About Us

Scriptwriting Essentials: The Art of Writing Strong Female Characters™ are presented by **African Voices/Reel Sisters**, the first Oscar Qualifying Festival for short narratives devoted to women filmmakers, and **BRIC**, the leading presenter of free cultural programming in Brooklyn, and one of the largest in New York City. BRIC presents and incubates new work by artists and media-makers who reflect the diversity that surrounds us. Reel Sisters will celebrate our 30th Anniversary in 2027.

Please Donate to Support African Voices/Reel Sisters!

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Reel Sisters Thanks Our Funders!

Reel Sisters is funded, in part, by New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs, Council members Crystal Hudson (CD 35) and Farah Louis (CD 45).

REEL SISTERS + BRIC PRESENT

An Evening of Staged Script Readings



Nov. 4, 2026, 6:30 pm
BRIC Media
647 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY

Instagram
@reelsistersfilmfest
@BRICBrooklyn

Scriptwriting & Master Class Series



Reel Sisters + BRIC Table Read 2026

Greetings & Welcome

Skye MacLeod & David Francois, BRIC Media

Carolyn A. Butts, African Voices/Reel Sisters Founder

Jennica Carmona, Filmmaker & Writers Lab Leader

Sandrine Dupiton, Reel Sisters Table Read Coordinator and Staged Reading Host

Performances & Readings



Michele Avery, Bubble

Kmur Hardeman, *Aunt Li'l*

Shanya Hartley, A Brownstone Christmas

Thiviya Saraswati, *Pulimahal*

Host

Sandrine Dupiton is a culture worker at the intersection of education, arts, and holistic healing. A vibrant member of African Voices since 2003, she has served as a strategic consultant with AV's board, a writer for the magazine, a teaching artist with its dedicated programming for youth and college students alike, and a creative healing facilitator in her role as the creator of the powerful community healing program funded by *Poets & Writers Magazine*, L.E.T. G.O.: an experiential poetry workshop meant to uplift introspection and spiritual contemplation. Sandrine's most recent program for creatives is theater-based Imagining Together: Creative Healing Collective based in New Jersey. She's served as the proud coordinator and host of Reel Sisters Summer Writing Labs and subsequent Table Read since 2021.

Writers

Michele Avery is a creative producer, writer, and director whose work centers on storytelling, cultural memory, and the experiences that shape how we see ourselves and one another. She is co-director of ReRooted Productions, a cultural arts organization creating work across live performance, film, and community-based experiences. Her projects include the stage production Crown of Times, the immersive Museum of Science experience What's Hair Got to Do With It?, and the award-winning short documentary The Free Black Women's Library. IG: @bklynpearl.

Kmur Hardeman is a native New Yorker...more or less. Her family moved from NJ to Queens when she was a year old, and she's lived in NYC's boroughs ever since. When she is not writing on the subway, she's usually feeding her photography habit. She has also been known to model, and is a Certified Reiki Master and Certified Feng Shui Consultant. IG: Kmur333

Shaunya Hartley was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. She studied at both City College and the Fashion Institute of Technology, earning a degree in fine arts. Her career has spanned entertainment, fashion, social media and she currently serves as a Manager of Branding and Marketing for a leading finance company. Beyond her professional work, she is a dedicated community advocate, engaging with her local community board, council member and assembly member on issues affecting her neighborhood. This screenplay marks her debut as a screenwriter. IG: @ShopEatandSleep

Thiviya Saraswati (she/her) is a queer Eelam Tamil comedian, lawyer, and story-teller from Queens, NY. She has produced her own comedy show series, previously "Sanniyans" and most recently "Tamil Komedy Poti." She received her JD from CUNY School of Law, in addition to a Masters in International Political Economy and Development from Fordham University. She is a BRIC-Certified Community Producer, and working on a number of creative projects, including a sitcom about queer people of color in New York City, and a movie about queer Tamil revolutionaries.
IG: oviya_NYC