Blaxploitalian Screening / Q&A
Celebrating Black History Month
with Italian Ghanaian Director and Activist Fred Kuwornu

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
3:30 p.m. • 821 Anderson Hall

Co-sponsored by the Temple University Italian Club,
Education Abroad Office, Global Studies Program,
and Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, and
Africology and African American Studies

About the Lecture
Fred Kudjo Kuwornu, born and raised in Italy, is an
Italian-Ghanaian activist, producer, writer, and
director based in Brooklyn, NY and Rome. In 2010,
after working with the production crew of Spike
Lee’s Miracle at St. Anna (2008), he produced and directed the award-winning documentary Inside Buffalo, about the untold story of the African-American soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Division, who valiantly fought side-by-side with Italian partisans against the Nazis along the Gothic Line, mainly in Tuscany. 18 Ius Soli, based on interviews with 18 successful young men and women born in Italy of immigrant parents, followed in 2011. Kuwornu founded the non-profit organization Diversity Italia, to promote the importance of racial and ethnic diversity in Europe, using film and other media as tools for building a more inclusive society. Blaxploitalian is a documentary on the representation of blackness in Italian films since 1914, when the movie Salambò, by Domenico Gaudio (starring an actor of African descent for the first time in Italian cinema), was released. The documentary covers more than a century, from silent and colonial cinema to contemporary cinema. It focuses on the contribution of African American actors such as John Kitzmiller, Harold Bradley and Fred Williamson, about African Italian actors such as Zeudi Araya, Ines Pellegrini, Iris Peynado, Fiona May, and more. Hundreds of African Italian and African American actors starred in Neorealist films, in historical and mythical movies, in comedies from the Nineteen Sixties, in detective films from the Nineteen Seventies, and in other comedic genres, including the so-called Sexy Comedy Italian style. Welcome from Pier Attinio Forlano, Consul General of Italy in Philadelphia.