



NEWS RELEASE

BronzeLens 2020: The Virtual Experience Opens with a Compelling Slate of New Programming, Signature Events and 76 Films Screenings

Director/Producer Will Packer and ARRAY President Tilane Jones Headline BronzeLens PowerHouse Conversation Series

Distinct BronzeLens Events Brunch with the Brothers and Cinema and Social Justice Sunday Return

Tuesday, August 11 – Sunday, August 16

ATLANTA – August 11, 2020 – BronzeLens Film Festival (BronzeLens) the Virtual Experience launches on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, with a packed schedule of virtual programs including over 75 film screenings and a new PowerHouse series on BronzeLens Live, featuring highly acclaimed Producer **Will Packer**. Packer will speak on his experience as producer of multiple number one box-office hits including: *Ride Along 2*, *No Good Deed*, *Think Like a Man Too* and *Stomp the Yard*.

Running August 11-16, this year's Festival is 100% online, coined appropriately as "The Virtual Experience" and is free to the public. The festival continues its tradition of showcasing industry panels, master classes conducted by leading professionals in addition to presenting the Festival's highly anticipated Sunday Brunch with the Brothers, The BronzeLens Awards Show and its distinctive Cinema and Social Justice Sunday. Virtual mixers and nightly after parties with guest DJs have been added to the festival's event offerings.

Over 75 official selections including shorts, features, documentaries, short documentaries, music videos, and webisodes from an international cadre of filmmakers will be screened representing the United States, Belgium, Israel, Canada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. For the complete list of the 2020 film selections go to: <https://bronzelens.com/>. **BronzeLens Film Festival Highlights are as follows:**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

All Day Film Screenings

PowerHouse Conversation with Will Packer

Will Packer, one of Hollywood's record-breaking filmmakers will talk about his role as producer or executive producer of a wide range of movies that have grossed more than \$1 billion worldwide at the box office, including 10 films that have opened at number one. Mr. Packer's most recent film, "The Photograph," debuted in February 2020. His films "Girls Trip" and "Night School" were the highest grossing comedies for 2017 and 2018, respectively. Among the other films Mr. Packer has produced include "Little," "What Men Want," "Ride Along 2," "No Good Deed," "Think Like a Man Too," "Ride Along," "Think Like a Man," "Takers," "Obsessed," "Breaking In," "Stomp the Yard" and "Straight Outta Compton."

PowerHouse Conversation with Tilane Jones

Tilane Jones will talk about her career working along-side award-winning filmmaker Ava DuVernay for over ten years. Beginning with the public relations and promotional company, The DuVernay Agency as well as production entity Forward Movement, then leading DuVernay's grass-roots film distribution collective ARRAY Releasing as Vice President. In 2019, she was appointed President of ARRAY. Jones now leads Array Alliance, the non-profit dedicated to social impact and education, as well as The Array Creative Campus, a three-building compound for production and public programming focused on marginalized filmmakers. She will continue to oversee Array Releasing, the company's film distribution arm, where she has been responsible for the acquisition, booking and marketing of the collective's 25+ films.

BronzeLens After Dark via Facebook Live featuring DJ Tron

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

All Day Film Screenings

PowerHouse Conversation with Felicia Pride

BronzeLens Live with TV and Film Writer and Director Felicia Pride – best known for her writing contributions to two seasons on Ava DuVernay's *Queen Sugar*.

BronzeLens After Dark via Facebook Live featuring DJ Curley Sue

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

All Shorts All Day, All Shorts All Night showcasing Film Shorts from sunup to sundown.

PowerHouse Conversation with Karin Gist

Discussion on BronzeLens Live with TV and Film Executive Karen Gist, showrunner and an executive producer of the hit television series

"Mixed-ish"

PowerHouse Conversation with Judiffer Pearson on Surviving Economically During COVID-19

Judiffer Pearson, highly sought-after speaker, facilitator, consultant, and educator talks about how filmmakers can thrive during the pandemic.

BronzeLens After Dark via Facebook Live featuring DJ Ace Star

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

All Day Film Screenings

PowerHouse Conversations with The Reel Divas

A 90-minute, two-topic experience with The Reel Divas PowerHouse Panel, moderated by Lisa Cunningham. Beginning with the topic of **Producing in the Pandemic** with insight from Terri J. Vaughn, Cas Sigers-Beedles, Dianne Ashford, and Shante Paige. Concluding with a discussion on **Creating Purposeful Work** with panelists Tamra Simmons, Angi Bones, Wendy Eley Jackson, and Gieva Stinchcomb.

BronzeLens After Dark via Facebook Live featuring DJ Salah Ananse

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

All Day Film Screenings

PowerHouse Conversations Family Affair: Black Couples in the Business

Three industry couples talk about the entertainment business, solidarity and why love and business can co-exist. Featuring Salli and Dondre Whitfield, Denise and Peter Fernandez, and Angi Bones and Derrick Douse.

BronzeLens After Dark via Facebook Live featuring DJ Salah Ananse

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Sunday Brunch with the Brothers

Bobbcats Films President and CEO Roger Bobb will host a power-packed discussion with Film Director and Tri Destined Studios President and Partner Trey Haley; Urban Movie Channel Chief Content Officer Brett Dismuke; Actor Carl Anthony Payne; and Actor Darrin Dewitt Henson.

Cinema and Social Justice Sunday

Screening of this year's Cinema and Social Justice films are *The Ball Method*, Dagmawi Abebe, Director and *The Dope Years: The Story of Latasha Harlins*, Allison A. Waite, Director. Both films were submitted by student filmmakers.

11th Annual BronzeLens Awards Show

The **BronzeLens Awards Show** will culminate the festival, awarding the 'Best of Festival' awards in categories including the best in Features, Documentaries, International Films, Shorts, Student Films, Webisodes, Music Video, Best Actress and Best Actor.

BronzeLens After Dark via Facebook Live featuring DJ Kaos

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 is eligible to enter the Academy's Short Subject competition for the concurrent season.

2020 BronzeLens Sponsors

2020 BronzeLens Sponsors include Warner Media, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, ARRAY Alliance, MHR International, Divihinley Konnected Productions, Canadian Consulate, DeKalb Entertainment Commission and Georgia Power. Also special thanks to our media sponsors WCLK 91.9 Radio and WSB-TV.

Media Access

All media may register for access to cover this year's BronzeLens Film Festival using the following link and case sensitive passcode:

Registration Link: https://bronzelens.eventive.org/passes/buy/bronze_pass

Media Pass Code: BLFFMedia

For more information regarding the BronzeLens Film Festival, visit www.bronzelens.com. Approved media will have access to festival programming online and receive written confirmation from **Sommer Vega or Tandi Reddick**. This includes media opportunities for the available filmmakers.

For more information regarding the BronzeLens Film Festival, please visit www.bronzelens.com.

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