

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

CALENDAR ADVISORY

MoMI celebrates Juneteenth holiday with free community programs, and screenings of historic films by Black film pioneer Spencer Williams with panel discussion

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 (Museum open 12:00–6:00 p.m.)



Pictured: *The Blood of Jesus* | [Press gallery](#)

Museum of the Moving Image will present its third annual celebration of Juneteenth on Wednesday, June 19. The Museum will be open for the holiday from 12:00–6:00 p.m. with an afternoon of live music and dance performances, DJ sets, a gallery tour, and screenings of historic films by Black film pioneer Spencer Williams. The screening of Williams's *The Blood of Jesus* will be accompanied by a panel discussion featuring Ina Archer, Dr. Michele Prettyman, and Dr. David Bering-Porter. Access to the performances in the courtyard are free as part of the Museum's Open Worlds initiative.

SCHEDULE FOR CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH:

12:00 p.m. DJ Planet Mo will be spinning Afrobeats (lobby).

1:00 p.m. Edge School of the Arts with LIFE Camp drummers, in partnership with Eagle Academy, will present African dances to celebrate their cultural heritage in the Kaufman Courtyard.

4:30 p.m. Bronx-based DJ collective and community organization Uptown Vinyl Supreme will pay homage to the analog roots of music, party, and dance culture with songs by Aretha Franklin and others in honor of the 75th anniversary of R&B music.

Throughout the day, 12:00–6:00 p.m., the drop-in Media Game Lab will feature playable games *PaRappa the Rapper* and *Rock Rap N' Roll* and a gallery tour focused on Black cinema and television will be offered at 12:10 p.m. These activities are included with Museum admission.

Film Screenings on June 19:

2:00 p.m.

Juke Joint

Dir. Spencer Williams. 1947, 68 mins. U.S. DCP sourced from the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection at Southern Methodist University. With performances by legendary jazz band Red Calhoun's Orchestra and the Jitterbug Johnnies, this film is culturally significant for representing Black culture of its era in Texas.

3:30 p.m.

***The Blood of Jesus* + panel discussion**

Dir. Spencer Williams. 1941, 58 mins. U.S. DCP sourced from the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection at Southern Methodist University. Pioneering filmmaker Spencer Williams's first feature follows a Baptist newlywed on a spiritual journey after she is accidentally shot by her husband. *The Blood of Jesus* offers a glimpse into Southern Baptist life from a Black American perspective and remains one of the most highly regarded films of Williams's career, featuring impressive, stylistic visuals and an unforgettable soundtrack.

Following the screening, visual artist and programmer Ina Archer, and scholars Dr. Michele Prettyman and Dr. David Bering-Porter will discuss Black representation on screen, the legacy of Spencer Williams's *The Blood of Jesus* and his films produced in Texas, and the importance of juke joints in Black American history.

For more information and to purchase tickets (Museum admission and/or screenings), visit movingimage.org/series/celebrate-juneteenth-2024. Please note general Museum admission includes a ticket to a regular same-day screening.

###

Press contacts:

Tomoko Kawamoto, MoMI, tkawamoto@movingimage.org

Rubenstein for MoMI, momi@rubenstein.com

[Press images are available here.](#)

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is the only institution in the United States that deals with the art, technology, enjoyment, and social impact of film, television, and digital media. In its facility in Astoria, New York, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, and creative leaders; and education programs. It houses the nation's most comprehensive collection of moving image artifacts and screens over 500 films annually. Its exhibitions—including the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition*—are noted for their integration of material objects, interactive experiences, and audiovisual presentations. For more information about the MoMI, visit movingimage.org.

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation).