Opening Night:
QUEEN NANNY:
LEGENDARY MAROON CHIEFTAINESS
Fri, June 10, 7:30 feat. Q&A with producer Alison G. Anderson
QUEEN NANNY documents the Jamaican Maroons’ struggle for freedom, led by the indomitable 18th-century military genius and Jamaican national hero Nanny of the Maroons. A spiritual leader skilled in the use of herbs and guerrilla warfare tactics, she directed the fighting that effectively neutralized the vaunted firepower of the British, all from her mountain stronghold. Following on the heels of AKWANTU: THE JOURNEY, director Roy T. Anderson’s award-winning film on the history of the Jamaican Maroons, this rousing new documentary expands on the story of the New World’s first successful freedom fighters by shedding light on one of the leading figures in that struggle. DIR/SCR Roy T. Anderson. Jamaica/U.S., 2015, color, 59 min. In English. NOT RATED

VIGILANTE: THE CROSSING
Fri, June 10, 9:30
Deported from the U.S. to Barbados, ex-con Dexter discovers his homeland engulfed in crime. Armed with the guilt of his past crimes and a genuine passion to see his birthplace thrive, he takes on the role of a vigilante. Employing Robin Hood-style tactics to eradicate his village of criminals, he soon collides with Amy, a white Barbadian woman who deploys a polar opposite, Martin Luther King-like approach to helping the same community. As the boiling pot of racial prejudice, passion, love and hate erupts, their lives and shared mission reach a crucial crossroads. Official Selection, 2016 Pan African Film Festival. DIR/SCR Marcia Weekes; PROD Dave Weekes. Barbados, 2015, color, 127 min. In English. NOT RATED

NINTH FLOOR
Sat, June 11, 2:00
It started quietly, when a group of Caribbean students, strangers in a cold new land, began to suspect their professor of racism. It ended in the most explosive student uprising Canada had ever known. More than four decades later, NINTH FLOOR reopens the file on the infamous Sir George Williams Riot of 1969 — a watershed moment in Canadian race relations and one of the most contested episodes in the nation’s history. Making a compassionate and audacious foray into non-fiction, writer and director Mina Shum (DOUBLE HAPPINESS) tracks down the protagonists in clandestine locations throughout Trinidad and Montreal, the wintry city where it all went down. In a cinematic gesture of reckoning and redemption, she listens as they set the record straight — and lay their burdens down. Official Selection, 2015 Toronto Film Festival; Women in Film Artistic Merit Award, 2015 Vancouver Film Festival. DIR/SCR Mina Shum; PROD Selwyn Jacob. Canada, 2015, color, 82 min. In English. NOT RATED

FATHER JOSEPH
Sat, June 11, 4:00 feat. Q&A with filmmaker Jeffrey Kaufman and producer Marcia Ross
This inspiring documentary follows Father Joseph Philippe, the priest who established Haiti’s largest microcredit bank for the poor, Fonkoze, which has given literacy training and financial opportunity to hundreds of thousands of women and their families. He also founded a 700-student K-14 school, an orphanage, a clean water project, a reforestation program, a health clinic and a radio station; he has built dozens of homes, and he created the University of Fondwa, Haiti’s first rural college. Along the way, several of Father Joseph’s friends and colleagues were murdered because of their work for the poor. The 2010 earthquake destroyed almost everything Father Joseph built over 25 years, but the film sees him moving forward and rebuilding with infectious humor, deep faith and determination. DIR/SCR/PROD Jeffrey Kaufman; PROD Marcia Ross. Haiti/U.S., 2015, color, 71 min. In English and Creole with English subtitles. NOT RATED
THE FORBIDDEN SHORE
Sat, June 11, 6:00
The amazing diversity of contemporary Cuban music is gorgeously explored in this ambitious documentary, which captures classic son and salsa, trova, nueva trova, reggaeton, rock, jazz, metal, rap, electronic, classical, choral, pop, Changu, danzón, rumba, Yoruba, bolero, conga, timba, mambo and — if you can believe it — more. But the present can only be understood within the context of the past; thus the film’s soundtrack comprises the sounds of modern iconoclasts and the immortal music of the old guard. This is a one-of-a-kind journey into the heart and soul of a sonic culture like no other, a place where music is cultivated and thrives through the enduring desire of its people to forge a sound that is all their own. [Note courtesy of Miami Film Festival]. Official Selection, 2016 Miami Film Festival. DIR/SCR/PROD Ron Chapman; PROD Darius Andersson. Canada/Cuba, 2016, color, 96 min. In Spanish with English subtitles. NOT RATED

BAZODEE
Sat, June 11, 8:00
Anita Panchouri is the doting daughter of an Indian businessman who is deep in debt. She’s on the verge of dutifully marrying a wealthy suitor when she meets a romantic rasta singer, Lee de Leon (Soca superstar Machel Montano), who’s drafted at the last minute to perform at her engagement party. There are sparks, and Anita decides she wants to be with him, just once, before she enters a loveless marriage for the sake of her father’s future. But her designs on Lee don’t go unnoticed, and the territorial younger brother of Anita’s fiancé hatches a plan of revenge that could destroy her family and any chance at true love. Set in beautiful Trinidad and Tobago, BAZODEE is a Bollywood-style Caribbean musical about being true to oneself and honest in love at all costs. Official Selection, 2015 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. DIR Todd Kessler; SCR/PROD Claire Ince; PROD Susanne Bohnet, Steven Brown, Ancil McKain, Lorraine O’Connor. Trinidad and Tobago/U.S., 2016, color, 90 min. In English. NOT RATED

SALLY’S WAY
Sun, June 12, 3:00
Collecting rainwater and toting buckets from the standpipe at the village junction have always been 12-year-old Sally’s way of life; but there is nothing “poor” about Sally, raised rich on her grandmother’s love. However, when her grandmother falls ill, Sally is forced to move in with strangers. With nothing but hard work and ingenuity, scrappy Sally will take matters into her own hands to improve her life. Joanne Johnson’s family-friendly film won the People’s Choice Award for Best Narrative Feature at the 2015 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. DIR/SCR/PROD Joanne Johnson; PROD Tracy Farrag, Louis Lee-Sing. Trinidad and Tobago, 2015, color, 87 min. In English. NOT RATED

THUNDER IN GUYANA
Sun, June 12, 5:00
Presenting the remarkable tale of Janet Rosenberg Jagan, a young Jewish woman from Chicago, who married Guyanese activist Cheddi Jagan and set off for the British colony to start a socialist revolution. The couple fought tirelessly to liberate the country from colonial rule and exploitation, despite battering by the international press, imprisonment and the intervention of world figures including Winston Churchill and John F. Kennedy. Janet Jagan ultimately served as Guyana’s first female Prime Minister and, in 1997, became its first female (and foreign-born) president. Filmmaker and historian Suzanne Wasserman creates a rich portrait illuminating the life of an extraordinary woman and the complex history of the little-understood country of Guyana. DIR/SCR Suzanne Wasserman. U.S., 2003, color, 50 min. In English. NOT RATED

VANISHING SAIL
Sun, June 12, 6:15
The Grenadines are a small group of islands in the Lesser Antilles, where the traditions of boatbuilding were once crucial to the survival of local communities skimming a living from the sea. Though hundreds of sailing vessels were once launched and built there, those skills have all but vanished from the region. Alwyn Enoe is one of the last boatbuilders in his village, practicing a trade passed down over generations from the original Scottish settlers. He is approaching his seventies, and, with no more orders coming in, he decides to build one final sailing vessel, with the hope that his sons will continue the trade. Caribbean Spirit Award, 2015 Caribbean Tales Film Festival; People’s Choice Award, Best Feature Documentary, 2015 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. DIR/SCR Alexis Andrews; PROD Justin Silhara. Antigua and Barbuda/Grenada/St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 2015, color, 88 min. In English. NOT RATED

THE LAST COLONY
Sun, June 12, 8:00
In 1898, the United States invaded and colonized Puerto Rico, and for 114 years the people of Puerto Rico have maintained a polarizing debate on the status issue. Puerto Ricans (American citizens since 1917) constantly dispute between the options of statehood, independence and commonwealth. On November 6, 2012, the people of Puerto Rico held the fourth plebiscite in the island’s history to redefine their political relationship with the U.S. Weeks before the vote, three-time Emmy-winning filmmaker Juan Agustín Márquez (100,000) traveled to his homeland and interviewed leading politicians, historians, sociologists and economists to dissect the status debate in a multilayered conversation about each option on the ballot. Official Selection, 2015 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. DIR/SCR/PROD Juan Agustín Márquez; SCR/PROD Andres Anglade; PROD Gerardo Rodriguez, Mari Rodriguez. Puerto Rico/U.S., 2015, color, 90 min. In English. NOT RATED