



## **NBPC-SPONSORED FILM TO COMPETE IN FIFTH ANNUAL PBS ONLINE FILM FESTIVAL**

**National Black Programming Consortium entry 'Teachers,' a narrative short from Film Independent's Project Involve, is one of 25 to compete for the PBS People's Choice award**

*The festival is on PBS and station branded digital platforms through July 29*

*Click [here](#) to watch the trailer for the festival and [here](#) to watch the film trailer*

**NEW YORK (July 11, 2016)** – National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) has sponsored the narrative short film "Teachers" for the annual PBS online film festival. "Teachers" stars Tatyana Ali, Jordyn Barber and Eric De'Wayne, and is one of 25 films that are part of the fifth annual, Webby Award-nominated [PBS Online Film Festival](#) running through July 29. NBPC, the nation's only nonprofit organization dedicated solely to media content about the Black experience, has been a presenting partner and made an entry to the festival since 2012. Last year's NBPC entry, the narrative short, "Counter," about social justice activist Bayard Rustin came in second place for the top prize.

Directed by Mark Columbus and written by Jason Park, "Teachers" takes up the educational crisis in high-poverty areas. It stars Ali as a teacher trying to motivate her failing student, who is facing family troubles.

The film was created as part of Project Involve, Film Independent's free, intensive, nine-month annual program that helps nurture the creative talents of up-and-coming film professionals from under-represented communities. Film Independent is known as a non-profit arts organization that champions creative independence in visual storytelling and supports a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation and uniqueness of vision.

“PBS Online film festival is a great opportunity to introduce new, diverse talent to public media audiences. The festival has allowed us to expand our offering to include both documentary and narrative shorts on subjects ranging from marriage equality to a satirical look at racial stereotypes,” said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions Kay Shaw. “We are so excited to present “Teachers,” which shows the lengths to which an educator is willing to go to help a student.”

The festival began July 11 will be available via PBS and station digital platforms, including PBS.org, YouTube and PBS social media channels. The films will also be available via the PBS app on iOS, Android, Apple TV, Roku and FireTV devices.

Viewers are encouraged to watch, vote and share their favorite film by going to [pbs.org/filmfestival](https://pbs.org/filmfestival). The film with most votes will receive the “PBS People’s Choice” award. Additionally, for the first time ever, viewers can vote for their favorite film by logging onto their Facebook or Twitter account and sharing their favorite film titles using the [#PBSolff](https://twitter.com/PBSolff). For updates on the festival, follow [#PBSolff](https://twitter.com/PBSolff) on Twitter.

The PBS Online Film Festival showcases powerful and engaging stories from filmmakers across the country. The festival has become a popular annual online event, attracting more than 1.5 million video streams over the first four years, as well as nominations in the Webby Awards.

In addition to [National Black Programming Consortium \(NBPC\)](https://www.nbpc.org), this year’s lineup features films from the [Center for Asian American Media \(CAAM\)](https://www.caam.org), [Independent Lens](https://www.independentlens.org), [Latino Public Broadcasting \(LPB\)](https://www.lpb.org), [National Association of Latino Independent Producers \(NALIP\)](https://www.nalip.org), [Pacific Islanders in Communications \(PIC\)](https://www.pic.org), [POV](https://www.pov.org), [StoryCorps](https://www.storycorps.org) and [Vision Maker Media](https://www.visionmakermedia.com), as well as PBS local member stations [Alaska Public Media](https://www.alaskapublicmedia.org), [CET/ThinkTV \(Cincinnati/Dayton\)](https://www.cetthinktv.com), [KLRU-TV \(Austin\)](https://www.klrutv.com), [KQED \(San Francisco\)](https://www.kqed.org), [KTTZ \(Texas Tech\)](https://www.kttz.com), [Louisiana Public Broadcasting](https://www.louisianapublicbroadcasting.com), [Twin Cities Public Television](https://www.twincitiespublictelevision.com), [UNC-TV](https://www.unc-tv.com) and [WPBT \(South Florida\)](https://www.wpbt.com).

“PBS and its member stations are proud to be the home for independent filmmakers and to provide a platform for diverse voices to showcase their unique stories and talent,” said Senior Vice President and General Manager, PBS Digital Ira Rubenstein. “Through the PBS Online Film Festival, we are giving a national audience the opportunity to watch 25 engrossing, high-quality independent films on-demand and, for the first time, vote for their favorite film through social voting.”

#### **About NBPC:**

The National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) is committed to enriching our democracy by educating, enlightening, empowering and engaging the American public. The nonprofit supports diverse voices by developing, producing and distributing innovative media about the Black experience and by investing in visionary content makers. NBPC provides quality content for public media outlets, including, among others, PBS and PBS.org and BlackPublicMedia.org, as well as other platforms, while training and mentoring the next generation of Black filmmakers. Founded in 1979, NBPC produces the AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange documentary series and manages the 360 Incubator and Fund, a funding and training initiative designed to accelerate the production of important Black serial and interactive content.

**About PBS:**

[PBS](#), with 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content. Each month, PBS reaches nearly 100 million people through television and nearly 33 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS' broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. PBS' premier children's TV programming and its website, [pbskids.org](#), are parents' and teachers' most trusted partners in inspiring and nurturing curiosity and love of learning in children. More information about PBS is available at [www.pbs.org](#), one of the leading dot-org websites on the Internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or through our [apps for mobile devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](#) or by following [PBS Pressroom on Twitter](#).

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