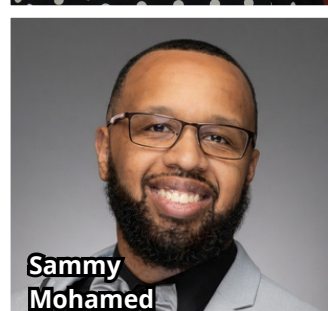
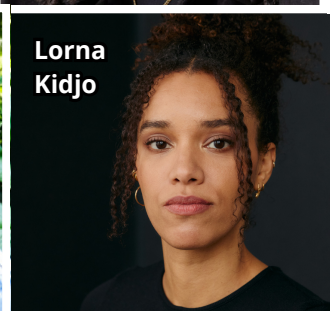
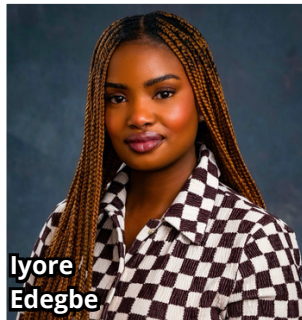
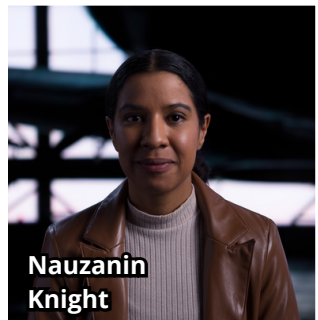




BLACK SCREEN OFFICE

2026 TIFF MARKET DELEGATION



Joan Jenkinson

Co-Founder & CEO

There's no better place to spotlight Black Canadian talent than the Toronto International Film Festival—and we're here for it. TIFF is where audiences, critics, and industry converge, and our delegation is ready to take full advantage.

The Black Screen Office's Black Creators Festival Initiative supports a growing network of Black Canadian creatives with bold voices, global stories, and industry-ready projects. Our 2026 TIFF delegation reflects that ambition. These filmmakers, storytellers, and producers are not only building careers—they're reshaping the industry.

Each delegate brings something unique to the table: from drama features to docuseries, from diasporic narratives to genre disruptors. What unites them is the drive to connect, to collaborate, and to be seen.

This program is supported by **Paramount+, Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE), Telefilm Canada, Canadian Heritage, TD, Black Opportunity Fund, and RBC.** Their support helps us ensure that Black stories don't just show up at major festivals—they leave an impact. We invite you to meet the creators and dive into the projects that follow.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Jenkinson".

Joan Jenkinson
Co-Founder & CEO
Black Screen Office

Nauzanin Knight

Director, Writer, Producer

BIO

Nauzanin Knight is a Canadian writer, director, and producer of African and Middle Eastern descent. An MSc graduate of University College London, she creates culturally grounded, globally relevant documentary and dramatic films exploring human rights, identity, and social change. Her recent work includes *The Forbidden University* (executive produced by Penn Badgley) and the forthcoming feature *House Arrest*.

GOAL

To close the remaining financing on *House Arrest*, secure a sales agent and distributor, and trigger the broadcaster commitment that completes our broadcasting plan — and to build the co-production relationships that will carry 1844 Studios' slate of genre and diaspora-driven storytelling into international markets.

PROJECT



Edmonton, Alberta



House Arrest

A Nigerian pharmaceutical tycoon whose counterfeit drugs killed children is confined to house arrest in a colonial mansion, where an ancestral spirit summoned by his victims comes for the only innocent left — his grandson. To save the boy, he must surrender the one life he never would: his own.

Production Company:
1844 Studios Inc.

Contact:
E: nauzanin@1844studios.com

Natasha Vassell

Writer and Producer

BIO

Natasha Semone Vassell is an acclaimed Canadian producer and writer with memberships in CMPA, WGC, and ACTRA. Her global portfolio includes the Cannes showcased film TOMB alongside international co-productions backed by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates, Canada Media Fund, CBC, and Eurimages. Born in Toronto, she brings a decade of European living experience to her storytelling.

GOAL

By participating in this program, will help me to expand my network with global industry professionals. My primary goals are to secure co-production and distribution deals. I also would like the opportunity to Pitch projects to international decision-makers; while also gaining insights into current market trends.

PROJECT



Toronto, Ontario



When The Beat Drops

When The Beat Drops: When a Nigerian Canadian medical student secretly abandons her family's prestigious legacy to pursue competitive Afrobeat dance, a toxic rivalry and a clash of worlds forces her to choose between her parents' expectations and her own artistic identity—just as an anonymous blackmailer threatens to expose a dark secret from her father's past that could destroy their entire medical empire.

Production Company:
Diva Film Productions

Contact:

E: info@divafilmproductions.com

E: divagirl_productions@yahoo.ca



Synopsis: Nina Okofor aka Nina Blanc is the golden child of a Nigerian Canadian family with an unbroken lineage of medical doctors. Raised in Toronto by her traditional parents, Nina is expected to carry on the family's prestigious legacy alongside her younger brother, Junior Okofor. But while Junior dreams of becoming a computer scientist, Nina's heart beats to a different rhythm, the vibrant pulse of Afrobeat dance and music. Trapped in a mold they didn't choose, both siblings wrestled with the weight of expectations Nina's driving force is her desire to carve out her own identity, separate from the constraints of her family's traditional mindset. She yearns for independence, to be seen not just as an obedient daughter but as an artist capable of making her own choices.

Her rebellion is not loud or destructive but determined—she refuses to let societal or familial expectations dictate her life. However, the quiet defiance comes at a cost, as she constantly battles guilt over disappointing her parents while also fearing that she may never truly fulfill her potential if she doesn't break free. Nina's journey takes a sharp turn when she develops a fierce rivalry with another dancer—Sanni, this go-go girl whose seemingly effortless talent fills her with both admiration and insecurity. The competition pushes her to her limits, forcing her to question whether she has what it takes to succeed in such a cutthroat world. Nina's sudden, suspicious collapse during a high-stake performance—later revealed to be due to drug use—sends shockwaves through the dance community.

As investigations unfold, Nina discovers that her rival sabotaged her but created immense pressure, hiding the fact that she had abandoned her studies and work just to immerse her dancing career. This revelation shakes Nina to her core, forcing her to confront the darker side of her passion—how far people will go for perfection, and how easily dreams can turn into obsessions. When Nina meets street dancer Dre, they build a united front for their love of Afrobeat dance and Anasani music. But their growing relationship ignites a clash of worlds. Nina struggles to hide her double life from her parents, whose vision of success leaves no room for dreams of dance.

Meanwhile, Dre faces mounting pressures at home, where his mother's drug troubles threaten to pull him into a downward spiral. As the Pulse Nation Nation sens that approach, their bond is tested by insecurities, family expectations, and fears of failure. Meanwhile, Nina's father Okofor has been receiving

Peter-John Kerr

Executive Producer,
Writer and Director

BIO

Peter-John Kerr is a Toronto-based director and producer whose work spans documentary, branded content, and broadcast. Founder of The Shift Creative Studio, he recently directed *Who Is The Real McCoy?* for the award-winning *Self Made Canadians* series and received a 2024 Webby for directing *The Come Up*.

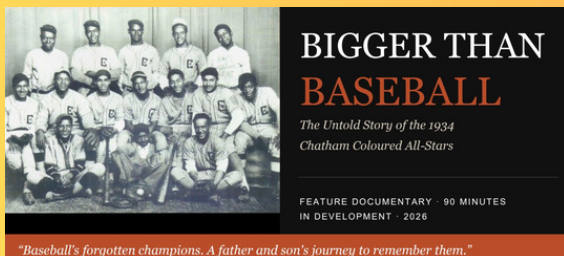
GOAL

I'm attending TIFF 2026 to advance a slate of projects in development across documentary, drama, and unscripted formats. I'm looking to connect with broadcasters, streamers, and financiers aligned with culturally grounded, character-driven storytelling, and to build relationships as a Black Canadian filmmaker that open doors for the work ahead.

PROJECT



Mississauga, Ontario



Bigger Than Baseball: The Untold Story of the 1934 Chatham Coloured All-Stars

As the Hall of Fame door remains closed on Canada's first Black championship baseball team — the 1934 Chatham Coloured All-Stars — a filmmaker coaching his son's Little League squad launches a desperate campaign to right a ninety-year injustice before the last living witnesses take their stories with them.

Contact:

E: pj@alittleshift.com

Production Company:

Shift Creative Studios

Sammy Mohamed

Writer/Director

BIO

Sammy Mohamed, a Somali-Canadian writer/director from Ottawa. A graduate of Algonquin College's Scriptwriting Program, he has penned a feature, (It Comes in Waves), and several short films, directing two to date.

GOAL

I aim to meet producers to partner with and professionals who specialize in my specific genre. To leave TIFF with a much stronger understanding of the business aspect of filmmaking.



Ottawa, Ontario



PROJECT



Bluff

After running up a deadly debt with an Istanbul crime boss, a desperate gambler must secure his family's future before they are caught in the crossfire of his past.

Contact:

E: sammymohamed12@gmail.com

Roble Issa

Writer/Director/Producer

BIO

Somali-Canadian filmmaker based in Toronto. In 2021, he directed the documentary *Mending a Crack in the Sky*, which premiered at Hot Docs. His second film, *Last Shot*, premiered at Reelworld in 2022. He is currently developing his feature debut, *What Remains* with support from Telefilm and the Whistler Screenwriters Lab.

GOAL

To connect with producers, financiers, and distributors to move *What Remains* closer to financing and, ultimately, production. I'm also hoping to learn more about the international marketplace, and co-production opportunities, while expanding my industry network.



Mississauga, Ontario



PROJECT

WHAT REMAINS

LOGLINE
A Somali wedding singer hiding a painful secret rebuilds his life at an auto detailing shop while searching for the wife and daughter he was separated from years earlier. But when an incident at work threatens to unravel the life he has fought to rebuild, he must choose between compassion and self-preservation.

THE WORLD
The story is set in a bustling business park, a long stretch of asphalt-lined with rows of auto-related shops. Raw, noisy, and alive, the park is more than a cluster of shops; it's a living ecosystem that embodies the resilience of the marginalized communities who keep it running.
This diverse community and setting serves as the backdrop for our story. The world will feel lived-in and immersive, with many roles portrayed by first-time actors cast directly from these communities and professions.

GENRE & FORMAT
■ Genre: Drama
■ Format: Feature film
■ Runtime: 110 minutes

CENTRAL THEME
"What Remains" delves into the moral complexities of survival, asking what we are willing to sacrifice to stay alive and how those choices reshape who we are. The film explores the conflict between self-preservation and humanity, and the cost of choosing one over the other.

VISUAL APPROACH
The film is grounded and intimate. For the majority of the story, the camera remains static and observant. The framing is controlled and restrained. It will feature a recurring motif of washing and cleansing. With each vehicle Abdi details becoming an attempt to scrub away guilt, reflecting his deeper desire to purify himself of the past, even as some stains cannot be erased.

WRITER/DIRECTOR	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PRODUCTION COMPANY
Roble Issa	416-884-1915	RobIssa@yahoo.com	LULA Pictures

What Remains

A Somali wedding singer hiding a painful secret rebuilds his life at an auto detailing shop while searching for the wife and daughter he was separated from years earlier. But when an incident at work threatens to unravel the life he's fought to rebuild, he must choose between compassion and self-preservation.

Production Company:
LULA Pictures

Contact:
E: robIssa@yahoo.com

Malachi Ellis

Producer

BIO

Malachi Ellis is a Black Toronto-based Producer. He is an alumnus of TMU's Media Production, Reelworld's Producer Program and CFC's Producers' Lab. He has worked at many of Canada's largest film and television companies, and produced work that has been screened globally, including TIFF for four years in a row.

GOAL

Meet and connect with attending sales agents, distributors and financiers to secure either a letter of interest or a firm commitment to our project. Connect with larger production companies and international partners to support casting and potential co-production.



Toronto, Ontario

PROJECT



Injured Reserve

A Black basketball prodigy struggles to preserve her sanity upon suffering a career-threatening injury shortly after a mysterious new player joins her team.

Production Company:
Area V5 Pictures

Contact:
E: malachi@areav5pictures.com

Iyore Edegbe

Writer, Director, Producer

BIO

Iyore Edegbe is a Nigerian-Canadian filmmaker, TIFF-BSO Fellow, and Canada Council recipient. Her work has screened internationally and on CBC Gem, exploring themes of migration, memory, and identity. She is currently developing What Is Mine, Isn't Yours and completing her debut feature, All Our Eggs in One Basket.

GOAL

To build relationships with producers, distributors, broadcasters, and funding partners while advancing What Is Mine, Isn't Yours toward production and expanding international opportunities for Yellow Flower Films' slate of film and television projects.



Ottawa, Ontario



PROJECT



What's Mine Isn't Yours

Through conversations with her mother and members of the Edo community, a Nigerian-Canadian filmmaker confronts the loss of her mother tongue and embarks on a journey to reclaim language, history, and belonging.

Production Company:
Yellow Flower Films

Contact:

E: iedegbe@gmail.com & info@yellowflowerfilms.com

Cazhhmere Downey

Creator-Writer-Producer

BIO

Cazhhmere Downey is a Canadian Screen Award-nominated Black Nova Scotian writer-director working across television and film. Her directing credits include Heartland, Murdoch Mysteries, Shelved, and Sounds Black. She creates premium, character-driven stories that explore power, identity, and community.

GOAL

My goal is to secure development and co-production partners for Out of Pocket, build relationships with buyers and financiers, and gain meaningful market insight that will strengthen the project's path to production while expanding my network of long-term international creative and business collaborators.



Toronto, Ontario



PROJECT



Out Of Pocket

A seasoned madame challenges the male-dominated power structure of the underground sex trade by building an empire on her own terms, igniting a battle for control that forces everyone in her orbit to confront the true cost of power, survival, and autonomy.

Production Company:
Direct Or Die Filmworks Inc.

Contact:
E: cazh@directordiefilmworks.com

Christine Rodriguez

Writer, Director, Executive
Producer

BIO

CFC alumna Christine Rodriguez is an accomplished filmmaker who creates from a mixed-race, Afro-Trinidadian perspective. Her short films have been selected by prestigious festivals like the American Black Film Festival, the New York Latino Film Festival, Fantasia and the Cannes International Pan African Film Festival as well as being featured on Comcast-on-Demand and Natyf TV.

GOAL

Christine's goals at TIFF are to meet potential production partners and distributors for her first feature film project "Fuego" which is currently at the financing stage.



Montréal, Quebec



PROJECT



Fuego

Manolo hoped that marrying a Canadian woman to get out of Cuba would help overcome all of his and his family's daily struggles, but when his wife proves unsupportive of his dreams, he sets out on his own with nothing to his name and fading hopes of having his daughter join him in Canada... that is, until music re-enters his life.

Production Company:
Montrealismo

Contact:
E: christine@montrealismo.com

Keavy Lynch

Writer

BIO

Keavy Lynch is a biracial Canadian/Irish TV writer whose credits include Hudson & Rex, Pretty Hard Cases, Bria Mack Gets a Life, and the unproduced season 2 of Emmy-nominated CBC/BET+ series The Porter. She has several original series in development, and recently signed her first international development agreement.

GOAL

I'm an experienced TV writer with Canadian and Irish (EU) citizenship, looking to connect & build relationships with international producers.



Toronto, Ontario

PROJECT



Highness

After she survives jumping in front of the subway, 20-something disaster Helena is forced to move back in with her dysfunctional family of exiled royals. To win her freedom, Helena must save the the royals from financial ruin, and drag them into the modern era.

Contact:

E: keavyxlynch@gmail.com

Geneva Peschka

Director / Producer

BIO

Award-winning filmmaker amplifying marginalized voices through bold storytelling. Geneva has directed campaigns for Timberland, Google, TD Bank, and more. The Solace of Sisterhood premiered at Tribeca 2024 and her most recent film, Black Longevity, premiered at MVAFF 2025 and was nominated for a 57th NAACP Image Award.

GOAL

As a director and producer, I hope to connect with fellow filmmakers and industry leaders, exchange stories and ideas, introduce my work to the Canadian film community, and build meaningful relationships while exploring opportunities for my feature documentary film, You're Listening To...



Montreal, Quebec



PROJECT



"You're Listening To..."

CKLN radio DJ, Victor Bains Marshall reflects on a life shaped by music, recovery, and community - using the airwaves as his lifeline, he now faces aging and healing with the same grace that once helped others find their way.

Production Company:
+Disrupter Productions

Contact:
E: genevapeschka@gmail.com

Chris Sharpe

Producer

BIO

Chris Sharpe is a Canadian producer, writer, and entrepreneur. His documentary Relationship Remix is currently streaming on CBC Gem, while Cool Sweepings, the world's first Black curling comedy series, is coming to Bell Fibe TV1. He is also developing the feature film Kung Fu & Basketball and other original franchise properties.

GOAL

My goal at TIFF is to connect with broadcasters, streamers, distributors, producers, investors, and brand partners to expand the Cool Sweepings Universe, secure new development and financing opportunities for Cell Phone Girls and Kung Fu & Basketball, and build international partnerships that help scale these projects into global entertainment franchises.



Winnipeg, Manitoba



PROJECT



Cool Sweepings

When a Jamaican-Canadian teen discovers his family's rundown curling rink is days from foreclosure, he and his chaotic crew of misfit friends enter a high-stakes bonspiel, despite having zero curling experience, in a desperate, hilarious race to save their community and rewrite the rules of the game.

Production Company:
Black Film Space Manitoba

Contact:
E: manitobablackfilmspace@gmail.com

Alexander Nunez

Actor, Writer, Producer

BIO

Alexander Nunez is a CSA award-winning writer and actor of Jamaican & Chilean descent. He is the creator and star of *Settle Down* (CBC/OUTtv), which won SeriesFest and Telly Awards for Best Comedy Series and Best Writing. His work blends sharp wit with character-driven storytelling that champions the underdog.

GOAL

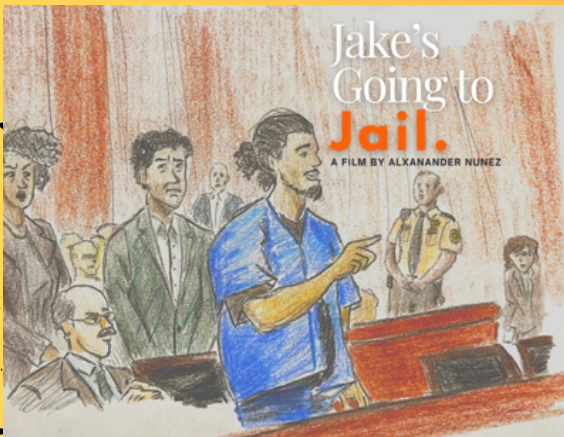
I am looking for a production partner who can help secure financing for my feature film and guide it from development into production. I want to work with someone collaborative who brings industry experience, funding connections, and the resources needed to make my film a reality.



Toronto, Ontario



PROJECT



Jake's Going to Jail

Logan is given the impossible task of keeping his lawbreaking younger brother Jake on the straight and narrow while they await his criminal trial.

Contact:

E: alexanderjnunez@live.ca

Will Prosper

Writer, Director and Producer

BIO

Will Prosper is an award-winning filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer whose documentary and fiction works challenge perspectives and open dialogue. Recipient of RIDM's 2019 People's Choice Award for Kenbe la, Jusqu'à la victoire and a 2026 Cinéma sous les étoiles award for ReXistence, his film Northern Beats was selected at TIFF in 2023.

GOAL

To secure financing, co-production, and distribution opportunities for my feature documentary Why Is He Doing This to Me? (Nooran) and feature film Bloc E, while expanding my network of producers, broadcasters, sales agents, and industry partners in Canada and internationally.



Montreal, Quebec

PROJECT



Why Is He Doing This to Me?

When a 15-year-old boy is killed by a police officer, his grieving family, witnesses, and lawyers challenge the official narrative, exposing the deep racial, social, and political fractures shaping justice in contemporary Quebec.

Production Company:
XSKY production inc.

Contact:
E: willprosper@gmail.com

Lorna Kidjo

Filmmaker, Producer,
Actor

BIO

Lorna Kidjo is a Belgian-Canadian-Beninese filmmaker, producer and actor, and founder of Soirée Films Inc. Her short films "Oversight" (Best Actress winner, CBC Gem) and Fester (Fantasia, CANAL+) have screened internationally. She is developing two features with the support of CCA and is represented as an actor in Canada and US.

GOAL

As a filmmaker and producer, I wish to connect with an international artistic community that can inspire and support Winter Guests' production and distribution. I hope for conversations and screenings that will help me refine the film's artistic direction and build meaningful relationships with creative and production partners.

PROJECT



Vancouver, British Columbia



Winter Guests

A financially and emotionally unravelling woman travels for the first time to a remote Newfoundland town to visit her mother, only to discover a hidden past and an unconventional new life that shatters everything she believes about love, loyalty, and stability, forcing her to confront her need for control as her family and her relationships collapse.

Production Company:
Soirée Films Inc.

Contact:
E: soireefilmsinc@gmail.com

Sami Tesfazghi

Producer & EP

BIO

Sami Tesfazghi is a Producer and Head of Development at Inferno Pictures in Winnipeg, with credits including *How It Ends* (Netflix), *The Porter* (CBC/BET+) and *Percy*. His CBC documentary *Michelle Ross: Unknown Icon* earned three Canadian Screen Award nominations in 2026. His slate centres on book and graphic-novel adaptations.

GOAL

To find international distribution and co-financing partners for *The Crossing* and *Pale Blue*, understand what is moving in the current documentary and independent feature markets, and build lasting relationships with buyers, sales agents and programmers as both projects head toward locked financing.



Winnipeg, Manitoba

PROJECT



THE CROSSING

Fleeing Ghana with nothing, Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal cross the Brazilian jungle, the Darién Gap, and a hostile American border — before a frozen crossing into Canada. A sweeping, intimate portrait and political reckoning with who gets to move freely, and what it costs to belong nowhere.

Production Company:
Rane Films & Inferno Pictures

Contact:
E: sami@infernopictures.com



Hoda Ali
*Programming
Manager*

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Thank you

PleaseNotes
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