

BUFF MEETS FILM & CABARET ON THE BROADWAY.

During the heady years of the BFM International Film Festival and Magazine, a number of talented individuals passed through the doors to make BFM one of the best recognised and largest black film festivals in the United Kingdom. Two such individuals were Emmanuel Anyiam-Osigwe and Paulette Harris-German. On parting ways with BFM both of these individuals went on to set up their own initiatives. Emmanuel set up BUFF and Paulette set up FILM & CABARET ON THE BROADWAY (FCOB).

It was through Lorraine Gabriel of Gabriel Media International, an old acquaintance of Paulette's who was now carrying out PR work for Emmanuel at BUFF, that the BUFF FCOB union came into being. Lorraine, who is always on the look out for opportunities to spread the word of BUFF, and Paulette who is constantly seeking quality films to screen at her monthly event, rekindled their relationship via the Black Film Society (a Ning social network). Lorraine suggested that FCOB screen some of the films which were hosted by BUFF in 2009, in keeping with BUFF's vision to do a screening tour to promote the 2010 Film Festival and thus began a mutually rewarding collaboration.

The *films sourced through BUFF were as ever of very high quality and always enlightening, showing slices of life from a variety of perspectives and cultures, generations and periods of time.

M.E.E. & The Village Productions Intl. welcomed this collaboration as the vision of the two organisations are in synergy as both are passionate about film and the free movement of film - particularly independent film. Initiatives such as these allow the magic of films to be experienced in a variety of environments by audiences who, without these independent screenings, would otherwise never have the opportunity to see them never mind meet the filmmakers behind them.

For the filmmakers themselves, our resources enable them to use these screenings not only to showcase their fledgling works, but also as a testing ground for their shorts prior to investing in their feature endeavours - and not to mention the immediate audience feedback during Q&As - and of course, the post event networking.

For Film & Cabaret on the Broadway, we pride ourselves in the fact that we screen in the heart of the 'hood'. Alongside the screenings, there is a series of live performances which transcend the rigidity and formalities of some screening environments. Predominantly a night that transcends generations also, this monthly event allows for a flexible approach to film. Starting with caribbean snacks and recited poetry, the audience is then taken on a journey comprising of rarely seen films and culminating with a live performance in the form of comedy, and or song.

“I strongly believe that without events such as BUFF and Film & Cabaret on the Broadway, many filmmakers would struggle to find an environment to gauge and test the strength of their work. This is not only important for the filmmaker, but from an audience development perspective allows current and future audiences to access a variety of films on one platform offering quality value and thus educating and nurturing the film audience of the future, without whom it would be almost futile to make films”.

Paulette Harris-German

aka 'LADY PAULETTE'

Actress & Founder

MEE & The Village Productions Intl.

MOTIVATION-EMPOWERMENT-ENTERTAINMENT.

Home of: FILM & CABARET ON THE BROADWAY

Mobile: +44 (0) 7958 288 438 Email: pauletteh_g@yahoo.co.uk

'Straight Talk' with Macca C & Lady Paulette - Tuesdays 6-8pm GMT
www.uniqueradio.co.uk

*The featured films c/o BUFF were "Brothers" (dir. Diana Musafiri), "Pavement Poetry" (dir. Jason Nwansi) and "The Family Legacy" (dir. Jane Thorburn)