

situation and how it affects black communities in our capital.

Friday 24 October, 6.30pm

'Beyond Empire': the Black Experience in World War One

Talk and discussion

The upheaval of the First World War witnessed the enlistment of thousands of Black British men from across the empire in the British armed forces. The men who emerged from this terrible experience had their eyes opened to possibility of breaking the bonds of empire. Alongside of the millions of African American, French African and South Asian soldiers the Great War marked the beginning of a journey away towards freedom. This masterclass will introduce you to this important period in Black history and how it shaped the twentieth century world.

Michael Berlin is a specialist in the social history of early modern London. He has published extensively on the history of London's guilds. His most recent work has been on twentieth-century social history, including a history of the RMT transport union. He is currently researching into the history of the British New Left.

University Square Stratford FREE

Thursday 30 October, 6.30pm

Black studies – where is it?

Talk and discussion

Black studies – a social science covering subjects such as history, politics, religion, the arts, economics, geography and psychology – is needed to counter the damaging and corrosive idea that black culture is somehow anti-intellectual and that black people are not capable of contributing meaningfully to the intellectual life of this country. Black Studies include, for example, the examination of the Notting Hill carnival, building insight into its historical significance and connections to the Caribbean, South America and Africa, the complex religious symbolism that underpins it, its economic, geographical and cultural impact, and its role in establishing London as a global city.

Dr William Ackah is a lecturer in Community and Voluntary Sector Studies at Birkbeck will deliver this talk, examining the place of Black Studies in the UK academia.

University Square Stratford FREE

Thursday 30 October, 8.30pm

The Anomaly

Film screening, talk and discussion, with actor, screenwriter and director Noel Clarke and Birkbeck's Professor Ian Christie

Set in the near future a former soldier is taken captive and awakens in the back of a van with no memory of how he got there. Accused of kidnapping a child Ryan tries to put the pieces together but nine minutes and forty seven seconds later he loses consciousness again. Under impossible circumstances he has no choice but to search for the answers to the mystery behind his memory losses.

The Anomaly is a unique sci-fi thriller, directed and starring Noel Clarke (Doctor Who, Star Trek into Darkness, Adulthood), that explores the idea of mind control. Also featuring Ian Somerhalder, Brian Cox, Alexis Knapp, and Luke Hemsworth.

UK 2014

**Directed by Noel Clarke
Running time 97 mins (15)
Stratford Picturehouse
FREE**



**Birkbeck, University of London
Malet Street
Bloomsbury
London WC1E 7HX
www.bbk.ac.uk**

Birkbeck is a world-class research and teaching institution, a vibrant centre of academic excellence and London's only specialist provider of evening higher education.



OCTOBER 2014 BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM FESTIVAL



In partnership with NUSHO (Nu Social Health Organisation) The New Black will be running art/culture/heritage events before the screenings. Check out www.tnbc.co.uk for more details.



This panel is supported by Udala, the online entertainment platform, which provides streaming and downloadable content from Africa and The Caribbean to a global audience. www.udala.com

Black History Month

Birkbeck, The New Black Film Collective and the Nu Social Health Organisation bring you a series of inspirational films and events in celebration of the Black History Month 2014. All are welcome.

To book a place, contact the event location:

Stratford East Picturehouse

Salway Road

London E15 1BX

0871 902 5740

www.picturehouses.co.uk

University Square Stratford

1 Salway Road

London E15 1BX

www.bbk.ac.uk/events-calendar

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bfi.org.uk/sci-fi

Event supported by



TNB BHM 2014 is the fourth year of The New Black Film Festival during Black History Month. The New Black are proud to be collaborating with Birkbeck, University of London to bring you this exciting programme of titles from the African Diaspora.

Part of the BFI Sci-Fi season. This programme is supported by Film Hub London, managed by Film London. Proud to be a partner of the BFI Film Audience Network, funded by the National Lottery. For more information visit bfi.org.uk/scifi

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**Thursday 2 October,
6.30pm**

An evening with Benjamin Zephaniah

Talk, presented by Newham Bookshop and Newham Monitoring Project

Benjamin Zephaniah's work is known for his brilliant and distinctive voice and its focus on important social and political issues. *Terror Kid*, his first novel in seven years, is set against the backdrop of the 2011 riots, and tells the extraordinary tale of how one boy's idealism and passion to speak out is distorted and manipulated by those who want to commit acts of terror. Benjamin will be talking about the issues he tackles in his novel – examining our judgements, intentions and actions, and also the timely issues of terrorism, hacktivism and the exploitation of young people. Always impactful and thoughtful, Benjamin Zephaniah is not to be missed.

Stratford Picturehouse
£5

**Thursday 2 October,
8.30pm**

I, Robot

Film screening, talk and discussion, with The New Black Film Collective

In its depiction of the near future, human beings have become almost completely dependent upon robots to carry out any given task from their everyday lives. As technology has advanced so too have the robot's capabilities, but each is programmed to obey humans without question and most

importantly to never harm a human. Soon though, the human race's sense of security is shattered when a scientist winds up dead and a humanoid robot is the main suspect. Everyone quickly becomes suspicious of their mechanised house servants and can only hope their safety is not at risk. Will Smith (*Men In Black*, *ALI*) stars as Del Spooner, the robot-hating Chicago cop who is assigned to the murder investigation.

US 2004

Directed by Alex Proyas
Running time 115 mins (12A)
Stratford Picturehouse
£6.50

**Thursday 9 October,
8.30pm**

After Earth

Film screening, talk and discussion, with Dr Andrew Asibong

A thousand years into the future, having abandoned a terminally ravaged Earth, humankind has colonised a distant planet, from which legendary space ranger General Cypher Raige (Will Smith) embarks on a routine mission with his wannabe-ranger son Kitai (Smith's real-life son Jaden).

But when their spacecraft crash-lands on Earth, a critically wounded Cypher obliges Kitai to retrieve a rescue beacon. Against terrifying odds, Kitai desperately tries to complete his mission and become the soldier even his father doubted he could be. From a story written by Smith Snr, M Night Shyamalan (*The Sixth Sense*, *Signs*) has fashioned a tense, visually amazing sci-fi heart-stopper.

US 2013

Directed by M Night Shyamalan
Running time 100 mins (12A)
Stratford Picturehouse
£6.50

Dr Andre Asibong is a Senior Lecturer and the co-founder of the Birkbeck Research Centre in Aesthetics of Kinship and Community. He will talk about emotions, father-son relationships in film and in reality, the 'internalized father', and cultural transmission across the generations.

**Thursday 16 October,
8.30pm**

Fire in the Blood

Film screening, talk and discussion, with Reubs Walsh, Birkbeck Student Union's LGBT Officer

An intricate tale of "medicine, monopoly and malice", *Fire in the Blood* tells the story of how Western pharmaceutical companies and governments blocked access to low-cost AIDS drugs for the countries of the global south in the years after 1996 – causing ten million or more unnecessary deaths – and the improbable group of people who decided to fight back.

Shot on four continents and including contributions from global figures such as Bill Clinton, Desmond Tutu and Joseph Stiglitz, *Fire in the Blood* is the never-before-told true story of the remarkable coalition which came together to stop 'the crime of the century' and save millions of lives in the process.

US 2013

Directed by Dylan Mohan Gray
Running time 87 mins (PG)
Stratford Picturehouse
FREE

Reubs Walsh is Birkbeck SU's LGBT Officer, and one of the NUS LGBT Campaign's trans reps. In the latter role, they are working on a national project to improve access to sexual health services for trans people. They recently attended UNAIDS' conference on preventing HIV in young LGBTQ people in Europe. Reubs will provide a perspective on the intersection between black and LGBT communities.

**Thursday 23 October,
8.30pm**

Attack the Block

Film screening, talk and discussion, with Birkbeck's Dr Paul Watt

Attack the Block is a fast, funny, frightening action adventure movie that pits a teen gang against an invasion of savage alien monsters. It turns a London housing estate into a sci-fi playground; a tower block into a fortress under siege; and teenage street kids into heroes. Leader of the youthful gang, Moses, (John Boyega) attacks a common alien enemy with the residents. It's inner city versus outer space in this stylish sci-fi romp from the producers of *Shaun of the Dead* and *Scott Pilgrim vs the World*.

UK 2011

Directed by Joe Cornish
Running time 88 mins (15)
Stratford Picturehouse
FREE

Dr Paul Watt is a Senior Lecturer in Urban Studies at Birkbeck. His academic interests lie in cities, class formation and the inter-relationships between social and spatial inequality. Dr Watt will talk about the London housing crisis in the 1960s, how it relates to today's housing

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