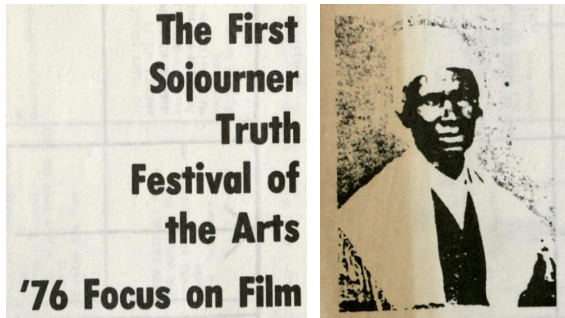


In 1976, an extraordinary group of Black feminist artists and activists organized the first ever Black women's film festival: the Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts. Films by Michelle Parkerson, Ayoka Chenzira, Edie Lynch, and Madeline Anderson, among others, were screened. The festival was simultaneously a celebration of the emerging world of Black women's filmmaking as well as a radical call for the kinds of socio-political and institutional changes necessary for a Black women's film culture to thrive.

Four decades later, The Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts, 2023 commemorates the 1976 festival with "Creating a Different Image: Black Women's Filmmaking of the 1970s-90s," a nine-week screening series held in conjunction with Professor Allyson Nadia Field's winter 2023 course on Black women's filmmaking of the 1970s, and a multi-day symposium about the original festival and the tradition of Black feminist filmmaking. Course screenings have been free and open to the public as part of the Film Studies Center's "Open Classroom" series, which invites members of the public to attend and take part in course screenings and discussions. The final symposium, featuring roundtable conversations with some of the original festival participants and contemporary artists, provides an opportunity to reflect on the past and future of Black women's filmmaking.

The Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts, 2023 was organized by Allyson Nadia Field, Monica Freeman, Yvonne Welbon, Hayley O'Malley, and Michael W. Phillips Jr.



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SOJOURNER TRUTH
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
1976
2023
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
MARCH 2-5, 2023



THURSDAY, MARCH 2

5:00pm

Terrace Seminar Room (Logan 801)
Welcome Reception for Invited Participants

7:00pm

Screening Room (Logan 201)
Screening: Interior Lives
Post-screening Q&A with Aarin Burch, Zeinabu irene Davis, S. Pearl Sharp, Cauleen Smith, Fronza Woods, and Yvonne Welbon (moderator)

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

8:30am

Performance Penthouse (Logan 901)
Reunion: Black Creatives Connect, Reunite, and Remember
Closed Session for Invited Participants

11:00am

Screening Room (Logan 201)
Welcome by Organizers & Keynote by Michele Wallace
Keynote respondent: Shola Lynch

12:30pm

Terrace Seminar Room (Logan 801)
Lunch Break for Invited Participants

1:30pm

Screening Room (Logan 201)
Roundtable Conversation:
Legacies of the Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts, 1976
Participants: Jennie Bourne, Louise Fleming, Monica Freeman, Carol Munday Lawrence, Jennifer Lawson, Edie Lynch, and Ina Archer (moderator)

3:15pm

Screening Room (Logan 201)
Roundtable Conversation: The 1970s Black Arts Scene
Participants: Thulani Davis, Cheryl Fabio, Cheryl Hill, Yaoundé Olu, Seret Scott, Fronza Woods, and Josslyn Luckett (moderator)

5:00pm

Screening Room (Logan 201)
Screening: *I Am Somebody* (Madeline Anderson, 1970, 30 min.)
Introduced by Portia Cobb

5:30pm

Screening Room (Logan 201)
Special Tribute to Madeline Anderson
Presented by Ava DuVernay and Monica Freeman

6:00pm

Performance Penthouse (Logan 901)
Dinner Reception for Invited Participants and Guests

7:30pm

Screening Room (Logan 201)
Screening: *Alma's Rainbow* (Ayoka Chenzira, 1993, 85 min.)
Introduction and post-screening Q&A with Ayoka Chenzira
Moderated by Samantha N. Sheppard

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

9:00am

Performance Hall (Logan 128)
Welcome & Roundtable Conversation:
Histories & Futures of Black Women's Filmmaking
Participants: Ayoka Chenzira, Nina Collins, Zeinabu irene Davis, Michelle Parkerson, Chanelle Aponte Pearson, Stefani Saintonge, and Yvonne Welbon (moderator)
Sponsored by Black Public Media

11:15am

Performance Hall (Logan 128)
Keynote Conversation: Julie Dash and Barbara McCullough
Introduced and moderated by Josslyn Luckett
This engagement is supported by the Arts Midwest GIG Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.
Clip from "The View" digital presentation
courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive

12:15pm

Green Room (downstairs lobby of Performance Hall)
Lunch Break for Invited Participants

1:15pm

Performance Hall (Logan 128)
Poetry Readings & Roundtable Conversation:
Literary & Visual Crossings
Participants: Joanne Braxton, Charlotte Carter, Margo Jefferson, Patricia Spears Jones, Tracie Morris, Evie Shockley, and Emily Hooper Lansana (moderator)
Sponsored by the Poetry Foundation

3:15pm

Performance Hall (Logan 128)
Roundtable Conversation: Black Film Feminisms & Memory Work
Participants: Shirikiana Aina, Gloria J. Gibson, Iman Uqdah Hameen, Shola Lynch, Debra Robinson, Kathe Sandler, and Yvonne Shirley (moderator)

5:15pm

Performance Hall (Logan 128)
Film Quarterly Roundtable: Scholars Respond:
Critical Perspectives on Black Women's Filmmaking
Participants: Courtney R. Baker, Terri Francis, Racquel Gates, Michael Gillespie, Hayley O'Malley, Miriam Petty, Yasmina Price, Samantha N. Sheppard, and Allyson Nadia Field (moderator)
Sponsored by Film Quarterly

7:00pm

Performance Penthouse (Logan 901)
Dinner Reception for Invited Participants and Guests

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

9:00am

Neubauer Collegium (5701 S. Woodlawn)
Feminist Media Histories Roundtable Discussion
on Curation & Programming
Participants: Ina Archer, Cheryl Chisholm, Monica Freeman, Jennifer Lawson, O.Funmilayo Makarah, Yvonne Welbon, and Hayley O'Malley and Allyson Nadia Field (moderators)
Sponsored by Feminist Media Histories

11:00am

Neubauer Collegium (5701 S. Woodlawn)
Workshop: Archival Preservation for Filmmakers
Participants: Rachael Stoeltje, Director, Indiana University Moving Image Archive and the Black Film Center & Archive; Amber Bertin, Archivist, Indiana University Black Film Center & Archive; and CK Ming and Ina Archer, Media Conservation and Digitization Specialists, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture
Sponsored by the Black Film Center & Archive