

48 Hour Film Festival Prompts

By: Dominique Mobley and Devin Powell

This is America.

For centuries, Black Americans have faced systemic injustices and inequality. While there has definitely been progress made, there still is a great deal of systemic change that needs to happen. Black Americans need to have equal access to great schooling and education, equal opportunities to acquire land — the greatest source to create generational wealth — a fairer legal system, and more.

Create a film of your vision of America that addresses the Black American experience and the systemic changes that need to be made.

Requirements:

- *Must be no more than 5 minutes in duration.
- *Must use the words/phrases “Black Americans,” “a change is gonna/going to come”
- *Any genre welcome.

Some Good News.

Regardless of where you get your news from, so much of the news consumed today is negative and fear-mongering.

Taking from the title of John Krasinski’s hit quarantine YouTube show, create a film that shares *Some Good News* happening in the world — be it based in fact or something that you hope to see.

Requirements:

- *Must be no more than 5 minutes in duration.
- *Must use the words/phrases “positive,” “John Krasinski”
- *Must have a distinctly happy ending.
- *If you choose to make the film based on a real-life event that is NOT based on your own experiences, please include a link to the article/news source where you found out about the real-life event.
- *Any genre welcome.

A World Without Social Media.

Social media is a powerful tool that’s been used to spread new ideas, create cultural trends, and stay connected with those you know. Unfortunately, too often, people don’t use social media — social media uses them. There’s a toxic obsession with it. There’s a desire to censor others’ opinions. There’s a desire to compare oneself to the ‘perfect’ lives of others.

Keeping this in mind, create a film that imagines a world without social media.

Requirements:

- *Must be under 5 minutes in duration.
- *Must use the words/phrases “social media,” “work-life balance”
- *Any genre welcome.

Adaptation

- “Life imitates art more than art imitates life” -Oscar Wilde
- This notion is certainly subjective to the individual artist. A documentary filmmaker’s nonfiction work directly about a topic may seem more authentic than a fictional narrative about the same topic. No matter the case, art is directly influenced by life and vice versa, although it is no question which is the chicken and the egg. Art also

often imitates art. Ice T is credited among most hip hop historians as one of the creators of Gangsta Rap. He credits Philadelphia rapper Schooly D as the originator with his song "P.S.K" (Park Side Killers) in 1985. "So when I went in to make 6 n' the mornin, I kinda used the vibe and the cadence... So I used the vibe and the cadence of PSK to do my first song, when he says, 'PSK is making that green, 6 n' the mornin police at my door,'" Ice T proudly admits. Then, he continues to detail how Ice Cube further extended this adaptation with his song "Boyz n the hood."

- Adapt an artful adaptation of any possible mediums. One could adapt say a cinematic adaptation of a novel or any medium but it must be recycled.

Revenge Flick

- Et tu Brute? Make a film about betrayal/revenge.

Re-emergence of COVID-19

- With flu season emerging and the president contracting COVID-19, the virus is slowly creeping back into the limelight in America. Imagine a reemergence of the virus cinematically.

When was America Great?

- In the midst of one of his most famous debates, writer and activist James Baldwin once claimed, "I picked the cotton, I carried it to the market, and I built the railroads under someone else's whip for nothing. For nothing." The African-American not only went uncompensated for building America's economy, but was also not properly re-integrated into American communities. In fact, the African-American has had to continue to face and fight a mildly watered down system that continues to institutionalize them. This is what James Baldwin was referring to when he was detailing the extent to which he felt generational trauma. This country's history in relation to its minority is quite exploitative, repugnant and grotesque. When was the period when America was great? Is it in our moralistic nature as humans to exploit each other? With the presidential election looming, make a film that addresses the political structure of the United States. Any time period