PHILLIP’S GIFT

J’can filmmaker details history of Toronto’s Black queer community

Neil Armstrong/Gleaner Writer

FRESH OFF the world premiere of his film, “Our Dance of Revolution,” at Hot Docs, the Canadian International Documentary Festival — North America’s largest documentary festival — Jamaican-Canadian director, Phillip Pike, will hold two independent screenings in June in Toronto.

It will have its international premiere at the 10th anniversary of the queer film festival in Mumbai, India. In the next year or so the film will roll out at other festivals around the world. Produced by his company, Roaring River Films, “Our Dance of Revolution is a long overdue look at Toronto’s Black LGBTQ community, featuring a rousing oral history of struggle and triumph from four decades of local legends and freedom fighters,” notes a press release. The documentary was ranked #3 for the Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary as determined by audience vote at Hot Docs.

Among all feature films at the festival (Canadian & International), “Our Dance of Revolution” was voted #6.

In total, there were 234 documentaries from around the world. Pike says the exposure will bring secondary kinds of engagements with the film, educational sales and broadcasts. For him, making the film is a gift back to the community and he says the response from the community has been wonderful.

APPRECIATION

“People have been writing and commenting on Facebook about their appreciation for the film, for making visible that story,” says Pike, noting “that it is a mirror back to ourselves.”

Making our “Dance of Revolution” which involved 35 years of history. 35 interviews and 18 subjects in the film -- a huge ground to cover -- Pike would now like to produce another film but on a smaller scale, possibly in Jamaica and something related to age, aging and change.

“It hasn’t concretised into anything specific but I almost feel like I would want to go to Jamaica and do a small sort of intimate portrait of some folks in rural Jamaica, particularly maybe women who are living a certain kind of life, and just have them share with us their wisdom,” he says.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY THREE SONS

Dane Anthony Foster
Nov. 01, 1972

Onell Andrea Allen
Aug. 23, 1974

Clane Oceary DeCosta Allen
Nov. 11, 1975

ALL BORN AT 10 Orange Lane.
Died in Orange St. Fire May 19, 1976.

Edna E. Hilton
Lived at 5 Roxendale Ave.
Died on Orange St. Car Accident.

William Charlie Smith
Formerly 5 Roxendale Ave.
Central Brandon Primary School, 2/78 Sipe Pen Road. Sold ice at 5 Roxendale Avenue. Delivered ice to Central Brandon Primary School. School Crossing traffic and Watchman.

Jean Anthony McFarlane
Born 10 Orange Lane.
Grandmother Miriam Brown,
Aunt Daley Chong, Uncle Alvin Rose,
Carmelita Agatha Rose
Born Feb. 19, 1934 - Feb. 8, 2001

Harold George McFarlane
Born Nov. 19, 1919 - Feb. 23, 2001

Rennel Rose
Aug. 23, 1925 - March 29, 2001

In loving memory of their passings
Corine McFarlane