

PLANET AFRICA LEGACY

THE BLACK LIST TIFF 2026 EDITION

SEPTEMBER 10 TO
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

30 FILMS
BOLDER
STORIES
A WIDER
TOMORROW

FILM
PEOPLE
STORIES
A GLOBAL
LEGACY

BEN'IMANA
BLKNWS: TERMS & CONDITIONS
CLARISSA

CONGO BOY

FUTURE TENSE

IF I GO WILL THEY MISS ME

MARIE MADELEINE

MISTY GREEN

ON BEHALF OF MY SON

ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM

PRIMA FACIE

SOUMSOM

THE NIGHT OF THE STARS

SUNBURN

THE SECRET LIVES OF
BABA SEGI'S WIVES

VOICES

YOUR MOTHER

YOUR MOTHER

YOUR MOTHER

ZJILI

A STORY OF SISTERHOOD
AND THE BURDENS OF EXCESS

DARLENE LOVE:
I KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN

RAPINOE

RE/PAIR

CALL ME TIM

DOUGH MAN

KODEN'N

THE DAY I SMOKED

A CIGARETTE WITH

MY FATHER

THE SPECTACULAR

DEATH OF PRISCA

Orla

The Black List

The Black List is a Planet Africa Legacy initiative that continues the spirit of TIFF's original Planet Africa programme. Planet Africa was created in 1995 as a TIFF programme dedicated to cinema from Africa and the African diaspora and ran for ten years, from 1995 to 2004. The programme was built around a broad understanding of Black cinema: films by Black, African and Caribbean filmmakers and/or films featuring significant Black/African Diaspora stories, subjects or principal talent, across features, documentaries and shorts.

During 1999 and 2000, I worked as a Program Assistant for Planet Africa. During that time, I also created a Black List to capture films within the larger TIFF programme that might not have been included in the Planet Africa section itself, but were nevertheless important to the Black cinematic presence at the Festival. The 2026 edition revives that original approach as a festival-wide annual record.

The Black List is intentionally broader than any single TIFF programme or category. It considers filmmaker identity, African and Caribbean production contexts, Diaspora stories, significant Black subject matter and principal Black talent. It also recognizes the inclusive spirit of Planet Africa by making space for Black queer representation and for films whose significance to the Black/African Diaspora cinematic landscape may sit across genres, geographies and forms.

Editorial Criteria

- Films by Black, African and Caribbean filmmakers.
- Films featuring significant Black/African Diaspora stories or subjects.
- Films featuring significant Black/African Diaspora principal talent where that contribution is central enough to warrant inclusion.
- African and Caribbean productions and co-productions.
- Features, documentaries and shorts across the full TIFF 2026 Festival programme — not only a single TIFF section.
- Meaningful Black queer representation is included within the broader Planet Africa tradition of an inclusive Black cinematic landscape.

Canadian flags () are used only as a production marker, not to indicate that a film has Canadian cast or talent. Where a field still requires final verification, it is marked TO VERIFY rather than guessed.

THE BLACK LIST

Planet Africa Legacy @TIFF 2026

FEATURES

1. Ben'Imana
2. BLKNWS: Terms & Conditions
3. Clarissa
4. Congo Boy
5. Future Tense
6. If I Go Will They Miss Me
7. Marie Madeleine  
8. Misty Green
9. On Behalf of My Son
10. Once Upon a Time in Harlem
11. Prima Facie
12. Soumsoum, The Night of the Stars
13. Sunburn 
14. The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives
15. Voices
16. Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother
17. Zjili: A Story of Sisterhood and The Burdens of Excess

DOCUMENTARIES

18. Darlene Love: I Know Where I've Been 
19. Rapinoe
20. Re/Pair

SHORTS

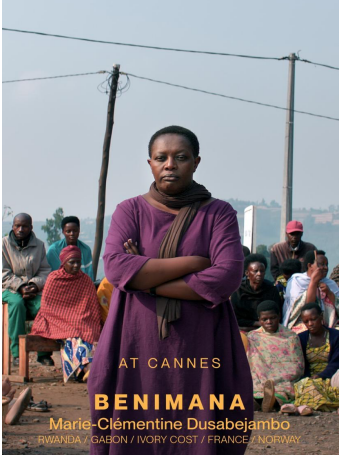
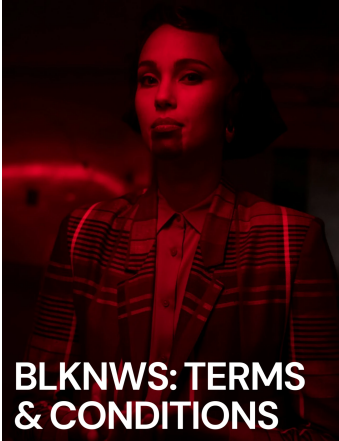
21. Call Me Tim 
22. Dough Man 
23. Koden'n  
24. The Day I Smoked a Cigarette with My Father
25. The Spectacular Death of Prisca

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HONOURABLE MENTIONS

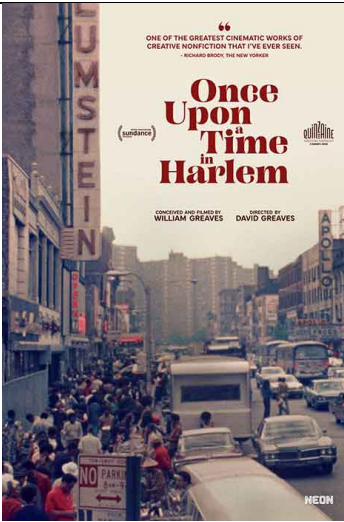
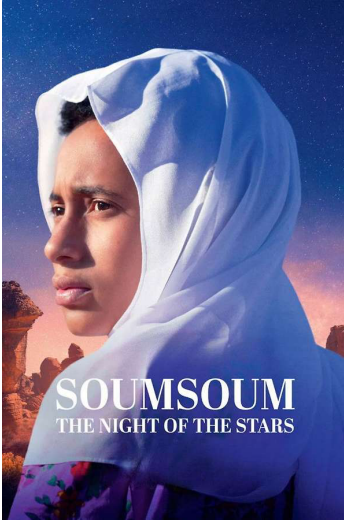
26. I Play Rocky — *Stephan James*
27. Love of Your Life — *Aaron Pierre*
28. The Fortunate Isles — *significant Black/African Diaspora historical subject*
29. Oxygen Masks Will (Not) Drop Automatically — *significant Black Brazilian principal talent + queer representation*
30. Mr. Nelson, Did You Kill People? — *significant Black/African Diaspora subject + principal Black talent*

FEATURES

 AT CANNES BENIMANA Marie-Clémentine Dusabejambo RWANDA / GABON / IVORY COAST / FRANCE / NORWAY	1. Ben'Imana Logline: In post-genocide Rwanda, a woman committed to community-led justice and reconciliation is forced to confront the limits of forgiveness when a deeply personal family revelation unsettles her convictions. TIFF Section: Centrepiece Director: Marie-Clémentine Dusabejambo Cast: Clémentine U. Nyirinkindi and Isabelle Kabano an almost entirely female cast. Country of Origin: Rwanda / Gabon / France / Norway TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/ben-imana
 BLKNWS: TERMS & CONDITIONS	2. BLKNWS: Terms & Conditions Country of Origin: United States TIFF Section: TO VERIFY Director: Kahlil Joseph Cast: TO VERIFY Logline: A shapeshifting hybrid of art, journalism and cinema exploring Black life, history, media and contemporary culture through an experimental audiovisual collage. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/blknws-terms-conditions
 <i>Clarissa</i>	3. Clarissa Country of Origin: Nigeria / United States TIFF Section: Special Presentations Director: Arie Esiri & Chuko Esiri Cast: Sophie Okonedo; David Oyelowo; additional cast TO VERIFY Logline: A contemporary Lagos reimaging of Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dalloway, reframing its anxieties through Nigeria's experience of conflict and the aftermath of Boko Haram. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/clarissa

	4. Congo Boy TIFF Section: Centrepiece Director: Rafiki Fariala Cast: Bradley Fiomona Dembeasset; Christy Djomanda Louba; Pétruche Mbomba; Rosiana Kotozia; Gloria Ambacko; Dieufera Sana Logline: Seventeen-year-old Robert, a Congolese refugee living in Bangui, dreams of becoming a musician while caring for his four younger siblings after his parents are imprisoned amid civil conflict. Country of Origin: Central African Republic / France / Democratic Republic of the Congo / Italy TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/congo-boy
	5. Future Tense Country of Origin: South Africa / Australia TIFF Section: Centrepiece Director: Jenna Cato Bass Cast: Lawrence Maleka; Kristen Raath Logline: In a near future shaped by climate anxiety and time travel, wealthy tourists escape into the past while a South African couple confronts the consequences of trying to alter history. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/future-tense
	6. If I Go Will They Miss Me Country of Origin: United States TIFF Section: Next Wave Director: Walter Thompson-Hernández Cast: Danielle Brooks; J. Alphonse Nicholson Logline: A young Black boy in Watts tries to understand his father, family and neighbourhood through mythology, imagination and fractured fatherhood. TIFF: https://tiff.net/events/if-i-go-will-they-miss-me

	7. Marie Madeleine 🇨🇦🇧🇪 Country of Origin: France / Haiti / Belgium / Canada / Luxembourg TIFF Section: Centrepiece Director: Gécissica Généus Cast: Gécissica Généus; Béonard Monteau; Edouard Baptiste; Mélissa Mildort; Ginou Jules; Eder Romeus; Gaëlle Bien-Aimé; Kevin Mesidor Logline: In Jacmel, Haiti, a free-spirited sex worker and a young evangelical believer form an unexpected relationship that challenges ideas of desire, faith, morality and freedom. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/marie-madeleine
	8. Misty Green Country of Origin: United States TIFF Section: Gala Presentations Director: Chris Rock Cast: Rosalind Eleazar; Daniel Kaluuya; Adam Driver; Anna Kendrick; Chris Rock Logline: A Black actor goes to extreme lengths to keep both her career and her brother alive as Hollywood pressures and a personal crisis collide. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/misty-green
	9. On Behalf of My Son Country of Origin: Brazil TIFF Section: Platform Director: Gabriel Martins Cast: Rejane Faria; additional cast TO VERIFY Logline: After her son dies in a bus crash, a grieving mother seeks out the families of those killed and asks for forgiveness while confronting questions about what happened. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/on-behalf-of-my-son

	10. Once Upon a Time in Harlem Country of Origin: United States TIFF Section: Wavelengths Director: William Greaves & David Greaves Cast: Harlem Renaissance artists and cultural figures including Aaron Douglas, Arna Bontemps, Richard Bruce Nugent, Ida Mae Cullen and others Logline: A historic gathering of Harlem Renaissance artists, writers, musicians and cultural figures, captured in 1972 by pioneering filmmaker William Greaves and completed decades later by his son David. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/once-upon-a-time-in-harlem
	11. Prima Facie Country of Origin: United Kingdom TIFF Section: Gala Presentations Director: Susanna White Cast: Cynthia Erivo; additional cast TO VERIFY Logline: An ambitious barrister who defends people accused of sexual crimes is forced to confront the legal system she once trusted after she becomes a victim herself. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/prima-facie
	12. Soumsoum, The Night of the Stars Country of Origin: Chad / France TIFF Section: Centrepiece Director: Mahamat-Saleh Haroun Cast: Maïmouna Miawama; Ériq Ebouaney; Achouackh Abakar Souleymane Logline: A teenage girl with mysterious spiritual gifts befriends a woman accused of witchcraft, challenging fear, superstition and the traditions of her desert community. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/soumsoum-the-night-of-the-stars



13. Sunburn 🇨🇦

Country of Origin: Canada

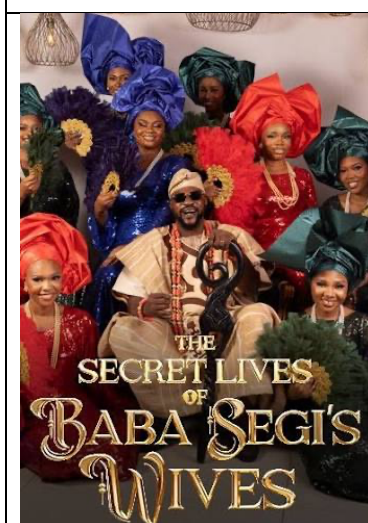
TIFF Section: Centrepiece

Director: Serville Poblete

Cast: MJ Fausta; Dashawn Blackwood; additional cast TO VERIFY

Logline: Young people navigate a Toronto heatwave and blackout in a Canadian story rooted in the city's contemporary social landscape.

TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/sunburn>



14. The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives

Country of Origin: Nigeria

TIFF Section: Centrepiece

Director: Daniel Oriahe

Cast: TO VERIFY

Logline: A wealthy Nigerian patriarch's fragile household begins to unravel when the youngest of his four wives fails to conceive, exposing secrets and shifting power within the family.

TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/the-secret-lives-of-baba-segis-wives>



15. Voices

Country of Origin: United States

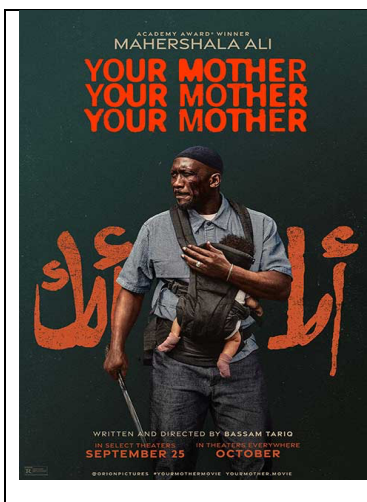
TIFF Section: Discovery

Director: Deantè Gray

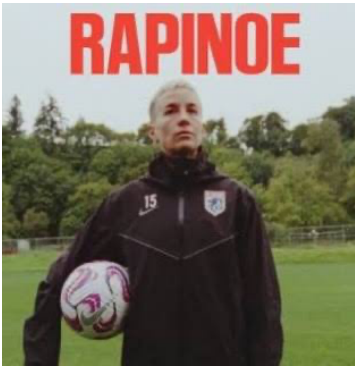
Cast: Francis C. Edemobi; Ezekiel Ajeigbe; Raél Ba; Jamal R. Averett; additional cast TO VERIFY

Logline: When a rising soul duo overdoses just hours before their big break, a desperate bellhop and his friends seize what seems like a chance at fame, only to discover that the price may be blood.

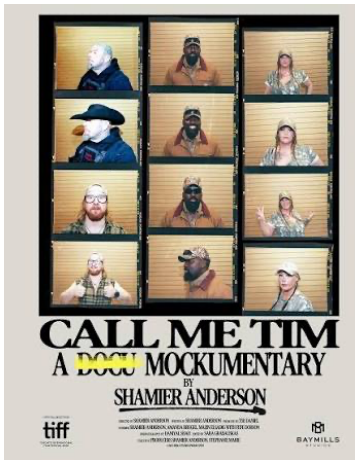
TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/voices>

	16. Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother Logline: TO VERIFY from the official TIFF synopsis. TIFF Section: Special Presentations Director: TO VERIFY Cast: Mahershala Ali; Tramell Tillman; Giancarlo Esposito; John Cho; Tiffany Boone Country of Origin: United States TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/your-mother-your-mother-your-mother
	17. Zjili: A Story of Sisterhood and The Burdens of Excess Country of Origin: Ghana TIFF Section: Discovery Director: Christine Boateng & Hajara Musah Chamba Cast: TO VERIFY Logline: Three Ghanaian women working as kayayei porters navigate labour, sisterhood and the heavy social expectations placed on women. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/zjili-a-story-of-sisterhood-and-the-burdens-of-excess

DOCUMENTARIES

	18. Darlene Love: I Know Where I've Been 🇨🇦 Logline: A portrait of legendary singer Darlene Love, tracing her extraordinary career and the often-overlooked Black labour and artistry behind some of popular music's most enduring recordings. TIFF Section: TIFF Docs Director: Barry Avrich Cast: Darlene Love; archival/interview appearances include Cher, Dionne Warwick, Bruce Springsteen, David Letterman and others Country of Origin: Canada / United States TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/darlene-love-i-know-where-ive-been
	19. Rapinoe Logline: A documentary portrait of Megan Rapinoe, directed by Rebeca Hunt, bringing a Black/Puerto Rican filmmaking perspective to the project. TIFF Section: TIFF Docs Director: Rebeca Hunt Cast: Megan Rapinoe; additional interview subjects TO VERIFY Country of Origin: United States TIFF: TO VERIFY — official TIFF page
	20. Re/Pair Logline: Black and Jewish thinkers enter candid conversations about identity, solidarity, racism, antisemitism and tensions within and between their communities. TIFF Section: TIFF Docs Director: Lacey Schwartz Delgado Cast: Patrisse Cullors; Rabbi Susan Goldberg; W. Kamau Bell; Adam Mansbach; Van Jones; Batya Ungar-Sargon; Harry Lennix; David Schwimmer and others Country of Origin: United States TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/re-pair

SHORTS



22. Call Me Tim 🇨🇦

Logline: A Canadian short directed by Shamier Anderson.

TIFF Section: Short Cuts

Director: Shamier Anderson

Cast: TO VERIFY

Country of Origin: Canada

TIFF: TO VERIFY — official TIFF film page



23. Dough Man 🇨🇦

Logline: Set in 1970s Halifax, a mysterious newcomer captures the attention of three sisters in a playful story rooted in a Black Halifax community.

TIFF Section: Short Cuts — Programme 03

Director: Brittney Gavin & Amy Mielke

Cast: TO VERIFY

Country of Origin: Canada

TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/dough-man>



24. Koden'n 🇨🇦🇧🇪

Country of Origin: Canada

TIFF Section: Short Cuts — Strange Cuts

Director: Daniel "Tètèl" Chérubin

Cast: Wasiu Salami; Victoria Diamond

Logline: After repeated miscarriages leave a couple without answers, a husband turns to his Haitian heritage in an atmospheric horror exploring faith, ancestral traditions and the unseen.

TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/kodenn>



25. The Day I Smoked a Cigarette with My Father

Logline: A father returns home after years in prison and tries to repair his fractured relationship with his eldest son in 1960s Cairo.

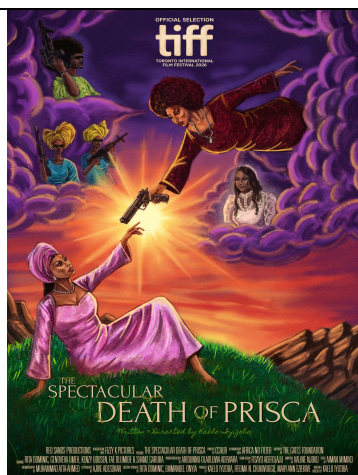
TIFF Section: Short Cuts

Director: Sameh Alaa & Robin Vouters

Cast: TO VERIFY

Country of Origin: France / Egypt / Belgium

TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/short-cuts-2026-programme-06>



26. The Spectacular Death of Prisca

Logline: On her daughter's wedding day, a mother is catapulted into a fever-dream quest to rescue her daughter in a wildly imaginative love letter to 2000s Nollywood.

TIFF Section: Short Cuts

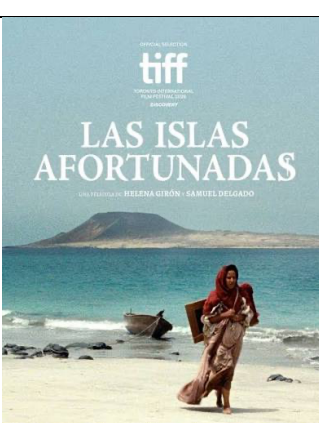
Director: Kaelo Iyizoba

Cast: Rita Dominic; Genoveva Umeh; Kenzy Udosen; Fae Olumide; Shamz Garuba

Country of Origin: Nigeria

TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/short-cuts-2026-programme-05>

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

	27. I Play Rocky Country of Origin: United States TIFF Section: TO VERIFY Director: TO VERIFY Cast: Stephan James as Carl Weathers; additional cast TO VERIFY Logline: Honourable Mention — significant Black Canadian principal talent in the role of Carl Weathers. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/i-play-rocky
	28. Love of Your Life Country of Origin: TO VERIFY TIFF Section: TO VERIFY Director: Rachel Morrison Cast: Aaron Pierre; Margaret Qualley; Gabriel Basso; Patrick Schwarzenegger; Catherine Keener Logline: Honourable Mention — significant principal role for Aaron Pierre, with a meaningful TIFF connection through Clement Virgo's Brother. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/love-of-your-life
	29. The Fortunate Isles Country of Origin: Spain / Greece TIFF Section: Discovery Director: Helena Girón & Samuel Delgado Cast: TO VERIFY Logline: Honourable Mention — significant African/Black historical subject centred on Fátima, an enslaved woman in the Canary Islands. TIFF: https://tiff.net/films/the-fortunate-isles



30. Mr. Nelson, Did You Kill People?

Logline: Black American historical subject and significant Black principal talent; based on Vietnam veteran Allen Nelson's memoir.

Country: Japan / USA / Thailand / Vietnam

TIFF: Special/Competition-related programming — **TO VERIFY** exact TIFF section

Director: Shinya Tsukamoto

Principal Black talent: Rodney Hicks, Tatyana Ali

TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/mr-nelson-did-you-kill-people>



31. Oxygen Masks Will (Not) Drop Automatically

Country of Origin: Brazil

TIFF Section: Primetime

Director: Marcelo Gomes & Carol Minêm

Cast: Ícaro Silva; Eli Ferreira; Kika Sena; additional cast TO VERIFY

Logline: Honourable Mention — significant Black Brazilian principal talent and queer representation within a series about the AIDS crisis in 1980s Rio.

TIFF: <https://tiff.net/films/oxygen-masks-will-not-drop-automatically>

The Black List at a Glance

- Main Black List: 26 titles
- Features: 18
- Documentaries: 3
- Shorts: 5
- Honourable Mentions: 5
- Television: no separate Main List title; the Primetime connection is represented by Oxygen Masks Will (Not) Drop Automatically as an Honourable Mention.
- Immersive: no qualifying title identified.
- TOTAL: 31 TITLES

Did We Miss Something?

The Black List is intended as a living record of Black, African, Caribbean and African Diaspora presence across the Toronto International Film Festival. If you believe a 2026 selection has been overlooked, we invite you to share it with Planet Africa Legacy. Our aim is to make this record as comprehensive and useful as possible for filmmakers, researchers, film students, programmers, educators and future generations.

Suggestions will be reviewed against the same Planet Africa Legacy editorial criteria before any addition or correction is made.

Research Note

Official TIFF film pages are the primary source for title, section and film information. Where a field remains marked TO VERIFY, it should be confirmed against the final TIFF page before publication. Canadian flags are used as production markers only.

ABOUT A Living Legacy

The Planet Africa Legacy website is a digital archive and time capsule created to preserve the films, filmmakers, programmes and stories of Planet Africa's ten-year run. Launched in 2020 as part of the programme's 25th-anniversary celebration, the archive is intended as a resource for researchers, film students, programmers, educators, filmmakers, creators and anyone seeking to understand the people and cultural history behind one of TIFF's most influential chapters.

The Black List carries that legacy forward. Beginning with TIFF 2020, Planet Africa Legacy will return to the Festival each year to document the contemporary presence of Black, African, Caribbean and African Diaspora cinema and screen culture at TIFF, creating a record that can grow year by year. The archive also creates an opportunity to trace returning Planet Africa filmmakers and other meaningful connections between TIFF's history and its contemporary Black cinematic landscape. Where a 2026 filmmaker is documented in the Planet Africa Legacy Filmmaker Index, that connection will be highlighted in the final editorial version.