

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEW YORK WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION CULMINATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WITH A WEEKEND OF SCREENINGS CELEBRATING WOMEN STORYTELLERS

***Farewell Amor* will screen March 26-27 for SWAN Day followed by the CUNY TV
broadcast premiere of the 41st Annual NYWIFT Muse Awards on March 28**

NEW YORK, NY – March 23, 2021 – New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) culminates its month-long recognition of Women's History with a weekend of screenings celebrating female creators in film, television, and media. NYWIFT will screen IFC Films' critically-acclaimed *Farewell Amor* March 26-27 as part of its annual SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now Day) celebration in partnership with SAG-AFTRA, FF2 Media, Women in the Arts & Media Coalition (WAMC), HerFlix, In Creative Company, The Gotham, African-American Women in Cinema (AAWIC), and Women Make Movies (WMM), followed by a talkback with filmmaker Ekwa Msangi on Saturday, March 27 at 12 PM EST. Then the 41st Annual NYWIFT Muse Awards celebrating women of vision and achievement will have its educational broadcast on CUNY TV on Sunday, March 28 at 8 PM EST.

Farewell Amor, the debut feature film from Tanzanian-American filmmaker **Ekwa Msangi**, follows Angolan immigrant Walter as he is joined in the U.S. by his wife and teen daughter after 17 years apart. Now absolute strangers sharing a one-bedroom Brooklyn apartment, they struggle to overcome the emotional distance between them. The film is both a universal immigrant story and the unique perspective of three characters bound together by history and hope. It is an intimate and deeply personal look at an inter-generational tale that has defined America since its inception. Msangi, who was recently named Film Independent's "Someone to Watch" Winner, will participate in a live talkback moderated by NYWIFT Board President **Jamie Zelermyer** following the screening. The film is presented courtesy of IFC Films.

Jan Lisa Huttner was the creative force behind the WITASWAN project (Women in the Audience Supporting Women Artists Now) in 2004, and became the co-founder of International SWAN Day in 2008, in collaboration with Martha Richards of WomenArts. It is traditionally recognized on the last Saturday of the month, and NYWIFT and its partners have celebrated it for years with screenings of narrative and documentary works by diverse established and emerging voices in film.

"Who doesn't want to be a SWAN, particularly during a pandemic? Celebrating unique women artists like Ekwa Msangi's with the presentation *Farewell Amor*, a lovely, sensitive, and powerful look at a delicate and painful part of the U.S. immigrant story that so often goes untold. NYWIFT has been following Ekwa's rise for years – screening her short prequel to *Farewell Amor* at our Immigrant Stories Series, welcoming her on our indie filmmaker panel at Sundance 2020 – and now we are thrilled to toast her incredible success during Women's History Month as we remember the importance of supporting women artists at all stages of their careers," said NYWIFT Executive Director Cynthia Lopez.

The virtual SWAN Day screening and live Q&A for *Farewell Amor* is free to attend and open to the public. Virtual networking to follow the March 27 Q&A. Register at <https://www.nywift.org/event/virtual-theatrical-experience-2021-s-w-a-n-support-women-artists-now-day-screening-farewell-amor/>

The 41st Annual NYWIFT Muse Awards honoring women of vision and achievement, which aired live virtually in December, will broadcast on **CUNY TV** on March 28 and 29. This year's theme is "Art & Advocacy," as NYWIFT recognizes the role of the creative community in advancing positive social change. *CBS Sunday Morning* contributor **Nancy Giles** emcees the program, which includes video tributes and remarks from honorees **Awkwafina**, Actor, The Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment Made in NY Award, **Rachel Brosnahan**, Actor and Producer, **Rashida Jones**, Actor, Writer, Producer, Director, Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, Journalists; **Alana Mayo**, President of Orion Pictures; **Gina Prince-Bythewood**, Director, Writer, Producer, The Nancy Malone Directing Award; and **Ali Stroker**, Actor, The Loreen Arbus Changemaker Award.

"We are so pleased to continue our educational partnership with CUNY TV to bring our media and entertainment industry signature event NYWIFT Muse Awards to the greater New York City community. We are grateful to CUNY Vice Chancellor for Communications & Marketing Maite Junco and Interim Executive Director Gail Yancosek for their continued advancement and support of women media makers. This year's program is especially meaningful, as we recognize the importance of women's creative power in the face of the adversity we have all faced this last year. The Muse Awards provide the perfect dose of inspiration for future women creators as we close out Women's History Month 2021," said NYWIFT Board President Jamie Zelermyer.

The NYWIFT Muse Awards will broadcast on CUNY TV Sunday, March 28 at 8 PM EST, and then again on Monday, March 29 at 7 AM and 1 PM EST.

CUNY TV is available over-the-air on channel 25.3. The broadcast signal can be received within a 35-mile radius from Times Square, including areas of Long Island, Westchester County, New Jersey and Connecticut. Cable subscribers in the five boroughs of New York City receive CUNY TV on Ch. 75 (Spectrum and Optimum), Ch. 77 (RCN) and Ch. 30 (Verizon FiOS). An edited version of the program will also be available to watch on CUNY TV's YouTube channel, and can be viewed at www.nywift.org/muse.

These screenings culminate NYWIFT's celebration of Women's History Month with a series of programming that spoke to the wide range of women's achievements throughout media. Other March 2021 NYWIFT programs included [Fashion and the First Ladies](#), presented in partnership with the Fashion Group International; [Representation Matters: Ensuring Inclusive Leadership in Politics and Media](#), presented in partnership with the National Democratic Institute as part of the United Nations' NGO Commission on the Status of Women Forum; [Fierce Women Podcasters](#), a conversation with several women filmmakers of color and podcasters discussing emerging Afro-Latino voices; and the [NYWIFT Member Screening: Social Impact Shorts Program](#), featuring nine shorts by emerging filmmakers focused on advancing social change.

Learn more about NYWIFT programming at www.nywift.org/events.

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Images of Program, Panelists, and Logos:

[LINK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

About New York Women in Film & Television:

New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) advocates for equality in the moving image industry and supports women in every stage of their careers. As the preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York, NYWIFT energizes women by illuminating their achievements, presenting training and professional development programs, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing access to a supportive community of peers. NYWIFT brings together more than 2,500 women and men working both above and below the line. NYWIFT is part of a network of 50 women in film chapters worldwide, representing more than 15,000 members. NYWIFT is a nonprofit 501c3 public charity.

More information can be found online at: www.NYWIFT.org.

Follow on all social media platforms @NYWIFT.

About Farewell Amor:

SYNOPSIS

After 17 years apart, Angolan immigrant Walter is joined in the U.S. by his wife and teen daughter. Now absolute strangers sharing a one-bedroom Brooklyn apartment, they struggle to overcome the emotional distance between them. Walter is trying to let go of a previous relationship while his wife Esther struggles with a new country, culture and a husband who seems distant. Their daughter Sylvia is a dancer just like her father, and while she also finds her new life difficult, she bravely starts to explore the city and show herself through dance. The film is both a universal immigrant story and the unique perspective of three characters bound together by history and hope. It is an intimate and deeply personal look at an inter-generational tale that has defined America since its inception.

EKWA MSANGI - WRITER & DIRECTOR

Ekwa Msangi is a Tanzanian American filmmaker who has written and directed for television and film, including her feature directorial debut, Farewell Amor. Msangi has also written and directed several drama series for mainstream broadcasters in Kenya and South Africa, including The Agency, MNET's first-ever original hour-long Kenyan drama series. Along her journey Msangi has been awarded the Jerome Foundation Grant, a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship, and Tribeca Institute and Sundance Institute fellowships.

About CUNY TV:

The City University of New York's television station, CUNY TV, has been educating and informing viewers for more than three decades. Established in 1985, the station has steadily increased its ambition and scope, in 2009 transitioning to high definition and adding over-the-air broadcasting to its existing cable distribution. Now reaching 7.3 million broadcast households in the New York metro area, CUNY TV is committed to extending the academic mission of the university to offer lifelong learning opportunities to all New Yorkers. CUNY TV is overseen by

Interim Executive Director Gail Yancosek, a 10-year CUNY veteran and a 40-year veteran of commercial television production. The station is the recipient of 20 New York Emmy® Awards and over 100 nominations, as well as other prestigious industry honors including the Telly Awards and Communicator Awards. Learn more at tv.cuny.edu

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