

Movies

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Something for everyone — hold the glitz



Low-key Roxbury festival caters to filmmakers and audiences alike

By Rhonda Stewart

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The Roxbury Film Festival does a skillful balancing act to tend its local roots while developing a national presence. Considered the New England area's largest gathering for filmmakers of color, it's a strong, pleasantly low-key finish to the summer film festival season. What Roxbury lacks in star-studded parties or Hollywood blockbusters it makes up for with thought-provoking panels and films you're not likely to see anywhere else.

"There's this whole 360-degree experience of any person's life, any race's life, any culture's life, and you need to have that range of life shown at all times," says Candelaria Silva, director of ACT Roxbury Consortium. "We're really a festival for filmmakers and filmgoers. We're not a festival that's

glitzy and glamorous."

The four-day festival starts Wednesday and features more than 50 films, including features, documentaries, animation, and short films. It's copresented by ACT Roxbury and the Color of Film Collaborative. Actor Billy Dee Williams will be a special guest at this year's event. He stars in two films by Jordan Walker-Pearlman, "The Visit," which screens Wednesday night, and "Constellation." Williams will also sit down for a conversation moderated by CBS4's Liz Walker Thursday night.

There are also several international works in this year's lineup, including "Favela Rising" by Jeff Zimbalist and Matt Mochary. The documentary follows Anderson Sa, a former drug dealer who founds a movement called AfroReggae to bring social change to

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Among the films featured are "Runt" (top) and "Constellation," with Billy Dee Williams, who is a special guest at this year's festival.

