

# **BROOKLYNESE**

*A film series pertaining to the borough*

**Sponsored by Brooklyn College and 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge  
Programmed by Alexandra Juhasz**

**12/11 Mustapha Khan, A SONG FOR OUR PEOPLE (2017, 79 minutes)**

**1/22 Robert Tutak, ELLIS ISLAND: THE MAKING OF A MASTER RACE IN AMERICA (2017, 70 mins) and Todd Chandler, A DEBTOR'S PRISON (2017, 14 mins)**

**2/26 Alexandra Juhasz, THE OWLS (2010, 70 mins)**

**3/26 Ben Snyder and Ari Issler, HECTOR IS GONNA KILL NATE (2010, 12 mins), Niav Conty, JOY RIDE (2017, 16 mins) and Martisse Hill, PROM DATE BLUES (2017, 17 mins)**

**4/30 Sarah Christman, BROAD CHANNEL (2010, 14 mins) and GOWANUS CANAL (2013, 7 mins) and Vinit Parmar, BEYOND THE GRID (2015, 29 mins)**

**5/21 Seth Fein, BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOODS (2017, 81 mins)**

If you want to attend email: [seth@sevenlocalfilm.com](mailto:seth@sevenlocalfilm.com)

**SONG FOR OUR PEOPLE:** Eight musicians, five singers, a rapper and a tap dancer are summoned one day to a recording studio in Brooklyn to create a new song honoring their ancestors, who lived their lives enslaved. An intimate look at the collaborative creative process, and the drive to try to make art that can make a difference.

**Mustapha Khan** is an Emmy Award-winning director whose credits include: narrative and documentary feature films, short films, commercials and television specials. He is a graduate of Harvard University, a Rotary Scholar and a member of the Directors Guild of America. Mustapha Khan lives in Brooklyn and teaches film directing at Brooklyn College: [www.mustaphakhan.com](http://www.mustaphakhan.com)

**ELLIS ISLAND: THE MAKING OF A MASTER RACE IN AMERICA:** The faces of immigrants to the U. S. have changed over the years. The fear of them, fear of the other, never has. The film documents the influence of the American eugenics and the ideology of race purification and Nordic supremacy on the U.S. immigration policies in the early 20th century. It is composed of eight hundred archival photographs, and narrated by a peasant from Galicia, Austria, who journeyed to America only to be excluded and deported.

**Robert Tutak** is Professor of Film at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, Graduate of the Lodz Film School of Poland, recipient of the Fulbright Foundation Grant in Film, and founder-director of the Manhattan Film Academy. His film credits include five feature films as well as several shorts and documentaries. Tutak's work has been broadcasted on television and screened at festivals in over twenty countries as well as in the U.S., including the Museum of Modern Art in NYC: [www.tutakfilms.com](http://www.tutakfilms.com)

**THE OWLS:** A funny, mysterious and humane generational anthem, THE OWLS is an experimental thriller/film noir about four “Older-Wiser-Lesbians” who accidentally kill a young lesbian and try to get away with it. Raised in the shadow of “pathological lesbian” films like THE FOX, THE CHILDREN’S HOUR and THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE, the OWLS once embraced the utopian vision of Lesbian Nation. Now, approaching middle age, the revolution has eluded their dreams. Caught between a culture that still has no place for them, and a younger generation indifferent to their contributions, the OWLS face an emotionally complex set of circumstances that have yet to be compassionately and truthfully addressed. THE OWLS’ screenplay is by Sarah Schulman (best known for her novels AFTER DELORES and PEOPLE IN TROUBLE), is based on a story by writer/director/professor Cheryl Dunye (THE WATERMELON WOMAN, SHE DON’T FADE, STRANGER INSIDE), and stars some of the most popular underground artists in Lesbian Cinema, including Guinevere Turner (GO FISH, The L Word, AMERICAN PSYCHO), V.S. Brodie (GO FISH), Lisa Gornick (TICK-TOCK LULLABYE) and Deak Evgenikos (The ITTY BITTY TITTY COMMITTEE).

**Dr. Alexandra Juhasz**, chair of the Film Department at Brooklyn College, CUNY, is a media scholar and maker working on fake (and real) documentary, activist media, feminist and queer film, and digital media including YouTube. She is the producer of educational and activist documentaries, and two narrative features, THE OWLS (Cheryl Dunye, 2010), and THE WATERMELON WOMAN (Dunye, 1996), and its 20th year re-master and re-release: [alexandrajuhasz.com](http://alexandrajuhasz.com)

**Broad Channel:** Over the course of four seasons, the nuances of everyday activity are examined along one narrow stretch of public shoreline in New York City's Jamaica Bay. Moments of recurrence and change cycle through an ecosystem rooted in migration.

**Gowanus Canal:** Just below the surface of one of the most contaminated urban waterways in the United States, microorganisms thrive amidst the toxic waste.

**Sarah J. Christman** makes non-fiction films that explore the intersections between people, technology and the natural world. Christman's work has screened widely, including the MoMA Documentary Fortnight, Rotterdam International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, New York Film Festival, and the Los Angeles Filmforum. She is an Associate Professor in the Film Department at Brooklyn College: [www.sarahchristman.com](http://www.sarahchristman.com)

**Beyond the Grid:** This ethnographic portrayal poetically captures the lives of impoverished, remote island villagers in India. They have lived without electricity for eons, and now, quite possibly they are the first developing village to switch to renewable energy. Anthropogenic in approach, we appreciate the deep but subtle ties the villagers have to their resources. We witness their energy transition as they tap the Earth's resources to achieve sustainability while developing their lives.

**Vinit Parmar** enjoys teaching film production courses as a full-time Assistant Professor in the Film Department at Brooklyn College as part of the City University of New York. His films have enjoyed honors, awards and screenings worldwide. Prior to making this film, he tested the waters with *Quest for Energy*, which was shown in the United Nations and won two dozen international awards (*SnagFilms*, 2012): [www.snagfilms/questforenergy](http://www.snagfilms/questforenergy).

**JOY RIDE:** Emma doesn't see her mom much. One visit goes awry when her mom's dealer boyfriend takes her for a ride. Can Emma retain her innocence ?

**Niav Conty's** films span darkly humorous investigations of the transgressive and taboo, intimate and troubling coming-of-age portraits, and cutting-edge Machinima. She is an active freelance director, cinematographer, and editor in New York City. She completed her M.F.A at City College under the mentor-ship of avant-garde filmmaker Chantal Akerman (1950-2015). Her award winning films have traveled to festivals worldwide, and she is a recipient of the Princess Grace Award: [www.niav-film.com](http://www.niav-film.com)

**Hector is Gonna Kill Nate:** Hector wants revenge, Cortez wants to start, Nate wants to live and Coach Settara will go to extraordinary lengths just to play the game.

**Ben Snyder** is a filmmaker, playwright, and educator. His feature film directorial debut, *11:55*, with John Leguizamo and Julia Stiles, is available on demand. Ben's original TV pilot, *Nobody's Nobody's*, starring Michael K. Williams (*The Wire*, *Boardwalk Empire*) and Andre Holland (*The Knick*, *Moonlight*) has recently been picked up as an extended web series by Warner Brothers Digital. Ben's plays have been produced at P.S. 122, The Vineyard Theater, Crossroads Theatre, The Apollo Theater, New York Stage and Film, and at HBO's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival. For the last 15 years, he has taught theater and writing courses in high schools and colleges. Ben is a member of Labyrinth Theater Company. More about his work can be found at [www.twicepaper.com](http://www.twicepaper.com).

**PROM DATE BLUES:** It's five days before the biggest night of the school year and Baxter Morgan, striving to find his mojo before graduating, is determined to get his crush, the intelligent and lovely Naomi Jackson, to be his date. He produces a 1960's Soul serenade video that plays for the entire school during the morning announcements. Instead of sweeping her off of her feet, he embarrasses Naomi, creating an awkward tension with her. Will Baxter rebound from the embarrassment or be left singing the Prom Date Blues?

**Martise Hill** is a filmmaker and the co-founder of Pryor Hill Productions. He is a 2016 Sundance Institute Creative Producing Fellow. Through Pryor Hill Productions, Martise produced two films that world premiered at the Sundance Film Festival: Tahir Jetter's charming romantic comedy debut, "How to Tell You're a Douchebag," in 2016 and Michael Larnell's charmingly sincere debut, "Cronies," executive produced by Spike Lee in 2015. Martise received his Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Morehouse College and his MFA in Film Production from New York University Tisch School of the Arts Asia in Singapore. He has taught courses on producing, screenwriting and directing at Brooklyn College, Tribeca Film Institute, and Ghetto Film School. Martise hails from Saint Louis, Missouri.

**BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOODS:** Have you seen the Unisphere? The largest rendering of the world ever constructed in the world stands at the center of the world, in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, in Queens. That's where Robert Moses planted it as theme center of his 1964-1965 New York World's Fair. The mammoth monument marked the "outerborough" center of the planner's metropolitan New York empire as it expressed the Modernization ideology of Washington's "third world" empire. **Between Neighborhoods** joins those imperial interborough and international missions, the colonial connection between "outerborough" and "third world." This transhistorical artdoc travels in splitscreen between neighborhoods — original and archival footage, today and the sixties — to show how the failure to impose modernization imperially has led people from all over the world to globalize Queens socially. The documentary diptych meditatively mediates between now and then to demonstrate that history is created not merely excavated, is dynamic never static, and demands the analytic as well as expressive power of (audiovisual) art. **Between Neighborhoods** won the [Founders Choice Award at the Queens World Film Festival](#) in 2017. Seth Fein, discusses his artdoc's development and his approach to doing history via video in [Jump Cut 58](#), scheduled for publication in February 2018.

**Seth Fein** is an audiovisual historian and documentary artist who operates [Seven Local Film](#) in Queens, where he lives. He teaches Screen Studies at Brooklyn College's Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema in the borough in which he was born, raised, and educated in its public schools. Fein holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Texas at Austin, where his dissertation, "Hollywood and Mexico-United States in the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema," won the Barnes Lathrop Prize. He has taught at Barnard, Columbia, Yale, where he was a professor of History and Film as well as American and Latin American studies and where he won the university's Poorvu Prize for Interdisciplinary Instruction, Graduate Mentor Prize for the Humanities, and McCredie Fellowship for Instructional Technology.