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MOVIES

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11 Movies You Need to Know at New Directors/New Films

By MANOHLA DARGIS and A.O. SCOTT

‘Black Mother’ by Khalik Allah



Maternity is both the guiding metaphor and one of the subjects of this lyrical, occasionally bombastic documentary essay by Khalik Allah. Gliding from color to black and white, from digital to analog, from grim realism to spiritual ecstasy, the film offers a song of praise to the island of Jamaica and a reckoning with its painful history and hard-pressed present. Mr. Allah gathers a rich blend of voices, faces and natural wonders, a kaleidoscope in which shards of violence and poverty commingle with glimmers of dignity and resilience. (A.O. Scott)