

For Immediate Release

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**FIN Atlantic International Film Festival announces
live-documentary *Africville in Black and White*, Sept. 18 in Halifax**

(Halifax, NS) – **FIN Atlantic International Film Festival** is pleased to announce the Atlantic Canadian premiere of the site-specific live-documentary ***Africville in Black and White*** at St. Matthew's United Church (1479 Barrington Street) in Halifax on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.

Set inside the church, *Africville in Black and White* traces the legacy, the spirit and the resilience of an African-Canadian community torn from their homes and forced to seek refuge within their own country. This story begins in the middle of the night 51 years ago when bulldozers destroyed the Seaview United Baptist Church - the heart and soul of the community.

Conceived, directed and produced by Gemini award-winning filmmaker Cyrus Sundar Singh, *Africville in Black and White* places the primary documentary subjects from the Africville community and diaspora in the presence of a live audience without the intervention of camera or screen. The direct relationship between the storyteller and the observer creates a unique experience where witnesses are complicit in co-creating the live-documentary. In addition, narrators, musicians, singers, poets, and dancers will also be gathered inside the church to “perform the documentary” in a collaborative, real-time experiment.

Produced by Salaam Shalom Productions and co-produced by Juanita Peters and San Family Productions, this live-documentary performance will take place inside St. Matthew's United Church, in downtown Halifax, with a remote connection to the Africville Church Museum located in the North End of Halifax.

Home to a tightly knit community of Black Canadians for over 150 years, Africville's legal residents were forcefully evicted, in the 1960s, by the city of Halifax and their homes bulldozed in the “name of progress.”

“As Canada enters the next 150 years, *Africville in Black and White* offers the opportunity to reflect on the promise of an inclusive and multi-racial Canada, and how that notion includes or excludes the legacy of Africville, and Africanadians,” said Sundar Singh.

“The Atlantic International Film Festival has always been about more than just films. It is about experiences and we feel honoured and privileged to be partnering up with Cyrus and his team for this incredible project”, said Wayne Carter, Executive Director. “The Festival is all about telling stories and the Africville story is one of paramount importance.”

A post-premiere reception for *Africville in Black and White* will be held at The Lord Nelson Hotel. Tickets are \$22.50 and the event is also open to FIN Big Binge and Daily Binge On Us pass holders.

About FIN Atlantic International Film Festival

FIN Atlantic International Film Festival is an eight-day celebration of film and media from around the world. It's a festival that turns Halifax into an international mecca for the arts, abuzz with movie-lovers and filmmakers alike. Discover a variety of local, national and international films that explore all corners of life, culture, entertainment and the global human experience. A champion of local filmmakers, all of our film selections are chosen with our audience in mind and our special events are designed to bring our community together.

A not-for-profit organization, the Festival began as a tiny, grassroots operation in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1981, relocating to Halifax the following year. Three decades later, FIN Atlantic International Film Festival has evolved into one of Canada's premier film festivals. Whether for unabashed film-lovers, curious onlookers, or industry folks, the Festival offers an ocean of opportunities to engage through the celebration of film.

FIN Atlantic International Film Festival is now a year-round celebration, growing beyond our cornerstone event in September to include: FIN Kids, FIN Outdoor, FIN Campus, FIN Makers and FIN Partners.

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For photos and interviews specific to *Africville in Black and White*, contact:

Cyrus Sundar Singh, Salaam Shalom Productions Inc.
(416) 346-2047 / cyrusmedia@pathcom.com

Juanita Peters, San Family Productions
(902) 410-3794 / sanfamilyprod@gmail.com

For additional information, contact:

Wendy Phillips, FIN Publicist

(902) 492-0960 / wendy@ppri.ca
finfestival.ca/media