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"Midnight Ramble" documentary conveys character, Cincinnati connection and the art of the possible.

**Film's Producer to speak after screenings
Area residents invited to share Midnight Ramble experiences**

Cincinnati World Cinema will present **MIDNIGHT RAMBLE**, the story of the black film industry 1910-1950, highlighting the films, filmmakers and their impact upon American society. Screenings will be held at the **Cincinnati Art Museum** at **2:00 pm** on **Saturday October 20** and **Sunday October 21**. Tickets are \$7.00 for students and Art Museum members, \$9.00 for the general public. To enhance the subject matter, the film's producer, **Pamela Thomas** will be present after each screening to speak about director Oscar Micheaux, "race movies" and early black cinema in America.

Much as the term "race music" was applied to early rock-and-roll and rhythm-and-blues, "race movies" is a broad-brush descriptor for movies created by independent black filmmakers in the first half of the 20th Century. At the same time, "Midnight ramble" was used to describe an African-American audience custom of attending films between midnight and 2:00 am, at segregated or black-only movie theatres.

Narrated by actor James Avery, **Midnight Ramble** documents the emergence of black cinema in America. And in doing so, it provides fascinating insight into black American culture and society as a whole for the period spanning 1910 through WWII. In response to negative stereotypes perpetuated by Hollywood, these films portrayed black values and lifestyles in a more realistic way, spanning all genres - romance, comedy, mystery, drama, musical and western. And, many of the independent films of this era addressed topics and social issues avoided by Hollywood -- racism, religion, personal responsibility, poverty, crime and alcoholism.

In addition to recognizing the roughly 500 movies created by black filmmakers during this period, the documentary pays tribute to the entrepreneurial determination, resourcefulness and creativity of the people who started the production companies, made and acted in the films and created a distribution network that brought movies to hundreds of thousands of black Americans.

Noted in the film is a late-1930s visit to **Cincinnati** by **Herbert Jeffrey**, a vocalist who toured with the Duke Ellington and Earl "Fatha" Hinds big bands. Jeffrey's personal experience here led him to create a series of black cowboy movies and he became America's first black singing motion picture cowboy. More Cincinnati connection: area residents who remember attending or hearing about movie theaters such as the **Hippodrome**, **Pekin** or **Regal** are invited to attend and share their recollections in the post film discussion.

Details and information (tickets, trailer, film details, historical background, etc.) are available at the CWC website: <http://www.cincyworldcinema.org> and by calling **859.781.8151**

Tickets are available now: on-line via the website, at the Cincinnati Art Museum and at local outlets including Sitwell's (Clifton), Lookout Joe Coffee Roasters (Mt. Lookout Square), Shake-It Records (Northside) and the Bean Haus (Covington).

MEDIA SUPPORT:

Midnight Ramble producer Pamela Taylor is available for telephone/in-person interviews. Screeners are available for credited reviewers; high-resolution stills are available for print publications. Call 859.781.8151 for more information.

More...

Consistent with its mission and commitment to the community, Cincinnati World Cinema has presented the following films featuring African-American directors and/or themes:

Color Blind (Theatrical Premiere)

Director Bryan Amburgey, Drama, USA, 2002. *Winner: Best Dramatic Short and Best of Show, 2nd Annual Sprockets Film Festival 2002; Best Film in the Teach Me Something category, Ohio regional Apple iFilm Festival, 2002.*

The Last Just Man (Midwest Premiere)

Director Steven Silver, Documentary, Canada, 2001. *Winner, Humanitarian Award, Canadian International Film Festival; Winner, Audience Award, Canadian International Film Festival.*

War Photographer (Midwest Premiere)

Director Christopher Frei, Documentary, Switzerland, 2001. *Oscar Nominee, Best Documentary Feature, 74th Academy Awards, Los Angeles 2002; Winner: Best Nonfiction Film, 12th Intl Film Festival, Cologne 2002; Winner, Best Documentary, 23rd Intl Film Festival, Durban 2002; Winner, Best Film, South African Intl Documentary Festival 2002; Winner, Best Film, Viewpoint Film Festival, Ghent 2002 Winner, Best Film, DocAviv Festival, Tel Aviv 2002; Winner, Silver Award for Best Documentary, Canadian Intl Film Festival; Audience Award Runner-up, Canadian Intl Film Festival.*

Inja (Dog) (Midwest Premiere)

Director Steve Pasvolsky, Drama, Australia/South Africa, 2001. *Oscar Nominee, Live-Action Short. Winner, Best Student Film, Aspen Shorts Fest, 2002; Winner, Best Short Film, St. Kilda Film Festival, 2002; Winner, Best Short Film, Nashville Independent Film Festival, 2002; Winner, Best Foreign Short, LA Shorts Fest, Los Angeles, 2002; Finalist, Best Short Fiction, American Film Institute Awards, 2001; Finalist, Best Screenplay in a Short Film, American Film Institute Awards, 2001.*

Long Night's Journey Into Day (Kentucky Premiere)

Director Frances Reid and Deborah Hoffmann, South Africa/USA, 2000. *Winner: Sundance 2000 GRAND JURY AWARD. Academy Award Nomination 2001 DOCUMENTARY FEATURE. San Francisco International Film Festival 2000 GOLDEN SPIRE AWARD. Sydney Film Festival 2000 AUDIENCE AWARD. Berlin Film Festival 2000 PEACE FILM PRIZE + READER'S JURY PRIZE. International Human Rights Film Festival 2001 HUMAN RIGHTS FILM AWARD. Newport International Film Festival 2000 AUDIENCE AWARD for BEST DOCUMENTARY. Amnesty International Film Festival Award Nomination, 2001. Director's Guild of America Nomination 2002 BEST DOCUMENTARY. International Human Rights Film Festival, Nuremberg 2001 BEST FILM. Jerusalem Film Festival 2000 IN THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM AWARD.*

Lucky's (Tri-State Premiere)

Director Alvaro Leite, Dayton OH, 2003. *Semifinalist, Kodak's Cinematic Images Competition. Semifinalist, UAFW/Fox Searchlight Labs Competition. Cleveland International Film Festival. San Francisco Black Film Festival.*

African American (Midwest Premiere)

Director Askia Hollow, Dayton OH, 2003. *Winner, Best Documentary, Black Independent Film Festival, Atlanta 2004.*

God Sleeps in Rwanda (Midwest Premiere)

Directors Kimberlee Acquaro & Stacy Sherman, Rwanda/USA, 2005. *Winner, Audience Award, Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films 2005; Winner, Audience Award, Aspen Shorts Fest 2005; Winner, Audience Award, Silverdocs/AFI Film Festival 2005; Winner, Best of Festival Award, Ojai Film Festival; Winner, World Cinema Short Award, Phoenix Film Festival; Winner, Critic's Choice Award, Jackson Hole Docuweek 2005; Winner, Special Mention, Silverdocs/AFI Film Festival 2005.*

The Death of Kevin Carter (Midwest Premiere)

Director Dan Kraus, South Africa/USA, 2005. *Academy Award (Oscar) Nominee for Best Documentary Short 2005; Winner, Golden Gate Award, San Francisco International Film Festival, San Francisco; Winner, Best Short Documentary, Tribeca Film Festival New York; Winner, Best Documentary, L.A. International Short Film Festival, Los Angeles; Winner, Best Short Documentary, Cleveland Int'l Film Festival; Winner, Audience Choice Award, Orinda Film Festival, Orinda, CA.*

Blues Legend: The Life & Times of H-Bomb Ferguson (World Premiere)

Director John Parker, USA, 2006. *With live post-film performance by H-Bomb Ferguson and the Medicine Men*

After Innocence (Midwest Premiere)

Director Jessica Sanders, USA, 2006, 75:00 *Winner, Special Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival; Winner, Women in Cinema, Seattle Film Festival; Winner, Special Jury Prize, Newport Beach Film Festival; Winner, Audience Award, Independent Film Festival of Boston; Winner, Change Award, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival; Winner, Best Documentary, Nantucket FF.*

Binta and the Great Idea (Tri-State Premiere)

Director Javier Fesser & Luis Manso, Senegal, 2006. *Oscar Nominee, Best Short Film, Live Action, Academy Awards, 2006.*

The Wraith of Cobble Hill (Tri-State Premiere)

Director Adam Parrish King, USA, 2006. *Winner, Jury Prize Short Filmmaking Award, Sundance Film Festival, 2006; Winner, Jury Prize Best Animated Short Film, SXSW, 2006; Winner, Best Animated Short Film, Los Angeles Film Festival, 2006.*

More...

About Cincinnati World Cinema

Now in our sixth year, Cincinnati World Cinema is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, showcasing outstanding motion pictures not normally shown in Cincinnati, with a focus on high-quality films that explore the human condition and celebrate cultural diversity.

International, independent, narrative and documentary films are typically followed by discussions with filmmakers or local authorities to enhance the educational experience.

<http://www.cincyworldcinema.org>

About the Cincinnati Art Museum

Through partnership with Cincinnati World Cinema, the Cincinnati Art Museum's visitors can enjoy a range of international, documentary, live-action and animated films that further enhance their understanding of the Art Museum's collection and the world around them. Located in scenic Eden Park, the Art Museum features an unparalleled art collection of more than 60,000 works spanning 6,000 years. The Art Museum is open six days a week, free of charge to all.

<http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org>

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