

RETURN TO SOUTH FLORIDA

Black Film Festival a major showcase for American talent

By Amrita Jayakumar
MIAMI HERALD

Now in its 15th year, the American Black Film Festival brings together top African-American talent from around the globe for film



Wayans

screenings Thursday-Saturday, workshops and networking. It also provides a platform for emerging filmmakers to showcase their work through short-film and documentary competitions.

The festival, which kicked off with the red-carpet premiere of "In the Hive" directed by Robert Townsend, will close Saturday night with a tribute to actor Keenen Ivory Wayans.

Workshops include a masterclass in screenwriting by

"Brown Sugar" screenwriter Michael Elliot (\$100), an "idea pitch" class with Townsend (\$100), and a three-day acting bootcamp with actor Bill Duke (\$200).

The festival's main venue will be the Ritz Carlton South Beach, but movie screenings take place at several South Beach venues: the Colony Theater; Fillmore at the Jackie Gleason Theater and Miami Beach Cinematheque.

The festival hopes to attract more than 5,000 industry professionals and film enthusiasts, a 15 percent increase over 2010, said Jeff Friday, founder and CEO of Film Life, which runs the event.

Most American Black Film Festival screenings are open to the public, with tickets \$12. All-festival passes are priced \$450-\$1,500; parties and other events are also priced individually. For the complete schedule, visit www.abff.com

