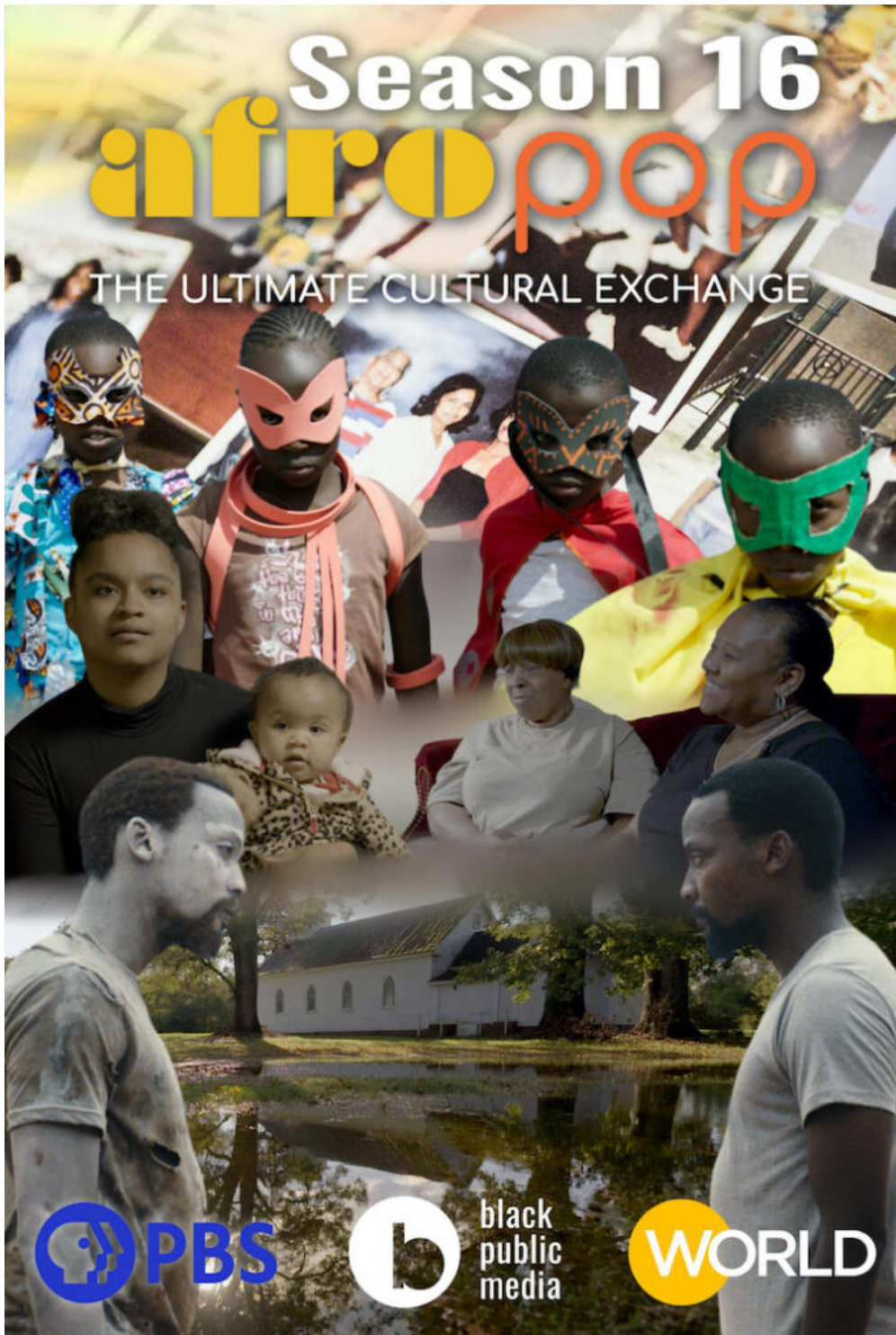


Season 16 Of AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange Premieres April 1st



Season 16 of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* returns with new films from the African diaspora with themes of

redemption, magic, the supernatural and environmental racism. The Black Public Media and WORLD created series will air season 16 on their YouTube channels.

The next season starts with *Commuted* from director Nailah Jefferson, who also directed *Donyale Luna: Supermodel* which premiered in 2023 on HBO Max. *Commuted* follows Danielle Metz who was serving a triple life sentence for drug charges until President Barack Obama gave her clemency. The camera captures Metz as she returns to her New Orleans works on re-bonding with her children. Likarion Wainaina's *Supa Modo* is set in Kenya and shows how a village helps a terminally ill girl fulfill her wish to become a superhero. Mbithi Masya's *Kati Kati* is another Kenyan film and it is the story of a young woman's journey into the afterlife. The feature won Best Movie at the Africa Magic Viewer's Choice Awards. *Freedom Hill* ends the season with the story of the first American town chartered by former slaves and the floods that threatened its survival. The film was a finalist at the 2022 Essence Film Festival and winner of Best Documentary Short at the 2022 Middlebury New Filmmakers Film Festival.

AfroPoP has presented 91 films since it premiered in 2008. Bobbito Garcia, Baron Claiborne, Terence Nance, Raoul Peck, Violeta Ayala and Yaba Blay are some of the directors who have showcased their work. The series is executive produced by BPM Executive Director Leslie Fields-Cruz and WORLD (at GBH) Editor and Chief Chris Hastings. Denise A. Greene is series director/producer, Carol Bash is series associate producer and Ashton Pina is the series writer. Hastings elaborated on the purpose of *AfroPoP* in a press statement.

"AfroPoP is more than just a series; it's a vibrant tapestry that stitches together the voices of marginalized communities, offering a platform for stories that are too often overlooked. WORLD's mission is to illuminate the many facets of the human experience through content that educates, informs and inspires. In partnership with Black Public Media,

with AfroPoP, we continue to push experience through content that educates, informs and inspires. In partnership with Black Public Media, with AfroPoP, we continue to push boundaries, finding innovative ways to connect audiences with content that reflects their lives and experiences. Join us as we celebrate the voices, the stories and the impact of the African Diaspora on our world.”

Viewers can find AfroPoP on the WORLD and Black Public Media YouTube channels and the PBS app. The new episodes will air weekly on WORLD through April 22 and PBS Plus will distribute the series to PBS affiliate public television stations across the country beginning April 1. The show can be seen on all PBS platforms and iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

Angélique Kidjo, Bill T. Jones & Thelonius Monk Documentaries Are Scheduled For Season 15 Of AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange



Documentaries about African singer Angélique Kidjo, choreographer Bill T. Jones and jazz musician Thelonious Monk are scheduled for season 15 of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*. The new season is different from previous ones because it focuses on one theme by singling out Black art for the first time. The WORLD Channel has been the home and co-producer of the show with Black Public Media since 2010. Leslie Fields-Cruz, BPM executive director and *AfroPoP* executive producer had this to say about their 15th anniversary:

“When we created AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange it was our hope that we would be able to bring stories of modern Black life to public media audiences and help augment viewers’ ideas of what Black life is and can be. Witnessing the series reach its 15th season, a landmark that is the result of the work and drive of so many people over the

years, is an awe-inspiring and humbling moment that fills me with great gratitude."

The premiere of *Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man In The Waters* will stream exclusively on Black Public Media's YouTube Channel at midnight ET on Monday, April 3rd. The film will screen later on that day at 8 PM ET on WORLD Channel. The feature looks at the ballet *D-Man In The Waters* originally presented in 1989 by Jones and his late partner Arnie Zane. The ballet was created in response to the A.I.D.S. crisis at the time and its impact on their dance company and friends.

Claire Duguet's *Queen Kidjo* will screen on April 10th. The film follows Kidjo's beginnings in Benin and her rise to legendary status. *Bill Traylor: Chasing Ghosts* is a portrait of the painter Bill Traylor who was born a slave and started painting scenes of his life on a plantation and the changing urban world at age 85. Jeffrey Wolf's film about Traylor is scheduled for April 17th. *The Sound Of Masks* is about a Mapiko dancer from Mozambique. The Mapiko dance is exclusively performed by male members of the Makonde community as a tool of independence to defy the colonizing influence of the Mozambican War Of Independence. Sara CF de Gouveia's feature about Mapiko is scheduled to be seen on April 24th. *Rewind & Play* is Alain Gomis's exhibit of the disrespect jazz pianist and composer Thelonius Monk experienced in 1969 during an appearance on French state television. *Rewind & Play* will air on May 1st. AfroPoP has been presenting

[AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange](#) can also be viewed on WORLD Channel's [YouTube channel](#) and on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](#) and the [PBS Video app](#). The program is available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. APT will release the season to public television stations across the country on Monday, May 1. For viewing information, check local listings.

AfroPoP Season 14 Focuses On Art & Protest

The World Channel and Black Public Media's partnership on AfroPop: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange has entered its 14th season with films about artistic triumphs and diasporic protest. The season opened on April 4th with *Everything: The Real Thing Story* about a group of Black pop singers called "The Black Beatles" by the British press for being from Liverpool just like The Fab Four. *She Had A Dream* directed by Raja Amari debuted on April 11th and it tells the story of a Tunisian Black woman activist who ran for political office one decade after the Arab Spring. *Downstream To Kinshasa* will premiere tonight (April 18) and it follows director Dieudo Hamadi on his trip to the Republic Of The Democratic Congo. The director witnesses survivors of the Six-Day War travel back to Kinshasa from Kisangani to plead for compensation for their injuries. *Restitution? African's Fight For Its Art* directed by Nora Philippe will run on April 25th and it deals with the international looting of African art on display in museums and the challenge to get it returned to its original home. *Revolution From Afar* closes the season on May 4th. Bentley Brown directed the documentary about a group of young artists from Sudan who support the revolution that followed the overthrowing of dictator Omar al-Bashir in 2019. As recent residents of Denver and Brooklyn, they grapple with questions of identity and how to help their Sudanese people back home.

APT will release the season to public television stations nationwide on Sunday, May 1, after the premiere on WORLD

Channel. [AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange](#) also streams on WORLD Channel's [YouTube Channel](#) and on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](#) and the [PBS Video app](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

For more information, visit [www.WORLDchannel.org](#). For more on the new season of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*, visit [blackpublicmedia.org](#) or [worldchannel.org](#). For viewing information, check local listings or visit [APTonline.org](#).

The “Black Beatles” Documentary Coming To Season 14 Of AfroPoP On April 4th

The Real Thing was an anomaly when they emerged in their native England during the '70s as a group singing soulful pop music. The Beatles made Liverpool, England famous one decade earlier with their pop reign aptly named Beatlemania. But The Real Thing's breakthrough in 1976 with their single “You Are My Everything” made the British media dub them “The Black Beatles” since they too came from Liverpool. Their song “Children Of The Ghetto” would later be covered by Phillip Bailey and Mary J. Blige. On April 4th season 14 of AfroPop: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange will air their story with the documentary *Everything: The Real Thing Story*. Members of the group and British musicians Billy Ocean, Kim Wilde and David Essex discuss The Real Thing's legacy.

AfroPop will broadcast and stream on WORLD channel and stream on worldchannel.org. The series will also stream on WORLD's [YouTube Channel](#) and on all station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the [PBS Video app](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

Premiering April 4th, 2022



afropop

THE ULTIMATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Season 14