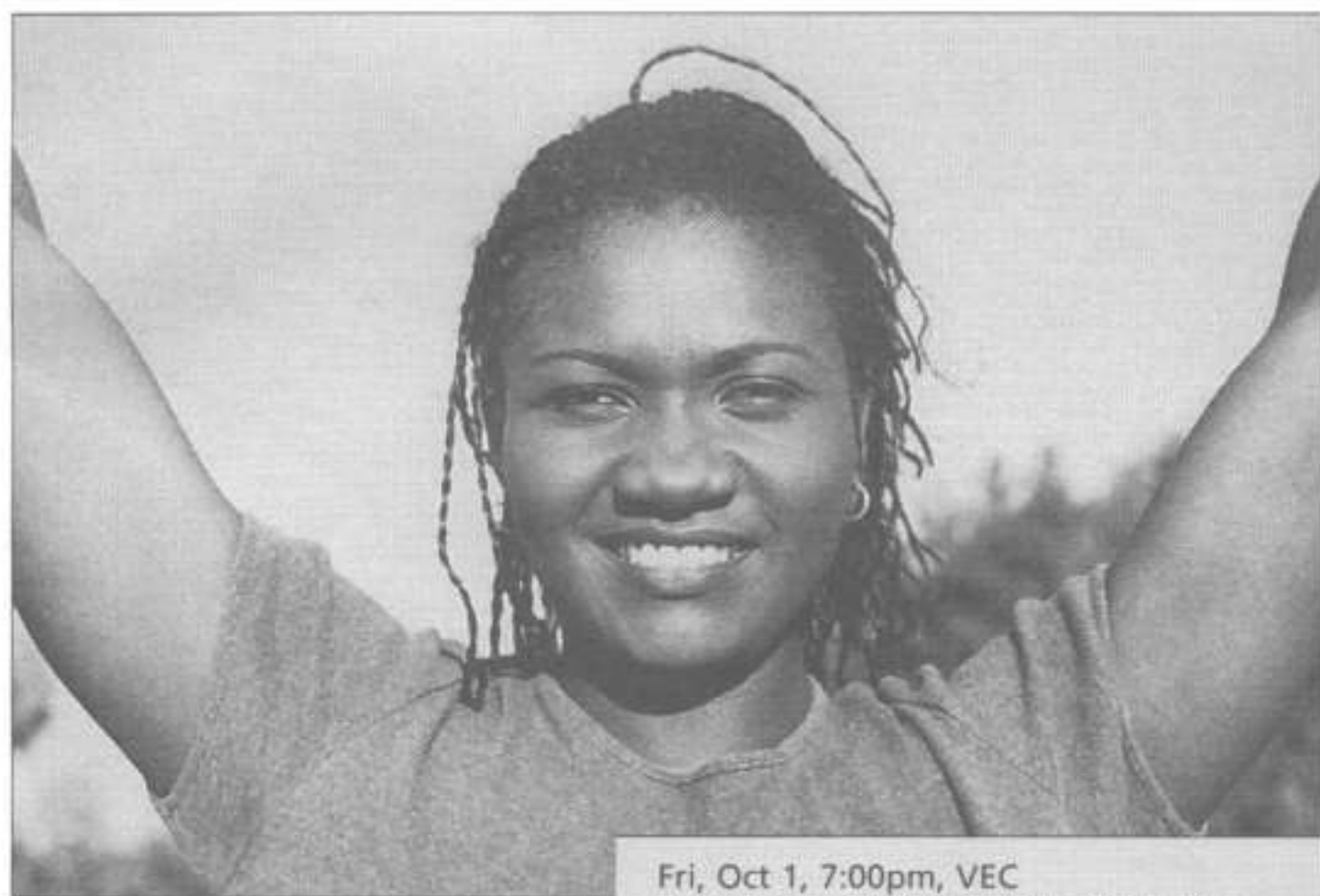


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CANADIAN IMAGES



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Another Planet

Ontario, 1999, 90 minutes

Director: Christene Browne

Cast: Sandy Daley, Kevin White, Monique MacDonald, Daniel Lévesque, Tiemoko Simaga, Marcia Brown **Producer/Screenplay:** Christene Browne
Cinematographer: Candide Franklyn **Editor:** Lee Michael Searles **Music:** Donald Quan **Production Company:** Syncopated Productions Inc.
Distributor: Domino Film and Television **Sales Agent:** Syncopated Productions Inc. **Format:** 35mm

Cassandra Jones (newcomer Sandy Daley who shines in her lead role) is trapped in an inner city home with a drug-dealing brother and a gambling mother who promises that God will provide when the fridge is empty. They are a family haunted by a figure from the past, Moko Jumbie, a bogeyman known throughout the Caribbean. Cassandra resolves to defend her people and her "Africanness," and takes the first step when she applies and is accepted into a Quebec/West Africa exchange program—also the first step in her search for her self and her African identity. Her journey takes her to a Quebec pig farm, and when she arrives, her host family, the LeBlancs, are uncertain if she is their African or Canadian exchange student (partially reflecting Cassandra's own dilemma). Here she encounters Sylvie LeBlanc, a farmer's wife who dreams of change and finds in Cassandra the catalyst, and Luc LeBlanc, a man afraid of change. Before long her African exchange counterpart arrives, Abdoulaye Diallo—a man who regrets his decision to seek change and quickly aligns himself with Luc. With none of her expectations met, Cassandra quickly becomes unhappy, especially as she is being treated by Luc as nothing more than additional farm labour. Before long the tensions on the farm explode, with humorous and poignant results.

Documentarian Christene Browne has produced a compelling and poetic feature debut which offers a hilarious and insightful depiction of cultural clashes between African, English-Canadian and Québécois identities. Part family melodrama and part coming-of-age film, this is a milestone in Canadian cinema. (In English and French. A subtitled print cannot be confirmed at press time)

Ken Anderlini

Preceded by:

All Things Fare (Duane Crichton, Ontario, 1998, 14 min.) Nursing vicious hangovers, Otis and Leila are rushing to get to a wedding. They end up in Hakeem's cab... The diversity of black culture in Toronto is revealed by simply letting the characters live. (K.A.)
Print Source: Step 04

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VANCOUVER IFF, 1999