Connecting our local and wider community

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THE OVERLOOKED LGBTQ+ HISTORY OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

APPLE MUSIC PLAYLIST
LOUIS CHUDE-SOKEI: AFROFUTURISM

STREAMING NOW
THE HARDER THEY FALL
Streaming on: Netflix
When an outlaw discovers his enemy is being released from prison, he reunites his gang to seek revenge in this Western. It is one of few Westerns whose principal cast members are all Black. Although a fictional film, its characters are based on real cowboys, lawmen, and outlaws of the 19th-century American West.

NIGHTINGALE
Streaming on: HBO
A lonely war veteran psychologically unravels ahead of an old friend's impending visit. Played by David Oyelowo with a motor-mouthed bravado that seems like a buttress against loneliness, he's a veteran, a supermarket cashier, an aspiring gourmand, a prodigal son, and also — a murderer.
Saint Heron, the creative studio of musician Solange Knowles, is launching a public library of collector’s-edition books by or spotlighting Black poets, visual artists, designers, and luminaries. Starting this Monday, readers will be invited to borrow one of 50 titles completely free of charge: with shipping and return postage covered, there will be no expenses for borrowers, who can enjoy the books for research, study, and personal discovery for 45 days...The dozens of publications, many of them now out of print, constitute an invaluable archive of Black brilliance.
Tech workers from the Bay Area have moved into the neighborhood. Property taxes are rising. Bills stack up. Hajji needs help but won’t tell his sons, because he doesn’t want them to take on more work. He borrows money and credit. He buries the bills at night like corpses. Habibi receives another call from her parents. There will be an operation. It’s the heart, of all things. Habibi tells only Hajji, but Bibi, of course, finds out.

In a moment of weakness, Lily eats a Slim Jim that she shoplifted from a gas station near her school. At home, she vomits the processed meat for several minutes.

Sometimes dread does not vanish when he locates his glasses. They turn up where he thinks they should, his fingers curl, prepare to reach out for them. But glasses are not enough. Not convincing enough. They do not belong to him. Not glasses. Not hand. He vaguely recognizes both. Glasses too heavy to lift. Or hand too heavy. He’s observing from an incalculable distance, and sometimes that detachment is a gift, sometimes it dooms him.

WHO IS THE BLACK MAN?
THE JAMAICAN BORN FILMMAKER, LEBERT BETHUNE, WHO WAS CLOSE TO MALCOLM X, MADE TWO FILMS THAT DEFTLY EXPLORED BLACK IDENTITY AT THE END OF THE 1960S.

By Ebony Bailey

REIMAGINING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA
IF RE-MUNICIPALIZATION—RETURNING A PRIVATIZED SERVICE TO LOCAL PUBLIC CONTROL—IS TO WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA, WE NEED OTHER FORMS OF SOCIAL CONTRACTING BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIZENS.

By Zama Ndlovu
"...I feel like part of my greater mission as a fashion historian is making this information accessible and entertaining, and advocating for fashion history as a legitimate branch of history. It’s been heartening to know that there are people who are interested in this, that the field is growing and becoming more widely recognized.”