



2007  
Mpenzi:  
Black Women's  
International Film  
and Video Festival  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

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MPENZI: Black Women's International  
Film and Video Festival**

*A Celebration of work by Black and Queer Black Filmmakers*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Toronto: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual MPENZI:** Black Women's International Film and Video Festival will take place on **Friday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>** at the **Medical Sciences Building Auditorium** at the University of Toronto, 1 King's College Circle from **6:30pm – 9:00pm**.

*Mpenzi is a Swahili word with many English translations, the essence of which is "one who loves" and "one who is loved".*

This year, MPENZI is showcasing 8 shorts (all under 26 minutes) from Black women filmmakers from Canada, the USA, and South Africa. Many of the filmmakers are from Toronto, including a film from young women at the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Centre. MPENZI will be an evening to celebrate the views, creativity, and talents of Black women in film. The 2.5-hour program includes: a reception, a reading by NourbeSe Philip, as well as the MPENZI Best Short Film Award announcement.

Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door, and a limited number of sliding scale tickets are also available in advance. Starting January 12th, tickets can be purchased at the *Toronto Women's Bookstore*, 73 Harbord St. (at Spadina), *A Different Booklist*, 746 Bathurst St. (south of Bloor), *This Ain't the Rosedale Library*, 483 Church St., and *Another Story Bookstore* (315 Roncesvalles). The festival is wheelchair accessible. Free childcare is available by registering before February 12th.

**For EPK: visit [www.mpenzi.ca/media.html](http://www.mpenzi.ca/media.html)**

### **The MPENZI 2007 Program**

***Desperate for Love-*** Angel L. Brown, Director / Producer / Writer & Kawana S. Bullock, Co-Producer (USA 2005, DV 22 min.)

**\* *Toronto Premiere*** - A Black lesbian woman who's been out of the dating scene for quite some time explores ways to find love in all the wrong places. Desperate for love, she goes through all the drama that comes along with finding true love only to realize she needs to love herself first.

***Sticks and Stones-*** Rehema Imani Trimiew, Writer/Producer/Director (USA 2006, Video 9 min.)

\* **Toronto Premiere** - This experimental fiction deals with a kindergarten student in an "urban" school and her parents' attempts to convince her teacher to improve the curriculum. Based on experiences by the filmmaker.

**Ndim Ndim- (Its me, Its me), Martha Qumba, Director, (South Africa 2005, Video 8 min.)**

\* **Canadian Premiere** - This is a fascinating portrait of brave, quietly persistent Funeka Soldaat who is an out lesbian and anti-abuse activist. Living in the controlled homophobia of her Xhosa-dominated community in Khyalitsha, Funeka's single-handed education of those around her progresses slowly but surely.

**Post Paradise- Erika Morris, Director/Writer (CAN 2006, Video 7 min.)**

\***World Premiere** - Kyle discovers that he is the author of his own worst fate.

**Call me Daisy- Natalie Wood, Director / Writer (CAN 2006, Video 3 min)**

This video explores the race and sexual politics involved in the making of King Kong, the movie. King Kong calls a press conference in Toronto to renounce her American citizenship and to come out as a lesbian.

**The Hijab- Rubina Shalkh, Josneara Mojumder, Naura Camora, Fahima Begum, Sohana Begum, Rahima Hagi (CAN 2006, Video 6 min.)**

Through a series of on the street interviews *The Hijab* explores the girls' beliefs and values about the Hijab and its significance to their religion. In doing so, they raise fundamental questions about Canada's commitment to multiculturalism and diversity. Produced by Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre.

**Sarang Song- Tamika Miller Director/Writer (USA 2006, Video 23 min.)**

\* **Canadian Premiere** - Sarang Song is a love story about two women set amidst the socially and politically turbulent times of the 1970s. Their love is tested when one is thrust into the student protest movement and is forced to make a choice – will she choose their love or will she choose the movement?

**Literature Alive Series: M. NourbeSe Philip: Word Hammers -, Lana Lovell, Director & Frances-Anne Solomon, Producer (CAN 2005, Beta SP 24 min.)**

Word Hammers profiles M. NourbeSe Philip. A poet, novelist, and former lawyer, NourbeSe is not one to sit still, and takes us on a power walk through the park. Accompanied by her friend Dr. Patricia Saunders of the University of Miami, the two explore NourbeSe Philip's use of language as a weapon in her powerful and courageous work.

### **About Mpenzi**

Mpenzi is a celebration of work by Black women and Queer Black women. The call for submissions includes established and emerging Directors and/or Producers and/or Writers from among Straight, Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer or Questioning Black women, and Black Transgendered, Transsexual and Intersexed women and men.

Mpenzi: Black Women's International Film and Video Festival sponsors include: Women and Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto; Lesbian & Gay Community Appeal; Building Equitable Environments; CKLN 88.1 FM; CHRY 105.5 FM; Xtra! Toronto; NOW Magazine; Black Pages; Nine One One Maxim Studios; National Film Board of Canada; Good for Her; Toronto Rape Crisis Centre / Multicultural Women Against Rape; Inside Out: Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival; Trinity Square Video; Tipper's Caribbean & Canadian Cuisine; Toronto Women's

Bookstore; A Different Booklist; Another Story; This Ain't the Rosedale Library; and Patron Arleen Huggins.

Supporters: My Market Bakery, Cheese Magic, The Raging Spoon, Keith Shrouder, Top Taste, Gerry's Fast Food Inc., World Class Bakery, and Soul Food

The Advisory Committee members are:

Annemarie Shrouder (Program Co-ordinator) - Equity/Diversity Consultant and Trainer

Collette Browne, Camera Operator

Kikélola Roach, Civil Rights Lawyer

Angela Fleury, Administrator & Full time mom

Yvonne Huggins, Mentor

Alix Mukonambi, Student

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For sponsorship interests ([sponsor@mpenzi.ca](mailto:sponsor@mpenzi.ca)), to join our mailing list ([info@mpenzi.ca](mailto:info@mpenzi.ca)), or to register for childcare ([access@mpenzi.ca](mailto:access@mpenzi.ca)).

For further information, please contact:

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