachael Stoeltje



On August 1, Rachael Stoeltje began a term as Interim Director of the BFCA for the 2022-2023 academic year. Rachael brings decades of experience in archiving and moving image preservation. She founded and also serves as Director of the Indiana University Libraries Moving Image Archive and is the President of AMIA (Association of Moving Image Archivists). She served on the FIAF (International Federation of Film Archives) Executive Committee (2013-2019) and co-founded the FIAF Training and Outreach Program. Most recently, she concluded her role as the Director of the mass digitization for film project at Indiana University that wrapped up in June 2021, resulting in 23,803 digitized film reels. She has served on the Editorial board for AMIA's *The Moving Image Journal*. She teaches in the graduate program of the Luddy School's Department of Information and Library Science. Rachael frequently participates in local and international training and outreach events and initiatives, dedicating herself to mentoring burgeoning archivists and working to bridge the global archival communities in order to address shared challenges in the field of moving image preservation.

Join us in welcoming Rachael to the BFCA team!

Farewell statement from departing BFCA Interim Director, Akin Adesokan



Dear staff, patrons, and friends of the Black Film Center & Archive,

I appreciate the warm welcome you all extended early this year upon my acceptance of the Interim Director role. My hope is that the seven months I served has reoriented the BFCA on a path back toward the vitality we know and love it for, and that you'll feel it the next time you attend an event or stop by the office to say hello. In its 41st year, the BFCA is still just getting started.

We are actively nurturing the relationship with Black Camera, IU Cinema, and other departments with similar values across IU's campus including the Neal Marshall Black Culture Center, the African Studies Program, and the African American and African Diaspora Studies department.

We are planning events that bring exciting filmmakers and scholars from across the world to Bloomington. In turn, we are dreaming up events that'll send the BFCA and our collections across the world. We are reconnecting with you all as well—online and offline—because the BFCA can only thrive with your support. Whether it be through a donation or through advocacy, we need you.

I send my sincerest regards to Rachael Stoeltje, the Interim Director as of August 1, 2022.

Last but certainly not least, I'd like to thank the staff I've had the honor of working with this year. In your goodbyes, you said my contributions to the BFCA are "indispensable," but I did not do any of this on my own. You too are indispensable to the legacy of the BFCA.

Sincerely,

Akin



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](#)

**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 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 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. 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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