



# indie memphis.

film for all



2023 annual report

# FILM FOR ALL

## **vision**

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A global community of youth and adult filmmakers with loyal supporters and Memphis at its heart.

## **mission**

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To foster an intersectional and racially equitable independent film community and nurture the growth of filmmakers.

# programs



## FILM FESTIVAL



## BLACK CREATORS FORUM



## SEASONAL SCREENINGS



## ARTIST DEVELOPMENT



## YOUTH FILM

FILM FOR ALL



# filmmaker vertical path

**RESIDENCY &  
FELLOWSHIP**



**BLACK  
CREATORS  
FORUM**



**FILMMAKING  
WORKSHOPS**



**YOUTH  
MENTORING**



**ARTIST  
GRANTS**



**PITCHING**



**INDIE MEMPHIS  
FILM FESTIVAL**



**YOUTH  
FILM FEST**

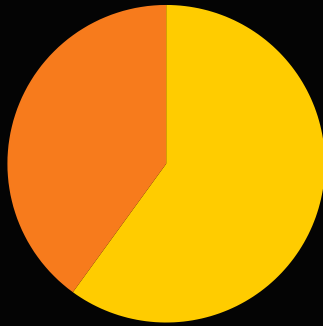


Our combined programs and offerings create a vertical path of support to build a career from youth beginners up to experienced artists receiving education, mentoring, residencies, and funding for production.



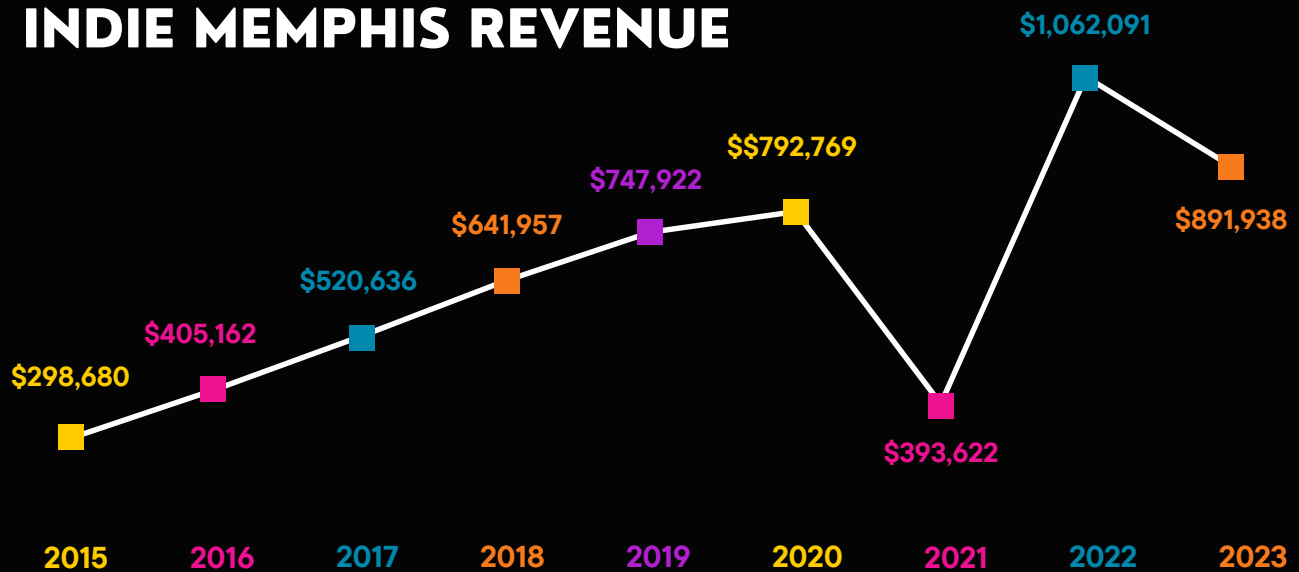
# impact & financials

## MEMPHIS FILMMAKERS



In 2023, 47 **Memphis Filmmakers** completed new films and music videos, **38% of which were people of color.**

## INDIE MEMPHIS REVENUE



## 2023 BALANCE SHEET

**Assets**  
**\$223,800**

**Liabilities**  
**\$20,488**

**Net Assets**  
**\$205,187**



# film festival



**173 Films**



**5 Venues**



**6 Days**

The Indie Memphis Film Festival (IMFF) brings a range of independent features, documentaries, and short films to Memphis from all corners of the world. We highlight films that are artistically and intellectually innovative, eccentric, and fun, while emphasizing diverse voices.

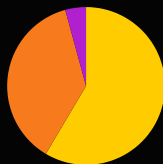
## OUR AUDIENCE

### TOTAL ATTENDANCE



**10,704+**  
In-person and virtual

### GENDER

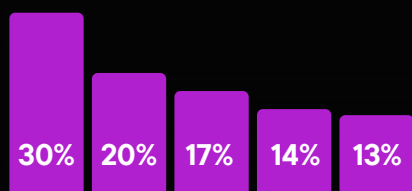


**58%** She/Her  
**35%** He/Him  
**4%** They/Them

### TRAVEL

**26%**   
Traveled to attend

### AGE



25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74

**47%**

Attended for the first time

**95%**

Would recommend festival to their friends

**28%**

Attended 4 or more previous Indie Memphis Film festivals

# film festival highlights

## AWARD SHOW FAVORITES



### MAY DECEMBER

Academy Award, Golden Globes, Independent Spirit Awards Nominated



### ANATOMY OF A FALL

Golden Globes, BAFTA, Independent Spirit Awards, Academy Award Winner



### FALLEN LEAVES

Golden Globes Nomination



### AMERICAN FICTION

Independent Spirit Awards, BAFTA, Academy Award Winner



### GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT

Independent Spirit Awards Nomination



### ALL DIRT ROADS TASTE OF SALT

Opening Night Film

Followed by conversation with Director Raven Jackson, Cinematographer Jomo Fray, and Producer Maria Altamirano)



Raven Jackson's ALL DIRT ROADS TASTE OF SALT was our 2019 BCF Residency for Screenwriting project, and went on to be produced by produced by Barry Jenkins' Pastel and A24



### DREAM SCENARIO

Narrative Spotlight



### THE BLUES SOCIETY

World Premiere Screening & Concert



### BLACK BARBIE

Documentary Spotlight



# film festival hometowners

**Hometowners:**  
IMFF features and shorts showcasing the stories and talent **produced and created in Memphis, TN.**



**8 FEATURES**  
(3 World Premieres)



**41 SHORTS**  
(11 World Premieres)

## INDIE MEMPHIS SUPPORTED PROJECTS AT IMFF23

7 Hometowners were supported by an Indie Memphis grant including:



**BEWARE OF GOAT**  
2020 IndieGrant Recipient



**ETTO**  
2022 Women's Short Film Grant Recipient



**I AM**  
2021 IndieGrant Recipient



**INTERSECTIONALITY**  
2022 LGBTQ+ Short Film Grant Recipient



**KISSING ME SOFTLY**  
2022 BCF Short Film Grant Recipient



**R.E.G.G.I.N**  
2021 IndieGrant Recipient



**SLICE**  
2020 BCF Short Film Grant Recipient

# seasonal screenings

Our curated seasonal screenings keep the cinematic magic alive throughout the year with **critically acclaimed films**, **indie gems from other festivals**, and **timeless retrospective titles** -- as well as screenings in collaboration with our valued **community partners**, including our ongoing **pay-what-you-can short film showcase** in partnership with Crosstown Arts: **MicroCinema**.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**ALL THE BEAUTY AND  
THE BLOODSHED**  
(Oscar Nominated)



**ALL THAT  
BREATHES**  
(Oscar Nominated)



**B.A.P.S.**  
(Free Screening in  
Partnership with TONE)



**SANSÓN AND ME**



**RYE LANE**  
(Free Preview  
Screening)



**MICROCINEMA**  
Shifting Lines: New  
Queer Animation





# black creators forum

The Black Creators Forum is a program of Indie Memphis that seeks to share strategies, foster collaborations and build sustainable networks to ease the barrier to entry for Black visionaries in multiple disciplines who want to work in film. The Forum does this in many ways: **year-round screenings and events**, the annual **BCF Symposium**, a **Pitch Rally**, and **grant opportunities** for emerging Black filmmakers

## 2023 BCF SYMPOSIUM

The heart of BCF is the annual BCF Symposium, which provides a space, **virtually and in-person**, during the festival for Black artists to ask questions, celebrate, and participate in workshops, panels, and conversations to guide their own filmmaking practices and goals.



**\*168**  
Total Attendance

\*In-person and virtual

The BCF Symposium is free to attend, and all attendees receive complimentary passes to IMFF.





**“BCF has really been transformative to my artistic practice and my social life. I never thought as a southerner, I could interact with other artists especially Black artists so intimately.”**

**- BCF Participant**

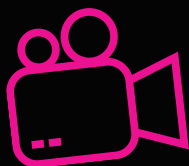
## **BLACK CREATORS FORUM SYMPOSIUM SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**



**Music Supervision for Film with music supervisor, Morgan Rhodes (THE COLOR PURPLE, SELMA, QUEEN SUGAR)**



**Navigating Intimacy with Confidence: Collaborating with Intimacy Coordinators**

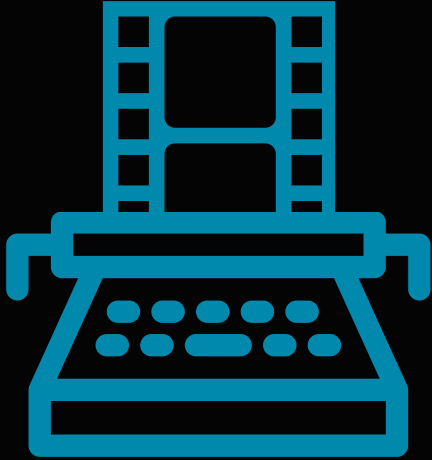


**Southern Filmmaking and Craft**



**Festival Strategy with Robyn Citizen (TIFF Director of Festival Programming and Cinematheque)**

# BCF screenwriting residency & fellowship



The **Indie Memphis Black Filmmaker National Residency and Memphis Fellowship in Screenwriting** are supported by the Remembering George Riley Fund. They both provide opportunities for national and Memphis filmmakers to develop bold storytelling, explore their own professional development, and connect with fellow writers, artists, and other industry professionals in Memphis.

## 2023 RECIPIENTS



**NATIONAL RESIDENT**  
**(\$7,500 + HOUSING + TRAVEL + MENTORING)**  
**Bethaiel Alemayoh**



**MEMPHIS FELLOW**  
**(\$7,500 + MENTORING)**  
**Brittney Williams**

# artist development

## INDIEGRANTS

Two IndieGrants in 2023 supported Memphis filmmakers with \$30,000 of cash and in-kind services.

### 2023 RECIPIENTS



**ALICIA ESTER**

\$7.5K Grant + \$7.5K In-Kind  
Filmmaking Services



**LO NORMAN**

\$7.5K Grant + \$7.5K In-Kind  
Filmmaking Services



## SHOOT & SPLICE

The **monthly filmmaking forum** in partnership with **Crosstown Arts** provides networking and professional development for the film community.

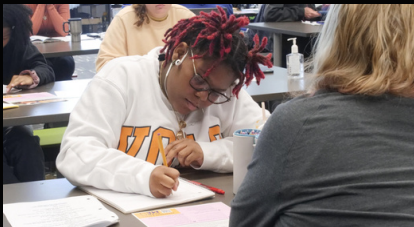
**2023 OVERALL  
ATTENDANCE: 407**



# youth film

## FREE YOUTH FILM WORKSHOPS

The Indie Memphis Youth program offers **free year-round workshops** designed to teach and encourage young filmmakers (in grades 7-12) about all aspects of the movie-making process. In 2023, Indie Memphis partnered with **Cloud901** to host the following workshops:



Screenwriting with  
Melissa Sweazy



Camera & Sound with  
David Roseberry



Directing with  
Noah Glenn

## YOUTH PRODUCTION GRANT



This grant provides professional filmmaking services to one student between grades 7-12 to direct their next short film! The package is good for a **1 day short film shoot with support and crew** positions filled by working professionals from Memphis-based production company, VIA Productions.

The **2023 recipient, Andrew Green**, completed his film, **CHRISTMAS TREATS** in December of 2023. It will premiere at the 2024 Indie Memphis Youth Film Fest.

# youth film

## CREWUP YOUTH FILMMAKING MENTORSHIP **27 STUDENTS TOTAL**



- **9 teams** each comprised of **3 students** + **1 filmmaker mentor**

- Each team writes and produces an **original short film**



- **\$500** is provided as a budget to each team

- **9 completed short films** premiered at the Youth Film Fest

**"Through CrewUp, I have had the privilege to collaborate with exceptionally talented individuals, acquire new skills, and transform my creative visions into reality. I genuinely believe that without CrewUp, I wouldn't have reached my current level of creativity."**

- Anaya Murray, 2023 Mentee



# youth film fest

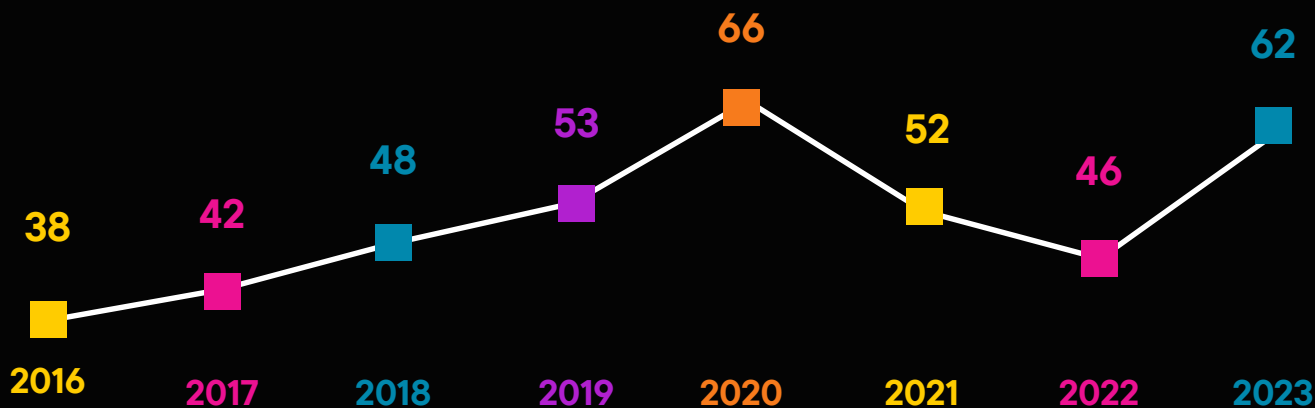


The **Indie Memphis Youth Film Fest** is an all-day event featuring filmmaking workshops and screenings of short films made by students from Memphis and around the world.

**Students from 47 schools** received Youth Film Fest passes  
**100% of Youth Film Fest passes** were **FREE** for all students



## SUBMISSIONS



**54 students** from **34 schools** completed films  
**65% of films** were directed by **people of color**



# thank you sponsors

## FESTIVAL



MARK JONES



eventive



ARTSmemphis



MOLLY & JASON WEXLER

BARBARA & BRUCE NEWMAN

BRETT ROBBS



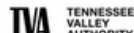
SEED&SPARK



EMILY TRENHOLM & LES EDWARDS

JANE VAN DEREN & LUCIAN PERA

ANONYMOUS



LIKE YOU mindfulness for kids



WKNO

Disbalef Events

Memphis Flyer



OXFORD AMERICAN

# thank you sponsors

## BLACK CREATORS FOURM

ARTSmemphis



REMEMBERING  
GEORGE RILEY FUND



STACEY &  
ROBERT ZYRIEK

## YOUTH FILM FEST



ARTSmemphis



BRETT  
ROBBS

MARK  
JONES

LICHTERMAN-LOEWENBERG  
FOUNDATION



# thank you sponsors

## PATRONS

Anonymous	Julie & Marshall Levy
Rick Bartl	Betsy Olim & Steve Levy
Asima Farooq	Anton Mack
Katee Forbis	Jennifer McGrath
Janet & Les Freeman	George Monger
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Sue & Frank Guarino	Pamela Pitts
Kelsey & Kenn Gibbs	Kim & Billy Post
Linda & Mark Hamilton	Whitney and Nathan Raab
Lisa & Dave Harris	Katie and Will Raines
Penelope Huston	Shirley Stagner
Will Irvine	Diane Terrell
Natalie & Jim Jalenak	Juliet Wischmeyer

## OPERATING SUPPORT





# board members



**KENN  
GIBBS**  
President



**PENELOPE  
HUSTON**  
Vice President



**GEORGE  
MONGER**  
Treasurer



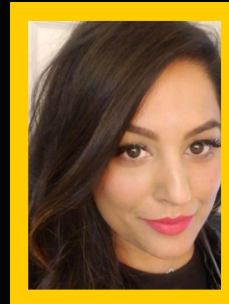
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HARRIS**  
Secretary



**ANTON  
MACK**  
Immediate Past  
President



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Brandon Harris  
Gary Lendermon  
Iddo Patt  
Ira Sachs  
Tom Shadyac

Emily Trenholm  
Molly Wexler  
Pat Mitchell Worley

# full-time staff



**KIMEL FRYER**  
Executive  
Director



**MIRIAM BALE**  
Artistic  
Director



**JOSEPH CARR**  
Managing  
Director



**MACON WILSON**  
Marketing  
Director



**KAYLA MYERS**  
Programmer &  
Black Creators  
Forum Manager

## YEAR-ROUND CONTRACT STAFF

**AMANZI ARNETT**  
Artist Support Coordinator

**AMANDA WILLOUGHBY**  
Mentor Program Coordinator  
& Black Creators Forum Producer

**MATT ZIEBARTH**  
Special Projects Manager

**"We're doing things to ultimately help the film ecosystem here in Memphis grow so that we can continue to build an industry that will allow us to retain our talent and let our stories be told in this city."**

**- Kimel Fryer,  
Executive Director**



**"I probably wouldn't still be living in Memphis if it wasn't for Indie Memphis. It's really such a big part of my life and a part of this city."**

**- Laura Jean Hocking,  
Director & Editor**





## MICROCINEMA

1st Wednesdays  
each month\*

## SHOOT & SPLICE

2nd Tuesdays of  
each month\*

## SEASONAL SCREENINGS

Last two Wednesdays  
of each month\*

## BLACK CREATORS FORUM PITCH RALLY

Apr. 2

## 9TH ANNUAL INDIE MEMPHIS YOUTH FILM FEST

Aug. 24

## 27TH ANNUAL INDIE MEMPHIS FILM FESTIVAL

Nov. 14 - 17

Encore Dates Nov. 18 - 19

## BLACK CREATORS FORUM SYMPOSIUM

In-Person Nov. 15

Virtual Symposium October (TBD)

\*Excluding festival season (Fall)

# 2024 KEY DATES



**connect  
with us.**

[www.indiememphis.org](http://www.indiememphis.org)

Indie Memphis is a 501c3 non-profit organization.