

Media Release

For immediate release

Library hosts online Black Film Watch Parties

EDMONTON, AB, January 22, 2021 – This February, St. Albert Public Library is excited to offer a series of online Friday night watch parties that connect the community to acclaimed Black Canadian films from the National Film Board and feature special guest hosts from St. Albert and area.

“The Library has a role to play in connecting the community to Black stories for Black History Month, and film watch parties are a fun and engaging way to explore stories that help us better understand the present,” says Library assistant Geoff Manderscheid. “We are featuring three Black Canadian films that range from a full-length vivid portrait of a community facing imposed relocation to a shocking short that examines racism in the fashion industry.”

Each film will be introduced by Manderscheid and the week’s guest host, and will be followed by a post-viewing discussion with the audience. The series is open to all and is supported by local leaders and partners from the Black community.

On February 5, Helen Agbonison co-hosts the screening of *Unarmed Verses* (1hr 25 min). Agbonison is the founder and president of the African and African Descendants Friendship Club of St. Albert.

On February 12, Marilyn McGreer co-hosts the screening and discussion of *The Colour of Beauty* (17 min). McGreer is a St. Albert resident, a published academic author, and a community member of the African and African Descendants Friendship Clubs of St. Albert.

On February 26, Celine Caruso Dixon wraps up the Black Film Watch Parties, co-hosting the screening and discussion of *Show Girls* (52 min). Caruso Dixon is President of the Black Students' Association at the University of Alberta and founder of ZION, an open mic space that works with minority communities and those in juvenile detention centres.

“I’m excited for the chance to join partners from the Black community throughout this series,” says Manderscheid. “It’s such a great opportunity for the hosts and the audience to explore their insights and feelings through these important and accessible films.”

All watch parties screen online at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Register in advance for the Black Film Watch Parties at www.sapl.ca.

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