

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS UNITE FOR INAUGURAL
BLACKOUT MUSIC & FILM FESTIVAL**
CELEBRATING STORYTELLING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Los Angeles, CA – On **Saturday, August 29**, [Blackout for Human Rights](#) – a collective of actors, artists and activists dedicated to justice for all, will present the first annual Blackout Music & Film Festival at the GRAMMY Museum at L.A. LIVE in downtown Los Angeles. The festival will feature a diverse and exciting collection of thought-provoking films, panels, art installations and live musical performances meant to foster a sense of community, creativity, and culture.

The festival kicks off with a special screening of Marc Silver's Sundance Film Festival award-winning documentary "**3 1/2 Minutes, 10 Bullets**," presented by [PICO National Network's Live Free Campaign](#). In addition, there will be a special screening of Justin Simien's award-winning film "**Dear White People**."

"With Blackout Music & Film Festival, our goal is to create a space for the exhibition and exploration of art that provides a springboard for critical analysis, community building and creative collaboration," stated filmmaker **Ryan Coogler, founding member of Blackout for Human Rights**.

The Signature Artist Showcase includes work from the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Adrian Franks, Hank Willis Thomas, Synthia Saint James, Bayeté Ross Smith, Damon Davis, Shikeith, Mariella Angela, Nikkolos Mohammed, Basil Kincaid, Darryl King, Whitney Alix of Rebel Citizen and spoken word performances by Leo Breckenridge and actress/musician/artist Amandla Stenberg. The "**#SayHerName Voices for the Cause Music Showcase**," features live musical performances by Grammy Award winner Lalah Hathaway, V. Bozeman (Empire), PJ (Atlantic Records) and more.

The three featured panels throughout the day will cover a wide range of topics including the importance of diversity in media representation, the role of art in activism, effective solutions for racial justice, and more. The storytelling panel featuring actress, Tracee Ellis Ross, The Blacklist founder, Franklin Leonard, director, Justin Simien, actor, Mo'Nique, Entertainment Tonight co-host, Kevin Frazier and more.

Michael Latt, Director of Blackout Music & Film Festival, said, "We're excited to bring the Los Angeles community together to celebrate the power of storytelling in film, music and art in illuminating our shared humanity and exploring the complex social issues of our time. Centered

on the intersection of social justice and storytelling, the Blackout Festival reflects our commitment to the idea that all of our stories deserve to be told and all of our lives deserve to be valued and protected in policies and laws.”

The social justice panel features Black Lives Matter Co-Founder Patrisse Cullors, ACLU lawyer, Peter Bibring, Black Lives Matter activist Ashley Yates, Urban Cusp Founder, Rahiel Tesfamariam, The Root Associate Editor, Danielle C. Belton, and Exec. Dir. of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans, David Johns. Presented by ACLU Southern California and Black Lives Matter, the panel will be moderated by UCLA professor, Dr. Marcus Hunter. The panel will be moderated by Indiewire’s editor-in-chief, Dana Harris. The musical panel features VIBE Magazine’s editor-in-chief Datwon Thomas, Digital Underground Producer Jimi “Chopmaster J” Dright, Music Producer Focus, Artist V Bozeman and Artist Damani Nkosi. The panel will be moderated by ASCAP, Associate Director Mir Harris.

As part of their presence at Blackout Music & Film Festival, ACLU Southern California and Black Lives Matter will host the Social Justice Panel, Campaign for Black Male Achievement will host the Storytelling Panel and VIBE Magazine will host the Music Panel. All ticket proceeds will be donated to support PICO Network and Mobile Justice CA, a Joint Project Between The ACLU of California and The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. Blackout Music & Film Festival tickets (\$10-\$18) are available at <https://blackoutfestival.eventbrite.com>

For images and graphics, visit <http://bit.ly/1DZemrW>. Press interested in attending and covering Blackout Music & Film Festival should email Leanne Agmon at leanneagmon@gmail.com.

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Blackout Music & Film Festival is supported by venue partner, The GRAMMY Museum, presenting partners, PICO Network, Campaign for Black Male Achievement and ACLU of Southern California, principal partners Live Free, Black Lives Matter, The Blacklist, Cue the Creatives, LA Voice, ARRAY, The Ella Baker Center, Million Hoodies, Dream Defenders, In The NINE, The Law Offices of John L. Burris and ColorOfChange and media partners Variety Magazine, The Root, VIBE Magazine, Indiewire, AllHipHop.com, ForHarriet.com, Urban Cusp, Bright Ideas Magazine, and Music Industry Quarterly/Urban Network Digital.

Blackout for Human Rights

Blackout for Human Rights is a collective of filmmakers, artists, activists, musicians, lawyers, tastemakers, religious leaders and concerned citizens who commit their energy and resources to immediately address the staggering level of human rights violations and injustices against fellow Americans throughout the United States. Blackout is comprised of both high visibility and everyday citizens. Members include Ryan Coogler, Michael B. Jordan, Charles King, Nate Parker, Donald “Childish Gambino” Glover, Ava DuVernay, Jesse Williams, John Burris, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Rosa Clemente, Michael McBride, Shaka King, Scott Budnick, David Oyelowo, Pastor Michael McBride, Bradford Young and more. For more information, please

visit www.blackoutforhumanrights.com and join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Tumblr](#), [Vine](#), and [YouTube](#).

The GRAMMY Museum at L.A. LIVE

Paying tribute to music's rich cultural history, this one-of-a-kind, 21st-century museum explores and celebrates the enduring legacies of all forms of music, the creative process, the art and technology of the recording process, and the history of the premier recognition of excellence in recorded music — the GRAMMY® Award. The GRAMMY Museum features 30,000 square feet of interactive and multimedia exhibits located within L.A. LIVE, the downtown Los Angeles sports, entertainment and residential district. Through thought-provoking and dynamic public and educational programs and exhibits, guests will experience music from a never-before-seen insider perspective that only the GRAMMY Museum can deliver. For more information, please call 213-765-6800 or visit www.grammymuseum.org. For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @TheGRAMMYMuseum on Twitter and Instagram, and like "The GRAMMY Museum" on Facebook.