4 Venues in Dumbo

Automatic Studios
52 Bridge Street

Creative Chaos
28 Jay Street

The Dumbo Spot
160 Water Street

The Green Desk
147 Front Street

Brooklyn Bridge
Empire Fulton Ferry Park

JULY 29 & 30
2017

[BLERD CITY]
JULY 29 – 30 2017/DUMBO AREA/BROOKLYN, NY

CREATIVE CHAOS

P R O G R A M  D E S C R I P T I O N
JOSS WHEDON’S 2009 WONDER WOMAN SCRIPT: A LIVE READING AND EXAMINATION
(12:00PM – 1:15PM       DUMBO SPOT)
The success of Wonder Woman (directed by Patty Jenkins) has broken box office records and restored the faith of DCEU fans. This has also brought up some hidden skeletons from out of the Wonder Woman’s closet, most notably Joss Whedon’s Wonder Woman script from 2009. Many have read it and are bewildered by the sexist and racist nature of Whedon’s story. Trust me, this is worth discussing.

Actors & Dissectors: Valerie Complex, Omar Holman, Kennedy Allen

WOMEN IN COMICS: GENDER AND INCLUSION IN THE MODERN AGE OF THE COMIC BOOK WORLD
(1:30PM - 2:30PM       DUMBO SPOT)
Looking at women who are in the comic books industry. We are a group of women that do comics.

Moderator: Regine Sawyer
Panelists: Geisha Vi, Jay Justice, Shauna J. Grant, Micheline Hess, Dr. Shamika Mitchell, Alisha E. Martinez, Foxy Jazzabelle

ENTER THE LAST DRAGON: BLACK FOLKS & MARTIAL ARTS
(2:45PM – 4:30PM     DUMBO SPOT)
A panel on the love of Martial Arts by Black people for swords and fists with historians, filmmakers and practitioners.

Moderator: Jacinto Taras Riddick
Panelists: Warrington Hudlin, Floyd Webb, Lady Sensei, Daryl Aiken-Afac, Chuck Collins

WAKANDA’S WORLD AND A SUPERHERO’S JOURNEY (4:45PM – 5:30PM DUMBO SPOT)
An open discussion, more like a dissection, of the upcoming Black Panther film, and the historical timeline of the comic.

Discussion Leaders: Logan Dobbs, Omar Holman, William Evans

A RIGHT NOT TO DIE: IMPRISONMENT FROM BIRTH TO DEATH
(5:45PM -7:30PM       DUMBO SPOT)
A diacritical lens about the prison system impact on black and brown bodies that is male or female.

Moderator: Monifa Bandele
Panelists: Kanene Ayo Holder, Dahkil Hausif, Ira McKinley

CORRECTING PEOPLE CORRECTLY
(7:45PM – 8:15PM    DUMBO SPOT)
Empowering yourself to respond to hate and bigotry online and in real life led by all queer black cosplayers.

Moderator: Kirya Traber
Panelists: Cleopatra from the Bronx, Everybody Loves Tony Ray, Jay Justice, Harley LoveGood, Queerly Femmetastic

BLERD CITY COSPLAY BALL
(8:30PM – 10:00PM    DUMBO SPOT)
Show us what you got! Walk the runaway with originality and showmanship.

Mistress of Ceremony: Robyn Warren
Judges: Cleopatra from the Bronx, Everybody Loves Tony Ray, Jay Justice, Harley LoveGood, Queerly Femmetastic, Kirya Traber
NEW AVENGERS: CREATING A UNIQUE VOICE IN NERD MEDIA  
(1:30PM – 2:15PM  GREEN DESK)

Black Nerd Problems cofounders discuss current problems in Nerd Media world.

Facilitators:  William Evans & Omar Holden

COSPLAY, DISABILITIES, GEEK CULTURE, AND NEURODIVERSITY!  
(2:30PM – 3:15PM  GREEN DESK)

Cosplay and geek culture have helped and hindered the disability culture. Panelists discuss experiences including topics such as neurodiversity, disabilities (both visible and invisible), and the accessibility of cons and geek culture as a whole.

Facilitator:  Dopple Cosplay
Panelists:  Stardust Megu, DozenFingers Photography, The Lionheart Cosplay,

HACKATHON: [CODERS & WRITERS]  
(3:30PM – 7:30PM  GREEN DESK)

The two worlds meet—the coder and the writer to develop an online gaming experience. The coder needs to tell a good story to keep the player interested in the game by taking on the bag of tricks of a writer, which includes plot development, dynamic character/s, and authentic settings. The writer brings craftsmanship to the gaming world. Which one are you bringing?

Facilitators:  TBA

#BLERDFOODJUSTICE  
(1:30PM – 2:45PM  CREATIVE CHAOS)

Food justice, food access and food sovereignty through a BLERD lens. Communities of color struggling in the face of food deserts and food apartheid, we’ll explore rethinking of the urban landscape for agriculture and tech’s potential to increase and improve access to food. We’ll ask, “Is there money for the movement?” How do we move from charity and philanthropy to funding and investment?  
Moderator:  Keith Carr, Manager, Community Engagement, City Harvest
Panelist:  Qiana Mickie, Executive Director, Just Food; Mark Winston Griffith, Executive Director Brooklyn Movement Center/Central Brooklyn Food Coop; Steph Willey, Brooklyn Packers; Valencia Howard, Spiritual Nutritionist and Diasporan Food Advocate

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT:  
THE DIESELFUNK BROTHERS – GLOGGERS TIM AND JIM FIELDER  
(3:00PM – 4:15PM  CREATIVE CHAOS)

An artist spotlight on the creative ventures of the two brothers, Tim Fielder and Jim Fielder, glogging—graphics and digital media—around the political world.

Artists:  Tim Fielder & Jim Fielder

AFROPAST AND AFROFUTURE:  
INDY EXPLOSIVE COMICS  
(4:30PM – 6:00PM  CREATIVE CHAOS)

2017’s new and exciting Comic Book artists looking at redefining imagery and reclaiming past history.

Artists:  Anubis Heru, Acid of the Godz; N Steven Harris, Ajala, and Watson and Holmes; Kwanza Osayjefo, BLACK; Robert Garrett, Ajala
PROPULSION OF BLACK AESTHETICS
MIXTAPE PARABLES:
SCI-FI, HORROR, FANTASY AUTHOR READING
(6:15PM – 7:45PM  CREATIVE CHAOS)
Speculative fiction and poetry artists read their current work from the genres of Science Fiction, Horror, and Fantasy. Audience members are invited to wear their favorite character from Sci-Fi, Horror, and Fantasy.

Writers: Sheree Renée Thomas, Celeste Rita Baker, Jennifer Marie Brissett, Shawn Frazier, Jacqueline Johnson, Kiini Ibura Salaam

IMAGENATION SHORT FILM SHOWCASE
(3:00PM – 5:00PM  AUTOMATIC STUDIOS)
A slice of current Afrofuturistic films with Q & A with Terence Taylor and Babe Finley.

Programmer: M. Asili Dukan
Films:  Mission by Celia C. Peters – 14 mins.
A newly arrived extraterrestrial is saved from loneliness when he encounters another one of his species on Earth.

A Love Letter to the Ancestors from Chicago by Ytasha L. Womack- 14 mins.
An Afrofuturism dance film

Incognito Lounge by James Bowman – 2 mins.
Brandon is an alien living on Earth, who has had a bad day. He unwinds at Incognito Lounge were he reveals his problems to an alien bartender, AI.

Pixe Dust by Damon Colquhoun – 28 mins.
An urban fantasy about a powerful 13-year-old girl named Faye who is forced to manage her mentally ill mother.

The Abandon by Keith Joseph Aiken – 17 mins.
In the summer of 2012 five men go on an annual hiking trip. However, who must navigate and surviving a global alien invasion that has changed the world forever.

Danger Word by Tananarive Due and Steven Barnes -19 mins.  A 13-year-old girl and her grandfather, hiding out in a wooded cabin after a zombie plague—but her birthday trip to a trading post goes horribly awry.

Invisible Universe (trailer) by M. Asili Dukan - 2 mins
The history of the representations and participation of Black people in the genres of fantasy, horror and science fiction, or speculative fiction framed thought the POV of a time traveling Archivist.

CREATIVELY SPEAKING SHORT FILM SHOWCASE
(5:30PM – 7:30PM  AUTOMATIC STUDIOS)
A program of short films of thought provoking themes of family ties, spirituality and the environment. We look at past, present and future images representing contemporary issues faced by the global African Diaspora community. Join us for an entertaining and informative viewing experience, followed by an interactive dialogue with filmmaker Vashti Harrison (“Field Notes”).

Programmer: Michelle Materre
A film about intergenerational wealth from a Millennial perspective; a personal and cultural examination of the wealth gap in America.

Field Notes by Vashti Harrison - 9 mins.
An experimental portrait of the ghosts embedded in the culture of Trinidad and Tobago. A visual and aural field guide to the ghosts spirits and jumbies throughout the island; tales about shapeshifters and bloodsuckers.

PUMZI by Wanuri Kahiu - 21 mins.
Sc-Fi film about futuristic Africa, 35 years after World War III --The Water War. Nature is extinct. The outside is dead. Asha receives a box in the mail containing soil, she breaks out of the inside community to go into the dead and derelict outside to plant the growing seedling.

Africa and Science Fiction: Wanuri Kahiu – 10 mins.
Interview of Kenyan film writer/director Wanuri Kahiu, about "Africa and science fiction", in reference to the sci-fi movie, Pumzi, that she wrote and directed.
FANDOM DIVERSIFIED: THE CHANGING FACE OF NERD JOURNALISM  
(12:00PM – 1:15PM DUMBO SPOT)  
We're entering a new renaissance in geekery. Now more than ever media personalities and journalists of color have a poignant and influential voice that resonates throughout nerd culture. From the Gamergate scandal to the advent of BlerdNation, both high and low points are heavily spotlighted. But what does this mean for the future. Writers from Black Girl Nerds have met these challenges head on, and they are working to make change; and, they get real about the climate of nerddom today.

Facilitator: Valerie_Complex  
Panelists: Joi Childs, Constance Gibbs, Kay-B, Afiya Augustine  

#BLERDOUT: A PICTURE IS WORTH LESS THAN A THOUSAND WORDS  
(1:30PM – 2:30PM THE DUMBO SPOT)  
BLERDS turn up and turn out! Tell your story of discovery of that magical moment turning from a flower to a Nerd. Bring a photo of your self that says it all with a 3 -4 min story that answers the question: I became a blerd when. . .

Facilitator: Kanene Holder

KPOP AND BLACKNESS: APPROPRIATION OR APPRECIATION?  
(2:45PM – 3:45PM THE DUMBO SPOT)  
Explore the instances of some of the cultural field traps that kpop and black fans often have to negotiate.

Panelists: Johnny GoodMo & Ofure Oviawe

ANIME, MANGA, KPOP & RACE MASH UP  
(4:00PM – 5:15PM DUMBO SPOT)  
Prepare to be schooled on the racial dynamics of Anime, Manga, and Kpop Fandom with the intersectionality of fetishized women, idolization that intersects with the Western gaze and other images in pop culture.

Moderator: Logan Dobbs  
Panelists: Adelaide Fielder and Zo V. Fielder

CLOSING CEREMONY  
(5:30PM – 8:30PM DUMBO SPOT)  
We are honoring the Vampire Huntress, writer L.A. Banks, and the recipient of a special award named in her honor. We’re giving out a few others, too. We get to saying some much deserve thank you’s and shouting out the Blerd City Team!

Mistress of Ceremony: Clairesa Clay

AFROCROWD: BRINGING THE DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA WITH WIKIPEDIA  
(1:15PM – 6:15PM GREEN DESK)  
AfroCrowd is a new initiative, which seeks to increase the number of people of African Descent who actively partake in the Wikimedia and free knowledge, culture and software movements. Learn the landscape and skills to make an entry in Wikipedia. The history is at our computer board.

Facilitators: Sherry Antoine and Alice Becker  
Special Note: Please bring a laptop or tablet to participate.
#blerddating: A Twitter Storytelling Chat
**(6:15PM – 7:45PM  GREEN DESK)**

A real time Twitter stories/chat mash-up party from a Blerd’s POV. Talking about dating/relationship issues. Some are deeply personal.

Facilitators: Nicole Franklin, Leesa Dean, Hollie Harper

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Blood, Thirst, and Gargoyles: The Eric Battle's Way
**(1:30PM – 2:45PM  CREATIVE CHAOS)**

A Philadelphia native, Eric Battle is an artist with a portfolio of illustration work from children’s books to horror novels. He has created interior and cover art for Marvel, DC, and Milestone for over 100 comics including Batman, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Watson and Holmes, and X Men. Audience gets a glimpse into this artist’s work style and portfolio.

Moderator: Len Webb

Artist: Eric Battle

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Multiverse: Close Encounters of the Stellar Kind
**SCi-Fi, Horror, Fantasy Author Reading  
(6:15PM – 7:45PM  GREEN DESK)**

Speculative Fiction and poetry artists of Science Fiction, Horror, and Fantasy reading their current work to audience members. Audience members are invited to wear their favorite character from Sci-Fi, Horror, and Fantasy.

Writers: Linda Addison, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Adanze Asante, Teri M. Clarke, Liza Jessie Peterson

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Black Gotham’s BGX Podcast
**(4:30PM – 6:00PM  CREATIVE CHAOS)**

A glimpse into the nerdiness of Black Gotham through its BGX Podcast think and talk session around hot topics effecting the community in politics, arts, and music.

Facilitators: Kamau Ware & Britteny M. Walker

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Betting Big! Tech and Business
**(5:45PM – 6:45PM  CREATIVE CHAOS)**

Looking to attract a venture capitalist to fund your big idea? What do they look for? How do they think? And what is it that gets them to say yes? The key production team behind the show, "Betting Big," goes one-on-one with some of the most established VC's to discover their mindset by studying their biggest wins, their greatest losses and the investment opportunities that got away. Bring your pressing questions about, “How do I get my idea funded?”

Panelists: Joanes Prosper, Prosper Digital and Randal Dottin, Filmmaker

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Image Remaker
**(2:30PM – 4:00PM  CREATIVE CHAOS)**

Reclaiming womanhood from the past and in the future through religion with Q & A with filmmaker Emann Odufu.

Programmer and Moderator: Anjanette Levert

Films: Ori Inu: In Search of Self by Chelsea Odufu & Emann Odufu – 29 mins.
Odds and Ends by Michelle Parkerson – 28 mins.
Era by Anthony Richards – 13 mins

A couple of naive scientists that bring back historical figures, starting with African American Heroine Harriet Tubman
**BLACK TV & FILM COLLECTIVE PANEL AND SHORT FILM SHORTCASE**  
**4:30PM – 7:30PM AUTOMATIC STUDIOS**

Panel:  Creating Solid VFX & the Post Production Workflow

Creating visual effects for films like Black Panther or Iron Man, shows like Luke Cage and even music videos like Kendrick Lamar's Be Humble or the Chemical Brother's Wide Open takes a team of skilled production and postproduction artists. During the Black TV & Film Collective session, hear from a panel of New York City's leading visual effects artists.

Panelists will include production and post-production team members as they describe their specific roles and how the stunts and effects we’ve all seen and love were achieved. We will also discuss the career paths of these artists to better learn how one can get their foot in the door in the growing NYC post-production market.

Moderator:  Hurriyah Muhammed

The panel discussion is followed by a screening with a Q & A with filmmakers.

Films:  Keloid by Hurriyah Muhammed

A supernatural drama that is 1 part supernatural, and the rest, just drama; there is the relationship between a black mother and her teenage son, there's the girl he likes (and who likes him), there is the nosy neighbor, the cop who's doing too much...ON TOP of THAT, there's teleportation, telepathy and telekinesis.