

NEWS RELEASE

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WACO THEATER CENTER ANNOUNCES 'PLAN A: BLACK WOMEN ON THE RISE' SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Plan A Film Festival Announces 2023 Date and Calls for Submissions from Black Women Filmmakers – Submissions are Now Open

Where Art Can Occur (WACO) Theater Center co-founders and artistic directors **Richard and Tina Knowles Lawson** today announced "**Plan A: Black Women on the Rise**" – the 8th annual film festival featuring short films by Black women in partnership with **M.P.A.C.T. Entertainment & Events**. Submissions are now open and close **February 24 at 6pm**.

"We're excited to once again partner with WACO Theater Center to bring a fresh slate of short films created by Black women. This year, we hope to uplift stories of Black women's reflections on their post-Covid experiences and their journeys in navigating life in the last few years," says founders **Brittany Batchelder and Kelli Rasmus of M.P.A.C.T. Entertainment & Events**

Plan A: Black Women on the Rise aims to uplift Black women in film and "bridge the gap between emerging artists and industry leaders". Scheduled for **March 18**, the festival will include screenings of selected films, panels featuring Black women in the film industry and entertainment industry expert Tina Knowles Lawson, and a networking hour. Attendees will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite film, and a **production grant of \$1,000 will be presented to the top rated film**.

Last year's festival featured films by filmmakers **Nicole Thompson** and **La'Chris Jordan** with panelists **Lynn Whitfield** and **Storm Reid**. Nicole Thompson took home the cash prize for her top rated film "

This year's festival is a feature program of WACO's 22/23 artistic season "**Black with a Capital B**" and will take place at WACO's North Hollywood venue at 5144 Lankershim Blvd, Los Angeles, CA.

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TICKETS

Tickets will be available online at: wacothatercenter.com

SUBMISSIONS

Interested filmmakers should visit the festival's film freeway page for more information and submission guidelines: <https://filmfreeway.com/WomenOnTheRise>.

ABOUT WACO THEATER CENTER

WACO Theater Center is a performing and visual arts organization dedicated to the empowerment of Los Angeles artists, young people and stories of the African diaspora.

Founded in 2016, WACO opened its doors to the public in 2017. Located in the heart of North Hollywood's Arts District, the state-of-the-art complex includes a 99-seat theater, an art gallery space and is the home of Richard Lawson Studios. Over its five year history, WACO has invested in more than 700 artists and 1000 young people in Los Angeles and beyond. WACO's mentorship program Tina's Angels and Richard's Warriors, exposes inner-city youth to the world of the arts and opportunities beyond their zip code. Each year participants are provided computers, attend workshops like etiquette class, and field trips to create first time experiences. WACO is committed to providing a creative center where art can occur and give artists and youth a place to grow their talent and celebrate their artistry.

WACO Theater Center is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

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SUPPORT

Supporters of the 2022-2023 programs include: Amazon's Black Business Accelerator, Amazon Music, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Ebony & Jet, Fund II Foundation, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, Mielle Organics, PRG and SheaMoisture.

PRESS INQUIRIES

Press and media, please apply for event credentials via email to **Nijeul Porter** at press@wacothatercenter.com

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