

BRIC Documentary Intensive Screening: 2021 Cohort

Thursday | January 27th | 7-9pm | [Brooklyn Free Speech HD](#)
Filmmaker Discussion | 9-9:45pm [on Zoom](#)

SCREENING ORDER

Finding King Baby by Naliaka Wakhisi – 8 min 21 sec
No Filter by Alexandra Kane – 9 min 20 sec
Street Culture by Seleen Saleh – 6 min 54 sec
Autism Lost Generations and Neurodiversity by Leigha Cohen – 9min 10 sec
Urban Orishas by Alex Minkin – 9 min 30 sec
Ebony Kiss – Remember The Time by Desirée Rucker – 9 min 58 sec
In Virtuo by Kyla Mathis-Angress – 9 min 50 sec
Message in a Bottle by Hallie Ayres – 9 min 15 sec
A Mom Story by Deirra Stevenson – 9 min 26 sec
COMIC TRANS by Andi Lee Carter – 9 min 12 sec
BODY LANGUAGE by Odu Adamu – 9 min 59 sec

Finding King Baby | Naliaka Wakhisi | 8 min 21 sec

Finding King Baby is about a prominent graffiti tag seen around New York. From mailboxes to scaffolding, King Baby has placed tags, logos, and stickers in neighborhoods like Ft. Greene, Bed Stuy, Park Slope, and Downtown Brooklyn. The documentary follows a woman who has been asking questions about the tag for two years. Why does King Baby stay in these few neighborhoods? Is King Baby a collective? What does he//she/they stand for, and who they collaborate with? How dangerous is it to ask these questions and what will be revealed?



Naliaka Wakhisi is a Miami native who works as an educator and community advocate in Brooklyn, NY. Since she discovered how to take moving images with a digital camera, she's been obsessed with documenting stories about her life, social injustice, racism, and the lives of her friends. Most of the work she does involves turning on a camera and seeing what happens. Her goal is to use powerful storytelling to help improve the lives of others. She can be reached at nwakhisi@gmail.com

No Filter | Alexandra Kane | 9 min 20 sec



Social media's impact on self esteem is explored through the voices of a generation who grew up online. Four young people share how technology has changed how they see themselves, how they've adapted to an increasingly online world, and the lessons that they have learned.

Alexandra Kane is a designer and editor living in Brooklyn, NY. She began building websites in elementary school and has spent her professional career so far working in technology. Her recent projects explore how social media impacts mental health. <http://xandrakane.com>

Watch the films live on [Brooklyn Free Speech HD](#) | Spectrum 1993, Optimum 951, Verizon 47
Please join us for a Filmmaker Discussion directly following the screening [on Zoom](#).



Street Culture | Seleen Saleh | 6 min 54 sec



Street Culture gives light to the original runway that inspires modern day fashion. There is an overload of color and style, by the pioneers and ‘who’s who’ of the global fashion community. During a time when diversity in the fashion industry has become a major topic of discussion globally, ‘Street Culture’ was created to give a space to those whose contributions may or may not be known. This series is about documenting a movement in time that will continue to blossom and grow. A time of resilience, style, and celebrating culture. This film takes a deeper looker into what drives these creatives and what makes them flourish.

Seleen Saleh is a Brooklyn based photographer and is passionate about representation. In her teenage years she came across the 1990’s black and white British Vogue magazine cover, featuring Naomi Campbell. She felt such a connection and was so empowered to see someone who looked like her on a cover. It was at that moment she realized the power of imagery. She believes in using photography and film to help build connections to inspire others to love, embrace and support the wide range of beauty you will find in her work.

To see more of her work: <http://www.seleentsaleh.com>

Autism Lost Generations and Neurodiversity | Leigha Cohen | 9min 10 sec

We journey through how Autism and related issues has been viewed since 1950 through the eyes of 2 psychology professionals, and people whose ages vary from 31 to 72. We also explore Neurodiversity which was designed to counter how societal stigma has negatively impacted many people who have been diagnosed with natural neurological differences as being disordered or broken.



Leigha Cohen is a parent and grandparent who was born in 1950 in Brooklyn, NY. She was diagnosed with having Autism in 2019. She holds multiple undergraduate degrees in sociology, early childhood education and electrical engineering of which she worked successfully in each of these fields. You can find out more about her video work at <http://www.leighacohenvideo.com/>

Urban Orishas | Alex Minkin | 9 min 30 sec

Urban Orishas is a poetic cine-essay that introduces storyteller, artist, scientist and spiritual medium of Templo Guaracy of Umbanda [Luz Castañeda](#). Castañeda’s series of paintings called Urban Orishas (orixás in Portuguese) maps the traditional African nature-based spirits and mystical forces of nature to various places in New York. The documentary also peeks into the mysterious world of Umbanda ceremonies. Finally, the narrative will take us into the artist’s studio to observe her creative process.



Alex Minkin is a Brooklyn-based anthropologist and cultural activist, focusing his research on the intersections between Jewish and Brazilian cultures. He presents the stories of Brazilian spiritual practitioners in a format that reflects the mystery of these experiences and their groundedness in history and myth. Alex is the founder of Ticún Brasil, which offers volunteer opportunities for travelers to Brazil, as well as cultural activities in New York. <https://ticunbrasil.com>

Ebony Kiss – Remember The Time | Desirée Rucker | 9 min 58 sec

Ebony Kiss – Remember The Time briefly explores the portrayal of African-American love in cinema, beginning with a discussion of “Negro Kiss- Something Good,” an archival film purported to be the first instance of African-Americans kissing onscreen, ending with conversations with women of various ages where they offer recollections of the first movie that made them believe in the power of love.



Desirée Rucker (MFA) is a Brooklyn-based, multidisciplinary artist who tells stories using film, video and words. She produces Culture Matters on BRIC Free Speech TV featuring community members and local artists in diverse genres.

In Virtuo | Kyla Mathis-Angress | 9 min 50 sec



In Virtuo follows one person’s experience as she tries out a therapeutic practice called Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy (VRET) to address anxiety related to COVID-19.

Kyla Mathis-Angress is an artist and video producer working in Brooklyn, New York, with an interest in experimental documentary and video art.

Message in a Bottle | Hallie Ayres | 9 min 15 sec



In 2020, the National Parks Service found radiological contamination at Glass Bottle Beach, a former landfill site in southern Brooklyn. As a result of the subsequent clean-up proposals, historians have come forward with petitions to protect the beach and its artifacts, while some community members would rather see it restored to pristine coastline. *Message in a Bottle* showcases a range of these perspectives, complicating notions of ecology and conservation and highlighting what might get sacrificed in the name of cleanliness.

Hallie Ayres is an arts worker and writer living in Brooklyn. Previous work has been featured in *e-flux*, *art-agenda*, *Nerve Meter*, Film Diary Film Festival, and *Fraud Magazine*.

A Mom Story | Deirra Stevenson | 9 min 26 sec

A Mom Story is an intimate exploration of motherhood that demonstrates the levels of healing within an unbreakable bond. Forthcoming, tearfully painful, but yet achievable, we must come full circle to create a better understanding between generations.



Deirra Stevenson is an up-and-coming editor, producer, director from N.Y. who has worked as a production assistant and recently co-wrote and creatively directed a short film for Bronx Films 48 hr film challenge. Deirra is currently intrigued by films that evoke emotion, and influence the culture to think about the impact we have on society, good or bad. Deirra is passionate about telling stories. She currently directs, produces, and hosts a Community TV show that uplifts inspirational stories. [linktree/Deirra](https://linktree.com/Deirra)

COMIC TRANS | Andi Lee Carter | 9 min 12 sec

COMIC TRANS features just a few of the many many faces in the transgender comedy community of NYC. Transgender people are often subjected to public scrutiny and ridicule. In this film, we get to see the joy that shines through the pain and unites us all with humor. Follow us on the socials @comictrans



Andi Lee Carter (he/they) is a Brooklyn-based musical theatre writer, director, editor, comedian, and filmmaker. Their songs have been featured at many of New York's finest cabaret venues including Under St. Marks, the Duplex, Joe's Pub, and Feinstein's 54 Below. And his comedy work (improv, sketch, and stand-up) has been seen at UCB, the PIT, Broadway Comedy Club, Gotham Comedy Club, Greenwich Village Comedy Club, and more! Find more of his work: www.andileecarter.com

BODY LANGUAGE | Odu Adamu | 9 min 59 sec

BODY LANGUAGE explores body image and experience for Black gay, queer, and same gender loving men. The men in the film candidly share their personal journeys, and perspectives on body and Black G/Q/SGL life. Dialogues about family, friends, and the media shed light on body image and body shaming for men. *BODY LANGUAGE* is an authentic conversation about rejection, pain, healing, acceptance, and self-love.



In 2020, while in pause mode in Brooklyn, **Odu Adamu** began to explore his pathway into filmmaking. This road led him to the creation of ROCK MY SOUL Media, LLC (rockmysoulmedia.com). Odu now moves in the Universe as a producer, director, writer, editor, host, and CREATOR!

Kieran | BRIC Documentary Intensive Instructor

Kieran works in almost every stage of production whilst sometimes forgetting to eat and sleep. Some of the films he's worked as a director, producer, editor or writer have appeared at the Cannes, Tribeca, Clermont-Ferrand, Slamdance, and SXSW film festivals, while others have never been shown to anyone. While still currently working on documentary and narrative films, Kieran has switched most of his attention to teaching post-production at BRIC, Made in New York and the graduate film programs of Brooklyn College and NYU. Throughout the years, he helped program a few film festivals, including Slamdance, the Cine Golden Eagle Awards and The Philip K. Dick Film Festival. He holds an MFA in Documentary Media and a BFA in Media Arts from (X) University in Toronto. He also sometimes gets confused writing about myself in the third person.

The BRIC Documentary Intensive, now in its seventh year, is a 4-month, cohort-building filmmaking program hosted by BRIC Media Education. To learn more and apply, please visit <https://BRICartsmedia.org/DOC>.