



For Immediate Release:

BLACK WOMEN DISRUPT THE WEB SELECTS 5 SEMIFINALISTS TO BE FEATURED IN ORIGINAL WEB SERIES SHOWCASE

Black Women Disrupt the Web: *Imagining Black Futures*

April 9, 2021 (Atlanta, USA and Cape Town, South Africa) - Black Women Disrupt the Web is proud to announce the five Black women who have been selected to present their visions in a web series showcase this coming July.

Brazil - JOYCE CURSINO presents *Resiliência*

Colombia - ZULAY KARINA RIASCOS ZAPATA presents *Permiso de Ausencia*

Kenya - KAROLINA WAMBUI presents *Diary Of A Girl Who Use Matatu (Bus) On A Daily*

South Africa - THINA ZIBI presents *Is Three A Crowd?*

South Africa - NOMAWONGA KHUMALO presents *Intsangu: The Weed*

Joyce Cursino (Brazil) is an award-winning journalist, producer and screenwriter from the Amazonias region of Brazil. Winner of the MPT national journalism awards 2017, with the production of the best series on child labor "Lost Childhood" and the best mini documentary "É Coisa de Preta" by the Osga Festival of University Videos, the web series "Pretas", which also won the international award "Best Diversity Series" by Rio Web Fest. Joyce is currently directing and producing Telas em Movimento - Cinema Festival of the Amazon Peripheries.

Zulay Karina Riascos Zapata (Colombia) is a director and producer of film and television, as well as the co-creator of the audiovisual showcase COBRA (Cine Orgánico Afrodiaspórico). She has been curator of the 2019 and 2020 Bogotá Afro Festival, and is a member of the Afrodescendant Audiovisual Council of Colombia Wi Da Monikongo. Zulay is currently co-creator of MUSA: Women's Movement of the audiovisual sector in Colombia.

Karolina Wambui (Kenya) is a passionate storyteller, digital marketing strategist, video editor, videographer, illustrator, and graphic designer with a demonstrated history of working in the internet industry as well as with civil society and non-profits. She is currently content producer at the Albinism Society of Kenya.

Thina Zibi (South Africa) is an award-winning creative, possessing vast advertising agency experience, bringing ground-breaking and captivating creative campaigns to life across multiple mediums and channels. Thina also extends her creativity to filmmaking, witnessed in her two films "Tjuele" and "Bakhona," which received the Rode Reel Award for cinematography and art direction. She is also currently shooting a documentary that looks at the rise of traditional healers in South Africa.

Nomawonga Khumalo (South Africa) is a Johannesburg-based writer and director who is currently in development for her debut feature film, “The Bursary.” The film was selected for the 2019 edition of the Durban Film Mart where it won prizes under the 'Most Promising Narrative' and 'Best South African Narrative' categories. Nomawonga’s tenure in the film industry spans over a decade, working as ‘set tutor, production assistant, camera technician and script supervisor’.

Each of the five semifinalists will be matched with mentors to guide them in script development, production and post-production, as well as the basics of industry business and marketing. They will create three (3) three-minute episodes providing new perspectives on the theme, *“Imagining Black Futures”*. **Black Women Disrupt the Web** will invest in and document the process of each submission, from editing through to the final cut and into festival participation and promotion. The initiative will partner to bring the emerging BWDW community access to Virtual panels, master classes, workshops, events and communication opportunities. The Showcase finalist will be awarded a package that includes distribution support and a cash prize.

Black Women Disrupt the Web seeks to elevate interest and investment in Black women filmmakers from the African continent as well as the African diaspora in the Americas, Europe and around the world. Through an accessible online showcase in several languages, the collective will connect communities using new platforms to share stories, engage in dialogue and explore economic empowerment.

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About Black Women Disrupt the Web

Black Women Disrupt The Web (BWDW) is a global web series competition launched in early 2021 by Black Women Disrupt, Filmmaker Dylan Valley and Producer Antoinette Engel, featuring the diverse talent and perspectives of Black women Writer/Directors. With this pilot, we hope to attract 100 webseries proposals from Brazil, Colombia, Kenya, South Africa. The top ten (10) proposals will receive honorable mentions, five (5) semifinalists will receive mentorship in production, industry specific business/marketing basics, and financial investment for post production and produce an original, fiction mini web series, and the finalist will receive a cash prize and support to navigate distribution, networking events and festivals. Our view is that the richness of a broader and multilingual African diaspora should be visible worldwide, through outstanding works of fiction film content made available on the web. The theme for this debut is *“Imagining Black Futures”*.

For more information, visit www.blackwomendisrupt.com

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