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## **WORLD PREMIERE OF AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILM “LET THE CHURCH SAY” COMING TO AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL, MIAMI, FLORIDA**

**[Atlanta, GA, May 20, 2022]** The new documentary “Let the Church Say,” has been building a slow burn among festivals around the country. The feature length documentary, which was filmed during the height of the pandemic, explores the question: “Is the Black Church dead?” The film has been recognized as an Official Selection of the 2022 American Black Film Festival (ABFF) in Miami Beach, Florida, and will hold its world premiere screening at the festival on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:15pm ET.

“Let the Church Say” features Grammy® nominated gospel recording artist **Jekalyn Carr** (*Greenleaf, Traceless*) and GMA Dove nominated recording artist and radio host **Darlene McCoy-Jackson** (*Unsung, In Sickness and in Health*), in addition to a number of prominent scholars, historians and protesters, providing a unique voice and presentation to the discussion of modern day social justice and the role the Black church has and continues to play.

ABFF is a premiere Black film festival (and an Academy Award qualifying festival). Reaching this incredible milestone is no surprise to the team of crew, cast and supporters who rallied around young filmmaker Rafiq J. Nabali in the making of this film. His endearing interest and perspective to compare the Black church of the past with the institutions of the present prompts him to take the audience on a journey through the history of the Black church and uncovers answers to critical questions surrounding the church’s impact on social justice today. The film is a unique exploration of the vital connections between race, religion and activism.

Glowing reviews on a variety of aspects of the film have been pouring in. Film and television industry professionals such as Jennifer Hyde of Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) in Atlanta hailed it as “gorgeous, smart, and emotional, with terrific writing and an authentic and intimate presence.” Nichole R. Phillips, PhD and Associate Professor of Black Studies at Emory University called it “refreshing, unique, exquisite, and beautifully done.”

Author and speaker Lorna Blake said “the showcase of academics alongside recording artists, pastors, spoken word artists & activists sharing their stories makes for a truly powerful film...”

The documentary has been named an Official Selection of the San Francisco Black Film Festival as well as the International Christian Film Festival, where it was nominated for Best Documentary & Best Director, and proclaimed Audience Choice WINNER- Nabali’s first award.

The official film trailer is available on the film’s official website: [www.letthechurch.com](http://www.letthechurch.com). Tickets to the ABFF world premiere screening can be purchased at [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com).

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*Stage Ten Media is a full-service film production and media production company providing services for projects of all scales and genres. Productions include single or multi-camera shoots, location or studio, live event or web streaming, along with broadcast quality editing and graphics.*