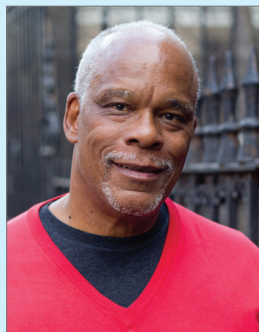


BLACK LENS

African-American filmmakers explore stories and topics rooted in the black community and relevant to all. This program features fiction and documentary films from both emerging and established voices.

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STANLEY NELSON JR. views it as essential for him as a filmmaker to try to give viewers a sense of what it has meant to be black in America and to ask them to consider this within our contemporary context. His powerful, harrowing, and ultimately inspirational stories of the American civil rights struggle have now graced our

festival three times. In 2010, *Freedom Riders* enlightened us to the story of more than 400 black and white Americans with peaceful intentions who, in 1961, risked violence to travel together through the Deep South. 2014's festival offering *Freedom Summer* is a poignant portrait of Mississippi in 1964, a place of social unrest, where student activists worked to register African-American voters and push forward the civil rights movement. This year, his camera takes aim at yet another wave of the struggle for racial equality in the United States: the Black Panther Party. The first film in a three-part series of documentaries about African-American history directed by Nelson, *America Revisited*, *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* is Nelson's eighth film to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

Nelson is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, MacArthur "Genius" fellow, and member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama in 2014. He is also co-founder and executive director of Firelight Media, which provides support to emerging documentarians.



THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION

USA | 2015 | 116 MIN

MONDAY, SEPT 28 | 6:15 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE
MONDAY, OCT 5 | 7 PM | TIMES CINEMA

Into today's era still struggling with police brutality, racial discrimination, and extreme poverty comes master documentarian Stanley Nelson's stirring portrait of the Black Panther Party. Following the party from its inception in the early '60s to its bitter dissolution a decade later, MFF alum Nelson captures the essential history of the movement, elegantly mixing archival footage alongside interviews with FBI informants, journalists, supporters, detractors, and lower-level members of the party. This is a profoundly resonant portrait of a period of time when impatience bred revolution and a vibrant group rose up to bring civil rights issues to the forefront.

DIR Stanley Nelson | *Freedom Summer* (2014), *Freedom Riders* (2010)

PRODD Stanley Nelson, Laurens Grant SCR Stanley Nelson

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