



PRESS RELEASE



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'AFROPOP' RETURNS FOR SEASON 13 ON APRIL 5

Black Public Media and WORLD Channel join forces to co-produce popular documentary series of stories from the African Diaspora

NEW YORK (March 3, 2021) — *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*, the acclaimed documentary series showcasing contemporary stories from all corners of the African Diaspora, returns for season 13 this April with five new episodes. This year, *AfroPoP* journeys to Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba with films highlighting the men and women shaping the cultural innovations and social movements that drive our world forward. In addition to airing the first-run premieres of the new season, this year WORLD Channel joins BPM as co-executive producer of the series. Distributed and co-presented by American Public Television (APT), *AfroPoP* season 13 debuts on WORLD Channel and worldchannel.org on Monday, April 5, at 8 p.m. ET (5 p.m. PT).

Because #Blackstoriesmatter every day of the year, the new premiere date marks a shift from the traditional series run from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day into February's Black History Month. The innovative collaboration between WORLD Channel and BPM sees the two organizations working in concert to identify, curate and present storytellers and stories from and about Black and Brown creatives. The two organizations share a mission to bring underrepresented voices to the fore, with BPM dedicated to creating and producing media content about the Black experience and WORLD Channel, produced by Boston public media organization GBH, bringing overlooked stories from around the world to public media.

"This year's films truly reflect the great diversity, beauty and talent of the Black community, the types of stories that people are clamoring for that reframe the lens on the Black experience," said Leslie Fields-Cruz, *AfroPoP* executive producer. "We are grateful for the deeper partnership with WORLD Channel that allows us to share more of these treasures with the American people."

"We are delighted to be working directly with Black Public Media from start to finish on this season of *AfroPoP*," noted Chris Hastings, executive producer for WORLD Channel at GBH in Boston. "The series has always been a wonderful encapsulation of the type of content we present at WORLD Channel and as we continue to bring films and stories from media makers from diverse backgrounds to our audience year-round, we are thrilled to have *AfroPoP* as one of our anchoring programs."

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The season 13 opener, Luchina Fisher's *Mama Gloria*, presents an insightful view of the life of Chicago's Black transgender icon, Gloria Allen. Now in her 70s, Allen is a lifelong activist who pioneered a charm school for transgender youth in 2011 and is now navigating her golden years with grace, humor and joy. The film airs at a time when Black transgender women face escalating violence and discrimination and make up the majority of trans people killed each year. *Mama Gloria* offers viewers the opportunity to follow the life of a groundbreaking legend, and celebrates the unwavering love that Allen continues to radiate.

Later in the season, *AfroPoP* will premiere *Finding Sally* (April 12), director Tamara Dawit's exploration of her aunt's involvement with the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party and mysterious disappearance four decades ago that still haunts the family; and *Professional Black Girl* (April 19), in which director Yaba Blay visits New Orleans to spotlight women who embody the talent, grace and drive that makes real #Blackgirlmagic, including Tarriona "Tank" Ball of the hit musical group Tank and the Bangas.

A shorts showcase (April 26) features Christine Turner's *Betye Saar: Taking Care of Business*, profiling the work and life of the 93-year-old Black visual artist; *Elena*, Michèle Stephenson's insightful portrayal of a young woman in the Dominican Republic working to combat anti-Blackness on the island; and Amir George's *Man of the People*, the experimental thriller-documentary on the campaigns and mysterious death of Harold Washington, Chicago's first Black mayor.

The season closes with *Bakosó: Afrobeats of Cuba* (May 3), as filmmaker Eli Jacobs-Fantuzzi brings viewers on a tour of Santiago de Cuba with music producer DJ Jigüe to explore the city's historical connections to Africa and modern ties to the continent's AfroBeats and the burgeoning musical genre known as bakosó.

APT will release the season to public television stations nationwide on Saturday, May 1, following its premiere on WORLD Channel.

For more on the new season of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*, visit blackpublicmedia.org or worldchannel.org. For viewing information, check local listings or visit APTonline.org.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

ABOUT BLACK PUBLIC MEDIA:

Black Public Media (BPM) is committed to enriching our democracy by educating, enlightening, empowering and engaging the American public about the Black experience. Founded in 1979, the nonprofit pursues its mission by developing, producing and distributing innovative Black media content through public media outlets and by investing in visionary Black content makers. For more information, visit blackpublicmedia.org.

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ABOUT WORLD CHANNEL:

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 176 member stations in markets representing over 70% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at WORLDChannel.org.

ABOUT AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION:

American Public Television (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and more than one-third of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT's diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performance, dramas, how-to programs, classic movies, children's series and news and current affairs programs. *Doc Martin, Midsomer Murders, America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated, AfroPoP, Rick Steves' Europe, Pacific Heartbeat, Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Television, Legacy List with Matt Paxton, Lidia's Kitchen, Kevin Belton's New Orleans Kitchen, Simply Ming, The Best of the Joy of Painting with Bob Ross, Live From the Artists Den, James Patterson's Kid Stew* and *NHK Newslines* are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create[®]TV — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — and WORLD[™], public television's premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT's programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

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Press Contact:
Alimah Boyd
Cheryl Duncan & Company, Inc.
alimah@cherylduncanpr.com
201-552-9239 (o)