

***Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning
Presents
10-Minute Film Festival***

***Juried Festival for NYC-Based Artists
Prioritizing Queens-Based Filmmakers of Color,
Offering Cash Prizes***



December 3, 2020 (New York) -- The online platforms for Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL) have been home to free, accessible programs in a variety of mediums throughout the pandemic, including music, dance, visual art and education. Submissions are now open for the newest event in JCAL's "community first, digital first" season: a **10-Minute Film Festival**.



For Immediate Release

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JCAL's **10-Minute Film Festival** will premiere short films made by NYC-based artists that focus on one central theme: 2020. With this theme, filmmakers will have a platform to tell their stories and to interpret this unprecedented year in America -- and in their artistry.

Any film on any subject, in any style, of 10 minutes or less may be submitted to the **10-Minute Film Festival**. Submission is free via [this link](#). The festival will premiere exclusively on the JCAL's YouTube channel in Spring 2021. All NYC-based filmmakers age 13 and up are eligible to submit; Queens-based filmmakers of color receive priority. Ten to 15 films are expected to be selected.

Submissions will be judged by a three-person jury. The Grand Prize will be awarded \$500. The Second Prize will receive \$300. The Audience Prize (chosen by online vote) will receive \$300. A public program, including a live online interview on YouTube with each filmmaker, will be held to coincide with the festival.

"2020 was obviously a terrible year in many ways," said JCAL Interim Artistic Director Courtney Ffrench. "But in many ways it was an incredible year. Artists -- whatever their resources -- learned to be truly creative in amazing ways. We at JCAL did, too. We conceived JCAL's **10-Minute Film Festival** in part because we all know we can't go to the movies right now. But we can use our platforms to spotlight all NYC filmmakers -- those in Queens, especially."

"2020 won't be remembered fondly," added Leonard Jacobs, JCAL's Interim Executive Director. "But it was a year we'll never forget. Which is why I love putting '2020' out there as a central theme for this festival. Because you really don't have to explain it -- instinctively, you understand its meaning. And for that reason, we're incredibly excited to put out a citywide call for these 10-minute films -- and we'll be even more excited to premiere and promote them, and to celebrate the entire NYC filmmaking community next spring."

Meet the Jurors



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Shawn Antoine II is an award-winning filmmaker based in Harlem. His love for filmmaking came about after he created his first short-documentary, *The Movement*. Since then, he took on the mantra to “Inform and Inspire” through his films. He has now directed nine short films, and produced two. His most recent film, *Showtime*, had been selected for 47 film festivals and he was named Best New Director by the Hip Hop Film Festival. He is currently an apprentice with NBC's *The Blacklist*.

Brittany Clemons is a development producer at Jigsaw Productions. Prior to development, Brittany contributed to documentary television as a story producer and associate producer. The majority of her work has been featured on PBS, including Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s Emmy and Peabody Award-winning series, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*, and the celebrity genealogy series *Finding Your Roots*. She has also served as a senior associate producer on NBC's documentary special *Hope & Fury: MLK, the Movement and the Media*, for which she received an Emmy nomination for outstanding research, and as a story producer on the six-part AMC documentary series *Hip Hop: The Songs That Shook America*.

Tyrel Hunt is a writer and filmmaker from Jamaica, Queens. After graduating as a Division One student athlete, he founded Grittyvibes.com, a popular platform for up-and-coming artists. The highly trafficked site features hundreds of interviews and articles, and thousands of readers online. As a filmmaker, he wrote, edited and directed the award-winning feature film *April Again*.

About JCAL

Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning (JCAL), founded in 1972, is a multidisciplinary arts center based in the diverse community of Southeast Queens. Our mission is devoted to offering quality visual, performing, and literary arts, and to providing accessible education programs to encourage participation in the arts. JCAL's offices and arts spaces are open in strict accordance with state and local COVID-19 guidelines. Operating hours by appointment: Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm, and galleries on Saturdays; closed major holidays. For additional information, call JCAL at 718-658-7400 or visit www.JCAL.org.

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