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## **MUSLIM VOICES OF CHICAGO PRESENTS**

### **A Free, Family-Friendly Film Festival at Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts**

**Chicago, IL** – On Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 PM to 9:00 PM, Scribe Video Center invites you to ***Muslim Voices of Chicago***, a free, family-friendly film festival showcasing films that portray the African American Muslim experience and community. The *Muslim Voices of Chicago* film festival will take place at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts located at 915 East 60th Street in Chicago, IL.

*Muslim Voices of Chicago* is a component of ***Muslim Voices***, a nationwide project coordinated by Scribe Video Center in Philadelphia, PA and supported by the Building Bridges Program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. Founded in 1982, Scribe Video Center is a community, media arts organization where emerging and experienced media artists and community groups can gain access to the tools and knowledge of documentary video making and work together in a supportive environment. The *Muslim Voices* project travels to five select cities -- Chicago, Newark, Houston, Atlanta, and Oakland -- to (1) host a festival focused on exploring the challenges and experiences of African American Muslims through film, and (2) running a training/mentoring program to help local media makers produce their own short film over a period of six months. This project replicates the successful *Muslim Voices of Philadelphia* program where 11 shorts have been developed and distributed through Scribe Video Center.

The *Muslim Voices of Chicago* screening features 10 films, two panels, and Q & A sessions with the audience. The program begins at 12:30 PM with a welcome and overview. At 1:00 PM, the film festival continues with the screening of the award-winning documentary, **THE HONEST STRUGGLE** (USA, 2017, 60 min) directed by Justin Mashouf. Filmed in Chicago, this is the true story of personal transformation and community building. It is followed by **WHITE FRIGHT** (USA, 2018, 29 min), a documentary on a plot to massacre Muslims Americans, ignored for the most part by US mass media. The film is directed by Emmy-award winning filmmaker, David Felix Sutcliffe. After the screening there will be a panel discussion with filmmakers, community activists, and scholars on the particular challenges faced by African American Muslims and the solutions.

From 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM, there will be a block of short films from the *Muslim Voice of Philadelphia* project and films by local Chicago makers. There will also be a panel on the role of film/video as a tool for social change. The closing film, shown from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, will be **JINN** (USA, 2018, 92 min) directed by Nijla Mumin. JINN is a modern tale of a young woman

coming to awareness about her identity and faith, is a dramatic film suitable for the entire family including children aged 13 and over.

*Muslim Voices* is supported by the Building Bridges Program of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. *Muslim Voices* local partners in Chicago include CAIR of Chicago, The Community Film Workshop of Chicago, Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), Kartemquin Films, Sisters In Cinema, University of Chicago, and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts' Digital Storytelling Initiative.

### **Program Overview\***

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM | Opening, Welcome and Program Overview

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | THE HONEST STRUGGLE directed by Justin Mashouf (USA, 2017, 60 min)

The film looks at the challenges faced by Sadiq recently released from prison, as he struggles to find gainful employment and stay on the straight religious and moral path to an honorable life.

2:05 PM - 2:35 PM | WHITE FRIGHT directed by David Felix Sutcliffe (USA, 2018, 29 min)

WHITE FRIGHT examines the plot to massacre Muslims in an upstate New York community, a plot ignored by much of the US mass media.

2:40 - 3:25 PM | Panel Discussion - Addressing challenges of African American Muslims and media representation by local Muslims, activists, community.

3:35 - 4:50 | Short films on the Muslim community produced by local and national filmmakers

5:00 - 5:45 | Panel Including local filmmakers, filmmakers from Scribe Video Center, and community representative discuss the role of film and documentation as tools for progressive social change.

6:00 - 6:45 | Mixer and light refreshments

7:00 PM - 8:37 PM | JINN directed by Nijla Mumin (USA, 2018, 92 min)

Summer is a 17-year old carefree African American girl, whose world is turned upside down when her mother, a popular television meteorologist, converts to Islam and begins to transform her professional and work relationships, prompting Summer to reevaluate her own identity.

9:00 PM | Program Close

\*Program subject to change

### **Program Details**

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2019

Time: 12:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts - 915 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL

Free and open to the public

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For more information, please contact [MableHaddock68@gmail.com](mailto:MableHaddock68@gmail.com)

Learn more about Scribe Video Center at <https://www.scribe.org/muslim-voices>

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#### ABOUT SCRIBE VIDEO CENTER

Scribe Video Center, founded in 1982, is a media arts organization that provides training in all aspects of digital video, film, audio, and web-based production. Scribe offers instructional workshops to adults and youth. Scribe also works with community groups to produce media that explores issues of concern.

#### ABOUT COMMUNITY FILM WORKSHOP OF CHICAGO

Community Film Workshop of Chicago (CFWC), the media arts center host for *Muslim Voices Chicago*, has been empowering people of color in underrepresented communities to produce their own films since 1971. CFWC partners with the Logan Center for the Arts' Digital Storytelling Initiative to develop the "DSI Production Institute" and cofounded "Diverse Voice in Docs" with Kartemquin Films.

#### ABOUT DIGITAL STORYTELLING INSTITUTE

The Digital Storytelling Initiative (DSI), made possible through an endowment from the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, is a joint project of the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation Media Center and Logan Center Community Arts. Through adult media workshops, summer camps for youth, and the incubation of relationships with individuals and artist groups on Chicago's South Side, the DSI serves as a sponsor of media arts training, as a presenter of new artistic work, and as a creative hub for University- and community-based media practitioners.