



---

## **Black Alphabet Film Festival**

3712 N. Broadway Suite 288 | Chicago, IL 60613

[www.blackalphabet.org](http://www.blackalphabet.org) | [info@blackalphabet.org](mailto:info@blackalphabet.org) | 872.256.BAFF

---

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Contacts:**

Langstan Smith

312.678.7688

[langstan.smith@blackalphabet.org](mailto:langstan.smith@blackalphabet.org)

or

Brenikki Floyd

251.454.2919

[brenikki.floyd@blackalphabet.org](mailto:brenikki.floyd@blackalphabet.org)

## **Black Alphabet Film Festival returns for its 3rd year, expanding to a 4-day event!**

**(Chicago, IL - April 9, 2015)** - The Black Alphabet Film Festival (BAFF) returns for its 3<sup>rd</sup> outing of showcasing films and other works that highlight and explore the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) and Same Gender Loving (SGL) experience. With growing interest and attendance, BAFF is excited to not only expand the number of feature and short films, but also the number of days the festival will be hosted in the city of Chicago this year. This year BAFF's international film festival will now take place in the latter part of July, beginning Thursday, July 23 and closing on Sunday, July 26 at Center on Halsted and a venue to be determined in the near future. Tickets will be available for purchase as of early June.

Established in 2013 and named precisely due to the many letters used to create LGBTQ/SGL inclusivity, Black Alphabet (BA) is a non-profit Chicago-based collective of individuals committed to art, culture and entrepreneurship in the "Black Alphabet" community. Its mission is to empower the Black LGBTQ/SGL community by celebrating, promoting and nurturing untold stories that are often forgotten in the broader LGBTQ/SGL landscape.

Since the festival's inaugural year, BAFF has featured 20 films and shorts with 1 international film. BAFF was the first to premiere Patrik-Ian Polk's *Blackbird* in Chicago last year at the historic DuSable Museum of African American History. The film stars Academy Award winner, Mo'Nique; NAACP Image Award winner, Isaiah Washington with newcomer, Julian Walker and premieres to audiences nationwide on April 24. If you have been in attendance or volunteered at either of BAFF's previous two festival outings, you know how hard they work to serve the community by bringing great programming in premiere venues across the city. With your support they hope to continue to grow and reach their goal of bringing expanded entertainment value to your summer.

### **BAFF Needs Your Support**

Last year, BAFF was successful in raising \$3,120 during their crowd-funding campaign which helped tremendously in managing various festival related expenses. This year, as BAFF plans to expand its 2015 festival to a four day event they will need to raise a minimum of \$5,000 to achieve this goal. With your help they hope to reach and perhaps even surpass this goal.

-more-

Page 2 - Black Alphabet Film Festival returns for its 3rd year, expanding to a 4-day event!

By donating as little as \$5 to their Indiegogo (IGG) campaign you can assist in BA's efforts to reach its target funding goal. You can contribute to their campaign by visiting: <http://igg.me/at/BAFF2015>. The IGG campaign launches on Friday, April 17 and donations will be accepted through July 17. Any support that you can provide for the Black Alphabet Film Festival is greatly appreciated!

### **Other Ways to Get Involved**

BAFF always appreciates any help in the planning stages, so if you or anyone you know would like to volunteer, please sign up at <http://blackalphabet.org/volunteer/>. You can also help by spreading the word and telling your friends, families and film enthusiasts about the Black Alphabet Film Festival.

To keep up with the latest about Black Alphabet and the film festival, feel free to visit and/or post on their Facebook (<http://facebook.com/blackalphabetCHICAGO>), Twitter (<http://twitter.com/BlackAlphabet>), and Instagram ([http://instagram.com/Black\\_\\_Alphabet](http://instagram.com/Black__Alphabet)) pages. You can also use #BAFF2015 to search BAFF on social media. Look for Black Alphabet on Youtube and Google+ as well. You can also join their mailing list by visiting their newly revamped website at [www.blackalphabet.org](http://www.blackalphabet.org) and learn more about the organization. The more you share the more opportunities BAFF has to continue telling the stories of Black LGBTQ people everywhere!

Black Alphabet is also currently accepting film and video submissions. For details on how to submit a film or video, visit <http://blackalphabet.org/submission> or <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/baff>. The deadlines and entry fees are as follows:

#### **Official Entry Deadline (Postmarked): Friday, April 15, 2015**

Entry Fee: \$15 (Adults) / \$10 (Students)

#### **Late Entry Deadline (Postmarked): Friday, May 1, 2015**

Entry Fee: \$25 (Adults) / \$20 (Students)

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Download the sponsorship package at <http://blackalphabet.org/sponsorship>. For assistance, contact Black Alphabet Chair, Brenikki Floyd, at 251.454.2919 or via email at [brenikki.floyd@blackalphabet.org](mailto:brenikki.floyd@blackalphabet.org) or Vice Chair, Langstan Smith at 312.678.7688 or via email at [langstan.smith@blackalphabet.org](mailto:langstan.smith@blackalphabet.org).

####