



## PRESS RELEASE

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### 'AFROPOP' SEASON 11 CLOSES WITH DIVERSITY IN THE DIASPORA

Season finale shorts program airs on WORLD Channel  
on Monday, February 18, with same-day streaming on multiple platforms

**NEW YORK (February 8, 2019) —** The 11th season of *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* closes with a collection of shorts exploring the diversity of the black diaspora. Featuring the short films *black enuf\** by **Carrie Hawks**, *Swimmin' Lesson* by **Shahari Moore** and **Christine List** and *Dressed Like Kings* by **Stacey Holman**, the collection will give audiences a look at topics ranging from racial identity, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and men who compete in a weekly dress-off in South Africa. The season finale of *AfroPoP*, which remains the nation's only public television series dedicated to contemporary story of black life, culture and art from across the globe, airs on **WORLD Channel at 8 p.m. ET (10 p.m. PT) on Monday, February 18**. The program is hosted by **Danielle Brooks (*Orange Is the New Black*)**, produced by [Black Public Media \(BPM\)](#) and co-presented to public television stations by series distributor [American Public Television \(APT\)](#).

The shorts program begins with Carrie Hawks' animated documentary entitled *black enuf\**. Written, animated and directed by Hawks, *black enuf\** is Hawks' own story of being a "queer oddball" on a search for acceptance and identity. While grappling with expanding ideas of blackness, sexuality, and self-esteem, Hawks takes audiences on a moving and humorous journey through personal experience and those of family members. From self-love in *black enuf\**, the shorts collection moves to paternal love with *Swimmin' Lesson* by co-directors Christine List and Shahari Moore. *Swimmin' Lesson* is a poetic, fictionalized account of one man's remembrances of life with his family before the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, offering a rare look at the sensitivity and emotional life of black men.

The episode concludes with Stacey Holman's *Dressed Like Kings*, an exploration of a South African subculture known as *oswenka* ("to swank") where working-class men don their finest clothing in a competition for the title of "best dressed." Will this decades-old tradition and source of self-esteem be able to withstand changing social tides?

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“The short films presented in this finale episode showcase the diversity of experiences and perspectives throughout the African Diaspora, as well as the wide range of storytelling style, form and technique used by the filmmakers. This episode will take viewers on an emotional ride filled with humor, melancholy and celebration,” said series producer and director Duana C. Butler. “In a season saluting social and political change-makers, this closing episode intimately explores and investigates identity and culture as lived by individuals of African descent.”

This season of *AfroPoP* also included ***Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba!***, a look at the iconic South African singer-activist, by **Mika Kaurismäki**; ***Mama Colonel, Dieudo Hamadi’s*** film following the female leader of a police force charged with protecting women and children abuse victims; ***The Faces We Lost***, director **Piotr Cieplak’s** moving portrait of Rwandans working to use photographs to help keep alive the memories of those lost during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi; and ***While I Breathe, I Hope*** by **Emily Harrold**, which follows **Bakari Sellers’** 2014 campaign for lieutenant governor of South Carolina.

The films of this season are also available for streaming beginning on the day of their broadcast premiere on all station-branded platforms, including worldchannel.org, PBS.org, and on PBS apps for iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast. *AfroPoP* is also available on local public television stations across the nation via APT (check local listings).

*AfroPoP* co-executive producers are **Leslie Fields-Cruz** and **Angela Tucker**. The program is produced and directed by **Duana C. Butler** with the generous support of the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

To find out more about *AfroPoP*, visit [www.blackpublicmedia.org](http://www.blackpublicmedia.org). For viewing information, check local listings or [www.APTonline.org](http://www.APTonline.org).

## ABOUT THE HOST

**Danielle Brooks** is best known for her role as Tasha “Taystee” Jefferson in the Netflix Emmy-nominated series, *Orange Is the New Black*. For her performance, Brooks was nominated for an NAACP Image Award for Best Actress in a Comedy Series. She was the recipient of the Young Hollywood Award for Breakthrough Actress and has received the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series for *Orange Is the New Black* three years in a row.

Brooks made her Broadway debut in the Tony-winning revival of *The Color Purple*. For her performance, she was nominated for a Tony Award, a Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award; she received a Grammy Award as well as a Theatre World Award for Significant Broadway Debut. Her recent work includes a leading role in the feature film *Clemency*, opposite Alfre Woodard, Wendell Pierce and Aldis Hodge which premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film

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Festival; a leading role in the independent feature *All the Little Things We Kill*; and a lead role in the feature *Sadie*, opposite Melanie Lynskey. She will also lend her talents to the upcoming TBS primetime animated series *Close Enough* and will begin work on a leading role in the film *Desperados* for Netflix and Good Universe that will film in the spring of 2019.

A champion of body inclusivity, Brooks has been the face of Christian Siriano and Lane Bryant, and has designed her own plus size clothing line. She is currently in the studio working on her debut EP.

Brooks is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of the Juilliard School.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

### ABOUT BLACK PUBLIC MEDIA:

**Black Public Media (BPM)**, formerly the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC), is committed to enriching our democracy by educating, enlightening, empowering and engaging the American public. The nonprofit supports diverse voices by developing, producing and distributing innovative media about the black experience and by investing in visionary content makers. BPM provides quality content for public media outlets, including, among others, PBS and PBS.org and BlackPublicMedia.org, as well as other platforms, while training and mentoring the next generation of black filmmakers. Founded in 1979, BPM produces the *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* documentary series and manages the 360 Incubator+ Fund, a funding and training initiative designed to accelerate the production of important black serial and interactive content.

### ABOUT AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION:

**American Public Television (APT)** is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and one-fourth of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT's diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performance, news and current affairs programs, dramas, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies. *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated, Cook's Country, AfroPoP, Rick Steves' Europe, Chris Kimball's Milk Street Television, Front and Center, Doc Martin, Nightly Business Report, Midsomer Murders, A Place to Call Home, Lidia's Kitchen, New Orleans Cooking With Kevin Belton, Simply Ming, and P. Allen Smith's Garden Home* are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create®TV — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — and WORLD™, public television's premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT's programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

**ABOUT WORLD CHANNEL:**

WORLD Channel tells stories that humanize complex issues. WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries, and fact-based informational programming that helps us understand conflicts, movements and cultures that may be distinct from our own. WORLD's original content offers a national platform to makers examining issues too often ignored by mainstream media. These emerging and master filmmakers spotlight a diversity of voices, telling stories not heard elsewhere. WORLD has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award and numerous national honors—including an RTNDA Kaleidoscope Award, a Media for a Just Society Award, two Lesbian & Gay Journalist Awards, a Gracie, and an Asian American Journalists Award. Carried by 160 partner stations in markets representing almost 67% of US TV households, WORLD can also be experienced via [WORLDChannel.org](http://WORLDChannel.org) and social media platforms.

WORLD is operated by WGBH/Boston, in partnership with WNET/New York and American Public Television in association with PBS and National Educational Telecommunications Association. Funding for the WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation, The Kendeda Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts and WORLD Channel public media stations. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org)

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