

**FOTOFOCUS
PRESENTS
LENS
MIX**

CONVERSATION WITH
**ROGER ROSS
WILLIAMS &
LISA CORTES**
**THURSDAY
OCT 1, 2020, 6PM**

**Lens Mix: A New Digital Conversation Series
Connecting Artists, Filmmakers, and Creatives from
Different Fields**

FotoFocus is proud to present **Lens Mix**, a monthly virtual conversation series connecting speakers from different fields to comment on film, photography, and lens-based art. Created in celebration of FotoFocus's tenth anniversary, the free three-part series moderated by **FotoFocus Artistic Director and Curator Kevin Moore** invites speakers to explore each others' artistic practice and projects through intimate discussions. To stay up-to-date on speakers and upcoming conversations, visit fotofocus.org.

Lens Mix 1: Roger Ross Williams and Lisa Cortés Thursday, October 1, 2020, 6pm EST



Roger Ross Williams photographed by Justin Bettman. Lisa Cortés photographed by Luciana Pampalone.

Join Academy Award-winning director, producer, and writer **Roger Ross Williams** and Academy Award-nominated producer **Lisa Cortés** for an hour-long Zoom conversation moderated by Kevin Moore. As audiences turn to documentary filmmaking for truthful and complex narratives told outside the scope of mainstream media, this conversation between Roger Ross Williams and Lisa Cortés, who collaborated most recently on *The Apollo* (2019), asks the question: what stories urgently need to be told in today's polarized and racialized political climate?

Williams was the first Black director to win an Academy Award, with his short documentary film *Music by Prudence* (2010). He has directed many critically acclaimed films, including the Academy Award-nominated *Life, Animated* (2016), which won the Sundance Film Festival Directing Award, and his recent HBO documentary about the iconic Harlem theater, *The Apollo*, which was the opening night film of the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival. His production company, One Story Up, is currently in production on a feature-length adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between The World and Me* for HBO, an untitled documentary about civil rights lawyer Ben Crump, and a short film series with Topic and First Look Media. Williams is currently in pre-production on his first narrative feature film for Amazon studios, *Cassandra*, starring Gael García Bernal.

Cortés is renowned for creating challenging, visionary stories and has been distinguished by her commitment to empowering inclusive voices. She was the executive producer of *Precious* (2009)

and recently worked with Williams as producer on *The Apollo* (2019). Her directorial debut, *The Remix: Hip Hop X Fashion* (2019), traces the impact of street fashion and African American creativity on global cultural trends and was recently released on Netflix. *All In: The Fight For Democracy*, which she co-directed with Liz Garbus and produced with Stacey Abrams, Dan Cogan and Garbus will be released by Amazon Studios in fall 2020.

REGISTER FOR FREE HERE

FotoFocus at the Drive-In

Thursday, September 24, 2020, 7:45pm EST



One week before the first Lens Mix conversation, join FotoFocus in Cincinnati for a special free screening of *The Apollo* (2019) presented by **FotoFocus SECOND SCREENS** at the **Hollywood Drive-In Theatre** (1538 Cedar Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45224). Drive-in opens at 7:15pm and the film starts at 7:45pm.

The Apollo, directed by Roger Ross Williams and produced by Lisa Cortés, chronicles the unique history and contemporary legacy of New York City's landmark theater, and features interviews with Patti LaBelle, Pharrell Williams, Smokey Robinson, Jamie Foxx, and more. Screening is free and open to the public. Tickets are required.

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS HERE

ABOUT FOTOFOCUS

FotoFocus is a Cincinnati-based nonprofit arts organization that champions photography and lens-based art through exhibitions and public programming. Since 2010, the organization has engaged art and educational institutions throughout the region to support and expand the cultural dialogue around the medium that has come to define our time.

With an emphasis on intellectually and academically rigorous programs, the organization provides uniquely enriching access to lens-based art, film, and practices inspired by photography. FotoFocus has collaborated with hundreds of organizations, curators, academics, and artists to present more than 700 exhibitions and programs, having contributed funding for the majority. The organization has brought hundreds of internationally-renowned photographers to the Greater Cincinnati region.

Signature programming includes: FotoFocus Biennial, which had a record-breaking 207,000 visitors in 2018 and has presented exhibitions of work by both historic and contemporary artists such as Berenice Abbott, Eugène Atget, Roe Ethridge, Zanele Muholi, Karl Blossfeldt, Francis Bruguière, Thomas Ruff, and Akram Zaatari in Cincinnati; the FotoFocus Symposium, which has contributed significant dialogue and insight to culturally relevant topics including the controversial Mapplethorpe exhibition; and FotoFocus Lecture and Visiting Artist Series, which has brought internationally renowned artists, such as Zoe Leonard and William Wegman, to Cincinnati.

In April 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, FotoFocus pledged its 2020 Biennial budget to financially support more than 100 Participating Venues and Partners in the region's art community through FotoFocus Emergency Art Grants.

ABOUT FOTOFOCUS SECOND SCREENS

SECOND SCREENS is a film series presented by FotoFocus across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. The aim of SECOND SCREENS is to enrich the cinematic landscape through public screenings of works that span many years, subjects, and genres, including narrative, documentary, avant-garde, and animation.

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