

CARIBBEANTALES and THE AFRICA CHANNEL announce CINEMA SPOTLIGHT AWARD

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For immediate release

CaribbeanTales International Film Festival (CTFF) today announced the winner of the 2016 Cinema Spotlight Award sponsored by The Africa Channel. **See Me Now**, a short film written and produced by Dharini Woollcombe, Linda A. Palmieri and Carin Moffat of Light the Girl Productions, and directed by Sharon Lewis tells the story of a magical interaction between a hospice worker and a Burmese retired dancer. The short film premiered at the Opening Night Gala of CTFF2016 on September 7th.

"We are delighted to partner with The Africa Channel to shine a spotlight on these important modern narratives and filmmakers, and to give platforms to traditionally marginalised voices and place them at the centre of all that we do at CaribbeanTales," said Frances-Anne Solomon, Executive Director of CTFF.

The Cinema Spotlight Award recognizes excellence in the art of filmmaking, and is being bestowed on the overall winner of CTFF2016's Short Film Challenges. The Short Film Challenges were created to encourage aspiring and mid-career filmmakers from under-represented communities to create new work.

This year the film challenges were: #BlackLoveMatters, in partnership with the Black Daddies Club and Blacks in Canada, the CineFAM Women Creators of Colour Short Film Challenge presented by ACTRA Toronto in association with Trinity Square Video, and the Queer and Trans People of Colour Short Film Challenge in partnership with OUTtv, Toronto Queer Film Festival, Black CAP Toronto, SASOD (Guyana), I Am One (Trinidad) and JFLAG (Jamaica).

Cinema Spotlight Award recipients, producer/writers Dharini Woollcombe and Carin Moffat jointly state, "The process of making our first film was a true challenge but also an amazing experience! Yes, there was a steep learning curve, but we three are actors and mothers, and we know what it takes to persevere. Our years of experience in the industry as actors allowed us the opportunity to draw on our relationships and build a dream team with our incredibly talented Director, DP, cast and crew. None of this could have happened without the immense support from our union, ACTRA, as well as the generosity of Trinity Square Video. Thank you to CTFF for the wonderful opportunity to share our beautiful film. We would also like to thank The Africa Channel for recognizing our work. We are truly honoured."

Suzan Jorgensen, Director of On Air Promotion from The Africa Channel adds, "We are so pleased to participate in CTFF this year and to present our Cinema Spotlight Award to the filmmakers who have created the overall winner in the Short Film category. Our goal is to encourage and shine a light on relevant and entertaining films for our television audience, audiences in Africa, the Caribbean and the diaspora throughout the world and **See Me Now** is a film that meets this goal. Congratulations to the winners and all who participated in CTFF this year."

ABOUT CTFF

The CaribbeanTales International Film Festival (CTFF) celebrates the talents of established and emerging filmmakers of Caribbean heritage who practise their art across the Caribbean Diaspora worldwide – including Canada and the Caribbean, Europe, the Americas, Africa, China, India and the Middle East. CTFF presents a multi-ethnic mix of exciting and dynamic films that showcase diverse shared stories and cultures.

ABOUT THE AFRICA CHANNEL

The Africa Channel is a showcase for Africa and the Caribbean's outstanding television series, specials, documentaries, feature films, music, biographies, news, information, and more. Our mission is to open a window to modern African life and help demystify Africa and the diaspora for our viewers.