

Professor Akosua Adoma Owusu

Howard University

Assistant Professor

Media Journalism and Film

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Website: <https://akosuaadoma.com/home.html>

Website: <https://www.blacklightshowcase.com/>

Website: <https://rexcinemaaccra.com>

Professional Positions

Assistant Professor of Film, Howard University, Media, Journalism & Film. (July 2023 - Present).

Visiting Lecturer, Bard College MFA Summer, Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts. (June 2023 - July 2023).

Georgetown University, Adjunct Professor, Film and Media Studies. (January 2023 - June 2023).

Visiting Lecturer, Harvard University, Art, Film, & Visual Studies. (August 2021 - December 2022).

Visiting Assistant Professor, Pratt Institute, Film/Video - School of Art. (January 2017 - December 2022).

Education

MFA, Film/Video and Fine Arts (joint program across schools). California Institute of the Arts, 2008.

BA, Media Studies and Distinguished Studio Art. University of Virginia, 2005.

Awards and Honors

Faculty Academic Excellence in Assessment of Teaching & Learning, CHSOC Assessment Committee. (May 2025).

U.S. Arts Envoy, U.S. Department of State / U.S. Embassy Ghana. (March 2023).

Lincoln Center Award for Emerging Artists, Film at Lincoln Center. (February 2020).

Medien Patent Verwaltung AG Prize, Locarno Film Festival. (August 2019).

Nominated for: Best Short Film, Africa Movie Academy Award. (November 2018).

Audience Award for Best International Short Film, Baltimore International Black Film Festival. (October 2016).

IFP No Borders Co-Production Market, The Gotham Film & Media Institute. (2014).

Tribeca Heineken Affinity Award, Tribeca Film Institute. (2013).

Best Short Film, African Movie Academy Award. (November 2013).

Locarno Open Doors Co-Production Lab, Locarno Film Festival. (2012).

Media Appearances and Interviews

"The Milk of Dreams: Venice Biennale 2022 – Interview," Biennale Channel / La Biennale di Venezia. (2022).

Publications

Owusu, A. (2025). *Damn the Man, Save the Rex!*. Washington, D.C.: Obibini Pictures, LLC.

Owusu, A. (2021). *Save the Rex – An Anthology Tribute*. Washington, D.C.: Obibini Pictures, LLC.

Owusu, A. (2020). *King of Sanwi*. Washington, D.C.: Obibini Pictures, LLC.

Owusu, A. (2019). *White Afro*. Washington, D.C.: Obibini Pictures, LLC.

Owusu, A. (2019). *Pelourinho: They Don't Really Care About Us*. Washington, D.C.: Obibini Pictures, LLC.

Owusu, A. (2018). *On Monday of Last Week*. Washington, D.C.: Obibini Pictures, LLC.

Owusu, A. (2018). *Mahogany Too*. Washington, D.C.: Obibini Pictures, LLC.

Owusu, A. (2016). *Reluctantly Queer*. Washington, D.C.: Obibini Pictures, LLC.

Presentations

Owusu, A., Talents Durban, "Visualizing and Sustaining Your Film," Durban FilmMart Institute (DFMI), Virtual (Zoom), Durban, South Africa. (August 13, 2026).

Owusu, A., Howard University Research Month Symposium, "African Cinema Preservation and Practice-Based Filmmaking: Damn the Man, Save the Rex!," Howard University, Armour J. Blackburn Center Ballroom, Washington, DC, United States. (April 30, 2026).

Owusu, A. (Director, Producer, Professor), Howard University Film Organization (HUFO), "Visualizing & Verbalizing Your Film: A Pitch Deck Workshop," Howard University Film Organization (HUFO), WHUT Studio A, Washington, DC, United States. (February 2026).

Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), African Film & Literature Course, "Screening & Discussion: Kwaku Ananse and me broni ba (my white baby)," University of Virginia, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, United States. (November 2025).

Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, "Screening & Discussion: Reluctantly Queer," Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Duke University, Durham, NC, United States. (April 2025).

Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), Harlem Renaissance, "Focus on Akosua Adoma Owusu," Batalha Centro de Cinema, Porto, Portugal, Batalha Centro de Cinema, Porto, Portugal. (March 20, 2025).

Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), Film Program / Screening Series, "Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu," National Gallery of Art, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, United States. (January 2025).

- Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), MFA Studio Art Program, "Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu," École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, National School of Fine Arts, Lyon, France. (March 2024).
- Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), Sharjah Film Platform, "The Cinema of Safi Faye: Colonial Legacies, Exile and (Be)longing," Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah Film Platform, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. (November 23, 2023).
- Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), Speaker Series, "Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu," Bucknell University, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, United States. (November 9, 2023).
- Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), Launch of e-flux journal issue 137: Akosua Adoma Owusu and Serubiri Moses, "Launch of e-flux journal issue 137," e-flux film, e-flux film, Brooklyn, NY, United States. (June 20, 2023).
- Owusu, A. (Director, Producer), New York African Film Festival, "Safi Faye Memorial Talk – Women of African Cinema," Film at Lincoln Center, Lincoln Center, New York, United States. (May 6, 2023).
- Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), Athens International Film & Video Festival, "Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu," Ohio University, Ohio University, Athens, OH, United States. (April 16, 2023).
- Owusu, A. (Film Director, Producer), Women in Motion Festival, "The Female Gaze in Cinematic History," U.S. Embassy Ghana, Goethe-Institut, Ghana, Accra, Ghana. (March 8, 2023).
- Owusu, A. (Director, Producer), Speaker Series, "Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu," West Potomac High School, West Potomac High School, Alexandria, VA, United States. (February 2023).
- Owusu, A. (Visual Artist, Producer), Gideon Appiah: Forgotten, Nudes, Landscapes, "Save the Rex!," Virginia Commonwealth University, Institute for Contemporary Art, Richmond, VA, United States. (October 26, 2022).
- Owusu, A. (Director, Producer), Gleaners Film Festival, "Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu," Franklin and Marshall College, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, United States. (September 23, 2022).
- Owusu, A. (Director, Producer), Harvard Film Archive, "An Evening with Akosua Adoma Owusu," Harvard University, Harvard Film Archive, Cambridge, MA, United States. (March 28, 2022).
- Owusu, A. (Director, Producer), Higher Learning, "Akosua Adoma Owusu on the Art of Adaptation," Toronto International Film Festival, TIFF Bell Lightbox, Toronto, Canada. (October 8, 2019).

Contracts, Fellowships, Grants and Sponsored Research

- Owusu, A., "Damn the Man, Save the Rex! (Official Selection - World Premiere)," Sponsored by Athens International Film & Video Festival, Howard University, (April 13, 2026 - April 15, 2026).
- Owusu, A., "Heritage Management Foundation Meetings," Sponsored by Howard University, (October 2025).

Owusu, A., "Presidential Microgrants: Faculty Travel Awards," Sponsored by Howard University, , (June 2025).

Owusu, A., "Heritage Management Foundation Scholarship," Sponsored by Mellon Foundation, (November 2024).

Owusu, A., "Film Study Center," Sponsored by Harvard University, (August 2021 - December 2022).

Owusu, A., "Villa Sträuli Residency," Sponsored by Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, (August 2019 - September 2019).

Owusu, A., "Vila Sul Residency," Sponsored by Goethe-Institut Salvador-Bahia, Brazil, \$5,000.00. (June 2018 - August 2018).

Owusu, A., "Oberhausen Film Seminar," Sponsored by Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, (April 2018 - May 2018).

Owusu, A., "Guggenheim Fellowship (Film/Video)," Sponsored by John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, (2015 - 2017).

Owusu, A., "Residency - Cassis, France," Sponsored by The Camargo Foundation, (June 2016 - August 2016).

Owusu, A., "Travel Grant," Sponsored by Art Matters Foundation, (July 2015 - August 2015).

Owusu, A., "Film/Video Grant," Sponsored by Creative Capital Foundation, (May 2012 - May 2015).

Owusu, A., "World Cinema Fund," Sponsored by Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), (2014).

Owusu, A., "ARTE France International Prize," Sponsored by Durban FilmMart (2013 - 2014).

Owusu, A., "Black Film Center/Archive Residency," Sponsored by Indiana University Bloomington (September 2014).

Owusu, A., "Berlinale Talents Script Station," Sponsored by Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), (February 2014).

Owusu, A., "Durban FilmMart," Sponsored by Durban International Film Festival (July 2013 - August 2013).

Owusu, A., "MacDowell Colony Residency," Sponsored by MacDowell, Private, \$2,000.00. (July 2013 - August 2013).

Owusu, A., "Durban Talent Campus," Sponsored by Durban International Film Festival, Other, \$0.00. (July 2011 - August 2011).

Owusu, A., "Produire au Sud Workshop," Sponsored by Festival des 3 Continents - Nantes, Other, \$0.00. (November 2010 - December 2010).

Owusu, A., "Robert Flaherty Film Seminar," Sponsored by Colgate University, Other, \$0.00. (June 2010).

Exhibits and Performances

Owusu, A., "Kwaku Ananse in Imagining Otherwise: Pan-African Cinema as Liberation," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Teatro do Bairro Alto (TBA), Teatro do Bairro Alto (TBA), Lisbon, Portugal. (September 2026).

Owusu, A., "me broniba (my white baby) in Immigrant Nation: People in Transit," Akosua Adoma Owusu and Djibril Diop Mambéty, MoMA - Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Modern Art - The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater, New York, NY, United States. (August 8, 2026 - August 12, 2026).

Owusu, A., "Damn the Man! Save the Rex! in Athens International Film & Video Festival," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Athens International Film & Video Festival, Athena Theatre, Athens, OH, United States. (April 13, 2026 - April 19, 2026).

Owusu, A., "me broniba (my white baby) in Africa Strikes Back," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Filmoteca de Catalunya, Filmoteca de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain. (December 2025 - January 2026).

Owusu, A., "Drexciya in The Salon at PHI," Akosua Adoma Owusu, PHI Montréal, PHI Centre, Montréal, Canada. (December 16, 2025 - January 10, 2026).

Owusu, A., "Reluctantly Queer in Film Africa Festival," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Film Africa Festival, Royal African Society, London, United Kingdom. (November 14, 2025 - November 23, 2025).

Owusu, A., "Flip It & Reverse It: Spectacles of Blackness in Popular Media," Akosua Adoma Owusu, VisArts, VisArts, Rockville, MD, United States. (November 21, 2025 - January 18, 2026).

Owusu, A., "King of Sanwi in Video Window: Thrill Me. The Power & Magic of Music in Video Art," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Kunsthalle Lucerne, Art Space Walcheturm Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland. (November 18, 2025).

Owusu, A., "Kwaku Ananse in Mythical Creatures of Forgotten Pasts," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Eye Filmmuseum (Netherlands), Eye Filmmuseum (Netherlands), Amsterdam, Netherlands. (July 2025).

Owusu, A., "Reluctantly Queer in The Weight of a Question: Documentary and the Art of Inquiry," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Duke University, Durham, NC, United States. (April 3, 2025 - April 6, 2025).

Owusu, A., "White Afro in Art Cinema OFFoff," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Art Cinema OFFoff, Art Cinema OFFoff, Ghent, Belgium. (March 3, 2025).

Owusu, A., "Drexciya in Celebrating Black Futures," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada. (February 23, 2025).

Owusu, A., "Drexciya in Bard College Berlin course," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Bard College Berlin, Bard College Berlin, Berlin, Germany. (February 5, 2025).

Owusu, A., "Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu," Akosua Adoma Owusu, National Gallery of Art, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, United States. (January 26, 2025).

- Owusu, A., "Split Ends; I Feel Wonderful in Pop: Contagion, Infection, Revolution!" Akosua Adoma Owusu, London Short Film Festival, Institute of Contemporary Art London, London, United Kingdom. (January 18, 2025).
- Owusu, A., "Drexciya in Watery Yearning," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Monangambee Film Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria. (January 11, 2025).
- Owusu, A., "me broni ba (my white baby) in Tigritudes," Akosua Adoma Owusu, British Film Institute (BFI), British Film Institute (BFI), London, United Kingdom. (June 3, 2024 - July 31, 2024).
- Owusu, A., "Reluctantly Queer in Pride at BAK: Queer Film Program," Akosua Adoma Owusu with Dr. Kwame Edwin Otu, BAK, BAK, Utrecht, Netherlands. (June 2, 2024).
- Owusu, A., "Reluctantly Queer in Wild 'n Sweet Festival," Akosua Adoma Owusu, TivoliVredenburg, TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht, Netherlands. (June 1, 2024).
- Owusu, A., "Kwaku Ananse in Prélude: Ré-imaginer le passé – Talking Objects Film Night," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Talking Objects Lab (Berlin), KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany. (March 6, 2024).
- Owusu, A., "Kwaku Ananse in Smithsonian Mother Tongue Festival," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Smithsonian Museum, Smithsonian (Virtual), WASHINGTON, DC. (February 24, 2024).
- Owusu, A., "Pelourinho: They Don't Really Care About Us in Fresh Experimental," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Austin Film Society, Austin Film Society, Austin, TX, United States. (September 28, 2023).
- Owusu, A., "Drexciya in Pavilion screening series," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Pavilion (Leeds), Hyde Park Picture House, Leeds, United Kingdom. (April 15, 2023).
- Owusu, A., "Drexciya in Rolling in the Deep: Mer-Creatures and Mythology in Global Cinema," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Barbican Cinema, Barbican Cinema, London, United Kingdom. (December 2, 2022 - March 2023).
- Owusu, A., "White Afro in Cut Frames, Captured Pixels: Found Footage Film & Video," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Florida State University, Museum of Fine Arts - FSU MoFA, Tallahassee, FL, United States. (January 12, 2023 - March 18, 2023).
- Owusu, A., "White Afro in Back to Black," Akosua Adoma Owusu, Concorso Film Festival, Concorso Film Festival, Pontenure, Italy. (August 2021).

Research Activity

"Black Light: A Howard Short Film Showcase" (On-Going). (September 2025 - Present).

Founder & Artistic Director, Miracle Theatre, Washington, DC

Black Light is a recurring two-night film showcase founded in 2025 that brings Howard University's emerging filmmakers together with alumni and invited artists. Developed through my directing courses, the showcase gives students the opportunity to screen their work for a public audience while celebrating Howard's filmmaking community.

"Hair Trilogy" (On-Going). (2022 - Present).

Untangling Identity: Akosua Adoma Owusu's *Hair Trilogy*. The Ghanaian American filmmaker's three films explore the complexities of Black hair culture.

"Welcome to the Jungle" (On-Going). (2019 - Present).

Ghanaian American filmmaker Akosua Adoma Owusu combines her film works *White Afro* (2019), *Pelourinho*, *They Don't Really Care About Us* (2019), *Split Ends*, *I Feel Wonderful* (2012), and *Me Broni Ba* (2009) in a touring gallery exhibition which examines ideologies of beauty, power & identity.

"Triple Consciousness: Films by Akosua Adoma Owusu" (On-Going). (2015 - Present).

Retrospective screening program (multiple institutions) - Owusu interprets Du Bois' notion of double consciousness and creates a third cinematic space or consciousness, representing diverse identities including feminism, queerness and African immigrants interacting in African, white American, and black American culture.

"Black Sunshine" (Planning). (May 2012 - Present).

first feature-length film (in development)

Teaching Experience

MJFC 200, Intro to Media Production., 1 course.

MJFC 223, Film & TV Production, 2 courses.

MJFC 225, History of Broadcast & Film, 5 courses.

MJFC 349, Directing for Film & Television, 9 courses.

MJFC 350, Film and TV Editing, 1 course.

RTFG 500, Film History, 1 course.

RTFG 700, African American Cinema, 1 course.

Directed Student Learning

Internship Advisor, "Black Light: A Howard Short Film Showcase (Student Practicum)." (January 2026 - May 2026).

Advised: Nylah Statley

Internship Advisor, "Black Light: A Howard Short Film Showcase (Student Practicum)." (January 2026 - May 2026).

Advised: Isabella Spencer

Internship Advisor, "Black Light: A Howard Short Film Showcase (Student Practicum)." (September 2025 - December 2025).

Advised: Kyndell Baskin

Internship Advisor, "Black Light: A Howard Short Film Showcase (Student Practicum)." (September 2025 - December 2025).

Advised: Aalia Scott

Major advisor for doctoral dissertation, "Crime Television Dissertation." (April 2025 - May 2025).

Advised: Stella Ezimma Okigbo

Supervised Research, "All Black Girls Go to Heaven." (February 2025 - May 2025).

Advised: Aiyana McRae

Major advisor for undergraduate thesis, "Case by Case." (November 2024).

Advised: Kristen Uchenna Umegbolu

Directed Individual/Independent Study, "Nightmare Therapy." (February 2024).

Advised: Zion Murphy

Mentoring

Zion Murphy (Graduate Student). August 2025 - May 2026.

Jada Wesley (Undergraduate). December 2025.

Fatou Sow (Faculty Member). February 2025.

Autumn Jackson (Undergraduate). January 2024 - May 2024.

James Parker (Undergraduate). January 2024 - May 2024.

Non-Credit Instruction Taught

Workshop, University of Media Arts and Communication (UniMAC), 15 participants. (March 2023).

Teaching Innovation and Curriculum Development

Revise Existing Course. Directing for Film & TV. August 2025 - May 2026.

Redesigned course to center project-based production and theatrical exhibition through the Black Light showcase, integrating development, production, and public screening into a cohesive directing course.

Revise Existing Course. History of Broadcast & Film. January 2024 - May 2026.

Updated curriculum to incorporate Black and global film histories, contemporary media analysis, and student-led research presentations.

Faculty Development Activities Attended

Workshop, "Executive Leadership in Heritage Management," Heritage Management Foundation, Kumasi, Ghana. (November 2024).

University Service

Advisor, Howard University Film Organization (HUFO). (September 2025 - Present).

Video Content Editor, Bison Election Zone. (November 2024 - Present).

Faculty Representative, NBCU Next Level Summit. (October 2023 - Present).

Logistics Committee & Content Editor, Research & Creative Works Day. (February 2025 - May 2025).

Content Editor, Department of Media, Journalism and Film. (August 2024 - May 2025).

Content Editor, Paul Robeson Student Awards. (August 2024 - May 2025).

Content Editor & Committee Member, Annenberg Honors Program. (August 2024 - May 2025).

Advisor, Disney Storytellers Fund. (January 2024 - June 2024).

Professional Service

Mentor, Durban FilmMart, Durban. (July 6, 2026 - October 12, 2026).

Reviewer/Referee, MacDowell Colony Artist Residency, New York, NY. (April 16, 2026).

Reviewer/Referee, Berlinale Talents Short Form Station, Berlin. (2025).

Reviewer/Referee, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Durham, NC. (2025).

Reviewer/Referee, MacDowell Colony Artist Residency, New York, NY. (November 14, 2025).

Reviewer/Referee, Berlinale Talents Short Form Station, Berlin. (2024).

Reviewer/Referee, Athens International Film & Video Festival, Athens, OH. (2023).

Reviewer/Referee, Berlinale Talents Short Form Station, Berlin. (2023).

Reviewer/Referee, Creative Capital Foundation, New York, NY. (2023).

Reviewer/Referee, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah. (2023).

Committee Member, Pratt Institute Curriculum Committee & Search Committee, Brooklyn, NY.
(January 2021 - May 2021).

Public Service

Founder & Organizer, Rex Cinema Accra, Accra. (2013 - Present).