



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, DC - Thursday, September 24, 2009 and Friday, September 25, 2009 the historic Lincoln Theatre will present **Chocolate City Films: *Reflections on the Diaspora***. Dubbed as a mini film festival, the presentation of films by the Theatre is considered the “best of” the American Black Film Festival (ABFF). Films featured for this event include the public debut of the critically acclaimed “*Why We Laugh*” a film by directed by Robert Townsend; “*Without Bias; The Len Bias Story*” titled after the name of former University of Maryland basketball superstar and Boston Celtics draft pick of 1986, Len Bias; “*4 Minutes*” director Dwayne Boyd brings hilarity to the new medium of meeting and dating in a time capsule and “*Blue*” depicts a prize fighter struggle to put his dark past behind him, when love seems to altar his course and makes him face redemption while preparing for the fight of his life.

Each film explores subjects that reflect upon the Diaspora starting with “*Why We Laugh*” which is a film about Black Comedians on Black Comedy that gives a sweeping account of the evolution of black comedy in America. Inspired by comedian Darryl Littleton's book, director Robert Townsend and writer Quincy Newell have crafted a no-holds-barred documentary that is both an insider's take and a critical examination of the cultural influence of black comedy. Townsend and Newell enrich this hilarious and spectacularly archived film by including interviews with prominent scholars, politicians, cultural critics, and a host of notable comics, including Bill Cosby, Chris Rock, Keenan Ivory Wayans, and Eddie Griffin. *Why We Laugh* tracks the way black comedy has evolved from Stepin Fetchit and minstrels in blackface to the politically tinged humor of Dick Gregory, and from the television success of Good Times and The Jeffersons to the big-screen accomplishments of stars like Eddie Murphy and Whoopi Goldberg. The film also turns a perceptive eye on the controversial career of Dave Chapelle and the implications of corporate efforts to capitalize on the massive successes of Russell Simmons's Def Comedy Jam and Spike Lee's “The Original Kings of Comedy”. *Why We Laugh* is a tribute to the way individuals can change history, as well as a cautionary tale about how tenuous that change can be.

The film, “*Without Bias: The Len Bias Story*” titled after the name of former University of Maryland

basketball superstar and Boston Celtics draft pick of 1986, Len Bias, still provokes powerful and immediate responses, more than 20 years after his death. The most ambitious, comprehensive and uncompromising account of Bias' life and death is revealed in an explosive documentary, featuring interviews with his closest teammates, friends and family. For the first time, we hear first-hand accounts of what transpired during Bias' final hours from those who were with him at the time of his death. His heartbreaking fall from grace changed the game forever on the court, where many considered him to be Michael Jordan's closest rival, and in the courtroom, where generations continue to face the harsh punishment of the nation's drug policies that were influenced by his controversial death. Len Bias is a must-see chronicling of how one man's meteoric rise to fame was derailed by a fatal decision that still echoes throughout sports and the criminal justice system. Director, Kirk Fraser and Co-Executive Producers James Bias: Co-Executive Producer and Lonise Bias: Co-Executive Producer delivers an up close and personal film.

In the film “4 Minutes” Terrance (Jason Sylvain) is a school teacher whose priority is to be the dad his father, Carl (Gregalan Williams, “Remember the Titans”) never was. He allows his free loading ex-wife, of five years, to continue living with him for the sake of their son. His best friend Omar (Dwayne Boyd, “The Gospel”) is a scheming womanizer who tells whatever lie he has to in order to sleep with as many women as possible. Everything is going routine until Omar persuades Terrance to go to a speed-dating event hosted by the local radio station. Hilarity ensues as the two find themselves in sidesplitting predicaments with a host of different women as they search for love in this raucous romantic comedy. Also starring Pierre (“How To Be A Player”), “Grand Hustle” Recording artist Lil’ Duval, Ja’el Roberson and platinum recording artist Bobby Valentino.

“Blue” is a film directed by Ryan Mingingham, As a prize fighter struggles to put his dark past behind him, love seems to altar his course and makes him face redemption while preparing for the fight of his life.

**Chocolate City: *Reflections on the Diaspora*
Film Schedule**

Thursday, Sept 24

6:30 pm - WHY WE LAUGH: *Black Comedians on Black Comedy*
9:00 pm - 4 MINUTES*

Friday, Sept 25

7:00 pm - BLUE*
9:15 pm - WITHOUT BIAS *The Len Bias Story* *

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