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**LOCAL MIAMI FILMMAKERS VIE FOR PRIZES AT  
17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL (ABFF)**

**ABFF to feature films by local filmmakers in Festival's main competition and "*Films Over Miami*"  
Community Showcase, sponsored by SEOPW Community Redevelopment Agency**

**MIAMI, FL- (May 31)--** Film Life, Inc., has announced that two local filmmakers, Edson Jean and R. Malcolm Jones have been chosen to compete in the Narrative Competition and the HBO Short Film Competition of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual American Black Film Festival. Additionally, as part of their ongoing partnership with the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency (SEOPW CRA), The ABFF has added an event, *Scene Miami*, a showcase of films by emerging local filmmakers to the festival's event schedule. "Films Over Miami," will take place on Sunday, June 23, 2013, at the Colony Theatre in Miami Beach during the 17th annual American Black Film Festival, which is scheduled for June 19-23, 2013.

"The American Black Film Festival as part of its ongoing mission to celebrate the finest that independent cinema has to offer while nurturing up and coming talent is very excited to showcase the works of these two very talented filmmakers as well as give a platform to Miami's emerging filmmaker," said Jeff Friday, CEO of Film Life, Inc. and ABFF Founder. "We have had a partnership with the SEOPW CRA for the past four years and Scene Miami is the product of this partnership," Friday added. The partnership is a redevelopment activity pursuant to the SEOPW's Community Redevelopment Plan.

As part of the ABFF-SEOPW partnership, local youth from the Overtown community will attend the Festival and attend master classes and workshops to introduce them to the disciplines and career opportunities that exist within the motion picture industry. Additionally, *Playin' for Love*, written and directed by Robert Townsend and produced and funded in part by the SEOPW, will have its red carpet world premiere on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Colony Theatre. *Playin' for Love*, was shot entirely on location in Overtown and other CRA areas, feature local talent in front of and behind the camera.

QUOTE FROM CRA

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Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, South Florida residents will have the opportunity to purchase tickets to the festival's panels, master classes, celebrity conversations, comedy and films during a special pre-sale available only to South Florida residents on ticket web from June 1-June 3, 2013. Tickets will go on sale to the general public beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup>. for tickets please visit [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com). For additional information on the Festival including the complete festival schedule, please visit [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com).

#### **About ABFF**

The American Black Film Festival (ABFF) is a five-day retreat and international film market dedicated to strengthening the Black filmmaking community. Established in 1997, the core mission of the ABFF is to promote cultural diversity within the motion picture industry. Through its film showcases and special contests, it annually introduces the top echelon of emerging artists to the film and television industry.

The ABFF is a property of Film Life, Inc., a multifaceted entertainment company headquartered in New York City. The company was founded in 2001 by Jeff Friday, a veteran of the consumer product marketing and advertising industries. While best known for creating the American Black Film Festival (ABFF), Film Life's operations center on developing/licensing innovative content across all forms of media and providing strategic advisory services to a wide range of companies in the entertainment, media and consumer product industries.

#### **About SEOPW CRA**

The SEOPW CRA was established pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969 to eliminate conditions of slum and blight within designated areas of the Overtown and Park West neighborhoods. The SEOPW CRA operates from within the context of its Masterplan, which lists as redevelopment goals the promotion and marketing of the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Area and creating jobs within the community.

For more information on the SEOPW CRA, visit [www.miamicra.com/seopwcra](http://www.miamicra.com/seopwcra)

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