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A Great Day in Harlem at the AMC Magic Johnson Theater!

[New York, NY – JUNE 5, 2019] – The People's Film Festival presented by The People's Media Music & Arts Foundation wrapped up its 8th season as scores of people ascended on the AMC Magic Johnson Theater in Harlem for a final festive day of film, live art, and new technology.

The 3-day festival held May 30 – June 1, 2019 featured 65 independent films from 10 different countries— 26 of which were films directed by women, 25 were New York based film directors – 7 of which were from Harlem. **"APRIL AGAIN"** directed by Queens, NY filmmaker **Tyrel Hunt** was the top winner of this year's festival taking home **"Best Film & Best Actor (Khari Constantine)**, on their film in which a homeless mute, young couple and reformed criminal's fates tragically intersect on one unforgivable day in Queens, New York. Bronx filmmaker **Sandra Nixon** took home Best Documentary for her film **"SUBOA – Making the Call"**—a film about 8 men from Harlem who blew the whistle for equality in the game of basketball. Ironically, that call still resonates today as it was sent out to hundreds of SUBOAN Members who jam-packed the theater to watch the premiere screening of this documentary. We were also honored to screen **"The Uncle Nearest Story"**, a film directed by **David Poag**, narrated by Emmy-Award winning actor **Jeffrey Wright**, which tells the untold story of Nathan 'Nearest' Green, the first known African American master distiller on record, who is the slave that taught young Jack Daniels everything about whiskey. Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey were also the Official Sponsors of the Filmmakers Networking Event at Harlem Hops.





This year's festival also included the **3rd Annual "Tech People Expo"** a free event at the AMC Magic Johnson Theater in which attendees engage in live VR experiences, gaming and immersive storytelling and a VR Lounge sponsored by **1st Republic Bank**. VR Filmmakers **Tyler Huyser**, director of **"WALK IN MY SHOES"**, **Stina Hamilin** – **"CYPHER 360 featuring Reggie Reg"** and **Saddah Espii Proctor** – **"Girl Icon"** presented their live VR experiences to attendees. Other exhibitors included **"Jump Into the Light"**, **Zanib Ahmad** from the **NYC Dept of Consumer and Worker Protections (DCWP)** distributed vital info such as **"Freelance Isn't Free Act-Worker Protection"** to empower those who work in the entertainment industry and live painting from artists **Andre Trenier** (andretrenier.com) from the Bronx, **Claudia Marulanda** (claudiamarulanda.com) from Queens by way of Colombia and Harlem native **Lance "Estos" Brady** (renallifekidney.org) who's uses his art to draw awareness to kidney transplant.



TPFF also hosted **The Public Media Awards of Excellence annual breakfast**, which honors Public & Cable Access Producers at **MNN El Barrio Community Media Center with Director Zenaida Mendez**. 14 New York base Public Access Producers were awarded for their excellence in producing their own cable shows. **Anthony Riddle, BRIC's Senior Vice President for Community Media** gave a powerful testimony and introduction on the importance of “free speech tv” and creating your own television.

The People’s Film Festival is an initiative of The People’s Media, Music & Arts Foundation (TPMMAF)— a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to promote awareness in independent music, media, and art across the globe while encouraging those—particularly in the Harlem New York area, to develop a greater appreciation and understanding for cultural diversity in film.

The festival winners for 2019 are as followed:

<u>BEST FEATURE FILM</u>	APRIL AGAIN Directed by Tryel Hunt
BEST FILM SHORT	NEGROLAND Directed by Jewel McPherson/Author Cohen
BEST DIRECTOR	UCHE AGUH • THE HOUSE INVICTUS
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHER	AN ACT OF TERROR Directed by Ashley Brim
BEST ACTRESS	AMBRE ANDERSON MS. RENAISSANCE • Directed by Ambre Anderson
BEST ACTOR	KHARI CONSTANTINE APRIL AGAIN• Directed by Tryel Hunt
BEST MUSIC DOCUMENTARY	PANORAMA: JAMMING TO THE TOP Directed by Christina Shaw
Best INTERNATIONAL	PEOPLE OF THE WASTELAND Directed by Heba Khaled • SYRIA
BEST URBAN UNDERGROUND	GOT MY HUSTLE UP Directed by Jason DBKS
BEST ANIMATION / SPECIAL EFX	ESCAPE FROM NORTH KOREA Directed by Keith Eng
BEST VR	WALK IN MY SHOES Directed by Tyler Huyser
AUDIENCE AWARD	A HAPPY DIVORCE Directed by Jamal Hodge
SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE AWARD	IESHA SEKOU Street Corner Resources
CHANCE AWARD	MIKEY JAY - Community Organizer, Leader, Activist
POWER OF “SHE”	SHAUNTAY CHERRY
HARLEM CREATIVE AWARD	DAVID DJACO
BEST OF THE FEST	TYREL HUNT

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