



KEY EVENTS 'N YOUR AREA

Central Arkansas & Beyond!

Arkansas Cinema Society Closes Its Annual Filmland with 'Sing Sing' Screening and Panel with Star, Academy Award Nominee, Colman Domingo

by Kenya L. Eddings

On Saturday, August 18, there was standing room only for Arkansas Cinema Society's (ACS) screening of, 'Sing, Sing'. The highly-acclaimed movie starring Academy Award nominee, Colman Domingo ("Lincoln", "The Butler", "Selma", "Rustin", and "Color Purple", among others) closed out another successful Filmland series hosted annually by ACS.

The one-hour and forty-five minute film, based on a true story, follows the life of John 'Divine G' Thompson, played by Domingo, as he navigates life behind bars at Sing, Sing Correctional Institute in New York for a crime he did not commit. To cope, he joins Rehabilitation Through the Arts, RTA, a theatre acting group for inmates whose mission, "helps people in prison develop critical life skills through the arts, modeling an approach to the justice system based on human dignity rather than punishment.

Jeff Nichols, ACS Chairman of the Board and Founder, led a panel discussion and Q&A post-screening with Domingo, the film's co-writer, Clint Bentley, and producer, Monique Walton. Among the topics discussed were the relationships between black and brown men and the often overlooked vulnerabilities, and albeit liberations that exist among them. According to Domingo, witnessing the formerly incarcerated black and brown men play themselves and exemplify the life-changing craft that, in many ways served as a redeeming factor, was cathartic.



Colman Domingo, Clint Bentley, Monique Walton, and Jeff Nichols prepare for Q&A



Colman Domingo, greets fans Denese Fletcher and her daughter, Clarke

Moreover, witnessing his co-stars celebrated for the film and their work rather than for their past was paramount. As Sean 'Dino' Johnson states so eloquently in the film, "We're all trying to be human." Indeed, we are, Dino. Indeed we are.

[Click here](#) to view the trailer. Check local listings for release dates and locations.

[Click here](#) to view more photos from the day.