

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## HARRY BELAFONTE'S 1967 TV SPECIAL 'A TIME FOR LAUGHTER' RECEIVES A RARE SCREENING, FOLLOWED BY A CONVERSATION WITH COMEDIANS OF COLOR

Co-presented with the Black Filmmaker Foundation as part of the Museum's *Changing the Picture* series, sponsored by Time Warner Inc.

Participating comedians include Joyelle Nicole Johnson, Leighann Lord, Mugga, Freddie Ricks, Alaudin Ullah, Ruperto Vanderpool, Tim Wynn, Mike Yard, and others to be announced

**Saturday, February 6, 2016, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

Astoria, Queens, New York (January 26, 2016)—Museum of the Moving Image continues its annual collaboration with the Black Filmmaker Foundation (BFF) for a third consecutive year, with an afternoon forum on the intersection of race and the media. **The Color of Comedy** will explore how comedy is used as an artistic tool to address social issues that are often uncomfortable and contentious in public discussion. The afternoon-long event, on **Saturday, February 6, 2016, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**, will feature a screening of Harry Belafonte's groundbreaking 1967 ABC-TV special *A Time for Laughter: A Look at Negro Humor in America*, followed by a town hall forum of comedians of color whose comedy is rooted in issues that remain fractious social concerns. Warrington Hudlin, President of BFF and Vice Chairman of the Museum, is the host and curator of the program.

Tickets are \$20 (\$15 members at Film Lover and MoMI Kids Premium levels / free for Silver Screen members and above). Advance tickets are available online at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).

Part 1 (1:00–2:00 p.m.)

### ***A Time for Laughter: A Look at Negro Humor in America***

Courtesy of Harry Belafonte Enterprises and the Paley Center for Media, the Museum will present a rare public screening of Harry Belafonte's groundbreaking 1967 ABC-TV special. Featuring narration by Sidney Poitier, the program's extraordinary cast included Dick Gregory, Redd Foxx, George Kirby, Moms Mabley, Pigmeat Markham, Godfrey Cambridge, and a young Richard Pryor. This TV special was rooted in and reflective of the U.S. civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Part Two (2:30–4:30 p.m.)

### **Town Hall Discussion with Comedians of Color**

This session presents an open discussion forum with a multicultural group of comedians whose humor continues the tradition of comedy as an artistic means of social commentary. Each of the participating comedians will be introduced by a video clip of their work. With M.C. & Interlocutor **Warrington Hudlin**, participating artists include:

**Joyelle Nicole Johnson** ([joyellenicole.com](http://joyellenicole.com)) has opened for Dave Chappelle and Hannibal Buress. She finished third in the She-Devil Comedy Festival in 2013, and was a top ten finalist for NBC's StandUp for Diversity competition.

**Leighann Lord** ([veryfunnylady.com](http://veryfunnylady.com)) is a veteran stand-up comedian seen on HBO, Comedy Central, and *The View*. She is the author of *Dict Jokes* and *Real Women Do It Standing Up*, and is a co-host of *StarTalk Radio*, with Neil deGrasse Tyson.

**Mugga** ([muggasworld.com](http://muggasworld.com)) has appeared on Russell Simmons's *Def Comedy Jam*, performed on the Def Jam Tour, and appeared in the Academy Award-winning film *Precious*.

**Freddie Ricks** has appeared on *The Apollo Comedy Hour*, BET's *Comedic View*, and Russell Simmons's *Def Comedy Jam*. He has appeared in films such as *Shaft* (with Samuel L. Jackson and Vanessa Williams), *Baby Boy*, and *Stray*.

**Alaudin Ullah** ([funnyaladdin.weebly.com](http://funnyaladdin.weebly.com)) is an actor, writer, and comedian of South Asian descent. He was a co-founder and host of the multi-ethnic stand up show *Colorblind*. Ullah voiced several characters in the award winning animated film *Sita Sings the Blues*.

**Ruperto Vanderpool** was featured on *It's Showtime at the Apollo*, Galavision's *Que Locos*, and SiTV's *Latino Laugh Festival: The Show*. Film credits include the 2004 film *The Cookout*.

**Tim Wynn** ([about.me/TimWynn](http://about.me/TimWynn)) is a writer and series regular on the HBO series *Straight Up*.

**Mike Yard** ([mikeyardcomedy.com](http://mikeyardcomedy.com)) is a winner of Comedy Central's *Get Up Stand Up* competition and is currently a leading contributor to *The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore* on Comedy Central.

*Changing the Picture*, sponsored by Time Warner Inc., is an ongoing monthly series that celebrates and explores the work of film and television artists of color who are bringing diverse voices to the screen. This year's February program, *The Color of*

*Comedy*, builds on the success of *Massa' Gaze* (2014), screenings and discussions around the representation of slavery on screen, and *Endangered by the Moving Image* (2015), a town-hall style discussion about criminalization of the black image on screen.

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### **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Museum of the Moving Image ([movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets for screenings are \$12 (\$9 students and seniors / free for Museum members at the Film Lover and MoMI Kids Premium levels and above) will be available for advance purchase online at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us). Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3–12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).