

# Crowning Achievements

Nurturing Young Minds and Dreams

## NEWSLETTER

Issue: July 2024

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#### INTRO LETTER

Hey Ameka Adventurer Squad!

I've got some exciting news to share with you all. This month, I traveled to my very first Essence Fest to celebrate their 30th birthday! And guess what? I was a finalist in the Essence Film Fest! It was such an amazing experience, and I can't wait to tell you all about it.

In this July issue, we have lots of fun activities and challenges lined up just for you:



**STEAM Spotlight Challenge:** Get ready to dive into some cool science, technology, engineering, arts, and math projects!



**Places Ameka Will Go:** Join me as I explore new and exciting places. Where do you think I'll go next?



**Dance with Ameka:** It's time to get moving and grooving! Learn a new dance routine with me.



**Affirmation Verse Vibes:** Positive vibes only! Check out our affirmation verse for this month and let it inspire you.



**Reflecting and Journaling:** Take some time to reflect on your adventures and jot down your thoughts in your journal.



**Keepin' it REEL:** Script 2 Screen Youth Camp\*\*: Don't miss the details about our first camp happening at OSU Tulsa from July 29th through August 1st. It's going to be an incredible opportunity to learn all about making movies!

I want to hear from you! What was the highlight of your 4th of July celebrations? And if you could visit any place in the world with me, where would it be?

Stay curious, keep exploring, and have a fantastic July!

Magical hugs,  
Ameka



# July STEAM Spotlight Challenge: Create Your Own Stop-Motion Animation

Hey Ameka Animators!

Are you ready for this month's STEAM Spotlight Challenge? This time, we're diving into the magical world of filmmaking! Get your cameras and creativity ready, because we're going to create our own stop-motion animation!

Stop-motion animation is a fun way to bring everyday objects and drawings to life by taking a series of photos and playing them in sequence. Here's what you'll need:

## MATERIALS:

- A smartphone or tablet with a camera
- A stop-motion app (like Stop Motion Studio, which is free and easy to use)
- A small tripod or something to keep your device steady
- Clay, toys, or paper cutouts for your characters
- A flat, well-lit surface to film on
- Patience and creativity!

## INSTRUCTIONS:

### 1. Set Up Your Scene:

Choose a flat surface with good lighting. This will be the stage for your animation. Arrange your characters and props in the starting position.

### 2. Stabilize Your Camera:

Place your smartphone or tablet on a tripod or something stable to keep the camera steady while you take pictures.

### 3. Download a Stop-Motion App:

Open your app store and download a stop-motion app like Stop Motion



Studio. It's user-friendly and perfect for beginners.

### 4. Start Shooting:

Open the app and position your camera so it frames your scene perfectly. Take a photo, then move your characters slightly and take another photo. Continue this process, making small movements between each shot.

### 5. Animate:

Once you have enough photos (about 12-24 photos per second of animation), play them in sequence using the app. Watch as your characters come to life!

### 6. Edit and Add Sound:

Use the app to add music, sound effects, or dialogue to your animation.

You can also add titles and credits to make it feel like a real movie!

### Share Your Animations

I can't wait to see the amazing stop-motion animations you create! Share your videos with us and let us know what stories you told through your animation.

### Questions for You:

1. What story did you decide to tell with your stop-motion animation?
2. What was the most fun part of creating your animation, and what challenges did you face?

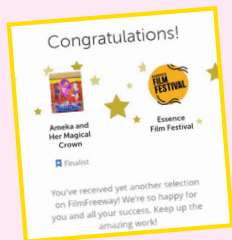
Stay curious, keep exploring, and enjoy making your mini-movies!

Magical hugs,  
Ameka

# Essence Film Fest



Hey Ameka Adventurers!



It was an absolute honor to attend the Essence Film Fest this month. "Ameka and Her Magical Crown" made it as a finalist, and although we didn't take home the trophy, the real winning was in the networking and learning opportunities we gained. The festival was beautiful, and I loved celebrating Essence's 30th birthday with so many talented creators.

I received more tools to make Ameka and Her Magical Crown even better. I can't wait to use what we learned for our next submission. We definitely can't wait to enter our animation again next year.

With Love and Magic,

*Dr. Tamecca Rogers*  
AUTHOR/FILMMAKER/SPEAKER

## REFLECTIONS AND ADVENTURES



## Journaling with Ameka

### 1. Celebrating Juneteenth:

"What does Juneteenth mean to you? How can you celebrate this important day with your family and friends? Reflect on the significance of freedom and equality in your life."

### 2. Summer Goals:

"What are three things you want to learn or achieve this summer? Describe how you plan to make the most of your summer break and why these goals are important to you."

### 3. Acts of Kindness:

"Think about a recent time when you showed kindness to someone. How did it make you feel, and how do you think it made the other person feel? Write about why kindness is important and how you can spread more of it."

## Affirmation Verse Vibes



This month's affirmation is all about believing in yourself and your unique talents. Repeat after me:

**"I am creative, capable, and confident. I can achieve anything I set my mind to."**

Remember, you have the power to make your dreams come true. Believe in yourself, and let your creativity shine!



Scan the QR Code for "Ameka and Her Magical Crown: Coloring Book of Affirmations".

# About Ameka and Her Magical Crown Cartoon Series



“Ameka and Her Magical Crown” is a heartwarming animated series created by Dr. Tamecca Rogers. The series follows the enchanting adventures of Ameka, a spirited young girl on a quest of self-discovery and empowerment.

When she discovers her hair is her magical crown, Ameka embarks on a journey filled with wonder, friendship, and courage. Along the way, she learns valuable lessons about embracing her uniqueness, standing up for what is

right, and unlocking the magic within herself. Through captivating storytelling and vibrant animation, “Ameka and Her Magical Crown” inspires audiences of all ages to believe in themselves, celebrate uniqueness, and follow their dreams.



## Ameka's Award-Winning Adventures

Dear Readers,

I am thrilled to announce that \*Ameka and Her Magical Crown\* won 1st place for Best Educational Animation at the Atlanta Children's Film Festival! It was such an honor to showcase our film, and the audience absolutely loved it. The best part? The audience was full of children eager to learn from Ameka's adventures.

Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm. Let's keep the magic going!

*Dr. Tamecca Rogers*  
AUTHOR/FILMMAKER/SPEAKER

# Oh...The Places Ameka Will Go

We're thrilled to announce that Ameka and Her Magical Crown's cartoon series, pilot episode has been selected for several prestigious film festivals around the globe. Here's where you can catch Ameka's adventures on the big screen:

 <p><b>SAFILM - San Antonio Film Festival</b></p> <p>Location: San Antonio, TX</p> <p>Dates: August 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup></p>	 <p><b>Greenwood Film Festival</b></p> <p>Location: Tulsa, OK</p> <p>Dates: August 4<sup>th</sup> - August 9<sup>th</sup></p>	 <p><b>Hip Hop Film Festival</b></p> <p>Location: Harlem, New York</p> <p>Dates: August 11<sup>th</sup> - August 18<sup>th</sup></p>	 <p><b>Fort Smith International Film Festival</b></p> <p>Location: Fort Smith, Arkansas</p> <p>Dates: August 22<sup>nd</sup> - August 25<sup>th</sup></p>	 <p><b>Orlando Urban Film Festival (OUFF)</b></p> <p>Location: Orlando, Florida</p> <p>Dates: August 29<sup>th</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup></p>
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Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate the magic of Ameka and Her Magical Crown at these exciting events!

## Ask Ameka



Do you have burning questions about friendship, bravery, or how to embrace your uniqueness? Now's your chance to get advice straight from Ameka herself! In this special section of our newsletter, you are invited to email Ameka (with permission and assistance from an adult) at [inspirepublishingllc@gmail.com](mailto:inspirepublishingllc@gmail.com) with the subject line "Ask Ameka" to ask her important questions to help you navigate everyday life.

Whether you're seeking tips on dealing with bullies, making new friends, or finding the courage to chase your dreams, Ameka is here to lend a listening ear and offer words of wisdom. No question is too big or too small for Ameka to tackle, so don't hesitate to reach out and join the conversation!

With your permission, we'll pick a handful of questions to feature in the "Ask Ameka" section of the newsletter to help other kiddos who might be curious about the same things!

Stay tuned for Ameka's insightful answers to your questions in future editions of our newsletter. It's time to embark on a journey of discovery and empowerment with Ameka by your side!

### Dance with Ameka

Scan the QR code to dance with Ameka and Her Friends



# Keepin' It REEL: Script 2 Screen Youth Camp

Hey Aspiring Filmmakers!

We are excited to announce the Keepin' It REEL: Script 2 Screen Youth Camp for aspiring filmmakers ages 10 - 18. This camp is designed to help young creatives bring their film dreams to life by teaching them the ins and outs of filmmaking.

## CAMP DETAILS:

**Dates: July 29th through August 1st, 2024**

**Time: 9 am until 3 pm**

**Location: OSU Tulsa, 700 N. Greenwood Ave, Tulsa, OK 74106**

## Purpose of the Film Camp:

Our mission is to empower aspiring filmmakers by providing them with the skills and knowledge to create their own films. Students will learn about scriptwriting, directing, acting, casting, and technical aspects of filmmaking such as editing, marketing, and distribution. By the end of the camp, they will have the opportunity to showcase their work in a spectacular Red-Carpet Premiere.

## Workshops and Activities:

The camp features workshops with notable professionals from Oklahoma's film community. Students will:

- ▶ Write, produce, and shoot their own short films
- ▶ Participate in post-production activities
- ▶ Learn about marketing and distribution

## Reserve Your Spot:

Spaces are limited, so reserve your spot today by visiting Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keepin-it-reel-script-2-screen-youth-camp-tickets-941773930177?aff=oddtcreator>).

## Scholarship Opportunities:

Scholarships are available to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate. For scholarship information, please contact **Dr. Rogers** at [inspirepublishingllc@gmail.com](mailto:inspirepublishingllc@gmail.com).

***Don't miss this chance to bring your film dreams to life! We can't wait to see the incredible stories you will create.***

Sincerely,

  
AUTHOR/FILMMAKER/SPEAKER