



Contact: Regi Reyes

(504) 520-5240 | rreyes@xula.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Xavier University of Louisiana presents special screening of “City of a Million Dreams” documentary, precluded by quartet concert

New Orleans, La.— On Sunday, March 27, 2022, Xavier University of Louisiana will host a free screening of “City of a Million Dreams,” an engaging chronicled documentary exploring the history and culture of New Orleans through the performance lens of African American funeral traditions and second-line parades. The event, which includes a pre-screening reception and performance by Xavier professor and renowned clarinetist Dr. Michael White and his quartet, will be held in the Qatar Pharmacy Pavilion Auditorium on the Xavier University campus.

Dr. White, Keller Endowed Chair in the Humanities at Xavier, serves as one of the two protagonists of the film alongside the late blogger, Deb “Big Red” Cotton. Dr. White contributed recorded and original music to the score, which can be heard throughout the production.

Culminating a 25-year effort by award-winning writer and producer Jason Berry, “City of a Million Dreams” offers a unique view of New Orleans through a compelling and haunting examination of the influence that Black performative culture has on the way community members navigate the immediacy of life and death daily. The documentary is an embodiment of the depths in which New Orleans’ history and culture informs the individual and collective understanding in the city of place, spirit and time.

Free and open to the public, the event is sponsored by Xavier’s Keller Endowed Chair’s Office, African American and Diaspora Studies Program, Department of Music and the Dean’s Office in the College of Arts and Sciences and Performance Studies Lab. All attendees must wear a mask indoors in compliance with Xavier’s COVID-19 guidelines.

In addition to the pre-screening reception and performance, audience members will have the opportunity to participate in a post-screening discussion with Berry, Dr. White, editor Tim Watson, choreographer Monique Moss, and musician Gregg Stafford. The Sunday program marks the resumption of Xavier University’s *Culture of New Orleans Series* after a two-year absence due to Covid.

For additional information, contact Dr. Michael White at mwhite@xula.edu.

Screening Schedule:

3:00 pm Reception and refreshments

Performance by the Dr. Michael White Quartet
4:00pm Screening of "City of a Million Dreams"
5:30 pm Discussion and audience questions

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About Xavier University of Louisiana

Being America's only historically Black and Catholic University is only the first among many distinctions that have set Xavier University of Louisiana apart for more than nine decades. Despite its relatively small size, Xavier is a nationally recognized leader in STEM and the health sciences, producing more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Its College of Pharmacy is among the top producers of African American pharmacists.

Its liberal arts-based programs in such areas as art, business, education, psychology, and political science – as well as recent additions in bioinformatics, data science, neuroscience, crime and social justice, and jazz studies – offer students an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities, and life experiences. The winning Xavier formula to provide students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls.

For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. To book interviews and/or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications, and the arts, contact Regi Reyes at (504) 520-5240 or rreyes@xula.edu.