

SXSW EDU. ↙

FROM AN EXPLORATION OF DAVID BOWIE'S CREATIVITY TO THE WORLD OF DISRUPTORS, SXSW EDU® UNVEILS THE FILM AND PERFORMANCE LINEUP FOR ITS 2023 FESTIVAL

January 18, 2023 // Austin, Texas – Building on one of its most diverse years yet, South by Southwest EDU® is excited to announce programming for its 2023 **Film** and **Performance** series, which comprise its festival component. Like the conference portion, the upcoming festival will spotlight the variety of voices and stories shaping our understanding of the rich makeup of the education community. Through the lens of a camera and the imaginations of artists such as Emmy-nominated producer **Nancy Armstrong** and renowned musician **Martha Mooke**, the lineup features portrayals of violence prevention, student identity, living with ADHD, the creative process, and more.

“The storytelling format provides an authentic, open space to address sensitive and more nuanced topics and make them more accessible for wider audiences,” said Greg Rosenbaum, Senior Director of SXSW EDU. “Through the films and performances being presented this year, we get to dive into the many facets of issues both inside and outside the classroom that are impacting our students, teachers and families every day.”

FILMS:

The nine films selected for the 2023 program bring a variety of themes that serve as a foundation for the SXSW EDU conference to life, such as equity and justice along with health and wellbeing. They invite audiences into the worlds of students at a historically Black boarding school, survivors of hazing, and leaders embracing their ADHD, among others. In addition to screening the films, attendees will also have the chance to hear from the creators behind them during a series of special Q&As. The program includes the following:

- ***This is My Black*** - A groundbreaking musical documentary where the nuances of Black adolescents surviving institutional violence amidst a raging pandemic are explored through the students at Pine Forge Academy, a historically Black high school rooted in Pennsylvania. **Q&A with Director/Producer Jarrett Roseborough and Director/Producer Stephen Adetumbi to follow.**
- ***Hazing*** - In *Hazing*, Byron Hurt visits with members of a variety of groups that practice hazing, talks to survivors of hazing, and gives voice to the families of young people who lost their lives. Expertly weaving these first-hand testimonies with insights from violence-prevention experts, the film provides a nuanced and empathetic portrait of a culture that confers a sense of belonging even as it too often leads to violence and institutional coverups. **Q&A with Director Byron Hurt to follow.**
- ***The Disruptors*** - ADHD is simultaneously a major public health issue as well as one of the most powerful engines of creativity and innovation for the world. *The Disruptors* fundamentally

reframes what we understand about this common and widely misunderstood diagnosis. **Q&A with Executive Producer Nancy Armstrong to follow.**

- ***Seeds of Greenwood*** - A century after the Tulsa Race Massacre, *Seeds of Greenwood* explores how today's generation is being planted and nurtured within the fertile soil of Tulsa's historic Greenwood District. The film follows the birth of the Thunder's innovative after-school program, Thunder Fellows, as well as the inspirational journeys of students in the inaugural class and the staffers who are cultivating them. **Q&A to follow.**
- ***The Secret Song*** - *The Secret Song* is an immersive view into the final chapter in Doug Goodkin's music teaching career. His teaching methods are thrown into disarray as the pandemic forces schools into remote learning, and a program that always prioritized singing and learning "through the ear, not the eye" has to adapt to an online format. **Q&A with Director Samantha Campbell and Producer Rachel Benson to follow.**
- ***All Who Dare*** - Nine struggling students from across the United States have chosen Eagle Rock School as their best hope for graduating high school. Their first course: a 24-day wilderness expedition in the Colorado mountains that will test them in every way. Will they learn to live and work as a team in order to pursue this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity? **Q&A to follow.**
- ***Pioneers in Skirts*** - *Pioneers in Skirts* is a feature documentary examining the way that stereotyping and sexism can chip away at a woman, limit her potential, and make her feel like she must rethink her dreams. Director Ashley Maria shares her own story as she follows the journey of 3 ambitious girls on a robotics team, their fathers, mothers and female leaders, as we ALL learn how to be part of the solution. **Q&A with Director Ashley Maria and Producer Lee-Ann W. Berst to follow.**
- ***THE FIRST CLASS: The Story of Crosstown High*** - *THE FIRST CLASS* features the founding class of Crosstown High, a bold new school redefining the future of learning in Memphis. Students are followed from ninth grade through the triumph of graduation, as they imagine life on Mars, step into the lives of refugees—and ultimately find themselves. At a time when education is under attack, this intimate verité film gives voice to the beauty and value of the American high school—and the possibility of what high school can be for students everywhere. **Q&A to follow.**
- ***The Right to Read*** - When a child can't read, their chances of incarceration, depression, and homelessness increase. That's why Oakland-based NAACP activist Kareem Weaver is fighting for better reading instruction. He believes literacy is one of the greatest civil rights issues of our time. "What good is winning the right to vote if we can't even read the ballot?" Fed up with the bleak reading scores in his own community, Kareem files a petition with the NAACP demanding change in the early reading instruction. Executive Produced by LeVar Burton, this film is sure to inspire and challenge the way its audience values literacy. **Q&A with Director/Producer Jenny Mackenzie to follow.**

PERFORMANCES:

SXSW EDU also welcomes an impressive lineup of musicians, dancers, playwrights, and more to help explore and celebrate the power of creativity in education. From examining the lessons behind David Bowie's "search for unconscious intelligence," to the impact of self-care on social and emotional development, confirmed performances range in subject matter.

- **Igniting the Imagination: Music & Creative Process** - Inspired by her collaborations with David Bowie, electric violist Martha Mooke delves into Bowie's creative process of using the "cut up" method to generate new ideas by igniting anything that might be in one's imagination.
- **Rap Unzel: A Story of BlackBoyJoy, Self Care & Hair** - Presented by Reggie Rap's Room, Rap Unzel is a story and experience that aims to educate and highlight the importance of mental health, and social and emotional development by sharing Black and Brown hair care and self-care experiences through story, music, art, and various EQ exercises.
- **The Fairytale Project: Pedagogy & Performance** - The Fairytale Project is a historically inspired tale of Jim and Winnie Shankle, founders of the Texas Freedom Colony, Shankleville. With peculiar encounters with the past, their modern-day descendants learn to cherish what matters the most. This piece blends history, cultural studies, Afrofuturism, and more to create dance theater that portrays the legacies of Black people in Texas.
- **Seen, Heard & Loved: Music and Student Identities** - This performance and presentation explores the use of music and media to create school spaces in which students feel seen, heard, and loved. Specifically, the panel engages issues of identity in the classroom through Teachrock.org's collaborations with LADAMA, a Latin alternative band of four women musicians and activists. It also features Dr. Joely Proudfit, who will speak to her work on the Netflix Kids' series "Spirit Rangers" and "RUMBLE: The Indians who Rocked the World."

Press Credentials:

To register, please go to sxswedu.com/press/accreditation.

About SXSW EDU:

The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival is a reflection of the world's most critical social issues as seen through the lens of education. This year's event will bring together the learner, the practitioner, the entrepreneur, and the visionary to share their groundbreaking stories, tackle complex issues, and build reimagined paths forward. As a community of diverse people who are united around a like-minded vision for the future, SXSW EDU serves as a place for attendees to renew their purpose in practice from both a personal and professional perspective. It is a place to reinforce the core principles of teaching and learning as well as an opportunity to express your creativity and passion for education. SXSW EDU is a component of the South by Southwest® family of conferences and festivals that has grown from 800 to over 8,000 registrants in the last decade. Join the passionate and innovative community at SXSW EDU, March 6-9, 2023.

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