

Festival aims to show multifaceted characters

2005 Roxbury Film Festival

Screenings take place at the Tower Auditorium at the Massachusetts College of Art, the Raytheon Amphitheater and Blackman Auditorium at Northeastern University, and the Museum of Fine Arts. Tickets range from \$10 to \$12, and actor's workshops are \$15; panel discussions are free or cost \$5; silver festival passes are \$60, and gold festival passes \$80. Tickets may be purchased online at www.roxburyfilmfestival.org or at the Blackman Auditorium box office, 617-373-2247; tickets for MFA screenings may be purchased only at the Remis Auditorium box office, 617-369-3770.

Wednesday

Roxbury Center for the Arts at Hibernian Hall

5:30 p.m.: Pre-festival reception, followed by "The Visit," filmmakers present. By invitation or with gold passes only.

Thursday

Tower Auditorium, Massachusetts College of Art

5:30 p.m.: A conversation with Billy Dee Williams moderated by Liz Walker, CBS4.

Remis Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts

Opening night film

7:30 p.m.: "Constellation," filmmakers, Billy Dee Williams present.

Friday

Tower Auditorium

6 p.m.: Shorts program I: "Rubber Soles," "The Missing Peace," "Next Tuesday," "Vicky's Dad," "Freebox." Q&A to follow.
8:30 p.m.: "Runt," filmmakers present.

Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University

6:30 p.m.: "The Plague," Q&A to follow.

8:30 p.m.: "Beat the Drum."

Raytheon Amphitheater, Northeastern University

6 p.m.: Actor's workshop with Jamie Hector

8:30 p.m.: "The Aggressives."

Saturday

Tower Auditorium

11 a.m.: Shorts program II, youth films: "The Black Hole in Media," "Hip Hop Is," "Portrait of a Black Girl," "Body Single," "Phase One," "Wo Shi Mei Guo," "Ren." Q&A to follow.

2:30 p.m.: Shorts program III: "MC Sellout's Scandal," "The Male Groupie," "Orange Bow,"

"In Time," "Jepardee!" Q&A to follow.

4:30 p.m.: Panel discussion: "Get Up/Stand Up"

6:30 p.m.: "Favela Rising," Q&A to follow.

8:30 p.m.: "Letter to the President."

Blackman Auditorium

11 a.m.: "Following Bliss"

1 p.m.: "The Golden Blaze," animated feature

2:30 p.m.: "Slave Catchers, Slave Resisters," Q&A to follow.

4:30 p.m.: "500 Years Later"

6:30 p.m.: "Train Ride," Q&A to follow.

8:30 p.m.: "Flip the Script," Q&A with Miguel Nuñez to follow.

Raytheon Amphitheater

11 a.m.: Panel discussion: "Realizing Your Dream"

3 p.m.: Workshop: "The Spirited Actor," with Tracey Moore-Marable

6:30 p.m.: Shorts program IV: "Cycles of Repetition," "Blacks Cropped * Crop Blacks," "62 Years and 6,500 Miles Between." Q&A to follow.

8:30 p.m.: Shorts program V: "Left," "The Dead Guy," "Remembering,"

"Maria," "Seasons," "Abiku." Q&A to follow.

Sunday, Aug. 21

Tower Auditorium

11 a.m.: Shorts program VI: "I'd Rather Be Dancing," "Don't Tell Me You Love Me," "Oxtails"

1 p.m.: "Love Trap," Q&A to follow.

Blackman Auditorium

12 noon: "Constellation"

2 p.m.: "Runt"

Raytheon Amphitheater

11 a.m.: Shorts program VII: "Moving Heaven and Earth," "Keep on Walking."

1 p.m.: Shorts program VIII: "Dwayne's Big Game," "Erasures," "House of Mother," "Nature," "Far From Home"

Museum of Fine Arts

3 p.m.: "The Healing Passage," preceded by the short "In Time." Q&A to follow.

► ROXBURY

Continued from Page N9

Brazil's slums, or favelas. The film has earned awards from the Tribeca Film Festival (best emerging documentary filmmaker) and the New York International Latino Film Festival (best documentary).

Many of the films on Roxbury's schedule will make their New England premieres, such as Owen Alik Shahadah's slavery documentary "500 Years Later" and Frank B. Goodin III's comedy "Love Trap." Also in that category is Terrah Bennett Smith's "Flip the Script," which screens Saturday. Robin Givens and Miguel A. Nunez Jr. star in this comedy about drama that ensues when a friend's sudden death reunites six college buddies who come together in LA.

Tiayoka McMillan, writer and producer of "Flip the Script," says the film has drawn positive reaction from large audiences at screenings in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, and LA. McMillan wrote the script four years ago partly because she saw a lack of films with broad appeal that portrayed multifaceted black characters.

"I wanted to write a positive script. I think there are positive films out there, but I don't think there's enough positive material out there that's funny," she says. "It is definitely a movie that all people of all colors and nationalities can appreciate."

Among the up-and-coming documentarians in the lineup is Rachel Tsutsumi, whose extraordinary film "Far From Home" screens Sunday at Northeastern University's Raytheon Amphitheater. Tsutsumi, who grew up in Cambridge and Reading, profiles Kandice Sumner, a charismatic Boston teen bused to school in Weston as part of the Metco program. Using a hand-held digital video camera, Tsutsumi spent two years shooting more than 100 hours of footage. She honed it into a poignant 39-minute film that takes an intimate look at Sumner and her family, who will participate in a Q&A after the screening.

"A lot of the interviews that ended up in the film were pretty much from the first few weeks of taping," Tsutsumi says. "Anytime I asked if I could come along to something they said yes. They really didn't ever put any conditions on what I was taping."

In addition to the screenings, panels also play a big part in this



"Favela Rising" follows a former drug dealer who tries to change Brazil's slums.

year's festival. Along with discussions for actors and filmmakers on auditioning and how to get a film made, one panel focuses on audiences. "Get Up/Stand Up" explores social activism and film and how moviegoers can influence the images they see on-screen. Also new this year is a Saturday program of films made by young people and an animated feature-length film for children called "The Golden Blaze."

Now in its seventh year, the festival continues to draw attention beyond Roxbury. The Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences supported the festival with a grant. Silva and Lisa Simmons, founder and president of the Color of Film Collaborative, say their event is also becoming better known through word-of-mouth at other black film festivals such as Urbanworld in New York. The festival's scope has grown to include filmmakers who may not be from New England but have some connection to the area, as well as filmmakers who are white but whose films focus on people of color. But no matter how the festival has changed, it still fills a role that no other area festival does.

"It's grown because it's sort of expanded its reach in a sense. We really understood that the reach needed to be wider, but our focus is still on local New England filmmakers of color," says Simmons. "As a filmmaker of color it's important to share your films with an audience, especially an audience of color."

Rhonda Stewart can be reached at rstewart@globe.com.