

*The nation's only documentary public television series
on contemporary art, life and culture across the African Diaspora.*

Season 8



Hosted by Jussie Smollett

**DAYS OF HOPE • PAN! OUR MUSIC ODYSSEY • TCHINDAS
FIRST FRIDAY • SHORTS PROGRAM: MY AFRICA IS & NATIVE SUN**

Premieres on:



**Monday, January 18, 2016
8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT**

**with new weekly episodes
through February 15, 2016**

For photos and additional film information:

<http://bitly.com/AfroPop-dropbox>

Presented by:





PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'AFROPOP' TELEVISION SERIES BEATS THE DRUM FOR 'PAN'

Episode two of the documentary series is '*Pan! Our Music Odyssey*', an exploration of the magic and mystery behind the steel drum, or pan

Premieres on WORLD Channel on Monday, January 25

NEW YORK (January 13, 2016)—Season eight of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*—the nation's only documentary series about life, art and culture across the African Diaspora—continues with the electrifying story of the steel drum, or pan. Premiering on Monday, January 25, at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on [WORLD Channel](http://worldchannel.org), directors Jérôme Guiot and Thierry Teston's high-energy *Pan! Our Music Odyssey* is a tale of how the steel drum came to be—and how it came to be so big! *AfroPoP* is hosted by Jussie Smollett, star of the hit FOX TV show *Empire*, produced by [National Black Programming Consortium \(NBPC\)](http://nbpc.org) and co-presented by [American Public Television \(APT\)](http://apt.org).

Through docudrama, competition footage and interviews, *Pan! Our Music Odyssey* explores the development of the steel drum in Trinidad & Tobago to its place as a musical force around the world. While, initially, urban youth would form bands that became bitter and often bloody rivalries, soon their fierce loyalties played out in competitions. The film captures the excitement as musicians show up with their "A" game at Panorama, the ultimate international steel band competition.

"Using dramatizations based on real historical events, the filmmakers have given us a riveting look at the history of the steel drum, all while capturing its immense popularity today, said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions and *AfroPoP* Executive Producer Kay Shaw. "We are very excited to bring this story, as it has never been told before, to US audiences as the arts centerpiece of this season's series."

New episodes of *AfroPoP* premiere weekly on Mondays through February 15. The show kicks off on Monday, January 18, with *Days of Hope*. Director Ditte Haarløv Johnsen's film is an insightful portrait of three West African migrants who cross the Sahara desert and Atlantic Ocean in a search for opportunity and safety in Europe, only to find their struggle has just begun.

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On February 1, the show heads to São Vicente in Cape Verde on February 1 with Pablo García Pérez de Lara and Marc Serena's **Tchindas**. The film introduces viewers to Tchinda, a transgender woman so cherished that her name has become synonymous with LGBT people in the area. The documentary follows the celebrated character and her friends as they prepare for the beloved annual carnival and its thousands of revelers.

On February 8, the series visits Oakland, California, once considered one of the most dangerous cities in America, as it works to clean up its image. The key tool? Its First Friday monthly street festivals. When a young Black man is murdered during the event, however, the fate of the community celebration is thrown into question. N'Jeri Eaton and Mario Furloni's **First Friday** accompanies a diverse collection of city figures as they attend the First Friday that follows the tragic death.

The series returns to Africa—both East and West—on February 15 with a shorts program that celebrates the hope and inspiration of our youth. Nosarieme Garrick's **My Africa Is** turns the spotlight on Nairobi and trailblazing young designers, inventors and musicians breaking ground to change Kenya's future. Terence Nance and Blitz the Ambassador's **Native Sun** takes viewers on a trip through Ghana with an eight-year-old on the hunt for his father after the early death of his mother.

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange is produced by Angela Tucker and directed by Duana Butler. The series is produced with the generous support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Endowment for the Arts.

For details on *AfroPoP*, visit www.blackpublicmedia.org. APT distributes the series to the full public television system in February 2016. Viewers may find out when and where to watch, including additional air dates for each of the episodes, by checking local listings or online at www.APTonline.org.

ABOUT THE HOST

Jussie Smollett stars as Jamal Lyon on the hit series *Empire* from producer/director Lee Daniels. His role allows him to blend his acting, singing and songwriting skills in the high-octane family drama, which is a historic hit on FOX. Smollett's feature film credits include *The Mighty Ducks*, Rob Reiner's *North*, and Alex Haley's *Queen* (alongside Halle Berry and Danny Glover). He also appeared in the telefilm *A Little Piece of Heaven*, opposite Cloris Leachman, and starred with his five real-life siblings in the network comedy *On Our Own*. Smollett recently appeared on *Revenge* and *The Mindy Project*, and was seen in the independent film *Ask Me Anything*. He received rave reviews for his portrayal of Magnus, a gay medical student hosting his college friends in New York City, in the 2012 film *The Skinny*.

Smollett will next be seen in the new WGN thriller *Underground* in 2016 and he is currently recording his album, described as a mix of pop and soul with alternative hip-hop beats.

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The WORLD Channel delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming to US audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at [worldchannel.org](#). WORLD reached 35.8 million unique viewers 18+ last year (55% adults 18-49) and over-indexes in key diversity demographics.* Online, the WORLD Channel expands on broadcast topics and fuels dialogue across social media, providing opportunities for broad and diverse audience interaction (*Source: Nielsen Local Buyer Reach Scorecard 01/14-12/14). WORLD is programmed by WGBH/Boston, in

partnership with American Public Television and WNET/New York, and in association with the American Public Television and National Educational Telecommunications Association. Funding for the WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Ford Foundation. Additional funding for *America ReFramed* is provided by the MacArthur Foundation.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'AFROPOP' TELEVISION SERIES TAKES ON IMMIGRATION

Timely season opener gives a personal view of the immigration issue as concerns about illegal aliens and refugees dominate headlines

Jussie Smollett hosts season eight of the documentary series

Premieres on WORLD Channel on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 18

NEW YORK (January 4, 2016)—Season eight of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* opens with an unflinching portrait of life as an immigrant, as concerns about illegal immigration and refugees reach fever pitch in America and across the world. The documentary series leads off Monday, January 18, at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on [WORLD Channel](http://worldchannel.org) with director Ditte Haarløv Johnsen's *Days of Hope*. The season premiere follows three African immigrants who brave it all for a better life in Europe. Jussie Smollett, star of the hit FOX TV show *Empire*, serves as eighth season host for the series, which is produced by [National Black Programming Consortium \(NBPC\)](http://nbpc.tv) and co-presented by [American Public Television \(APT\)](http://americanpublic.com).

AfroPoP takes on important issues facing the global black community, and here it is especially on point. Episode one of the series, *Days of Hope*, puts a face—or three—on the immigration issue, showing the lengths to which brave souls will go to better their lives and their families' dire circumstances. But the dangerous journey these individuals take is nothing in comparison with the horrors they face in their adopted countries.

"The scale and sheer numbers of immigrants from Mexico and Central America as well as the Syrian refugee crisis overshadow any conversation about immigration from other communities of color, where the human rights concerns are just as critical." said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions and *AfroPoP* Executive Producer Kay Shaw. "The opportunity to broadcast a beautifully told story about the plight of West Africans facing the same risks and challenges is a reminder that the issue is global, multi-faceted and multi-racial."

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New episodes of the five-part series premiere weekly through February 15. The show continues with:

Directors Jérôme Guiot and Thierry Teston's **Pan! Our Music Odyssey** (January 25), a joyful celebration of the melodious steel drum. The film explores the magical instrument from its development in Trinidad to its celebration around the world, as bands from across the globe gather to compete in the ultimate steel band competition: Panorama.

Pablo García Pérez de Lara and Marc Serena's **Tchindas** (February 1), which transports viewers to São Vicente in Cape Verde. There we meet Tchinda, a transgender woman who is so cherished that her name has become synonymous with LGBT people in the area. The documentary follows the celebrated character, out and proud since 1998, as she and her cohorts prepare for the beloved annual carnival.

N'Jeri Eaton and Mario Furloni's **First Friday** (February 8), which heads to Oakland, California—a city with a reputation as one of the most dangerous in America—as it works to rebrand itself through its successful First Fridays monthly street festival. The murder of a young Black man sends the city reeling, threatening the very survival of this community celebration and, perhaps, the town's very renaissance.

A shorts program (February 15) celebrating youth and the hope they both possess and inspire—with films from the west and east coasts of Africa. Nosarieme Garrick's **My Africa Is**, set in the bustling, modern city of Nairobi, introduces viewers to dynamic youth envisioning a new Kenya—designers, inventors and musicians changing the face of their communities through innovation and entrepreneurship. Terence Nance and Blitz the Ambassador's **Native Sun** helps viewers see Ghana through the eyes and dreams of an eight-year-old in search of his father.

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange is produced by Angela Tucker and directed by Duana Butler. The series is produced with the generous support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Endowment for the Arts.

For details on *AfroPoP*, visit www.blackpublicmedia.org. APT distributes the series to the full public television system in February 2016. Viewers may find out when and where to watch, including additional air dates for each of the episodes, by checking local listings or online at www.APTonline.org.

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The Mighty Ducks, Rob Reiner's *North*, and Alex Haley's *Queen* (alongside Halle Berry and Danny Glover). He also appeared in the telefilm *A Little Piece of Heaven*, opposite Cloris Leachman, and starred with his five real-life siblings in the network comedy *On Our Own*. Smollett recently appeared on *Revenge* and *The Mindy Project*, and was seen in the independent film *Ask Me Anything*. He received rave reviews for his portrayal of Magnus, a gay medical student hosting his college friends in New York City, in the 2012 film *The Skinny*.

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PRESS RELEASE

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JUSSIE SMOLLETT TO HOST EIGHTH SEASON OF 'AFROPOP' TELEVISION SERIES

Documentary series premieres on Monday, January 18, on WORLD Channel

NEW YORK (December 21, 2015)—Jussie Smollett will host the eighth season of the public television show *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*. The star of the hit FOX TV show *Empire* will emcee the popular show about contemporary art, life and culture across the African Diaspora as it premieres on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 18, at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on [WORLD Channel](#). New episodes premiere weekly through February 15. *AfroPoP* is produced by [National Black Programming Consortium \(NBPC\)](#) and co-presented by [American Public Television \(APT\)](#), which distributes the series to the full public television system in February 2016.

The breakout star of *Empire*, Lee Daniels and Danny Strong's record-breaking series, Smollett plays Jamal Lyons, drawing raves for his musical performances. The talented actor-singer-songwriter has appeared in *The Mighty Ducks*, Rob Reiner's *North*, Alex Haley's *Queen*, and in *Revenge* and *The Mindy Project*. Smollett will also be seen in the new WGN thriller *Underground* in 2016. The acclaimed entertainer is also involved in numerous humanitarian pursuits, sitting on the boards of the Black AIDS Institute, Artists for a New South Africa and the RuJohn Foundation.

Previous hosts of *AfroPoP* include Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Wyatt Cenac, Gabourey Sidibe, Anthony Mackie and Yaya DaCosta.

"*AfroPoP*'s engaging, real-life tales add to the collection of rich Black stories that audiences are clamoring for and I wanted to be a part of bringing them to national attention," said Smollett.

"Jussie is an immense talent with a huge heart and a global perspective on issues, making him the perfect choice as host of the series," said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions and *AfroPoP* Executive Producer Kay Shaw. "The range and diversity of the content presented appeared to have really resonated with him and he was an informed host, contributing his knowledge of the issues addressed in the documentaries."

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The five-week series takes viewers on a journey of hope through three continents and the Caribbean. Episodes include:

Director Ditte Haarløv Johnsen's **Days of Hope** (January 18), a nuanced look at the unflinching courage of three West African migrants who cross the Sahara desert and Atlantic Ocean in a search for opportunity and safety in Europe. The timely documentary, given current headlines about immigration and refugees, follows the brave souls as they hope for a better life for themselves and their families. Will they find a dream or encounter a nightmare?

Directors Jérôme Guiot and Thierry Teston's **Pan! Our Music Odyssey** (January 25), a joyful celebration of the melodious steel drum. The film explores the magical instrument from its development in Trinidad to its celebration around the world, as bands from across the globe gather to compete in the ultimate steel band competition: Panorama.

Pablo García Pérez de Lara and Marc Serena's **Tchindas** (February 1), which transports viewers to São Vicente in Cape Verde. There we meet Tchinda, a transgender woman who is so cherished that her name has become synonymous with LGBT people in the area. The documentary follows the celebrated character, out and proud since 1998, as she and her cohorts prepare for the beloved annual carnival.

N'Jeri Eaton and Mario Furloni's **First Friday** (February 8), which heads to Oakland, California—a city with a reputation as one of the most dangerous in America—as it works to rebrand itself through its successful First Fridays monthly street festival. The murder of a young Black man sends the city reeling, threatening the very survival of this community celebration and, perhaps, the town's very renaissance.

A shorts program (February 15) celebrating youth and the hope they both possess and inspire—with films from the west and east coasts of Africa. Nosarieme Garrick's **My Africa Is**, set in the bustling, modern city of Nairobi, introduces viewers to dynamic youth envisioning a new Kenya—designers, inventors and musicians changing the face of their communities through innovation and entrepreneurship. Terence Nance and Blitz the Ambassador's **Native Sun** helps viewers see Ghana through the eyes and dreams of an eight-year-old in search of his father.

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PRESS RELEASE

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EIGHTH SEASON OF 'AFROPOP' TELEVISION SERIES PREMIERES JANUARY 18

Documentary series takes viewers on a journey of hope to far-flung corners of the African Diaspora as it returns to public television's WORLD Channel on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

NEW YORK (December 8, 2015)—Viewers will take a journey of hope as the public television series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* returns for its eighth season on [WORLD Channel](http://worldchannel.org) this winter. The documentary series' travel companions are diverse and brave souls from three continents and the Caribbean. **The program premieres on [WORLD Channel](http://worldchannel.org) on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 18, at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT—check local listings—with new episodes premiering weekly through Monday, February 15. *AfroPoP* is produced by [National Black Programming Consortium \(NBPC\)](http://nbpc.tv) and co-presented by [American Public Television \(APT\)](http://apt.org). APT distributes the series to the full public television system in February 2016.**

"With each season of *AfroPoP*, we introduce audiences to new places, people and perspectives to expand their understanding of the African Diaspora today. Season eight's stories are just as beautifully and poignantly told but will take audiences closer to the emotional and spiritual heart of the people, places and cultures of Trinidad, East and West Africa and even here in the U.S. and Europe," said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions Kay Shaw. "Audiences should get ready for a very special journey."

"WORLD Channel is excited to help showcase Season 8 of *AfroPoP* with our partners at APT." said WORLD Executive Producer Chris Hastings. "With our mission to bring audiences diverse and unique stories from around the world, *AfroPoP*'s films of the African Diaspora are a critical addition to WORLD's offerings."

As immigration and refugee concerns dominate the news, *AfroPoP* takes on migration and asylum head on. The series begins its journey on the Saharan shores of the Atlantic Ocean as an African immigrant sets off to Europe with buoyant expectations of a better life. Director Ditte Haarløv Johnsen's ***Days of Hope*** (January 18) is a nuanced look at the unflinching courage of three West African migrants who cross the Sahara desert and Atlantic Ocean in a search for opportunity and safety.

- more -

The next stop is the Caribbean with **Pan! Our Music Odyssey** (January 25), a joyful celebration of the melodious steel drum. Directors Jérôme Guiot and Thierry Teston explore the magical instrument from its development in Trinidad to its celebration around the world, as bands from across the globe gather to compete in the ultimate steel band competition: Panorama.

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The festivities continue as *AfroPoP* travels to Oakland, California—a city with a reputation as one of the most dangerous in America—as it works to rebrand itself through its successful First Fridays monthly street festival. The murder of a young Black man sends the city reeling, threatening the very survival of this community celebration and, perhaps, the town's very renaissance. **First Fridays** (February 8) by N' Jeri Eaton and Mario Furloni follows six Oakland figures as their lives connect one Friday at this showcase of art and culture.

The journey ends on the ultimate expression of hope—our youth—with shorts from the west and east coasts of Africa (Monday, February 15). Nosarieme Garrick's **My Africa Is**, set in the bustling, modern city of Nairobi, introduces viewers to dynamic youth envisioning a new Kenya—designers, inventors and musicians changing the face of their communities through innovation and entrepreneurship. Terence Nance and Blitz the Ambassador's **Native Sun** helps viewers see Ghana through the eyes and dreams of an eight-year-old in search of his father.

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Many complicated, opposing and controversial viewpoints are often presented about Africans, African Americans and people of the African Diaspora. Perhaps because of this, the experiences of people of the African Diaspora are one of the most fertile grounds in our modern age for new, fresh and exciting exploration.

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange is the only U.S.-based public television show featuring independent documentaries and short films about contemporary life, art and culture across the African Diaspora. The African Diaspora includes Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, South America, Europe, the U.S., and anywhere people of African descent have made a significant contribution to the culture.

Produced by the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) and distributed by American Public Television (APT), **AfroPoP** reaches more than 80% of the U.S. television market, with plays in major cities including New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago and Washington, DC.

As it heads into its eighth season, **AfroPoP** has already featured 37 documentaries. Its films include such titles as *An African Election*, *Rise Up: Reggae Underground*, *Fighting Spirit*, *Calypso Rose: Lioness of the Jungle*, *Hip Hop Revolution*, *Doin' It In the Park: Pick Up Basketball NYC* and *Boys of Summer*. Since 2011, **AfroPoP's** online content has featured short web serial content such as *Haiti: One Day, One Destiny*, *Seeking Asylum* and a Caribbean short series.

In its ongoing commitment to provide broadcast opportunities to producers of color, more than 50 percent of the titles featured in the **AfroPoP** series are made by filmmakers of color, and more than 50 percent are of African American or Black African descent. Better than 60 percent of the titles are made by women filmmakers.

AfroPoP's list of celebrity hosts includes Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Gabourey Sidibe, Wyatt Cenac, Anthony Mackie and Yaya DaCosta.

National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC), founded in 1979, is a nonprofit media arts organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for film producers and media makers telling contemporary stories about the African American and African Diaspora experience in public media.

Find us at: BlackPublicMedia.org, Twitter: [@BlkPublicMedia](https://twitter.com/BlkPublicMedia); Facebook: [National Black Programming Consortium](https://www.facebook.com/NationalBlackProgrammingConsortium)

ABOUT THE EPISODES

Episode 1

Days of Hope

by

Ditte Haarløv Johnsen

WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:

Monday, January 18, 2015

8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT

(reairs; check local listings)



Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd5vb-1sXPU>

Website:

<http://www.journeyman.tv/66872/documentaries/days-of-hope-hd.html>

Synopses:

Days of Hope weaves three immigrant stories into a unflinching portrait of courage and sacrifice as they travel, by any means, across deserts and oceans from Africa to Europe in the hopes of providing a better life for the families they leave behind. *Days of Hope* presents the human side of these immigrant stories as they discover that to traverse the waters that separate them from one continent is one thing; to traverse the gulf that separates them from the rest of humanity is quite another.



Every year thousands of Africans leave their families behind and risk their lives in hope of a better life. Ditte Haarløv Johnsen's new film, *Days of Hope*, brings us close to these people, providing an inside look at the struggles these emigrants face. The film moves between the Mauritanian coastal town of Nouadhibou, starting point for the often fatal journey to Europe; Sicilian asylums for illegal boat refugees, where those that survive the crossing languish behind bars; and finally, the harsh reality of the streets of Copenhagen. Having abandoned his girlfriend and their newborn child in Mali, Harouna is doing his best just to survive in Nouadhibou, constantly navigating between hope and despair. Thelma has managed to reunite with her mother, but struggles to overcome the obstacles of being a young African woman in Copenhagen. Austin made it across the Mediterranean, through Italy, and all the way to Denmark, where he tries to make ends meet by collecting bottles in the streets. While newspapers and TV stations talk of trafficking and illegal aliens, *Days of Hope* looks at the people behind the headlines. This is the story of the millions of people who leave their loved ones behind in the hope of providing for them, and whose only dream is to lead a dignified life.

Director's Bio:

Award-winning film director **Ditte Haarløv Johnsen** grew up in Maputo, Mozambique, in a family where both parents were involved in governmental development work. She is a photographer and has exhibited her work in Syria, Canada, Denmark and South Africa. She graduated from the documentary department at the Danish Film School in 2007 with her much acclaimed film *One Day* about a Nigerian prostitute in Copenhagen. *Days of Hope* is Ditte's first feature-length documentary.

Episode 2**PAN! Our Music****Odyssey**

by

Jérôme Guiot**and Thierry Teston****WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:****Monday, January 25, 2015****8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT**

(reairs; check local listings)

**Trailer:**<https://vimeo.com/98270966>**Website:**<http://www.pan.tt/>**Social Media:**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/panwearetheworld>

Twitter: @PANToTheWorld

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/panourmusicodyssey>**Synopses:**

Since the evolution of pan—a musical instrument crafted from oil drums as early as 1939 and perfected in the 1950s—steel bands have mushroomed in every corner of the planet. Each year, philharmonic orchestras of over 100 musicians come to Trinidad from all countries of the world to compete for the greatest Pan event: the Panaroma.

Pan is the story of the men and women throughout the Caribbean and the world who staked all on their art and whose passion and daring has drawn them to the world championships. Their stories are interlaced with re-enactments of the rags-to-riches tale of the steel band movement, which was born in poverty and violence but climbed to the highest levels of social and artistic acceptance without losing its life-or-death urgency.



Between 1939 and 1945, during World War II, developed nations savaged one another: the planet was on fire. In Trinidad & Tobago, underprivileged urban gangs created a new musical instrument, and perfected it by the 1950s. The pan was born!

Since then, steel bands have mushroomed in every corner of the planet. Still, Trinidad remains the Mecca, where each year philharmonic orchestras of more than 100 musicians, many coming from all countries of the world, compete for the greatest pan event: the Panaroma.

This film is the story of men and women who staked all on their art, and of French, Japanese and Americans, whose passion and daring has drawn them to the world championships. It is an extraordinary global human adventure.

Their stories are interlaced with re-enactments of the rags-to-riches tale of the steel band movement, which was born into poverty and violence but climbed to the highest levels of social and artistic acceptance without losing its life-or-death urgency.

The dramatizations constitute a continuous narrative thread, which focuses on a pivotal moment in the history of pan, between 1947 and 1951. In this story a 19-year-old man nicknamed Goldteeth and his brother Roy, steal two 55-gallon oil drums to make their instruments, rather than the traditionally smaller paint cans. Their flight from the police and battles with the ferocious rival band, Red Army, leads them to finally sublimate this warfare into a peaceful musical battle.

Awards:

Outstanding Documentary Feature Award	Reelworld Film Festival (Canada)
Mention Speciale du Jury category feature film	FEMI international film festival – Guadeloupe in partnership with France Television

Directors' Bios:

Jérôme Guiot is the Belgian winner of the 2014 Victory music with Formidable for Stromae. Jérôme studied at INRACI graduated in 2009 in editing and directing. Some of his recent works includes *PAN! Our Music Odyssey* in 2014, *The Voice Belgium* (season two director), *The Meri Project* and several other video clip and web documentaries.

Thierry Teston has been a director since 2009. He has worked on several video clips such as *Renan* and *Give him the Ooh La la*, as well as on many documentaries. In 2010, he was awarded the prestigious Prix Constantin 2010 for *Selah Sue*, a documentary for France 5. His documentary *La Cité de la Danse* was the official selection of FIPA 2013.

Kim Johnson (writer), currently the Director of the Carnival Institute of Trinidad and Tobago, an Anthony N. Sabga Laureate for Arts & Letters, is the foremost historian of pan. Johnson is a Senior Research Fellow at The Academy for Arts, Letters, Culture and Public Affairs at The University of Trinidad and Tobago. His ongoing projects include *The Virtual Museum of Trinidad and Tobago* (an online encyclopedia of TT culture) and *Ways of Hearing*, a study of music in the Americas. Johnson's forthcoming books include *Jahaji Tempo: A Biographical Prelude to Indo-Trini Music* and the multimedia pan exhibition *The Audacity of the Creole Imagination*.

Episode 3

Tchindas

by

**Pablo García Pérez de Lara
and Marc Serena**

WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:
Monday, February 1, 2015
8 p.m.ET/5 p.m. PT
(reairs; check local listings)



Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/130406667>

Website:

<http://www.tchindas.com/>

Social Media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tchindas

Twitter: @tchindasfilm

Synopsis:

Calm reigns in São Vicente, a small Cape Verdean island (off the West Coast of Africa) where most of the residents have lived all of their lives. In Mindelo we meet Tchinda, one of their most beloved women, especially after coming out as a transgender person in the local newspaper in 1998. Since then, her name has become the way local people call queer Cape Verdeans. Tchinda sells "coxinhas" (fried balls of chicken) by day and in the evening is responsible for security at her bar as music and grog, the famous local rum, permeates every corner of the island. In February the island evolves as thousands of people pack into the streets for Carnival.



The calm reigns in São Vicente, a small Cape Verdean island (sub-Saharan Africa) where most of the residents have lived all of their lives. In Mindelo we meet Tchinda, one of their most beloved women, especially after coming out as a transgender person in the local newspaper in 1998. Since then, her name has become the way local people call queer Cape Verdeans.

But Tchinda remains humble and has never taken advantage of that. Every afternoon in her neighborhood, she sells coxinhas, a Brazilian treat of delicious fried balls of chicken.

During the night, music permeates every corner of the island and the famous local rum, grog, appears. People sing and everyone becomes cheerier. It's also when Tchinda is responsible for the security of her bar, and sometimes has to use force to get some heavy drinker away.

But all those tensions are nothing compared with the month leading up to their Carnival in February. The rhythm of the island evolves as thousands of people pack in to the streets.

The days leading up to the event are hectic and the locals work together to make something beautiful out of nothing. They recycle everything they can to create their magic.

Tchinda and her friends, Elvis and Edinha, are the soul of this Carnival, a "Little Brazil" as their most acclaimed singer, Cesária Évora (1941-2011), described it in one of her most famous songs.

Awards:

Grand Jury Award

Best Feature Documentary

Best National Doc

Best National Film, Best Direction, Audience Award

Outfest Los Angeles

Chicago Reeling LGBT Film Festival

MiradasDoc

LesGaiCineMad

Directors' Bios:

Pablo García Pérez de Lara has directed two full-length films: *Fuente Álamo, the Caress of Time* (2001), selected in Karlovy Vary and *Butterfly* (2007), in the official section of Karlovy Vary and San Sebastián. His short film *Alicia Portrayed* (2002) was selected by the Semaine de la critique du festival de Cannes. He's been the Director of Photography of the acclaimed *Familystrip from Luís Miñarro* and *The K Effect: Stalin's Editor* (2012) from Valentí Figueres, screened in 60 festivals. He teaches cinema in the school in the Cinema in Curs program.

Marc Serena is a journalist and this is his directorial debut. He normally works as a screenwriter for Spanish TV as TVC, TVE and Barcelona TV. He has just published *Un-African love?* (2014), compiling voices from the LGBT community from 15 African countries. His previous book, *Trip to the 25* (2011), received great success in Asia, where it has been published in Chinese and Korean.

Episode 4

First Friday

by

N'Jeri Eaton

and

Mario Furloni

WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:

Monday, February 8, 2015

8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT

(reairs; check local listings)



Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/63674179>

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/firstfridayfilm>

Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstfridayfilm/>

Synopses:

On the first Friday of every month, thousands of people gather in the streets of downtown Oakland. Rich and poor, young and old, Black and White, they all meet here. As the event grows, it becomes symbolically attached to the city's larger cultural and economic renaissance. But after a teenager is murdered during the event, the future of First Fridays and the rebirth of Oakland itself is in peril. This film provides a multi-layered snapshot of a fascinating American city while exploring issues of redevelopment, gentrification and violence that many other urban centers face.



On the first Friday of every month, thousands of people congregate in the streets of downtown Oakland. Originally an art-crawl like so many around the country, First Friday becomes a cultural mecca, a democratic meeting ground for the effervescent sub-cultures of the city's diverse population. Once a month, rich and poor, young and old, Black and White, all meet here. As the event grows, it becomes symbolically attached to the city's larger cultural and economic renaissance.

But after a teenager is murdered during one of the events, the future of First Friday and the rebirth of Oakland itself is in peril. Can a city truly transform itself while its troubled past of violence and inequality hides just under the surface?

The film follows six characters during the event, just a month after the shooting. A student, a councilwoman, a community organizer, a young professional couple, an educator—their lives intersect at First Friday. They each have a stake in the continued success of the event and the city they live in. They come to First Fridays looking for different things. Copes sells Oakland-themed shirts here, and tries to make the event an avenue for local entrepreneurs like himself. Casey needs a safe place where a teenager from East Oakland can hang out at night. Lukas wants to use music to create a space where his students and other attendees can come together and not fear each other. Dan and Shaun, young professionals new to the city, yearn to become a part of a community that sees them as gentrifiers. Lynette wants to bridge the divide in her district between the longer time residents and recent transplants who are part of this wave of redevelopment.

And while art, music and the very spirit of Oakland are celebrated, underlying tensions are also apparent. On almost every block there is a memorial or shrine to Kiante Campbell, who was murdered there the month before. There are activists who shout from bullhorns about the death of Alan Blueford, the victim of a controversial shooting by Oakland police just months before. Both Kiante and Alan are Black teenagers who died at 18 years old, the same age as our character Casey, and they serve as constant reminders of the danger of being a young, Black man in this city.

When Lynette and Copes try to organize a moment of silence for all of the victims of violence, the event suddenly gets crashed by members of the Occupy Oakland movement who decide to hold a "Fuck the Police" march.

This film provides a multi-layered snapshot of one of the most fascinating cities in America today, and a window into issues of redevelopment, gentrification and violence that many other urban centers face.

Directors' Bios:

N'Jeri Eaton is a freelance producer, editor and youth media educator. Her short film *Perry County* (IDA Awards nominee) screened at festivals around the country is now being distributed by New Day Films. *City Fish* (Audience Award Winner, Doc Challenge) premiered at Hot Docs Documentary Film Festival and was broadcast on the Documentary Channel. She was Associate Producer for *The Waiting Room* (Gotham Awards and Independent Spirit Awards nominee). Eaton has produced work for TIME.com and others. She has also worked for the Bay Area Video Coalition (BAVC) as a Video Production Instructor, teaching production skills to at-risk youth in Oakland and San Francisco. She is currently the Content Development and Initiative Manager at the Independent Television Service (ITVS). Eaton received her M.J. at the UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism and her B.A. in Visual Media Arts Studies from Emerson College.

Mario Furloni is a Brazilian filmmaker and cinematographer based in Oakland, California. He is co-director of the documentary *First Friday* and cinematographer and co-producer in the ITVS-funded documentary *The Return*. Mario studied documentary filmmaking at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, where he was a Carnegie-Knight News21 fellow, and his documentary/journalism work has appeared on PBS and in the New York Times and TIME, among others. His film *Pot Country* (co-directed with Kate McLean), won Best Documentary at the USA Short Film Festival (2012), was official selection at Hot Docs (2012), Big Sky (2011) and a national finalist for the 2012 Student Academy Awards. He recently shot the Sundance short *After My Garden Grows*, directed by Megan Mylan. He's currently developing the narrative feature *Freeland*, supported by IFP and San Francisco Film Society.

Episode 5

SHORTS PROGRAM

My Africa Is

by

Nosarieme Garrick

and

Native Sun

by

Terence Nance

and Blitz the Ambassador



WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:

Monday, February 15, 2015

8 p.m.ET/5 p.m. PT

(reairs; check local listings)

Trailers:

My Africa Is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDIHD5twT1M>

Native Sun

<https://vimeo.com/20114112>

Synopses:

My Africa Is peers into the soul and spirit of Nairobi through three stories of innovation. Viewers will meet game developers who create African superheroes to inspire Kenyan youth; a self-taught engineer who builds drones as a solution to Kenya's poaching problem and trains youth in the technology to build human capacity; and two punk rock bands that are part of a growing rock scene in Nairobi. Along the way viewers will be introduced to the city, a restless and bustling metropolis with a musicality and energy that only locals can fathom. Meet the Africa that most don't know but which is the reality of millions.

Native Sun follows Mumin, a precocious young boy who makes the long trip to Accra from his home in Ghana's rural northern region. He leaves, having just experienced his mother's death. Her last words to him were a directive to find the father he has never met.

Directors' Bios:

Nosarieme Garrick is Nosarieme Garrick is a director with roots in Nigeria and the United States. She started *My Africa Is* as a Web-based series to share the stories of young people living, thriving, inspiring and connecting the world community. The series is now having its broadcast television debut. As a writer, she has covered African culture for outlets like MTV Staying Alive,

CNN, Afropopmag, Africa is a Country, and Women's eNews. In 2010, she founded Vote or Quench, a youth empowerment campaign educating young Nigerians on the importance of their vote in local and national elections. Garrick also spearheaded the live production of the first youth-centered presidential debate.

Terence Nance is a Dallas-born artist, who makes films, music videos, installations, performances and music (under the name Terence Etc.). His first feature film, *An Oversimplification of Her Beauty*, premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Filmmaker magazine selected him as one of the 25 new faces of independent film. *Oversimplification* won the 2012 Gotham Award for "Best Film Not Playing at a Theater Near You" but has since been released theatrically in the US, UK, France, and South Africa. Terence is also an accomplished music video director having collaborated on short films and music videos with Blitz the Ambassador, Cody ChesnuTT and Pharoahe Monch to name a few. Terence is currently developing his next feature film.

Blitz the Ambassador (S. Bazawule) is an award-winning musician and filmmaker born in Accra, Ghana and based in Brooklyn. Blitz has released three studio albums, *Stereotype* (2009), *Native Sun* (2011) and *Afropolitan Dreams* (2014) and has toured in 32 countries at festivals such as Roskilde (Denmark), Solidays (France) Mawazine (Morocco) Virada Cultural (Brazil). His current film project is *Diasporadical Trilogia* filmed in Accra, Brooklyn and Salvador Bahia. Blitz won the prestigious Vilcek Award in 2013 which honors immigrant contributions to American society and is a 2016 TED Fellow.



ABOUT THE CREATIVES

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Exchange is executive produced by the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC). NBPC has been the executive producer of AfroPoP since its inception in 2008. NBPC is also the Executive Producer of *180 Days: A Year Inside an American High School* and the online hit web series *Black Folk Don't*. Key personnel for AfroPoP include:

Leslie Fields-Cruz

NBPC Executive Director

Leslie Fields-Cruz joined NBPC in 2001 and was recently appointed its Executive Director. Prior to her appointment she was the organization's VP of Operations and Programs overseeing the Program Development Fund and supervising program distribution to PBS including producing all previous seasons of *AfroPoP*.

Kay Shaw

NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions

As Director of Programs and Acquisitions for NBPC, Kay Shaw has oversight of all NBPC funded broadcast and Web productions, including NBPC's signature PBS series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*, and online series such as *Black Folk Don't*. In addition, Shaw is responsible for NBPC 360, a development fund launched in 2015, which incubates and funds broadcast and Web serial content. Previously, she directed Public Media Corps (PMC), NBPC's community engagement and public media fellowship program. Shaw has more than 20 years' experience marketing and distributing independent films theatrically and for broadcast.

Nonso Christian Ugbo

Director of Digital Media

Christian Ugbo is the Director of Digital Media for NBPC where he oversees content and style for NBPC's BlackPublicMedia.org website. He also manages in-house production of content. As a producer and filmmaker his recent works include *Colored Frames*, a film about Black painters, currently in distribution by American Public Television. He is also co-executive editor at Blackline.tv, a satirical socio-political commentary project.

Lisa Durden

NBPC Broadcast Manager

Lisa Durden, NBPC Broadcast Manager, is an award winning, independent producer. Durden served as associate producer of Byron Hurt's award-winning feature documentary *Soul Food Junkies* and the critically acclaimed, five-part docu-series, *Brick City 1*. Lisa's directorial debut, the controversial feature documentary, *PROJECT WOW: Men On The Down Low*, won the Best Documentary Award at the Pocono Mountains Film Festival and

Best Topic Award at the Urban Film Series; it was broadcast in short form on BET J *Black Stories*.

Angela Tucker

Series Producer, AfroPoP

Angela Tucker was the Director of Production at Big Mouth Films, a social issue documentary production company (formerly of Arts Engine, Inc.). There, she produced *Pushing the Elephant*, the Emmy-nominated documentary, *Deadline, Election Day* and *Beyond the Steps: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater*. She directed *(A)SEXUAL*, a feature length documentary about people who experience no sexual attraction. Angela is also the producer and director of the web series *Black Folk Don't*.

Duana C. Butler

Series Director, AfroPoP

Duana C. Butler is an independent filmmaker based in Harlem. She is Series Director for *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*. Butler co-produced *Miss Navajo* (Director: Billy Luther), which premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and was broadcast on PBS' *Independent Lens* series. She recently served as Curator/Producer of WNET/Thirteen's *Reel New York* and *Reel 13 Shorts* series. Ms. Butler is presently completing her feature documentary *Harlem Stories: A Community in Transition* (working title).



CREDITS

AFROPOP: THE ULTIMATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Season 8

Series Producer

ANGELA TUCKER

Series Director

DUANA C. BUTLER

***AfroPoP* is produced by**

**THE NATIONAL BLACK PROGRAMMING CONSORTIUM
(NBPC)**

Executive Producers

LESLIE A. FIELDS-CRUZ and KAY SHAW

And distributed by

AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION (APT)

Director, APT Presentations

TOM DAVISON

**Executive Producer,
World Channel/WGBH-TV**

CHRISTOPHER HASTINGS