

## **GUETTY FELIN**

### **WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER**



Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and raised in New York, Haitian-American award-winning, independent filmmaker Guetty Felin is an 18-year veteran in the film and television industry. Before going on to directing documentaries, she worked as associate producer, producer as well as distributor on numerous award winning documentaries and fiction films for European and American television.

Community...Interconnectedness...Her themes as an author seem to meditate around the sometimes unbearable mystery by which our past has created our present, a narrative voice that resonates throughout all her work.

Ms. Felin is also a tireless militant and advocate for her native country's cultural legacy and its film heritage.

In 2002, Guetty put aside her career as filmmaker to nurture a long brooded project - a film series to commemorate the bicentennial of Haitian independence in 2004. She partnered with Haitian human rights lawyer and filmmaker, Michèle Stephenson and two years later, in the spring of 2004 **Haiti on Screen** the first film series dedicated to Haitian cinema was hatched. Sponsored by New York University, and in collaboration with the Brooklyn Museum, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the American Museum of the Moving Images, the event featured 30 titles most of which were New York and world premieres. Spanned over 4 days, the series was a tremendous success, highly applauded by the public and received raving reviews from the press.

Impressed by her work on Haiti On Screen, the founders of the Jakmel Film Festival in Haiti approached Ms. Felin to help them launch the country's first international film festival in July 2004. For the Jakmel Festival Guetty worked as key advisor but also programmed films, and directed a youth oriented film workshop during the entire duration of the festival.

In the fall of 2004 Ms. Felin took the film series to Paris under the title "**Haiti en Seine**", in collaboration with La Mairie de Paris (Paris City Hall). The event, which also featured Haitian art exhibitions and dance, was the largest Haitian cultural gathering ever held in the city.

From November to early December 2006, Ms. Felin returned to Haiti to continue her nurturing work with young future filmmakers through the annual workshop of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Jakmel Film Festival.

Ms. Felin recently co-directed with filmmaker husband Hervé Cohen "**Closer to the Dream**" a feature length documentary on the Obama movement through the inspirational stories of ordinary Americans.

Guetty's next project "**Ayiti**" a musical road movie set to go in production Summer 2009.

Ms Felin has been mentored by critically acclaimed international directors, Raoul Peck (*Haitian Corner, Man by the Shore, Lumumba, Sometimes In April*) and Indian Filmmaker Mira Nair (*Salaam Bombay, Mississippi Massala, Monsoon Wedding, Namesake...*).

## FILMOGRAPHY

**Thérèse** - on a film set on the streets of Paris, the last scene of an actress is perturbed by an encounter with a homeless and deranged woman who mistakes her for someone she knew who disappeared a long time ago. A 9-minute take, shot entirely handheld.

**Biographies In Black** a series of portraits of black personalities, in collaboration with producer, Leslie Farrell for BET (Black Entertainment Television). Writer/director/co-producer.

**Hal Singer, Keep The Music Going**, winner of the French Ministry of Culture Kodak Prize, premiered at the 1999 FESPACO at the American Embassy in Ouagadougou. The film received a special mention at *Vue d'Afrique in Montréal 2001*, and has been shown at the following festivals: *Los Angeles Pan African film Festival*, *Festival International d'Amiens* and the *All Shades of Black Film Festival* in Guadeloupe. *Writer/director/ co-producer.*

**Telling Our Stories**, a documentary on South African youths empowering themselves through filmmaking in a workshop headed by Mira Nair, (director of *India Cabaret*, *Saalam Bombay*, *Mississippi Masala*, *Kama Sutra...*) *Videographer/writer/director and producer.*

**Uptown** - The community of Harlem seen through the eyes of an ex-convict turned jazz poet, a street preacher turned ordained minister, a woman who has never missed a show at the Apollo Theater (since she moved to Harlem in 1954), and the senior citizens of the Manie Wilson Towers. *Writer/director/producer.*

**Rap to Rock** a syndicated series on musical trends around the world. Aired in France, the United Kingdom and selected cities in the United States. 1990-1992. *Writer/director.*

### As Narrative Writer

**A Rooster on the Fire Escape**, the traumas of dictatorship that continues to haunt a family even in exile. A story of love and betrayal set in New York during the tumultuous 70s.

**Dearlly Deported** - 22 year-old Paris St.Val is deported to his native land, with no knowledge of the language and codes of behavior, he has to start all over in a country he doesn't care for and even rejects.

**Last Stop** – (Short film script) A fierce dual for the American dream on a New York subway platform between two immigrant concession stand owners.

### In treatment form:

**The After Life or 1/3/3** - A trilogy of three 30-minute films dealing with life after genocide. The films are set in Paris, Tokyo and Rwanda. The concept: One actress, three stories and three places.

**Year of the Pig**, three stories in one animated film, which takes place during three different decades, reveals the haunting story of the eradication and the fate of Haiti's Creole pigs. The film is a vivid portrayal and great metaphor of the last 20 years of Haiti's surreal and tragic political history.

## **OTHER CREDITS:**

Coordinator and Curator of two critically acclaimed film series for New York University from November 97 to March 98:

**New Egyptian Cinema** and **Close Up on Abbas Kiarostami**

**Racines Noires 98** (Black Roots) - A festival that celebrated the works of black filmmakers from around the world. Curated the retrospective featuring the work of Independent African American filmmakers.

**In Darkest Hollywood** - A series on the history of South African Cinema, which also featured the works of the new South African directors. Images d'Ailleurs, Paris, April 1999.

## **AWARDS AND GRANTS:**

2005 FOKAL (Soros Foundation in Haiti) grant for the development of a documentary film project on Haitian Poet Rene Depestre (to be shot in February 2007)

2004 NPBC (National Black Programming Consortium) for Haiti On Screen

2004 NYSCA (New York State Council for the Arts) Haiti On Screen

2001 The Paul Robeson Fund – Distribution grant

2001 The Harburg Foundation, documentary writing grant

1999 Kodak Award for documentary film, *Hal Singer Keep the Music Going*.

1998 French Ministry of Culture production grant for *Hal Singer Keep the Music Going*

1995 (Summer) Resident filmmaker at the FEMIS (French film School)

1992 National Center for Cinema - Writing and development grant for *Uptown*

## **PERSONAL DATA:**

Guetty Felin is currently based in Miami with documentary filmmaker husband Hervé Cohen, her two sons: Yeelen 16, Joakim 12 .

Ms. Felin speaks fluent Creole, French and has a working knowledge in Spanish.

Address:

3084 Jefferson Street

Coconut Grove, Florida 33133

Tel. Home: 305-735-3454 – Cell: 305-606-7508

In Paris:

12 rue Desirée

75020 Paris

Tel. 331 43 66 44 26/ cell:336 18 35 81 21

Email: [gfelin@gmail.com](mailto:gfelin@gmail.com)

In Haiti:

BP 169

Jacmel, HT 9110

509-495-6999