

GuyFolkFest.org

Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage

Film Festival
2007

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GUYANA FOLK FESTIVAL FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL II - 2007

Theme: MontageGY - Guyana in Film & Video

Guyana Folk Festival, through its parent organization, Guyana Cultural Association, announces the Guyana Folk Festival Film and Video Festival II, which showcases films and videos made in, on and about Guyana. Guyana Cultural Association, a not-for-profit entity is committed to the preservation, propagation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the people of Guyana.

A weekend of exciting Guyanese Film & Video

- To Sir With Love (E.R. Braithwaite)
- Family of the Caribbean (Michael Gilkes)
- "Rainbow Raani" - (Mickey Nivelli)
- Jezebel (Paloma Mohamed)
- The Peacock Dance (Ian Valz)
- A Celebration of Life - Dances of African Guyanese (Kean Gibson)
- "Mazaruni Journey" (Francis Farrier)
- "Ten Years in the Making" - (First Born)
- "Against All Odds" - (Desire Edghill)

The festival is Guyana's premier international film and video festival dedicated to exhibiting films and videos by Guyanese or anyone of Guyanese heritage. Film categories include drama, comedy, documentary, animation, music video and student works. New York film festival goers will have a chance to view the work of some of the finest pioneers, emerging and established filmmakers of Guyanese heritage.

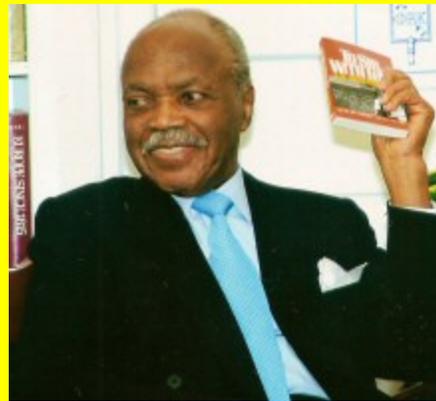
This year, 2007, is the bicentennial of the abolition of the trade in African captives and the theme of the Festival is "Oii" (Origins, Identity, and Influence). Using the bicentennial as a starting point, the goal of the Film & Video Festival will be to reflect on the multiple expressions of "Oii" in all aspects of Guyanese life--the arts, church and religion, commerce and industry, the diaspora, education, science and technology, politics, religion, language, literature, music, history, and interracial relations.

To commemorate the bicentennial of the abolition of the trade in African captives and its effects on Guyanese society, the theme for this year's Film & Video Festival is "**MontageGY - Guyana in Film & Video.**" A main focus will be video and film that celebrate Guyanese themes, filmmakers, writers and actors.

Tributes

Upcoming Events

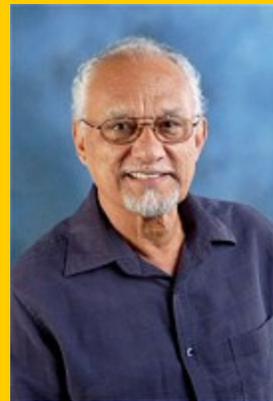
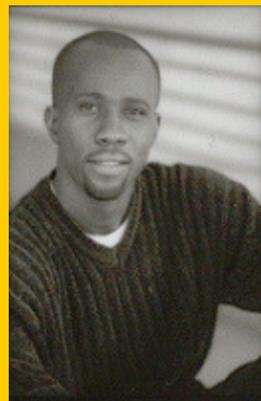
Vendors

**E.R. BRAITHWAITE**

Author of the book "To Sir With Love" Born in British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1920, his numerous writings have primarily dealt with the difficulties of being an educated man, a black social worker, a black teacher, and simply a human being in inhumane circumstances. E.R. Braithwaite is best known for his autobiographical work, To Sir With Love (1959), which tells the story of a black teacher in the East End of London during the fifties, and, which of course, was made into a film starring the dazzling actor, Sidney Poitier.

Braithwaite continued to write novels and short stories even while he had a long and international career as an educational consultant lecturer for UNESCO, Paris; permanent representative from Guyana to the United Nations; Guyana's ambassador to Venezuela; and teaching English at New York University. He is now retired in Washington.

See article and photos [NOVELIST E.R. BRAITHWAITE HONORED WITH PROCLAMATION FROM NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL](#)

**MICHAEL GILKES**

"Family of the Caribbean" Dr. Michael Gilkes, formerly Reader in English and Head of the English department at the UWI Cave Hill campus, has been a teacher all of his adult life. Also founding member and first artistic director of the Barbados-based theatre company Stage One, he has been involved in the theatre arts for over 40 years as actor, director, playwright, dramaturge and filmmaker.

Film credits include:

Family of the Caribbean: documentary on Caribbean culture 52 mins.

Sargasso! The first film version of the novel *Wide Sargasso Sea*, by Jean Rhys. Filmed in Dominica. 45 mins. All-Caribbean cast and crew.

Concert in the Rainforest: a 25 min. documentary filmed in Guyana.

The Art of Derek Walcott: 25 min a/v documentary

The Landscape of Dreams (illustrated interview with Wilson Harris)

Ti-Jean and His Brothers (adapted for film: shot in Barbados)



Shirvington Hannays Producer, "**The Importance of Being Honest**" Actor, producer and writer are some of the titles that Shirvington Hannays wears as an independent filmmaker in Canada. Born in Guyana he received training in performing arts and filmmaking in Guyana, Jamaica, Poland, Denmark and Canada. Shirvington lives by the simple philosophy: "In life you don't get what you deserve, you get what you negotiate". Cross trained as an independent filmmaker, stage and film actor, he has also successfully completed studies at Toronto's Centennial College in independent television production.

Paloma Mohamed Producer, **Jezebel**. A poet, essayist, playwright and prizewinning director. Paloma Mohamed has won the coveted Guyana Prize for Drama on three occasions. The most recent prize was awarded to her in May 2005 for the play "Anansi's Way". She is currently the youngest person to have ever received the Caribbean Cacique Award for Contribution to the Arts.

Call for Submissions!

Guyanese moviemakers or a person of Guyanese heritage in a key creative role (Director, Producer, Writer, Lead Actor, etc) - from around the world are invited to submit films for the 1st Annual Guyana Film Festival, which will be held July 14 and 15, 2007. The final deadline for entries is June 22, 2007.

The festival is Guyana's premier international film and video festival dedicated to exhibiting films and videos by Guyanese or anyone of Guyanese heritage. Film categories include drama, comedy, documentary, animation, music video and student works. All genres and lengths are welcome however visual creative storytelling is encouraged. New York film festival goers will have a chance to view the work of some of the finest pioneers, emerging and established filmmakers of Guyanese heritage.

The three-day event will kick off with a gala evening screening of this year pioneer inductee's film. Over the rest of the festival works of emerging filmmakers will be screened along with panel discussions and workshops.

- History of filmmaking in Guyana and its pioneers.
- The Business of Filmmaking on a micro budget – using Mini DV or High Definition as against film.
- Independent International Co-production - a cool way to go for Non-Hollywood Filmmaking.
- Visual storytelling and the art of Screening.
- Mobile Filmmaking with Digital Video

WHERE:

Meyer Levin School of Performing Arts

INFO:

To learn more, please e-mail info@guyanafolkfest.org, call 718 209 5207 or visit [MontageGY - Guyana in Film & Video](http://www.guyfolkfest.org/filmmfestival2007.htm)

Requirements:

Submission Categories:

- **General Drama Comedy or Documentary:**
 - **Shorts** (running less than 30 minutes),

- **Features** (running more than 30 minutes)
- in all genres and formats.

- **Music video** (must be produced in Guyana or featuring a Guyanese musician.)
- **Student works** (studies related work by a student of Guyanese heritage or project that promote or features a Guyanese experience in its storyline.)
- **Special category: "International"** - Includes films by non-Guyanese filmmakers that depicts 'Inclusion and diversity'.

Last call:

June 22th, 2007

Notification of acceptance:

July 2, 2007

Mail entries to:

Guyana Cultural Association, NY
1368 E89 Street, Suite 2
Brooklyn, New York, NY 11236.

Formats:

- Exhibition on VHS and DVD*
- Preview on VHS, Mini DV or DVD**

*GFF will not return any tapes or DVDs submitted unless you provide proper return postage.

** All shortlisted films or videos will not be return and will be listed in the festival archives with filmmaker contact information.

Entry tape label:

Each entry must be labeled with title, contact phone and e-mail, length and submission category (General or International).

Entry fee:

This year it is \$20.00 payable by check with submission.

Submission checklist:

Please, include:

- Complete the submission form
- Preview copy of the film: Mini DV, VHS, or DVD with title, contact phone and e-mail, length and submission category clearly stated.
- A short description of the film and a filmmaker's bio (up to one page each).
- One still of the film (optional)
- Self addressed, stamped envelope if you would like to have your preview media returned to you.

GUYANA FOLK FEST

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