



Media Contact:

Sharon Kersten (305) 458-3639 / PR@fliff.com

**JUNETEENTH MINI FILM FESTIVAL:
Celebrating Hope & Resilience**

June 18-20 at Savor Cinema

**“The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value
of never giving up hope in uncertain times.”**

The National Museum of African American History and Culture

In celebration of Juneteenth, FLIFF (Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival) is presenting three films that are a testament to the spirit of hope and resilience of the African American community. Often referred to as our country’s “Second Independence Day,” Juneteenth commemorates the date in 1865 when more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in Texas were free by executive decree.

The [Juneteenth Mini Film Festival](#) takes place June 18 – 20 at Savor Cinema in Fort Lauderdale, with each film based on a true story reflecting strength and perseverance in the face of adversity. A reception at 6PM precedes each of the screenings, with entertainment and/or special guests in attendance. The Jewish Federation of Broward County Community Relations Council/Alcee L. Hastings Broward Black Jewish Alliance and Sunny Florida Productions are proud to sponsor the Juneteenth Mini Film Festival.

The festival kicks off with the screening of **MISS VIRGINIA** on Tuesday, June 18th. Based on a true story, *Miss Virginia* stars Emmy-winner **Uzo Aduba** as a struggling, single mother who is losing her teenaged son to the rough streets of Washington, DC. Unwilling to see him drop out and deal drugs, she puts him in a private school. But when she can’t afford tuition, she launches a movement to change the system that is destroying him and thousands like him. Attacked and threatened by those who don’t want change – from corrupt politicians to a local drug lord – Virginia discovers the depths of her own inner strength.

On Wednesday, June 19th, **Melony Armstrong**, the subject of the film **FREEDOM HAIR**, will be joining guests at the reception preceding the film, also engaging in a discussion following the screening. Based on Melony’s inspiring story, **FREEDOM HAIR** recounts her experience as a woman who worked at a shelter for battered women, determined to start a natural hair braiding business to achieve financial independence for herself and others. However, she must first fight to overcome unexpected obstacles imposed by a powerful cosmetology cartel and the State of Mississippi in order to succeed. Also featuring Spoken Word artist **Darius Daughtry** and musical guest **Kiowa Catlin**.

KEMBA, playing on Thursday, June 20th, is based on the true story of [Kemba Smith Pradia](#), who went from sheltered college student to drug dealer’s girlfriend to domestic violence victim. She was sentenced to 24.5 years in federal prison, and President Bill Clinton pardoned her after 6.5 years. Kemba is now victims’ rights advocate, and founder of The Kemba Smith Foundation, raising awareness on issues facing youth and women – drug abuse, domestic violence, law enforcement in Black communities and more. The film will be preceded by a drumming performance by **FeminAfrika World Music Ensemble**.

The Juneteenth Mini Film Festival takes place June 18-20 at Savor Cinema, 503 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale. Free parking is available in the garage on SE 5th Avenue adjacent to the theater. Reception at 6pm; Film at 7pm. For tickets and information please visit <https://fliff.com/juneteenth>