

**For Immediate Release**

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## **SISTERS IN CINEMA SERIES CELEBRATES AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN FILMMAKERS**

Over three nights in October, the Wexner Center presents **Sisters in Cinema**, a film series exploring work by and about African-American women filmmakers. The series was selected by Chicago-based historian, producer, and director Yvonne Welbon, who has made an invaluable contribution to understanding of American film with her 2003 documentary *Sisters in Cinema*. Welbon, who worked on *Sisters in Cinema* in the Wexner Center's Art & Technology post-production studios, will introduce and discuss her film on the opening night of the series.

All films are screened in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater at 7 pm. Tickets per night are \$6 general public; \$4 Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens; \$2 children under 12. The schedule follows.

### **Thursday, October 9**

***Sisters in Cinema*** (Yvonne Welbon, 2003)—**Introduced by Yvonne Welbon**

***Tuesday Morning Ride*** (Dianne Houston, 1995)

Director Yvonne Welbon visits to introduce, screen, and discuss her film *Sisters in Cinema* (62 minutes), a lively documentary that traces the largely unknown story of African American women moviemakers. Using vintage clips and interviews with such directors as Julie Dash and Maya Angelou, the film includes such rarities as footage shot by writer Zora Neale Hurston. *Sisters in Cinema* received significant support from the Wexner Center's Art & Technology program *Tuesday Morning Ride* (35 minutes) tells the poignant story of two elderly sharecroppers. Its director, Dianne Houston, was the first black woman to be nominated for an Oscar for directing.

**Thursday, October 16**

***You 2*** (Pascale Simons, 2001)

***D.E.B.S.*** (Angela Robinson, 2002)

***The Watermelon Woman*** (Cheryl Dunye, 1996)

In *You 2* (25 minutes), a beautiful young Surinamese woman contemplates coming out as a lesbian but fears her mother's reaction. Debuting at Sundance, *D.E.B.S.* (11 minutes) is a riotous trailer for a "teen schoolgirls as spies TV series" starring "four very hot girls delivering big karate kicks." A major contribution to the "new queer cinema" of the 1990s, Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman* (80 minutes) is the inventive and provocative tale of a black lesbian filmmaker's obsession with the "Watermelon Woman," a 1930s' Hollywood icon rumored to have had an affair with one of Hollywood's only women directors at the time.

**Thursday, October 30**

***Jessie's Window*** (Michelle Davis, 2003)

***Mixing Nia*** (Alison Swan, 1998)

***Sugar Cane Alley*** (Euzhan Palcy, 1983)

Cleveland-based filmmaker Michelle Davis's *Jessie's Window* (30 minutes) is a potent drama questioning the price a young mother has to pay when trying to balance parenting with the demands of jobs, lifestyles, and relationships. *Mixing Nia* (92 minutes) focuses on a successful young copywriter who finds her racial identity when ordered to push a new brand of beer to ghetto kids. Euzhan Palcy's moving *Sugar Cane Alley* (103 minutes) is set in the shanty towns of rural Martinique, where a bright boy dreams of a better life elsewhere.

**EVENT SUPPORT**

*Sisters in Cinema* is presented with support from Corporate Sisters. The 2003-04 film/video season is presented with support from the Rohauer Collection Foundation, the Ohio Arts Council, and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

**WEXNER CENTER**

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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