



## “AMERICAN FICTION” NAMED BEST FILM OF 2023 BY THE BLACK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE

New York, NY (December 20, 2023) – The Black Film Critics Circle (BFCC) has voted “**AMERICAN FICTION**” Best Film of 2023, **AUNJANUE ELLIS-TAYLOR** Best Actress and **JEFFREY WRIGHT** Best Actor for their work in “**ORIGIN**” and “**AMERICAN FICTION**” respectively. And for Best Director **CORD JEFFERSON** for “**AMERICAN FICTION**”. The announcement was made today by Mike Sargent, co-president, BFCC. Votes were cast and tabulated in New York City at the organization’s annual meeting on December 18, 2023.

Recognizing achievements in theatrical motion pictures, the BFCC awarded prizes in 13 categories including best picture, best director, original and adapted screenplay, best actor, best actress, best supporting actor, best supporting actress, best animated feature, best independent film, best documentary feature, best foreign film, and best ensemble. Special Signature awards are also given to industry pioneers and rising stars.

*“There are certain narratives we live by as individuals, as families, as cultures, and those are the narratives that help define us. The latter part of the late 20th century, the third golden age of black film there was a ghettoization of black film. A limit on the kinds of stories we were able to tell”* says Sargent. *“Now, not only do we have a multitude of different genres and stories from historical to speculative fiction we have a record number of first time feature film directors. So these are new voices telling a wide variety of stories.”*

Co-president Wilson Morales adds *‘First time feature film directors like A.V. Rockwell director of “**A THOUSAND AND ONE**”, Cord Jefferson director of “**AMERICAN FICTION**”, and Juel Taylor director of “**THEY CLONED TYRONE**” have done exceptional work’.* says Morales *‘2023 was truly a banner year for Black film and filmmakers.’*

The complete list of award winners:

**Best Film - American Fiction**  
**Best Director - Cord Jefferson**  
**Best Actor - Jeffrey Wright, American Fiction**  
**Best Actress - Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, Origin**  
**Best Supporting Actor - Sterling K. Brown, American Fiction**  
**Best Supporting Actress - Danielle Brooks, The Color Purple**  
**Best Original Screenplay - Past Lives**  
**Best Adapted Screenplay - (Tie) Oppenheimer, American Fiction**  
**Best Cinematography - Poor Things**  
**Best Documentary - American Symphony**  
**Best Animated - Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse**  
**Best Ensemble - American Fiction**



## BFCC Signature Awards:

### PIONEER – Lisa Cortés

This year's BFCC Pioneer Award is given to Lisa Cortés. Lisa is an Academy Award® nominated and Emmy-winning Producer and Director. She is renowned for creating challenging, visionary stories and has been distinguished by her commitment to inclusivity and empowering diverse voices. Her contributions like this year's **LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING** about the life and career of Little Richard, the one-of-a-kind rock 'n' roll icon who shaped the world of music and Lisa's ongoing dedication to her craft embodies the very essence of the word *Pioneer*."

### RISING STAR/ BEST NEWCOMER – (tie) A.V. Rockwell & Tia Nomore

A.V. Rockwell, director of Sundance Film Festival 2023 Grand Jury Prize winning film "**A THOUSAND AND ONE**". And Tia Nomore for feature film acting her debut in the film "**EARTH MAMA**" where she, to quote BFCC Member Anthony Holden (BLAK CINEPHILE) '*delivers a terrific, soul-baring performance*'.

### SPECIAL MENTION – Colman Domingo

Special Mention this year goes to Colman Domingo who, to quote BFCC Member Harrison Martin (*FLIXFROG*) is '*The embodiment of the word thespian. Domingo is a domineering versatile actor whether he's on stage, television, or on the silver screen. Domingo pulled off two great performances this year as the openly gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin in "**RUSTIN**" and the charismatic yet abusive Albert "Mister" Johnson in "**THE COLOR PURPLE**" (2023).*'

## BLACK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE TOP TEN FILMS OF 2023

### Top Ten

1. American Fiction
2. Oppenheimer
3. The Color Purple
4. Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse
5. Origin
6. Past Lives
7. Poor Things
8. Barbie
9. Maestro
10. Anatomy of a Fall





Founded in 2010, the Black Film Critics Circle is a membership organization comprised of film critics of color from daily and weekly newspapers, magazines, radio, television and qualifying online publications. The organization is dedicated to honoring the excellence of professionals in the theatrical motion picture industry in US and World Cinema. Its mission is to celebrate contributions and achievements in film by people of the Black Diaspora who work in front of and behind the camera, maintain the integrity of a true Critics organization and advance a collective vision of journalists of the Black Diaspora. BFCC assists in the development of new talent in the field of entertainment journalism through educational opportunities, mentoring and strategic partnerships and raises awareness of the significance of Black film and Black film history as a critical part of film culture and preservation. The organization meets annually in December to vote on the year's films. BFCC's Founding Members and co-presidents are journalists Mike Sargent (WBAI-FM, NY), Wilson Morales (BlackFilmandTV.com).

For more information, follow us on Twitter [@BLACKFILMCC](https://twitter.com/BLACKFILMCC) or visit us online at [BlackFilmCriticsCircle.com](http://BlackFilmCriticsCircle.com) or [facebook.com/theBFCC](https://facebook.com/theBFCC)

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Media Contact:

**Mike Sargent:** [lifeislikesciencefiction@gmail.com](mailto:lifeislikesciencefiction@gmail.com) / 646.319.8574