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**THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM HOSTS THE SCREENING OF
*REEL BLACK LOVE***

Los Angeles (October 16, 2012) Before the Obamas took center stage displaying a positive and modern example of what Black love looks like, most African Americans received their onscreen love scenes from classic Black cinema stars such as Billy Dee Williams & Diana Ross in *Lady Sings the Blues*. Next Sunday, October 21, 2012 starting at 2 p.m., the California African American Museum hosts the screening of *Reel Black Love*.

Reel Black Love is a 70-minute documentary that reminds us of the Black films that filled our souls, brought tears to our eyes and caused our hearts to skip a beat. Written, directed and produced by Darryl Pitts, who started his career at BET, the documentary features interviews of more than 70 actors including Diahann Carroll, Keenen Ivory Wayans, Glynn Turman and Nia Long on the scenes that exude Black love.

The documentary takes us through scenes of African American classics such as Jason's Lyrics, Brown Sugar, Love Jones, Claudine and many more. "*Romance is about the possibility of the thing. You see, it's about the time between when you first meet the woman, and when you first make love to her; When you first ask a woman to marry you, and when she says I do. When people who been together a long time say that the romance is gone, what they're really saying is they've exhausted the possibility.*" – *Love Jones*, 1997.

"The reason this film is important is because it talks about the history of our images in film and how it has impacted the culture," Pitts explains. "You can see how those image changes have been reflected in our culture."

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Reel Black Love is on a historic tour of African American museums. “Getting out and meeting people to discuss this film is one of the smartest things I’ve ever done. When you take your project to the people they let you know what they like and don’t,” Pitt said. “Creatively, it helps you grow and see what people are feeling.”

A panel discussion and Q&A will be held immediately following the screening. This event is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.caamuseum.org. RSVP preferred at (213) 722-2024. CAAM is located at 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, 90037. Parking is \$10, adjacent to CAAM at 39th and Figueroa Streets.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS IN THE CAAM GALLERIES:

Coloring America: Selections from the California African American Museum’s Permanent History Collection opening October 25, 2012 – January 27, 2013

Shared Thread in CAAM’s Courtyard through December 30, 2012

African American Military Portraits from the American Civil War: Selected Images from the library of Congress Collections through January 20, 2013

Legacy of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company: More Than a Business through March 3, 2013

Go Tell it on the Mountain through April 7, 2013

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The California African American Museum (CAAM) researches, collects, preserves and interprets for public enrichment the history, art and culture of African Americans. Chartered by the California State Legislature in 1977, CAAM is a state supported institution and a partner with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Friends, the Foundation of the California African American Museum. In addition to its permanent collection of over 3,000 objects of art, artifacts and historical documents,

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CAAM also houses a research library containing more than 20,000 volumes, employs and trains high school students through its *Young Docents* program, and hosts in-house curated exhibitions and traveling exhibitions on a regular basis. The museum also tours CAAM exhibitions throughout California and the nation.

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