

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LEADING CULTURAL COMMENTATORS TO DISCUSS THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK AND BROWN BODIES IN THE MEDIA

**Discussion with Jelani Cobb, Mia Mask, Greg Tate, and others to be announced**

**Part of the series *Changing the Picture*, sponsored by Time Warner Inc.**

Astoria, New York, January 15, 2015— For the second year in a row, Museum of the Moving Image and the Black Filmmaker Foundation will use the occasion of Black History Month to take a critical look at the representations of African Americans in the media. Following the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in Staten Island, protests have once again raised questions about the criminalization of the black image on screen. The Museum will present **Endangered by the Moving Image: The Criminalization of Black and Brown Bodies**, a timely discussion addressing this issue, on **Sunday, February 1, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** at the Museum. Leading African-American cultural commentators including Jelani Cobb, Mia Mask, and Greg Tate will look at the history of how African Americans are represented in film and television, beginning with D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation* and continuing through contemporary movies and TV programs.

This program was organized by the Black Filmmaker Foundation (BFF) with the assistance of Museum of the Moving Image. Warrington Hudlin, President of the Black Filmmaker Foundation and Vice Chairman of the Museum's Board, said: "Given the current climate of protests, it seems both timely and appropriate to start a conversation that addresses the complicated question of how media depictions of African Americans might influence their treatment by the police and the criminal justice system."

Panelists:

**Jelani Cobb**, author of *The Substance of Hope: Barack Obama and the Paradox of Progress*, is the director of the Africana Studies Institute, University of Connecticut, and a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker* and commentator for National Public Radio.

**Mia Mask**, film professor at Vassar College, is the co-editor of the recent books *Poitier Revisited: Reconsidering a Black Icon in the Obama Age*, and *Black American Cinema Reconsidered*. She is the author of *Divas on Screen: Black Women in American Film*.

**Greg Tate** is a writer, musician, and producer whose writing has focused on African-American music and culture. He was a long-time staff writer for *The Village Voice* and his books include *Flyboy in the Buttermilk: Essays on Contemporary America* and

*Everything but the Burden.*

Other participants will be announced as they are confirmed.

Tickets for “Endangered by the Moving Image: The Criminalization of Black and Brown Bodies” are \$12 (\$9 students and senior citizens / free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above.) Advance tickets are available online at [movingimage.us/Endangered](http://movingimage.us/Endangered).

**About *Changing the Picture*, sponsored by Time Warner Inc.**

This ongoing series celebrates and explores the work of film and television artists of color who are bringing diverse voices to the screen. The series, which consists of screenings and discussions with directors, writers, actors, scholars, and more, includes contemporary work as well as historically significant work that have played an important role in the evolving attempt to “change the picture” and bring a wider variety of voices and visions to the moving image.

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**MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Museum of the Moving Image ([movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Mon., Jan. 19 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) and Mon. and Tues., Feb. 16 and 17 (Presidents Week).

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Tickets for regular film screenings are included with paid Museum admission and free for members at the Film Lover level and above.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance online at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).