

# The Rock Collective

in collaboration with the University of the Virgin Islands English Area,  
Per Ankh, Inc. and the African Diaspora Youth Development Foundation Inc.  
presents

# THE BLACK CANDLE

**A KWANZAA CELEBRATION**  
A FILM BY M.K. ASANTE, JR. | NARRATED BY MAYA ANGELOU

The Black Candle is a timely illumination on why the seven principles of Kwanzaa (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith) are so important to African-Americans today.

The first feature film on Kwanzaa, The Black Candle traces the holiday's growth out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over 40 million celebrants.

## ST. THOMAS

Friday, November 14th  
University of the Virgin Islands

12 noon—2 pm

Administrative and Conference Center  
(ACC 142-B) Old "Harvey" Building

6 pm—9:30 pm

Administrative and Conference Center  
The Rock Collective presents  
The Rock Lounge (Open Mic Hour)  
Featuring Poetry by M.K. Asante, Jr.

## ST. CROIX

Saturday, November 15th  
University of the Virgin Islands  
(Facilitated by Per Ankh, Inc.)

11:00 am—3:00 pm  
The Great Hall

Open Mic  
Featuring Poetry by M.K. Asante, Jr.  
Open Screening to Community  
Followed by Open Dialogue  
On Community Building Methods & Realities

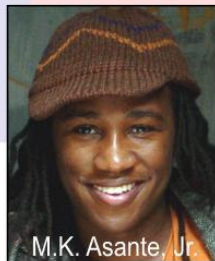


All screenings will be followed by  
Q&A and Book Signings  
By Film director M.K. Asante, Jr.

## CONTACT INFO

### U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS SCREENING COORDINATOR

DaraMonifah Cooper  
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1-340.473.6659



M.K. Asante, Jr.

26 year old Writer, Director, Producer  
Award winning Author and Filmmaker  
Morgan State University Professor  
in the Department of English  
and Language Arts

Asante wrote and produced the  
internationally-acclaimed film 500 Years  
Later, and books Like Water Running  
Off My Back, Beautiful, and Ugly Too, and  
It's Bigger than Hip-Hop.

"MORE THAN A FILM ABOUT A HOLIDAY,  
THIS IS THE CELEBRATION OF A PEOPLE."  
—MAYA ANGELOU

**THEBLACKCANDLE.COM**



University of the Virgin Islands  
www.uvi.edu



**Writer, Director, Producer**

M.K. Asante, Jr. is an award-winning author and filmmaker who the Philadelphia Inquirer calls "a rare, remarkable talent that brings to mind the great artists of the Harlem Renaissance."

Asante wrote and produced the internationally-acclaimed film 500 Years Later, winner of Best Documentary at the Pan African Film Festival; Best Documentary at the Bridgetown Film Festival; Best Film at the Black Berlin Film Festival; Best International Documentary at the Harlem International Film Festival; and the Breaking the Chains award from UNESCO.

Praised by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Charles Fuller as "one of the most important writers of his generation," Asante is the author of the award-winning books Like Water Running Off My Back, Beautiful. And Ugly Too and It's Bigger than Hip-Hop. Asante is a professor in the Department of English and Language Arts at Morgan State University.

**THE BLACK CANDLE**

**SPECIAL THANKS to:**

The Rock Collective, Per Ankh Inc., The University of the Virgin Islands English Area, The Virgin Islands Council on the Arts, The Department of Education Division of Cultural Education, The Community Foundation: The Family Connection, The Enid M. Baa Public Library & The Book Mobile, the RotorAct Volunteers, the V.I. Community and everyone else that made this possible!

**SYNOPSIS THE BLACK CANDLE**

is an explosive, vibrant documentary that uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American experience.

Narrated by world renown poet Maya Angelou and directed by award-winning author and filmmaker M.K. Asante, Jr., The Black Candle is an extraordinary, inspirational story about the struggle and triumph of African-American family, community, and culture.

Filmed across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, The Black Candle is a timely illumination on why the seven principles of Kwanzaa (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith) are so important to African-Americans today.

The first feature film on Kwanzaa, The Black Candle traces the holiday's growth out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over 40 million celebrants.

With vivid cinematography and an all star cast that features the best and brightest from the hip-hop and the civil rights generations, The Black Candle is more than a film about a holiday: it's a celebration of a people!



**FACTS ON KWANZAA**

- Kwanzaa is an African-American **CULTURAL CELEBRATION** that runs from December 26th to January 1st.
- The **SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA** are (Swahili in parenthesis):
  1. **UNITY** (Umoja)
  2. **SELF DETERMINATION** (Kujichagulia)
  3. **COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY** (Ujima)
  4. **COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS** (Ujamaa)
  5. **PURPOSE** (Nia)
  6. **CREATIVITY** (Kuumba)
  7. **FAITH** (Imani)
- Kwanzaa has over **40 MILLION** celebrants worldwide.
- The US Postal Service, since 1997, issues an **ANNUAL KWANZAA STAMP**.

