



Kulu Mele @ BlackStar & Robeson House
virtual premiere & conversation



Dear Kulu Mele Community,

We are thrilled to see Kulu Mele featured at [Blackstar Film Festival](#). This year's festival is taking place from August 20-26 online, screening over 80 films from Black, Brown, and Indigenous filmmakers representing more than 20 countries around the world. Kulu Mele's new film [The Ancestors Live – 50 years of Kulu Mele African Dance & Drum Ensemble](#), premieres online at **Blackstar on August 22nd at 10 AM**. Filmmaker Aidan Un beautifully intercuts stories of Kulu Mele, African Cuba, Ogun & the People, and now. He traveled with Kulu Mele to Cuba as part of the *Ogun & the People* project, documenting the process. (Subscribe to the [films](#) on Kulu Mele's YouTube channel). He is also the filmmaker who collaborated with Dorothy Wilkie on Kulu Mele's latest work, [We're Coming Out](#). Film [tickets](#) are \$5 per day. All access festival passes are available. Be there—and then, come talk about it August 29!

August 29th at 3:30 PM: "Kulu Mele talks 50 years of Black dance, music and culture." Livestream discussion* hosted by Chris Rogers, Public Programs Director for the [Paul Robeson House Museum](#), and free-lance journalist John Morrison. Tune in as they dig into Kulu Mele's history. Explore the relevance of Black excellence past, present and future in conversation with Dorothy and John Wilkie. FREE. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/yx8sk6wz>

Book chapter giveaway. With these events and our updated website, we're sharing digital materials to lift your spirits and change your perspective during these pandemics. Kulu Mele completed a first book last fall. In the first chapter, "Carrying the Torch for Culture," John and Dorothy Wilkie tell Kulu Mele family stories. The whole book shares powerful history, culture, and practice in the words of participants. It is definitely about love! Read [free chapters](#) of *Kulu Mele's Ogun & the People: Celebrating 50 Years*. A limited number of books and coloring books are still available [for sale](#).

Please continue to support Kulu Mele so we can preserve the traditional dance and music of West Africa and the African Diaspora, and continue teaching, reassessing and strengthening the company in this 51st year. We have a goal to raise \$10,000 by August 31. [Donate here](#). Heartfelt THANK YOU to the [donors](#) who brought us more than 2/3rds of the way. Stay safe.

Ashe,
Fasina Wilkie
Interim Executive Director
Kulu Mele African Dance & Drum Ensemble

