



MAORI KARMAEL HOLMES MFA '05

MAORI KARMAEL HOLMES is a filmmaker, curator, producer and creative force who's been making waves in Philadelphia's art and media scene for over 10 years.

The Los Angeles native currently serves as artistic director of BlackStar Film Festival, a renowned Philadelphia-based festival she founded in 2012 that puts the spotlight on independent filmmakers of color from around the globe.

BlackStar Film Festival has earned widespread acclaim—and is just one organization that has benefited from Holmes' creativity and expertise. She previously served as director of public engagement at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Contemporary Art, a role she originated. Under her leadership, the museum's reach expanded dramatically within the first year.

She has organized programs in film and performance at Anthology Film Archives, Asian Arts Initiative, Barnes Foundation, ICA Philadelphia, Lightbox Film Center, Painted Bride Art Center, Swarthmore College and The Underground Museum. Last year, she was guest curator for the Flaherty Film Seminar and guest programmer for Scribe Video Center.

There are few creative spaces that Holmes has not explored. Her writing has appeared in several regional and national publications, such as Washington City Paper and Film Quarterly. As a filmmaker, Holmes has had work screened internationally and broadcast throughout the U.S., most notably the feature documentary *Scene Not Heard: Women in Philadelphia Hip-Hop*. She has also taught filmmaking at several universities in the Philadelphia region, including Temple.

Her work has been noticed by her colleagues, students, audiences and city. She has received awards from Knight Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Leeway Foundation, Independence Media, Women's Way and Philadelphia Commission on Human Rights.

Holmes earned her bachelor's degree in history from American University and has studied graduate-level design and production at California Institute of the Arts. She earned her MFA in film and media arts from the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts at Temple.