

# BronzeLens Continues 10 Year Legacy as Nexus for Filmmakers of Color with 2019 Honorees Regina Hall and David Oyelowo

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## NEWS RELEASE



**For Immediate Release:** ATLANTA --- August 13, 2019 --- **10<sup>th</sup> BronzeLens Film Festival (BronzeLens)**, August 21-25 will be a commemoration of the organization's evolution over the past decade as one of the most substantive film festivals in the United States. Over the years we have remained committed to working towards increasing film and television production in Atlanta and the state of Georgia as well as exposing the community to business opportunities and career paths in the industry. BronzeLens values the authentic voice of people of color and celebrates those whose work represents filmmaking at its best", said Kathleen Bertrand, BronzeLens Film Festival Founder and Executive Producer.

Festival programming includes an array of industry specific panels, master classes conducted by leading professionals and its signature events, BronzeLens Women SuperStars Luncheon, First Glance Friday, BronzeLens Awards Show, Brunch with the Brothers and Cinema, and Social Justice Sunday. A total of 100 films will be screened representing Shorts, Features, Documentaries, International Films, Webisodes, Student Films, and Music Video categories, as well as Best Actress and Best Actor.

### BronzeLens Film Festival Highlights:

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

##### Opening Night at BronzeLens

BronzeLens Opening Night Feature is the highly anticipated supernatural thriller *Don't Let Go*, starring **David Oyelowo**, **Storm Reid**, **Mykelti Williamson** and **Brian Tyree Henry**. *Don't Let Go* is produced by BLUMHOUSE, the producers of *Get Out*. **Oyelowo** will be present for a post screening talk back.

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

**All Shorts All Day, All Shorts All Night** presented by **BET Networks** will showcase Film Shorts from sun up to sundown.

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Key to generating financial support of the festival is the **BronzeLens Women Superstars Luncheon (WSSL)**. Since its inception, 48 of the brightest women of color in the film and television industry have been honored. The 2019 BronzeLens Women SuperStar honorees are veteran actress **Regina Hall** (*Little, The Hate You Give, Girls Trip and Scary Movie*), star of screen and stage, actress **Angela Robinson** (*The Haves and The Have Nots*, *The Color Purple*), and Academy Award®-nominated Producer **Lisa Cortés** (*Precious; The Woodsman; and Shadowboxer*). Actress **Kim Coles** will serve as mistress of ceremonies and A Conversation with Regina Hall presented by AARP – Georgia will be moderated by comedienne **Myra J**.

**First Glance Friday** screening features Will Packer's new original series "*Bigger*" which is set to premiere on BET Network's streaming service BET+, this fall.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Comedian and all around entertainer **Rodney Perry** will emcee the **BronzeLens Awards Show**. The 'Best of Festival' filmmakers in their perspective categories and other noteworthy industry leaders will be honored at the historic Carter Center. Categories include the best in Features, Documentaries, International Films, Shorts, Student Films, and Webisodes, as well as Best Actress and Best Actor.

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 25**

**Sunday Brunch with the Brothers** featured guests are **Yusef Salaam** and **Raymond Santana** who were exonerated of all charges from the Central Park Jogger Case and portrayed in Ava DuVernay's HBO Series "When They See Us". The event will be moderated by Criminal Defense Attorney **Mawuli Mel Davis**.

**Cinema and Social Justice Sunday** will be a double feature screening. *Illegal Rose*, a short directed by Deborah Riley Draper will open **Cinema and Social Justice Sunday**. Post screening talk back includes Jasmine Guy and Lucca Rodriguez-Pedraza. Kap G who will perform his hit song *A day without a Mexican* and Nina White will also perform.

Jodi Gomes' highly anticipated documentary *One Child Left Behind: the Atlanta Cheating Scandal* is the **Cinema and Social Justice Sunday** feature film. Former Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and President of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi Weingarten are confirmed to participate in the talk back.

**BronzeLens Closing Night Feature** is the world premiere of director Trey Haley's romantic comedy, *Always a Bridesmaid*, written by actress **Yvette Nicole Brown** ("Community", *Avengers Endgame*), and starring Javicia Leslie and Jordan Callaway.

### **About the BronzeLens Film Festival**

BronzeLens Film Festival of Atlanta, Georgia, is a non-profit organization, founded in 2009, that is dedicated to bringing national and worldwide attention to Atlanta as a center for film and film production for people of color. Its mission is two-fold: to promote Atlanta as the new film mecca for people of color; and to showcase films and provide networking opportunities that will develop the next generation of filmmakers. Since its inception, BronzeLens producers have brought national and worldwide attention to Atlanta, helping to showcase the city as a leader in the thriving film industry.

In 2017 the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences approved BronzeLens as a qualifying festival for the Short Film Awards category. The short film that receives the BronzeLens Best Short Award may now be eligible to enter the Academy's Short Subject competition for the concurrent season.

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