

APRIL 17-20 | 2024

# 14TH ANNUAL

# EMERGING LENS

CULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL

production of Charles Taylor Theatre & Media Arts



# WORDS FROM THE FOUNDERS



**SHELLY FASHAN**

Welcome Everyone, to our 14th Annual Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival!

We are so proud to embrace films from around the globe while also celebrating and recognizing our local communities. This year's offerings truly reflect flecks of genius from these aspiring filmmakers.



**TARA TAYLOR**

In many of the films we can all relate to the struggles and triumphs, coming together and connecting through these artistic expressions that help to build many bridges of understanding. The Emerging Lens has created many lasting relationships and partnerships.

Check out our Saturday workshops an interactive session exploring the intersection of trauma and artistry within the Black community, along with a panel discussion from the class of Breaking Through the Screens who will share their experiences interning on “This Hour Has 22 Minutes.” All details are on our website, [www.theemerginglens.com](http://www.theemerginglens.com).

Thank-you all for being with us and hope to see you all next year,

The Team



# FESTIVAL PROGRAM

**FREE ENTRY / LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**APRIL 17TH**

**@6:30PM**

Canadian Museum of Immigration  
at Pier 21

Opening Remarks  
Performance - Kayo  
Film Screening

**APRIL 18TH**

**@6:30PM**

Sanctuary Arts Centre

Opening Remarks  
Performance - Jéa  
Film Screening

**APRIL 19TH @ 6:30PM**

Halifax North Memorial Library

Opening Remarks  
Performance - Damini Creatives  
Film Screening

**APRIL 20TH @6:30PM**

The Black Cultural Centre

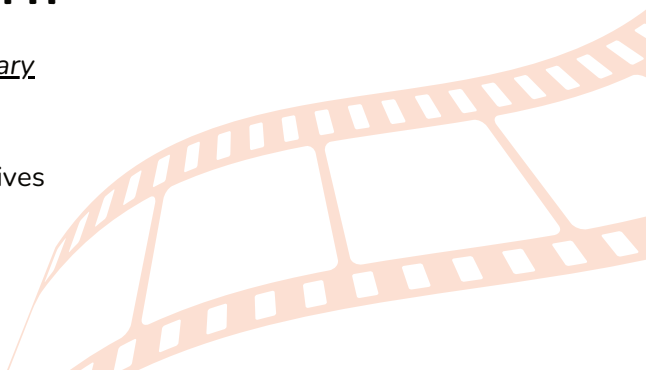
Opening Remarks  
Performance - Harmz  
Film Screening

**PANELS -**

**APRIL 20TH @ 12PM/1PM**

Halifax North Memorial Library

12PM -  
Breaking Through the Screens  
Panel  
1PM -  
Interactive Session with BreeLove  
Counseling



# EMERGING STREAM

Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival now has an online streaming platform for select films! View online or through Roku streaming platform .

[emergingstream.cinesend.com](http://emergingstream.cinesend.com)

## FILM LINEUP:

- **Huli** - Daniel Croix
- **UOMO ONDA** - Samuel Di Blasi
- **Waiting for the End** - MEMETJAN SEMET
- **Love Cuts** - Menelik King
- **Paired** - Menelik King
- **Until Withering** - Xinyu Zhang
- **Seven Citrus aurantium** - Farshad Gol Sefidi
- **Dance of the Weeping Willows** - Nathan Tamaki
- **A Prayer for My Father** - Sarah London
- **Soul Compass** - Maziar Ghaderi
- **Toronto the Good** - Sheronna Osbourne
- **About Oliver** - Israel Ekanem
- **EMPALIKINO (Forgiveness)** - Eric Mwangi
- **ORMOILAA OGOL (The Strong One)** - Shamit Patel
- **GEORGE OLE SANANGA** - BRYAN NGUGI
- **LIFE DEATH AND THE EMOTONYINGIRO** - Sandra Ruong'o
- **The Invisible Woman** - Joy Tan
- **Going Home** - Janeece Niles
- **Deja Vu** - Jean Frenette
- **Strangers Under My Skin** - Yifan Xiang
- **Cultural Abduction** - Abdurrahmaam (Abdur) M. Howard
- **For Roy** - Vivian Cheung
- **The Sting** - Damola Layonu
- **Game Over** - Saeed Mayahy, Miriam Carlsen
- **The Teacup** - ZhiMin Hu
- **Tied to a Lie** - Mia Golden
- **To Estaban** - Hector Almeida
- **Ohskennón:ten Owí:ra (Little Deer)** - John Elliot
- **Mushroom's Quest** - Dave Johnson
- **Tahnaanooku'** - Justin Deegan

# APRIL 17TH

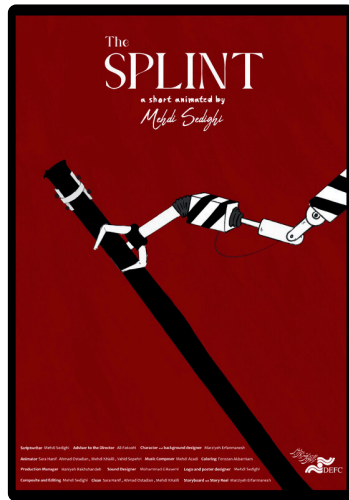
CANADIAN MUSEUM OF IMMIGRATION AT PIER 21 | @6:30

PERFORMANCE: KAYO

## FILM LINEUP:



**BROTHER**  
CLEMENT VIRGO



**THE SPLINT**  
MEHDI SEDIGHI

# APRIL 18TH

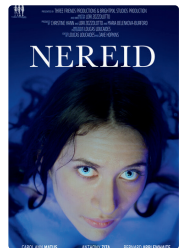
SANCTUARY ARTS CENTRE | @6:30

PERFORMANCE: JÉA

- **This is Where I Live** - Terri Smith-Fraser (14:20)
- **Zion** - Raymond Floyd Seay III (12:55)
- **A Beautiful Peace** - Mia Golden (13:51)
- **Nereid** - Lori Zozzolotto (7:48)
- **Smile its Free** - Yogi Devgan (15:00)
- **Unboxing** - Israel Ekanem (12:04)
- **Dancing with Addiction** - Oceann Elsie (6:22)
- **His Hand, His Art** - Ebony Gooden (15:00)
- **Bibi's Dog is Dead** - Shervin Kermani (12:20)



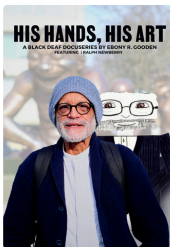
A BEAUTIFUL PLACE



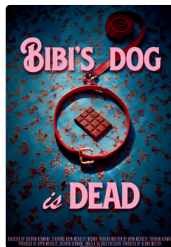
NEREID



SMILE IT'S FREE



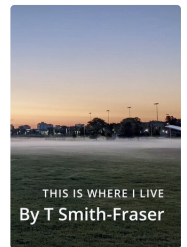
HIS HANDS, HIS ART



BIBI'S DOG IS DEAD



ZION



THIS IS WHERE I LIVE

# PERFORMERS



## KAYO - APRIL 17TH

KAYO describes his sound as 'Future meets Fugees'. It's a lush soulful blend of hip-hop, R&B and Afrobeats; a raspy delivery mixed with unique cadence, catchy melodies and a certain rhythm that could only stem from his island upbringing. KAYO has been creating music for well over a decade now. He left St Lucia and moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia in 2009, where he graduated with a Commerce Degree in Marketing and where he

[www.iamkayo.com](http://www.iamkayo.com)

continued to develop as an artist within that community. Since graduating, he's been bouncing back and forth between Halifax, Toronto, St Lucia & Atlanta grinding as an artist as well as a songwriter. KAYO has since released 8 albums, 5 EPs, and many singles and toured across Canada several times. He just finished his first US tour with international Soca sensations Kes The Band & Teddyson John. He has simultaneously been making his mark as a songwriter, DJ & Content Creator! KAYO is the founder of SOULSTICE SOUNDS and host of SOULSTICE RADIO, a multi-genre music-based podcast/radio show that airs every Saturday on The Wave 94.5/93.7 FM in St Lucia, then made available as a podcast shortly after. Through all these ventures, KAYO continues to pave the way towards being one of the most prolific artists of our time by creating an immersive community through SOULSTICE SOUNDS.



## JÉA - APRIL 18TH

Jéa, a 22-year-old singer/songwriter hailing from a little town on the outskirts of Toronto, Ontario, has harbored aspirations of becoming a musician since the age of 4. Her journey commenced with nightly performances in her parents' bedroom, and began songwriting at the age of 5. In 2023, she ventured to Halifax for the first time, where she unveiled her

[jeaheartist@gmail.com](mailto:jeaheartist@gmail.com)

debut track, "My Affirmations," his past November. Since then she has released one more single called "L-O-V-E" and has plans to release more singles and an EP in the very near future. Driven by a strong desire to share her distinctive sound with the world, Jéa is on a steadfast mission to craft music that is not only unique but also serves as a beacon of positivity and inspiration for all who encounter it.

# APRIL 19TH

**HALIFAX NORTH MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY | @6:30**

## **PERFORMANCE: DAMINI CREATIVES**

- **The 7th Night: MaoMao Revists** - ahLoong (3:48)
- **For Black Muslim Girls** - Niya Abdullahi (8:29)
- **Memory** - Riyha Haque (3:23)
- **Perfect City: The Bravest Kid** - Shengwei Zhou (6:19)
- **Canon - Knocked Out** - Michael S.U. Hudson (2:00)
- **What do You think?** - Brandon Boyd (11:25)
- **Minsoo is Missing** - Richard Dang (8:00)
- **The Colour Orange** - Lesley Marshall (3:35)
- **Exit** - REZA ABIYAT (4:00)
- **In the Whiteness - Niya Abdullahi (4:38)**
- **Ocean Brooks: A Kintsugi Monologue** - iMove Media NS (6:18)
- **The Boat Builders** - iMove Media NS (8:02)
- **Essence** - Essance MacKinnon (9:17)
- **Mum** - Kimber Wesley (9:43)
- **From the Ashes -Hailey Ramsay (9:26)**
- **Floating** - Nikita Morris (8:43)



# APRIL 20TH

**BLACK CULTURAL CENTRE | @6:30**

**PERFORMANCE: HARMZ**

- **Standing Tall** - Andre Anderson (22:00)
- **Ameka and Her Magical Crown** - Dr. Tamecca Rogers (17:00)
- **The Tweetations Revue** - Fraser Collins (21:29)
- **Three Trees** - Mathias Richard Horhager, Aaron Hong (4:30)
- **I'll Wait For You** - Cortez Mack (4:00)
- **African Rifles** - Mia Golden (36:16:00)
- **Canada's Unchecked Racism** - Zoe Davidson (6:12)
- **Bare Luxuries** - Armando Smith (8:48)



STANDING TALL



THREE TREES



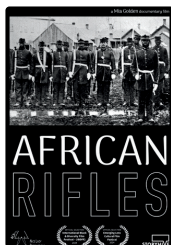
AMEKA AND HER  
MAGICAL CROWN



THE TWEETATIONS REVUE



I'LL WAIT FOR YOU



AFRICAN RIFLES



CANADA'S  
UNCHECKED RACISM



BARE LUXURIES

# PERFORMERS



## DAMINI CREATIVES - APRIL 19TH

Damini Awoyiga is a 16-year-old high school student. She is an activist, spoken word poet and Halifax's Youth Poet Laureate. Damini is the founder of Damini Creatives and the Afro-Indigenous Book Club, a book club created to encourage young people to read books written by Black and Indigenous authors and to share the realities and experiences of Black and Indigenous Canadians. Damini was

[www.daminicreatives.com](http://www.daminicreatives.com)

the Junior Artist in Residence for Wellness Within, a community organization working for reproductive justice, prison abolition and health equity; CBC's artist-in-residence for the Michaelle Jean Foundation's Canadian Black Summit held in July 2022, where she hosted an interactive community poetry booth. She is also a youth freelance journalist for CBC Mainstreet. She has enjoyed being a board member of the Nova Scotia Girls Institute for Resource and Learning (NS GIRL) and she is a member of the HRM Youth Advisory Committee. Damini has received multiple awards including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. As a spoken word poet for over five years, Damini loves to write, sing, and perform poems that bring attention to social justice issues.



## HARMZ

Harmony Adesola, better known as 'Harmz', is a 23-year-old Canadian luminary hailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia. His creative journey spans the realms of music and visual storytelling, with a strong foundation in hip-hop/pop. He has received award nominations for his music from Music Nova Scotia and the East Coast Music Association. His debut album, "The Best is Yet to Come," has solidified his place in the industry, while his ventures into directing and

[przmlabel.com/epk/harmz](http://przmlabel.com/epk/harmz)

acting underline his versatile artistry. Beyond his solo work, Harmz is an avid filmmaker and co-founded PRZM, a collective uplifting local artists and fostering creative synergy.

# PANELS

## HALIFAX NORTH MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY | @12PM/1PM



### **BREAKING THROUGH THE SCREENS @ 12 PM**

Join us with a few participants from the most recent cohort of BTTS, as they discuss their experiences job shadowing below-the-line positions with the "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" production studio!

### **INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH BREELOVE COUNSELING @ 1PM**

Join us for a workshop exploring the intersection of trauma and artistry within the Black community. Led by a clinical traumatologist, this interactive session dives into the impact of historical, ancestral, and personal traumas on our artistic journeys.





# THANK YOU

## **WE EXTEND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND TEAM WHO MADE THIS FESTIVAL POSSIBLE:**

- **Tara Taylor** – Co-Founder - Festival Director/Technical Coordinator
- **Shelley Fashan** – Co-Founder - Festival Producer / Promotions Manager
- **Victoria Snow** – Social Media Coordinator
- **Randon Wright** - Social Media Manager
- **Kayla Borden** – Artist Coordinator/Photographer
- **Carmahn McCalla** - Graphics and Web Designer
- **Catering** - The Opus Cafe & Catering
- **Karla Williams**
- **Fabienne Coles Foundation**
- **Ray Fashan**
- **Tyiesha Colley** – Board Member
- **Angela Britton** - Volunteer
- **Nadine Paris**
- **Deana Sparks**
- **Extra Special Thank you to our families for putting up with crazy work hours and burning the candles at both ends! We love you:**
- **The Fashan Family**
- **Tara's Clan** - Tristahn, Carmahn, Noah, and Riley

## **AND THANK YOU TO OUR ATTENDEES!**

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



Canadian  
Museum of  
Immigration  
at Pier 21



Halifax Public  
Libraries

HALIFAX

## CONTACT US

Nova Scotia, Canada

[www.theemerginglens.com](http://www.theemerginglens.com)

[charlestaylortheatre@gmail.com](mailto:charlestaylortheatre@gmail.com)