

STATEMENT FROM THE PROGRAM CURATOR

Old Gospel, New Religion

Black Filmworks '98 is a vision into the next millennium of Black cinema. Young Black Independent filmmakers are using the techniques, themes and experiences from the past to create cinema imagery of the present and beyond. The 'film noir' genre is alive and well this year, not only in experimental and short drama, but also in the feature category. For evidence, check out Craig Ross, Jr.'s compelling "CAPPUCCINO" or Daniel Williams' "WOMAN AND MAN." A treasured friend of Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, Euzhan Palcy, has directed a masterpiece in "RUBY BRIDGES" which will certainly be seen by future generations as well as her excellent documentary on AIME CESAIRE, which garnered an award last year. Carol Mayes is back, giving us visions of "RITUALS" past and present. The 'present' is never more definitive than Malcolm Lee's "MORNINGSIDE PREP."

The old adage 'You don't know where you're going if you don't know your past' rings true to form in the subject matter of this year's festival selections. The documentary showcases the past, while the short drama, feature, and cross-cultural entries show us where we are in 1998.

Support the art of filmmaking at its best, support Black Filmworks.

Felix Curtis