



**Light It Up! CaribbeanTales Ignites with the Special Preview Screening of HERO**

**7 Special Presentation Nights | Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> | 30+ Films**

**Toronto, August 1, 2018** – The 13<sup>th</sup> year of the **CaribbeanTales Film Festival** opens on **Wednesday September 5, 2018** with a special preview screening of *Hero: Inspired By The Extraordinary Life & Times of Mr. Ulric Cross* at the **Royal Cinema, 608 College Street at 8:00pm** with a red carpet of stars and influencers rolling out at **7:00pm**.

*Hero* is directed and produced by **Frances-Anne Solomon** – founder and CEO of **CaribbeanTales Film Festival**. Women directors, producers and HerStories are featured prominently in this year's line-up of the Opening Night Gala and the 7 Special Presentation Nights:

- **Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>- Opening Night: Trailblazers**
- **Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> - Shine Ya Light**
- **Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> - Building Bridges (Women of Colour Creators)**
- **Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> - Draw Fire: Bajan Invasion**
- **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> - Rise Up: Queer and Here**
- **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>- Shades of Justice**
- **Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> - Redemption Tales**
- **Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> - Torchsong: Haiti.**

**“Our festival theme this year is ‘Light It Up.’ It’s a call to action. A call to arms. A call to change. A call that’s been ringing out for a long time,”** says **Diana Webley, Associate Festival Director**. **“We are asking our filmmakers to shine their lights on all the changes in the world, to showcase their vision of change and to spread their message...to lead the way.”**

Opening night film *Hero* introduces the world to breakout star Trinidadian actor/artist/musician **Nickolai Salcedo** (*Moving Parts, Salty Dog*) and includes an international supporting cast of Jamaican-born **Peter Williams** (*Stargate SG-1, A Winter Tale*), St. Lucian/British **Joseph Marcell** (*Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*) and Ghanaian Nollywood superstar **John Dumelo** (*A Northern Affair*).

*Hero* tells the story of Ulric Cross, a Trinidadian trailblazer who made his mark in history flying fighter planes in World War II to become possibly the most decorated West Indian Airman. During a time when racism placed roadblocks in the way of people of African descent, Cross broke down barriers to become a BBC broadcaster, a lawyer, a judge and a diplomat. He played a central role in the independence struggles of both Africa and the Caribbean. *Hero* tells a story that intertwines archival footage and dramatization. **“Ultimately, the story is about us, says Director/Producer Frances-Anne Solomon, “About who we are as Caribbean people, and as citizens of the world.”**

Other notable films to watch for:

- **Dancehall’s Asian Ambassadors** – director: **Kaneal Gayle/Sept. 19th**



-a documentary that follows four Japanese women who move to Jamaica after falling in love with Dancehall music and build their lives and careers on the island and in its music culture.

- **Saturday Night Church – director: Damon Cardasis/Sept. 15th**

-teenager Ulysses struggles with his gender identity and finds an escape by creating a world of fantasy filled with dance and music that leads him to a vibrant transgender community

- **If Stays With You: Use of Force by UN Peacekeepers in Haiti – directors: Cahal McLaughlin & Siobhan Wills/Sept. 20th**

-this film returns to Haiti's Cité Soleil, a severely economically depressed neighbourhood in Port-au-Prince to examine the impact of the 2005-2007 crackdown on criminals that left scores of civilians dead or injured

#### **Media Accreditation & Interviews:**

Contact: Roger Dundas or Fennella Bruce at [Info@404mgi.com](mailto:Info@404mgi.com)

#### **Ticket Info:**

[Click here to buy opening night tickets](#)

[Click here to buy full festival pass](#)

#### **Hero Film Key Links:**

[Official Website](#)

[Official Trailer](#)

[Official Teaser](#)

[Trailer 2](#)

[Pitch Video](#)

#### **About CaribbeanTales Media Group:**

CaribbeanTales Film Festival (CTFF) celebrates the talents of established and emerging filmmakers of Caribbean heritage who practise their art across the Caribbean Diaspora and worldwide. CTFF presents a multi-ethnic mix of exciting and dynamic films that showcase diverse and shared stories and cultures.

CTFF is produced by Caribbean Tales Inc., a registered Canadian charity. The company's mandate is to foster and encourage intercultural understanding and racial equality, through the creation,



marketing and distribution of film, programs, events and projects that reflect the diversity and creativity of Caribbean heritage and culture.

For more info: <https://caribbeantalesfestival.com/> or go to [Facebook](#)