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**5th ANNUAL WOMEN OF COLOR ARTS AND FILM (WOCAF) FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES 2009 FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

Atlanta, Georgia (February 25, 2009) – In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Annual Women of Color Arts & Film (WOCAF) Festival, announces its schedule for its annual celebration of films and art by and about women of color. The festival scheduled for March 19th – 22nd 2009 will include lectures, film screenings of films by and/or about women of color, Q & A with filmmakers, a visual arts exhibition and a music showcase.

“We look forward to our 5th year’s collection of films, art and music. With each festival, we bring to our audiences topical, timely films that epitomize the vastness of the human experience,” said Mojisola Sonoiki, festival director. “This year is no exception as the films slated to be shown represent a range of subject matter: female inequality, multi-culturalism, immigration, war and self-determination.” This year also see the introductions of a visual arts exhibition which will also be held at the same venue as the film festival; The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, 101 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303

The 2009 film festival will feature free public screenings of more than 20 independent films, along with a one-on-one filmmaker discussion and a musical showcase. The festival begins on Thursday, March 19, 7:00pm to 9:00pm with a lecture discussion on Saara Bartman with a book signing with the authors of “Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus: A Ghost Story and a biography”, Professors Pamela Scully and Clifton Crais of Emory University.

The opening night reception will be held on Friday March 20, from 6:00pm to 7:00pm with screenings from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Screening will be held 12noon-8:00pm Saturday, March 21 and 12:00pm - 5:00pm Sunday, March 22. During the four-day festival, a music showcase will take place from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday, March 22 at The Atrium (5479 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30038) with internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter Asa [Asha] gracing our festival en route her world tour in America.

As the only festival of its kind in the Southeast to showcase the work of women of color, this year’s film festival opens with a film by Pakistani filmmaker Mehreen Jabbar, entitled “Ramchand Pakistani”, winner of the FIPRESCI Award from the International Federation of Film Critics, July 2008.

Highlights of the 2009 Film festival will include:

- A lecture/discussion and screening about “Saartjie "Sara" Baartman”, a Khoikhoi woman exploited as a sideshow attraction in 19th century Europe, under the name Hottentot Venus.
- “Ramchand Pakistani” a true story concerning the accidental crossing of the Pakistan-Indian border during a period of tension between the two countries by two members of a Pakistani Hindu family belonging to the 'untouchable' (Dalit) caste.
- “Say My Name” featuring female lyricists Monie Love, MC Lyte, Roxanne Shante Remy Ma, Rah Digga, Erykah Badu, Estelle to name a few, speaking candidly about class, race, and gender in pursuing their passions as female MCs.
- “Paris or Nothing (Paris A Tout Prix)” directed by Cameroonian filmmaker Joséphine Ndagnou about a young Cameroonian woman that realized her dream of going to Paris so as to be able to support her family.
- “My Girlfriend’s Back”, starring Malik Yoba and Tangi Miller (Madea’s Family Reunion), a romantic comedy about the challenges of love faces.
- “Taking Root: The vision of Wangari Maathai” the story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, (the first environmentalist and first African woman to win the Nobel Peace) whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement.
- “Arugba”, set against the backdrop of a corrupt society seeking cleansing, rebirth and nationhood, Arugba (the virgin who carries the sacrificial calabash during the Osun Osogbo festival in Osogbo, Nigeria) must perform her annual traditional role of carrying the sacrifice in a procession to the river.

For a detailed festival itinerary visit www.wocaf.org or call our festival hotline 404.671.8330

Festival Sponsors/Parnters

2009 festival sponsors include: The Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture & History, Afrosonic Radio, The Nigerian Film Commission, The AFRican Magazine, Rolling Out Urban Style Weekly, Iyalode Productions, The Nigerian Film & Video Censorship board ViewNaija.com and Bishop Entertainment Consult.

About the Women of Color Arts and Film Festival

The Women of Color Arts and Film Festival, was founded by British-born Nigerian Mojisola Sonoiki in 2005. The festival’s mission is to be at the forefront in promoting the leadership capabilities of women of color media makers; expand dialogue on social and women’s issues; and promote positive empowering images of minorities in the media. There were more than 1,500 attendees at the 2006 - 2008 festival and 750 attendees at the 2005 festival.