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CONTACT:

Bella B. [Bellab.thepeoplesfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:Bellab.thepeoplesfilmfestival@gmail.com)



**THE PEOPLE'S**  
12TH ANNUAL  
**FILM FESTIVAL**  
JUNE 1 - JUNE 4, 2023 | HARLEM, NEW YORK  
THEPEOPLESFILMFESTIVAL.COM

**From “HIP HOP to ROBOTS”  
The People’s Film Festival  
PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS!  
@ The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual People’s Film Festival**

New York, NY – [JUNE 6, 2023] – The People’s Film Festival (TPFF) presented by The People’s Media Music & Arts Foundation wrapped up a successful 12<sup>th</sup> season, June 4, 2023 at the AMC Magic Johnson Theater & Maysles Cinema in Harlem, NY, with the theme of “50 Years of Hip Hop” in the spotlight. The 4-day festival presented a diverse range of films, panel discussions and workshops centering around the hip hop culture—bringing together film enthusiasts, music industry professionals, techs, creatives and the Harlem community. This year TPFF featured over 70 films from 11 countries—24 of which were made in New York, 11 were directed by women and 20 World Premieres. The festival opened with the Advanced Screening of “I’m A Virgo”, a upcoming Amazon Prime TV Series directed by **Boots Riley** starring **Jharrel Jerome, Walton Goggins, Mike Epps** and **Olivia Washington**.



TPFF also presented awards to **18 Hip Hop Pioneers** for their contributions to the Hip Hop Culture. Some of those artists included, **Grandmixer DXT, Reggie Reg—Crash Crew, Al B Cash—Disco Four** and **Grandmaster Caz- Cold Crush Brothers** who broke out into a freestyle having the audience standing in their seats. **New York State Senator Cordell Cleare** gave a Citation to **MC Sha-Rock—the 1<sup>st</sup> Female MC of Hip Hop** and **NYS Assemblyman Al Taylor** gave Citations to **DJ Kool Herc - The Father of Hip Hop, EMCEE Coke La Rock The 1<sup>st</sup> MC, Anthony G. “Cholly Rock” Horne, Original Breakdancer, and Graffiti Writer “Skeme”**. You can hear more of their stories on the “**And You Don’t Stop Podcast**” hosted by music producer, Steve Keitt.



**EMCEE  
COKE LA ROCK**

**GRANDMASTER CAZ**

**MC SHAROCK  
1st FEMALE MC**

**CHOLLY ROCK  
BREAKDANCER**

**DJ DOLLAR BILL**

**EASY A.D. COLD  
CRUSH BROTHERS**

**GRANDMIXER DXT**

**Darren Brown**, was this year's top winner taking home "**Best Film**" for his film "**MELANIN**"— a story about a white advertising executive who signed up to participate in a trial for an experimental drug designed to make your skin appear tanned. **Huriyyah Muhammad** received **Best Short** for her mystical, enchanting tale "**WONDERS**". Queens, NY based filmmaker, **Ian Phillips** took home **Best Documentary** for his film "**THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD**", a film about the impact of gentrification in Queens New York and the Lower Eastside neighborhoods. Alumni filmmaker **Jamal Hodge** won **Best Director** including **Best Actress Kisha Barr** for **UNDER THY WINGS**. Director **Matthew Solomon**, took home **Best Cinematography** for his film "**Reimagining Safety**" — playing to a packed audience at the Maysles Cinema. The film was shot with an iPhone—documenting issues of incarceration and policy while answering the question of safety in our communities. "**REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN**" directed by **Arlo Iron Cloud** received the **Radical History Makers Award** for its compelling documentary and personal account of Native American children who died in government run "religious schools".

### HIP HOP IN THE SPOTLIGHT

TPFF featured the screening of **The Last Bomb** directed by **George "Sen 1" Morrillo**, followed by a Hip Hop Panel - which posed the question "What is the Next Level of Hip Hop? The panel, moderated by **Michael Drake, Co-Founder of the People's Film Festival**, included **EMCEE Coke La Rock; Lucky Bling, Sen 1, Kendu Atych, Therron Johnson** and **KingPin Shaheim MC - Infinity Squad**. Fitness guru **Herman Smalls of Specialized Fitness & Nutrition** moderated the Health & Hip Hop panel with **Easy A. D. - Cold Crush Brothers—Hip Hop Heals, Fitness Trainer James Deas, Ronnie Love – Harlem House of Champions, and Artist- Protech Yo HeART**.



On Saturday, TPFF presented **The Tech People Expo 2023** – a free event for the Harlem Community to showcase different levels of storytelling through Art & Technology. Some of the exhibitors included the **E-Tech Chargers Robotics School** from Queens NY, **Uptown Gaming, Augmented Pictures, VR Diamond League, Resistor NY** of Brooklyn, NY and artists **Protect Yo HeART, Claudia Marulanda** and **Tayron Lopez**.

Special Thanks to our Sponsors and Supporters, The Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment (MOME), Manhattan Neighborhood Network, Uncle Nearest Brand, Mooshood, Angel of Harlem, Harlem Nights Bar, Settepani, VIP Productions, Lu Sierra - ALUP Productions, Designed By Nature Apparel, And You Don't Stop Podcast, our Judges, Volunteers & Volunteer Staff.

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.

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Please visit [www.thepeoplesfilmfestival.com](http://www.thepeoplesfilmfestival.com) for more information.

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Congratulations to all filmmakers who have been selected this year and we thank our dedicated team, partners and jury for making this special edition.



Below are the Winners and Honorable Mentions of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual People’s Film Festival.

<b>BEST FEATURE FILM</b>	<b>WINNER: MELANIN</b> Darren Brown
<b>BEST SHORT FILM</b>	<b>WINNER: WONDERS</b> Huriyyah Muhammad
	HM) Honorable Mention - KID CHOCOLATE • Brandon “Rick” Alexander
<b>BEST DIRECTOR</b>	<b>WINNER: JAMAL HODGE - IN THY WINGS</b>
	(HM) Honorable Mention: Carleton King • MANIFEST -THE INTERVIEW
<b>BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY</b>	<b>WINNER: REIMAGINING SAFETY</b> • Matthew Solomon
	(HM) Honorable Mention - TASTE • Bobby Huntley
<b>BEST ACTRESS</b>	<b>WINNER: IN THY WINGS Kisha Barr</b>
<b>BEST ACTOR</b>	<b>WINNER: JOE EATS A TIGER Camden Randell</b>
	(HM) Honorable Mention - JANGA Johnny Zito
<b>BEST DOCUMENTARY</b>	<b>WINNER: THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD</b> Ian Philips
	(HM) Honorable Mention - 1.5 MILLION Gregory Hernandez
<b>BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT</b>	<b>WINNER: ROSENWALD: TOWARD A MORE PERFECT UNION</b> Charles Poe
	(HM) Honorable Mention - THE LEGACY LOST & FOUND: SEGREGATION IN RECREATION Dr. Tammy L. Holmes
<b>BEST INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>WINNER: I’VE GOT IT UNDER MY SKIN</b> Sebastian Andrei • SWITZERLAND
	(HM) Honorable Mention - <b>ABOVE WHAT COST</b> Azeriah P.B Payne, Lucian Sylvester • UNITED KINGDOM
<b>BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT</b>	<b>WINNER: Yar (Friend)</b> Fran Menchon • CANADA
<b>MICRO SHORTS</b>	<b>WINNER: NALUBALE</b> Nickson Kamau • UGANDA
<b>BEST URBAN UNDERGROUND</b>	<b>WINNER: SLIGHTLY NEW</b> Nigel O Gabbidon, Devin S. Jones
	(HM) Honorable Mention - SUPPLY & DEMAND Glenn A McBride Jr
<b>BEST MUSIC VIDEO</b>	<b>WINNER: MARCK ANGEL- JUSTICE</b> R.E.D., Marck Angel
	HONORABLE MENTION: BORN TO BE SOMEONE P.J. Bracco
<b>BEST ONLINE CONTENT CREATOR</b>	<b>WINNER: BISHOP &amp; CHAINEY</b> Rashiid Hewitt
<b>THE AUDIENCE AWARD</b>	<b>WINNER: I’M A VIRGO</b> Boots Riley • AMAZON ADVANCE SCREENING

<b>HARLEM CREATIVE AWARD</b>	<b>WINNER: MANIFEST -THE INTERVIEW</b> • Carlton King
	(HM) - Honorable Mention - EAST RIVER STORIES Bruce Goreman
<b>POWER OF “SHE”</b>	<b>WINNER: COLOR OF LOVE</b> Natasha C Smith
	(HM) - Honorable Mention - SALT... Phyllis Toben Bancoft
<b>SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE</b>	<b>HON MAYOR ERIC ADAMS</b>

<b>MEDIA ACTIVIST</b>	<b>WINNER: THE BLACK VOTE</b> Selton Haith Shaw
<b>RADICAL HISTORY MAKERS</b>	<b>WINNER: THE CHILDREN</b> Ario Iron Cloud



**THE PEOPLE'S "AND YOU DON'T STOP" HIP HOP AWARDS** were given out to members of the Hip Hop Community representing the 4 Elements of Hip-Hop, Hip-Hop Influencers, Promoters and for their contributions to The Hip Hop Culture.



**DJ Kool Herc** – Father of Hip Hop

**Al B Cash** - Disco Four

**Anthony G. "Cholly Rock" Horne** Original Breakdancer

**Bobbito Garcia**, Author, filmmaker & NAB Hall of Fame inductee

**Chron Smith - Hell Razah** – Sunz of Man

**DJ Dollar Bill**- Harlem

**Easy A.D.** - Cold Crush Brothers

**EMCEE Coke La Rock** the Original MC

**George Morillo** – “Sen1” Graffiti Writer

**Grandmaster Caz**- Cold Crush Brothers

**Grandmaster Melly Mel** - Furious 5; and **Scorpio aka Mr. Ness** - Furious - accepted by The “Hey Hoo!” twins

**Grandmixer DXT**

**Lucky Bling**- Manager

**Marion "Tiny" Frampton** - Casanova Crew

**MC Sha Rock** - 1st Female MC

**Reggie Reg** - Crash Crew

**“Skeme”** - Graffiti Writer