



## **2014 ABFF MOVIE AWARDS NOMINEES ANNOUNCED**

***Festival introduces an online awards for moviegoers to name the best in Black cinema***

**NEW YORK, NY, January 8, 2014** – Film Life, Inc., the organization that produces the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) today announced the nominations for *The ABFF Movie Awards* – an online platform created to recognize the work of persons of African descent in the motion picture industry and outstanding films portraying the Black experience. The awards will give fans a voice in naming the best movies and performances of the past year, exciting interest in Black cinema during Hollywood’s award season and Black History Month.

“Hollywood is an industry centered on gaining widespread interest and support of mass audiences yet the large majority of awards platforms are determined by small and relatively non diverse groups of industry insiders. This award will allow people from all walks of life a chance to participate in the process of celebrating good work”, said Jeff Friday, ABFF Founder/CEO of Film Life, Inc. The Awards and Festival are a part of the ABFF brand’s global initiative to promote the universal appeal of Black cinema by showcasing Black artists, stories and culture to a broader audience.

ABFF Movie Awards will be determined by popular vote of the general public; inclusive of the 90,000 plus American Black Film Festival alumni around the world. Voting will take place January 15 through January 22, at [www.abffmovieawards.com](http://www.abffmovieawards.com). The winners will be revealed online February 19, during a five-minute “web show,” hosted by Chris Spencer (Executive Producer/Creator of BET’s “Real Husbands of Hollywood”), that will feature him tracking down winners to present the Award trophy and capture their acceptance speech.

The nominees below were selected by a jury of film critics and entertainment editors from African American media outlets around the country. For consideration, films must have had U.S. theatrical release dates between January 1 and December 31, 2013, with a minimum two-week run in New York and Los Angeles, as well as have been directed by, written by, produced by or featuring in a leading role, a person(s) of African descent. Individuals (actors, directors, producers, and writers) must be of African descent.

### **MOVIE OF THE YEAR**

***12 Years A Slave*** (Fox Searchlight Pictures) — produced by Brad Pitt, Dede Gardner, Jeremy Kleiner, Bill Pohlad, Steve McQueen, Arnon Milchan and Anthony Katagas

***Fruitvale Station*** (The Weinstein Company) — produced by Nina Yang Bongiovi and Forest Whitaker

**Lee Daniels' The Butler** (The Weinstein Company) — produced by Pam Williams, Laura Ziskin, Lee Daniels, Buddy Patrick and Cassian Elwes

**Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom** (The Weinstein Company) — produced by David M. Thompson and Anant Singh

**The Best Man Holiday** (Universal Pictures) — produced by Sean Daniel and Malcolm D. Lee

### **BEST ACTOR**

**Morris Chestnut** — *The Best Man Holiday*

**Chiwetel Ejiofor** — *12 Years A Slave*

**Idris Elba** — *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*

**Michael B. Jordan** — *Fruitvale Station*

**Forest Whitaker** — *Lee Daniels' The Butler*

### **BEST ACTRESS**

**Halle Berry** — *The Call*

**Danai Gurira** — *Mother of George*

**LisaGay Hamilton** — *Go for Sisters*

**Nia Long** — *The Best Man Holiday*

**Kerry Washington** — *Peeples*

### **BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**

**Barkhad Abdi** — *Captain Phillips*

**Cuba Gooding, Jr.** — *Lee Daniels' The Butler*

**Terrence Howard** — *The Best Man Holiday*

**Samuel L. Jackson** — *Oldboy*

**David Oyelowo** — *Lee Daniels' The Butler*

### **BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**

**Nicole Beharie** — *42: The Jackie Robinson Story*

**Naomie Harris** — *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*

**Sanaa Lathan** — *The Best Man Holiday*

**Lupita Nyong'o** — *12 Years A Slave*

**Octavia Spencer** — *Fruitvale Station*

**Oprah Winfrey** — *Lee Daniels' The Butler*

### **BEST DIRECTOR**

**Ryan Coogler** — *Fruitvale Station*

**Lee Daniels** — *Lee Daniels' The Butler*

**Antoine Fuqua** — *Olympus Has Fallen*

**Malcolm D. Lee** — *The Best Man Holiday*

**Spike Lee** — *Oldboy*

**Steve McQueen** — *12 Years A Slave*

### **BEST SCREENPLAY**

***12 Years A Slave*** (written by: John Ridley)

***Black Nativity*** (written by: Kasi Lemmons)

***Fruitvale Station*** (written by: Ryan Coogler)

***The Best Man Holiday*** (written by: Malcolm D. Lee)

***The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete*** (written by: Michael Starrbury)

### **BEST ENSEMBLE CAST**

***Baggage Claim***

***Black Nativity***

***Fast & Furious 6***

***Lee Daniels' The Butler***

***The Best Man Holiday***

### **BREAKOUT PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR**

**Barkhad Abdi** — *Captain Phillips*

**Chadwick Boseman** — *42: The Jackie Robinson Story*

**Skyan Brooks** — *The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete*

**Michael B. Jordan** — *Fruitvale Station*

**Lupita Nyong'o** — *12 Years A Slave*

**ARTIST OF THE YEAR** for an artist (male or female) in recognition of their collective body of work for the year.

**Idris Elba** (appeared in: *Pacific Rim*, *Thor: The Dark World*, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*)

**Kevin Hart** (appeared in: *Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain*, *This Is The End*, *Grudge Match*; produced: *Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain*)

**Dwayne Johnson** (starred in: *Snitch*, *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*, *Pain & Gain*, *Fast & Furious 6*)

**Tyler Perry** (appeared in: *Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas*, wrote, directed and produced: *Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor* and *Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas*; produced: *Peeples*)

**Forest Whitaker** (appeared in: *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, *Black Nativity*, *Out of the Furnace*; produced: *Fruitvale Station*)

**STUDIO OF THE YEAR** for a motion picture studio in recognition of the distribution of quality films directed by, written by, produced by or featuring in a leading role, a person(s) of African descent.

**Lionsgate/Codeblack/Summit Entertainment:** (*Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas*, *Peeples*, *Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor*, *Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain*, *The Inevitable Defeat of Mister & Pete*)

**The Weinstein Company** (*Lee Daniels' The Butler, Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, Fruitvale Station, Scary Movie 5*)

**Twentieth Century/Fox Searchlight Pictures** (*12 Years A Slave, Baggage Claim, Black Nativity*)

**Universal Pictures** (*Fast & Furious 6, The Best Man Holiday, Riddick*)

### **ABOUT THE AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL**

The American Black Film Festival (ABFF) is an annual event dedicated to showcasing quality films by and about people of African descent. Committed to the belief that Black content creators and artists deserve the same opportunities as their mainstream counterparts, ABFF founder Jeff Friday conceived the festival in 1997 as a vehicle to promote diversity in the film and television industry. Today it serves as the preeminent pipeline to new Black talent in front of and behind the camera, and is regarded as one of the leading film festivals in the world. The 18<sup>th</sup> annual ABFF will take place in New York City, June 19-22, 2014. Festival passes and tickets are on sale now. For more information visit [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com)

### **ABOUT FILM LIFE**

Film Life, Inc. is a multifaceted entertainment company headquartered in New York City. Founded in 2001 by Jeff Friday its current CEO. While best known for creating the American Black Film Festival (ABFF), the company's operations center on developing and licensing innovative content across all forms of media and providing strategic advisory services to a wide range of corporations in the entertainment and consumer product industries. Its scope of consulting services includes event management, film marketing and distribution, educational program development, talent procurement, and video production.

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