

*In and Out of Africa*

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Royal Anthropological Institute
Commendation

Society for Visual Anthropology honoree
African Studies Assn. honoree
Natl. Educational Film Festival Award
American Film Festival Award
Margaret Mead Film Festival honoree

THIS EXTRAORDINARY documentary is one of the most intelligent, perceptive, and engaging films ever made on African culture and art. It explores with irony and humor issues of authenticity, taste, and racial politics in the transnational trade in African art.

Interweaving stories of Western collectors, Muslim traders, African artists and intellectuals, and the filmmakers themselves, the film focuses on a remarkable art dealer from Niger. It shows how (through occasionally hilarious and frequently fantastic tales about the art objects) he adds economic value and changes the "meaning" of what he sells by interpreting and mediating between the cultural values of African producers and Western consumers. Produced by Ilisa Barbash and Lucien Taylor; featuring Gabai Baaré; based on original research by Christopher Steiner.

"Lively and accurate.... The film's thematic unity, perceptive subtlety, and reflexive irony make it a groundbreaking masterwork.... Its ethnographic authenticity and its humor make it unforgettable. The film... advances the art of ethnographic filmmaking to new heights." — Prof. Bennetta Jules-Rosette, Dir., African and African American Studies Project, UC San Diego

"A first-rate addition to the curriculum of all courses and educational programs on African art and culture." — Enid Schildkrout, Anthropology Curator, American Museum of Natural History

"A superbly thick description of the trade in African art. Nothing is taken for granted, least of all the very idea of art itself, as we follow the trade that transforms 'bois' into \$2,000 objets d'art. The trade between use value and exchange value, the expectations that such art must fill in the minds of dealers and collectors to earn the title 'authentic,' and the gradual ascension of this art to museum status while the makers and intermediaries fade in a nebulous haze of mystified origins: these are but a few of the themes pursued in this intriguing documentary." — Bill Nichols, Prof. of Theater Arts, UC Santa Cruz

59 min. Color 1993 Catalog #38230
Sale: video \$295, Rental: video \$75

Turkana Conversations Trilogy



First Royal Anthropological Institute Film Prize, 1980 (best ethnographic film of the past five years)
Prix Georges Pompidou (best ethnographic film), Cinéma du Réel Festival, Paris
Berlin Film Festival honorees
Edinburgh Film Festival honorees
Hong Kong Film Festival honorees
Festival dei Popoli (Florence, Italy) honorees
Margaret Mead Film Festival honorees

These three feature-length documentaries on the Turkana — relatively isolated seminomadic herders who inhabit the dry country of northwestern Kenya — are among the most important and influential ethnographic films of the last 20 years. Made by the renowned filmmaking team of David and Judith MacDougall, these films are essential viewing for anyone interested in Africa. To quote the Royal Anthropological Institute's James Woodburn, the films "cannot fail to appeal to a wide audience and to prompt discussions in any teaching situation." All three films are in Turkana, with English subtitles.

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Lorang's Way

A portrait of Lorang, the head of the homestead and one of the important senior men of the Turkana. Most Turkana (including Lorang's son) see their way of life continuing unchanged into the future. But Lorang thinks otherwise, for he has seen something of the outside world. This is a study of a man who has come to see his society as vulnerable and whose traditional role in it is shaped by that realization.

70 min. Color 1980 Catalog #37132
Sale: video \$295, Rental: \$70

The Wedding Camels

One of Lorang's daughters is going to marry one of his friends and age-mates. Because of the close ties between the two men everything should go smoothly, but the pressures within the two families are such that the wedding negotiations over the bridewealth almost break down altogether.

"A funny, informative and thoroughly delightful documentary.... Through the MacDougalls' resourceful direction and their brisk, well-organized editing, this one social occasion becomes indicative of what the general life of the tribe is like." — Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*

108 min. Color 1980 Catalog #37145
Sale: video \$295, Rental: \$95

A Wife Among Wives

An investigation of how the Turkana, and especially Turkana women, view marriage. As the plans for a marriage in a nearby homestead unfold, we learn why a woman would want her husband to take a second (or third) wife, and how the system of polygyny can be a source of solidarity among women while at the same time it may brutally disregard individual feelings.

72 min. Color 1982 Catalog #37147
Sale: video \$295, Rental: \$70

*Lorang's Way**Sons of the Moon*

Sons of the Moon



Margaret Mead Film Festival honoree

The Ngas, who live in Nigeria's Jos Plateau, believe the moon governs the growth of crops and schedules all important human events, including the symbolic rite of passage of boys into manhood. This unusual film, told from the point of view of an Ngas bard, traces the moon's influence on Ngas work and thought through an entire growing season. By Dierdre LaPin and Francis Speed.


"This first-rate film should be useful for courses in introductory anthropology, African ethnography, peasants, and religion. It is enhanced by a 38-page study guide." — Stella B. Silverstein, Boston Univ., in the *American Anthropologist*

25 min. Color 1984 Catalog #37158
Sale: video \$125, Rental: \$50



To Live with Herds

To Live with Herds

 Grand Prize, "Venezia Genti," Venice Film Festival

This classic, widely acclaimed film on the Jie of Uganda explores life in a traditional Jie homestead during a harsh dry season. The talk and work of adults go on, but there is hardship and worry, exacerbated by government policies that seem to attack rather than support the values and economic base of Jie society. *To Live with Herds* is considered a classic owing to its remarkable success in developing a coherent analytical statement about its subjects' situation, yet at the same time allowing them to speak for themselves about the world as *they* see and experience it. In Jie, with English subtitles. By David and Judith MacDougall.

70 min. B&W 1974 Catalog #37461
Sale: 16mm \$950/video \$195, Rental: \$70

Nawi

This beautiful film on the Jie of Uganda was made by David and Judith MacDougall at the same time as their classic *To Live with Herds* (above). During the dry season the Jie leave their homesteads in large numbers and take their cattle on a 60-mile journey to temporary camps (*nawi*) in Uganda's western Karamoja District, where water and grass are more abundant. In Jie, with English subtitles.


22 min. Color 1970 Catalog #37429
Sale: video \$95, Rental: video \$50

Under the Men's Tree

This delightful film on the Jie of Uganda was also made by David and Judith MacDougall at the same time as their classic *To Live with Herds* (above). At Jie cattle camps men often gather under a special tree to make leather and wooden goods and to talk. The conversation this particular day becomes a kind of reverse ethnography, centering on the European's most noticeable possession, the motor vehicle. This is a uniquely delicate film, filled with the humor of the Jie and the ironic wit of the filmmakers. In Jie, with English subtitles.

15 min. B&W 1970 Catalog #37464
Sale: video \$95, Rental: video \$45

Mammy Water: In Search of the Water Spirits in Nigeria

 African Studies Assn. honoree
American Anthropological Assn. selection
Margaret Mead Film Festival honoree
Bilan du Film Ethnographique, Paris

Mammy Water is a pidgin English name for a local water goddess worshipped by the Ibibio, Ijaw, and Igbo speaking peoples of southeastern Nigeria. The water goddess traditionally gives wealth and children, compensates for hardships, and is sought in times of illness and need, especially by women. Her various cults are led, predominantly, by priestesses. This insightful film shows numerous rituals and ceremonies associated with Mammy Water, while devotees provide commentary. This is an important depiction of the strength of traditional religion in contemporary Nigeria and one of the few academically sound investigations of the role of women in an African spiritual movement. By Dr. Sabine Jell-Bahlsen.

"The most important ethnographic film on the region to date. . . I highly recommend it for courses in African anthropology and religion, art history, and women's studies." — Prof. Sidney L. Kasfir, Dept. of Art History, Emory Univ.

"Superb and fast-flowing. It's nearly perfect." — Dr. Robert Farris Thompson, Yale Univ.; author, *Flash of the Spirit*

59 min. Color 1991 Catalog #38097
Sale: video \$295, Rental: video \$70



Mammy Water: In Search of the Water Spirits in Nigeria

The Dream Becomes a Reality (?)

 African Studies Assn. honoree

Six young Eritrean women who participated in the 30-year military struggle for independence from Ethiopia are featured in this documentary. During the war these women fought in combat and worked in various aspects of revolutionary media as members of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). Today, in postwar Eritrea they are working in the media, the arts, and research. The women speak about tragedies and accomplishments of the war, the gender egalitarianism among the liberation forces, and their current thoughts on the situation of women in postwar Eritrea. Includes significant background history on the liberation struggle and a wide range of scenes of contemporary Eritrea. Produced by Eva Egensteiner.

"The best short documentary on Eritrea that I have seen. It deals with some of the most interesting and significant features of the liberation struggle. It shows how a group of articulate and gifted women grew to maturity in the war, and their determined and realistic plans to build a new society in which women will be respected. An excellent video for a variety of courses in history, African studies, anthropology, women's studies, and political science." — Roy Pateman, Prof. of Political Science and African Studies, UCLA

"An intimate and unique documentary that illuminates the tension between long-entrenched tradition and social change in an emerging African state." — Andrei Simic, Prof. of Anthropology, USC

43 min. Color 1996 Catalog #38337
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$60



Rise Up and Walk

Rise Up and Walk

 Margaret Mead Film Festival honoree
CINE Golden Eagle Award

This acclaimed film shows how members of a variety of independent African Christian churches interpret and live the Christian faith in the context of their own pre-Christian cultural traditions. These independent churches have been formed by Africans themselves, often in opposition to churches founded by European and American missionaries. For African Christians, the world of the sacred is real and living, and their leaders are considered priest-healers who possess a special knowledge of the sacred realm. Produced by John Ankele.

"Extremely authentic, well balanced, and honest. It allows Africans to speak for themselves about European religion and about the new religions that have arisen following colonial rule, religions which more directly answer Africa's specific cultural needs." — Edward Lifschitz, Curator, Natl. Museum of African Art and Culture, the Smithsonian Institution

short version:

28 min. Color 1982 Catalog #30045
Sale: video \$125, Rental: video \$50

long version:

55 min. Color 1982 Catalog #37139
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$60

Voices of the Orishas



"People's Choice Award," *Global Africa Intl. Film Festival*
American Anthropological Assn. selection

This innovative ethnographic documentary demonstrates the survival and strength of the African cultural and religious heritage of Yoruba in the contemporary life of Caribbean African-Hispanics. Filmed in Havana among Afro-Cubans who practice Santería (African spiritism), the video documents an important *Güemilere*, a ritual ceremony featuring dancing, singing, praying, and drum beating, and in which the pantheon of 22 deities, or Orishas, of the Yoruba religion are invoked. The ceremony re-creates a seminal Yoruba myth featuring the demigods Shangó, Oggún, and Oyá; through it Santero initiates render homage to the gods, ask for guidance in matters involving birth and death, and request permission to initiate new Santeros into the religion. By Alvaro Pérez Betancourt.

"Colorful, compelling, and visually engaging... In my undergraduate teaching I have seen how it can make the mythology of Santería come alive. I recommend it for any class looking at Afro-American religions or culture in a comparative way." —Janet Hoskins, Prof. of Anthropology, USC

37 min. Color 1994 Catalog #38292
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$60



Voices of the Orishas

Kantik'i Maishi: Songs of Sorghum



Latin American Studies Assn. Award
Global Africa Intl. Film Festival Award
Black Heritage Film Festival honoree
American Anthropological Assn. selection

This acclaimed documentary explores the harvest celebrations of Bonaire and Curaçao, two islands in the Netherlands Antilles. It demonstrates how industrialization and the rise of a tourist economy have profoundly changed these African-derived folk festivals, which celebrate through traditional food, song, and dance the harvesting of sorghum, formerly a staple food. Produced by Joan Kaufman and Elsie Jansen.

"Preserves a valuable moment of the African cultural heritage in the Caribbean. It should become an integral part of courses in anthropology, African studies, ethnomusicology, folklore, history, and sociology." —Gerdes Fleurant, Prof. of African American Studies, Salem State College

58 min. Color 1992 Catalog #38156
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$60



Hail Umbanda

Hail Umbanda



Margaret Mead Film Festival honoree
CineFestival San Antonio honoree
Film Arts Festival honoree

This unique, insider's view of Umbanda, the fastest-growing religion in Brazil, shows the cult's raucous pageantry and public festivals as well as its more esoteric, exotic, and rarely-seen ceremonies. A blending of Catholicism with traditional African and Native American religions, Umbanda is characterized by ritualistic sacrifices and offerings and altered states of consciousness described by devotees as possession by supernatural beings. Includes commentary by numerous authorities and practitioners, but focuses on one *Painho* or *Pai de Santo* (Father of the Gods), who introduces and explains many different aspects of Umbanda. By José Araújo.

46 min. Color 1988 Catalog #37733
Sale: 16mm \$920/video \$195, Rental: \$60

Before Reggae Hit the Town

This unusual documentary explores the African roots of music, religion, and dance in Jamaica. It captures several of the principal folk traditions that still survive, including the music of the Maroons; Pocomania, a complex blending of African and Christian traditions; the dancing of the Junkanoo, which is celebrated every Christmas; and the music of the rebellious and persecuted sect of the Nyabinghi. Noted Rasta singer Justin Hinds links these traditions, which predate Jamaican popular music by hundreds of years, with today's reggae. By Mark Gorney.

21 min. Color 1992 Catalog #38147
Sale: video \$125, Rental: video \$50

A Month for the Entertainment of Spirits

This informative video examines the ceremonies of African-Guyanese who continue the African traditions of making contact with the spirit world. Focuses on a libation ceremony and four *Comfa* ceremonies and explores their similarities with other rituals that access the spirit world. By Dr. Kean Gibson, Univ. of the West Indies.

30 min. Color 1992 Catalog #38143
Sale: video \$125, Rental: video \$50

Voodoo and the Church in Haiti



American Anthropological Assn. selection
Natl. Conference of Black Studies honoree

Despite centuries of vigilant opposition from the Catholic Church, Voodoo has flourished in Haiti. This important documentary dispels the sensationalist stereotypes that surround Voodoo. It shows that Voodoo is a complex system of beliefs that has developed over time from West African origins. The film also serves as an excellent introduction to the culture, history, sociology, and politics of the first black republic in the New World. Produced by Andrea Leland and Bob Richards.

"An excellent introduction to the field, raising significant questions about religion, politics, and the clash between Western and African cultures. It is reasoned and measured and it neither trivializes nor sensationalizes the subject." —Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, Dept. of Afro-American Studies, Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

40 min. Color 1989 Catalog #37868
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$60

Bahia: Africa in the Americas



Natl. Educational Film Festival Award

Located 1,000 miles north of Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian state of Bahia is "the capital of African culture in the Americas." Noted actor Brock Peters narrates this remarkable documentary that examines the African cultural traditions preserved by the people of Bahia in their music, dance, art, food, and, especially, their Candomble religion. Excellent teaching notes by Prof. Sheila Walker, UC Berkeley. By Geovanni and Michael Brewer.

"An outstanding work that educates us about the richness of our culture." —Ruth Batson, Dir., Museum of Afro-American History, Boston

58 min. Color 1988 Catalog #37747
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$60

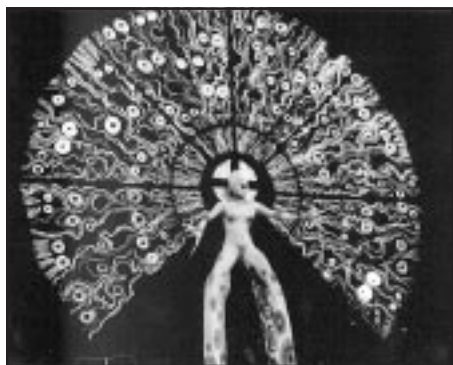
Mas Fever: Inside Trinidad Carnival



*African Studies Assn. honoree
Official Video of the Smithsonian
Institution's "Caribbean Festival Arts"
International Touring Exhibition*

Carnival in the New World is a synthesis of European elements—Christian traditions and the masquerade—and African elements—primarily music and dance. In Trinidad, Carnival is a colorful, exuberant celebration of national focus and pride. Preparations are made throughout the year and reach a frantic pace just before Carnival begins. This informative and thoroughly enjoyable documentary goes behind the scenes to capture the spirit of the celebration and explore its major events and aspects. The video features sequences on the history and culture of steel drum and calypso music and comes with a printed glossary of Trinidad Carnival terms. This is a timeless and essential work for all classes dealing with the African diaspora, cultural anthropology, Caribbean or Latin American studies, comparative religion, or ethnomusicology. Produced by Larry Johnson and Glenn Micallef.

55 min. Color 1996 Catalog #38351
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$60



Mas Fever: Inside Trinidad Carnival

The Toured: The Other Side of Tourism in Barbados



*American Anthropological Assn. selection
Intl. Congress of Anthropological and
Ethnological Sciences honoree*

Tourism is the second-largest industry in the world and the "touristic encounter" may be the most important contact front today between differing cultures. But such encounters, especially between people of the First and Third worlds, are often characterized by strikingly unequal power relations. This provocative documentary portrays the experience of tourism from the point of view of those who are "toured," in this case on the Caribbean island of Barbados. It examines the realities of making a living in a tourist economy, dealing with stereotypical "ugly Americans," witnessing one's traditional culture change under the impact of foreign visitors, and absorbing unceasing government exhortations to "make a friend for Barbados today." Produced by Julie Pritchard Wright.

38 min. Color 1992 Catalog #38226
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$60



Laid to Waste

photo courtesy of CRCQL

NEW FOR 1998-1999!

Laid to Waste



*Natl. Educational Film Festival Award
World Population Film and Video Festival
Award*

SIMPLY PUT, this acclaimed documentary is the best case study of environmental injustice and racism available on video. In the economically depressed, largely African-American "West End" of Chester, Pennsylvania, Zulene Mayfield lives next door to the fourth-largest trash-to-steam incinerator in the nation and a few doors away from a large processing facility for infectious and hazardous medical waste. The county's sewage treatment plant sits adjacent to her neighbors' homes a block away, and additional toxic-waste processing facilities have been proposed for the community.

Daily, trucks from as far away as Virginia roll past homes on Chester's Second Street, delivering thousands of tons of waste. Residents believe that their lives are being disrupted, their health threatened, their community destroyed, and the very air they breathe dangerously polluted. A grassroots organization called Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL) has taken an active role in opposing the facilities and in publicizing the plants' impact on their community. Representatives of the waste-processing companies argue that their facilities are safe and that they bring much-needed jobs to Chester.

Laid to Waste documents a community's attempt to deal with the complex issues of environmental injustice. The story unfolds dramatically as the residents seek to discover and confront the secretive forces that have chosen their community for such facilities. Though CRCQL receives threats and its office is vandalized, the group continues to protest and to challenge the waste industry. Ultimately, a controversy surrounding an obscure legal maneuver used by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court draws statewide attention to the situation, and brings the Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee to Chester's West End to investigate charges of corruption and collusion at the highest levels of government and the waste industry.

Laid to Waste is a must-see in any course dealing with environmental issues, urban studies, public policy, or social problems. It was produced by Robert Bahar and George McCollough.

52 min. Color 1997 Catalog #38427
Sale: video \$225, Rental: video \$75

What Reviewers Are Saying about *Laid to Waste*

"I highly recommend this powerful video for classroom use. It exposes the ugly underbelly of environmental racism and it is an excellent treatise on grassroots organizing and networking." — Robert D. Bullard, Director, Environmental Justice Resource Center and Ware Prof. of Sociology, Clark Atlanta Univ., author of *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality*

"This filmed case study presents a microcosm of contemporary American social relations: environmental racism, development of grassroots leaders, coalitions that cross racial and ethnic divisions, the structure of political and corporate power, the impact of de-industrialization on old urban centers, and the will of a community to protect itself and survive. This is an outstanding resource for classes in American studies and history, sociology, public policy, the environment, and law." — Elizabeth Petras, Prof. of Sociology, Drexel Univ.



Death in the Hood

Death in the Hood



*Natl. Educational Film Festival Award
Northwest Regional Alliance for
Community Media Award*

This hard-hitting, thought-provoking documentary uses Portland, Oregon (considered one of America's most "livable" cities) as a case study to examine how the acceptance of a "gangster" attitude and the spread of crack cocaine has led to a dramatic increase in youth homicides among African Americans. The video explores the reasons behind the alarming rise in youth homicides and illustrates the effects on schools, the community, and friends and relatives of homicide victims. It also shows some innovative efforts in Portland to deal with the problem—including graphic presentations by health professionals to at-risk kids of the impact of bullet wounds (one student's reaction: "I didn't know it would hurt..."). The video includes commentary by community members and activists, educators, health and law enforcement professionals, and gang members. This is a powerful viewing experience that is sure to generate discussion in any class dealing with contemporary American and African American social issues. Produced by Lanita Duke.

29 min. Color 1997 Catalog #38421
Sale: video \$150, Rental: video \$50

Dreams of a City: Creating East Palo Alto



Natl. Educational Film Festival Award
American Cinematheque's "Rediscovering
America" Series honoree
Film Arts Foundation Festival honoree
Council on Foundations Film Festival
honoree

East Palo Alto is a largely African American, low-income community located south of San Francisco. In 1992 it gained widespread notoriety as "the nation's murder capital." This incisive, in-depth case study digs beneath the media clichés to examine the dreams and goals of the community's residents and show what happens when they decide to begin taking control of their future. The story of East Palo Alto holds national significance since the issues faced here are those facing such communities all across America: overcoming regional imbalances in power and planning; confronting inequality in education; achieving local political control; and grappling with the challenges of crime, development, racial and ethnic diversity, and demographic change. Produced by Michael Levin of the Stanford Univ. Libraries.

"A powerful teaching tool. The film tackles some of America's most entrenched conflicts and problems, recounts voices and viewpoints seldom heard in the classroom, and triggers remarkable discussions of a variety of issues. I highly recommend it for courses in ethnic and African American studies, sociology, and American history." — Pat Aufderheide, Prof. of Journalism, American Univ.

"I found this film invaluable in teaching my Introduction to Sociology course this semester. It's a perfect tool for integrating many of the central themes of the course. The film stimulated excellent discussions of such crucial issues as class structure, race and ethnicity, inequality, and culture and social movements." — Betsy McEneaney, Dept. of Sociology, Stanford Univ.

"An incisive, exemplary, consciousness-raising documentary. The film acquaints us with people of different races, cultures, and generations in a community in which one resident aptly observes, 'We are the new America.' This celebration of diversity offers lessons for all of America." — Kevin Thomas, *Los Angeles Times*

55 min. Color 1997 Catalog #38414
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$70



Dreams of a City: Creating East Palo Alto



Can You See the Color Gray?

Can You See the Color Gray?



International Film and Video Festival
Award
New York Festivals Award

This unusual documentary is sure to inspire discussion in any course that deals with racial differences and stereotypes in America. It shows numerous people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds as they grapple with probing questions about their racial attitudes and their feelings about their own ethnicity. The video is particularly revealing in its exploration of the subtle development of racial attitudes in children of varying ages, some of whom are followed over a two-year period. This is a must-see in a variety of courses in ethnic studies, multiculturalism, psychology, sociology, American studies, counseling, and education. By Alexandra Corbin.

"This video enables us to discuss what's uncomfortable. It creates a forum for difficult discussion to take place. I find it especially powerful to hear the attitudes of the kids in the video. It's very intense, but it's what kids carry around with them." — Millie Fulford, Head of the New Program, a Multicultural School in Brooklyn, N.Y.

54 min. Color 1997 Catalog #38381
Sale: video \$225, Rental: video \$75

Fences & Neighborhoods

Atlanta's political and business leaders promised to cooperate with community groups and use the 1996 Summer Olympic Games to foster widespread urban revitalization, particularly in the city's African-American neighborhoods. This probing documentary explores the reality behind those promises, showing that projects that benefited the downtown business community were completed, while improvements to the neighborhoods adjacent to the Olympics venues were minimal. The film provides historical background and context and serves as an illuminating case study of the social, economic, and racial dilemmas facing all American cities today. Produced by Roger Torda and Kathleen Sullivan.

"This outstanding film captures the full political and social drama of the struggle — between poor African-American neighborhoods on the one hand and the allied forces of the city's black elected officials and its business elite on the other — over who would bear the costs and who would reap the profits from the Games." — Larry Keating, Prof. of City Planning, Georgia Inst. of Technology

58 min. Color 1997 Catalog #38415
Sale: video \$225, Rental: video \$70

Sermons and Sacred Pictures



Margaret Mead Film Festival honoree
Best Short Documentary, Athens (Ohio)
Film Festival
CINE Golden Eagle Award
American Anthropological Assn. selection
Black Cultural Expo (Memphis) honoree
Global Africa Intl. Film & Video Festival
Award

This multi-award-winning documentary profiles the life and work of Reverend L. O. Taylor, a black Baptist minister from Memphis, Tenn. In addition to his ministry work, Rev. Taylor was also an inspired filmmaker with an overwhelming interest in preserving a visual and aural record of the social, cultural, and religious fabric of black American life in the 1930s and 1940s. This stylistically innovative work combines Taylor's black-and-white films and audio recordings with color images of contemporary Memphis neighborhoods and religious gatherings. Commentary by members of the Memphis community forms an intertwined narrative focusing on Rev. Taylor as a pioneering documentarian and social activist. Essential viewing for all courses in African-American history and culture. A film by Lynne Sachs, in association with the Center for Southern Folklore.

"Has a magical quality... It brings to life the work of Rev. Taylor through his community filmmaking efforts. The film in turn affirms African American identity and spirit." — Elaine Charnov, Director, Margaret Mead Film Festival

29 min. Color 1991 Catalog #38109
Sale: video \$195, Rental: \$50

Video Letter to the President

This powerful and honest short video features six inner-city African-American high school students who, through the lens of a video camera, try to tell the President of the United States what they need in order to achieve their dreams and find success in life. The students express needs ranging from basic educational resources, such as books and computers, to broader issues including safety in the streets and, simply, teachers who care. The students collaborated in the production of the video letter; as a result they speak for themselves — sometimes eloquently, sometimes not — rather than being spoken about, as is typically the case with youth in the media. This video will provide excellent discussion material in a variety of courses in African American studies. Produced by Anita Chang, McCrae Parker, and Samuel Miller.

8 min. Color 1997 Catalog #38408
Sale: video \$100, Rental: video \$45

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From Fields of Promise



Natl. Educational Film Festival Gold Apple Award
CINE Golden Eagle Award
SECA "Best Historical Documentary"

Ossie Davis and John O'Neal narrate this outstanding, widely acclaimed historical documentary. It chronicles the story of the African-American farmers of Gee's Bend, Alabama. First as slaves, then as "freed men," and finally as landowners, the Black farmers of Gee's Bend and their descendants have lived on and farmed the same land since 1845. They have experienced the demise of slavery, struggled with Jim Crow, were felled by the Great Depression, were enfranchised by a "social experiment," and participated at the center of the Civil Rights movement. Today, their region remains one of the poorest in America, but the farmers of Gee's Bend have carved out a modest existence for themselves, sent their sons and daughters to college, and stand as a symbol of dignity and a beacon of hope for the nation. Produced by John DiJulio, Bruce Kuerten, and M.G. Trend.

"An outstanding documentary on the eternal struggle of the human spirit to overcome. A very important work for classes in history, Black Studies, and civil rights."—Admasu Zike, Dir., Center for Black Studies, Northern Illinois Univ.

"Compelling and powerful. This is documentary filmmaking at its best!"—J. Wayne Flynt, Prof. of History, Auburn Univ.

56 min. Color 1995 Catalog #38328
Sale: video \$225, Rental: video \$70



From Fields of Promise

Passing



Columbus Intl. Film Festival Award

This provocative and highly dramatic discussion-starter explores today's climate of racial and gender tension. It questions our reflexive responses and stereotyped expectations surrounding the everyday occurrence of two people walking alone at night on an urban street. One is Black, one is White. One is male, one is female. The video suggests that in our television-oriented society our fears and preconceptions largely come from media images. This is an excellent and effective enhancement to any class dealing with racial or gender stereotypes, the power of mass media and television, or current social issues. Produced by Cydney Cort.

6 min. B&W 1995 Catalog #38323
Sale: video \$95, Rental: video \$50



Boneshop of the Heart

Boneshop of the Heart



American Folklore Society honoree
Sinking Creek Film Festival honoree
American Anthropological Assn. selection

This highly original and thought-provoking film explores a rich vein of visual expression and American individuality through incisive portraits of five contemporary southern folk artists, four of whom are African American. The film reveals art forms so radically different from familiar folk traditions that the artists—"Tin Man" Charlie Lucas, Vollis Simpson, Thornton Dial, Bessie Harvey, and "Sandman" Lonnie Bradley Holley—defy classification. Various known as "outsider" or "visionary" artists, they have arrived at idiosyncratic styles of creative expression in response to encounters with trauma, racism, oppression, and religious experience. As poor or working class artists living on the margins of society, they voice concerns and hopes otherwise unheard and create unique aesthetic forms that challenge traditional distinctions between "fine" and "folk" art. An essential work for all courses in African American art and culture. By Scott Crocker and Toshiaki Ozawa.

"This excellent film focuses on some of the most interesting artists working today. It is particularly impressive in its commitment to let the artists speak for themselves and for their work in their own words."—Eugene W. Metcalf, Prof. of Interdisciplinary Studies, Miami Univ., Oxford, Ohio

53 min. Color 1991 Catalog #38108
Sale: video \$195, Rental: \$70

Pizza Pizza Daddy-O

Provides a fascinating and historically important anthropological and folkloric record of eight unrehearsed and unstaged jumprope and singing games played by fourth-grade African-American girls on a school playground in Los Angeles. Produced by Bess Lomax Hawes.

18 min. B&W 1969 Catalog #37435
Sale: video \$95, Rental: video \$45

Clementine Hunter: American Folk Artist



Natl. Educational Film Festival Award
American Assn. of Museums Muse Award
Global Africa Intl. Film Festival Award

This award-winning documentary profiles the life and work of one of the greatest of all African-American folk artists. In 1940, when she was already in her 50s, Clementine Hunter began to paint her memories of her life in the early part of this century on Melrose Plantation in northwestern Louisiana. The resulting images, painted until her death at age 101, are vivid remembrances, pictures "put in her head by God," of a hard but joyous life. Shot on location at Melrose Plantation, this video shows many of Hunter's colorful paintings and includes commentary by the artist herself and by those who knew her well. Authentic local folk music and local historical context help viewers understand the rich history and culture of African Americans living in the rural South in the early 20th century. Produced by Katina Simmons for the Museum of African American Life and Culture, Dallas.

"A high-quality, sensitive, and deeply insightful presentation about a major chronicler of the rural Southern African American experience in the 20th century. It will be useful in teaching about the history of African Americans and about the history of American art, and it will prove inspirational to students of all ethnic backgrounds."—Dennis Reinhartz, Prof. of History, Univ. of Texas

28 min. Color 1993 Catalog #38237
Sale: video \$195, Rental: video \$50

The Angel That Stands By Me: Minnie Evans' Paintings

Minnie Evans is the embodiment of the visionary artist. She is an 88-year-old African American painter in North Carolina who has created a rich world of mythical animals, religious symbols, and natural beauty. The film explores the sources of her art, her remarkable mystical visions, and the African-Methodist church where the connection between her art and her religious fervor becomes evident. This celebrated classic, from the *Visions of Paradise* series, was made by Academy-Award winners Allie Light and Irving Saraf.

29 min. Color 1982 Catalog #38377
Sale: video \$125, Rental: video \$50

The Gods of Beauty



Cindy Award
American Film Institute Video Festival
Columbus Intl. Film Festival honoree

Mona Boulware Webb is a fascinating African-American "outsider" or "visionary" artist and mystic. For the past 30 years, she and her "extended family" of artists and friends have transformed her house in Madison, Wisc. into a total art environment. This portrait of the artist shows how she has trained a large group of younger artists to look inside themselves for courage and outside to nature for inspiration. An excellent introduction to "visionary" art and its place in African-American culture. By Niels Nielsen.

29 min. Color 1995 Catalog #38334
Sale: video \$150, Rental: video \$50

Veronica's Story



Natl. Educational Film Festival Award
 "Best Non-Feature Film," Louisville Film Festival
 "Best of Festival," Big Muddy Film Festival
 Brooklyn Arts Council Film Festival,
 "First Prize, Experimetal"
 Telly Award for Social Service Programs
 Selected for screening at some 20 film festivals and special series nationwide

The hands of a young girl are powerfully metaphorical in this extraordinarily moving and true story of innocence betrayed. This innovative work is based on an actual letter by an African American teenager reaching out to understand a childhood of abuse. Veronica's own words are performed in voice-over while her handwriting appears on screen as a counterpart for the mime-dance of hands as they convey her story. This unique video reverses many cultural stereotypes about at-risk children. Veronica's words demonstrate her courage, her emotional honesty, and her intelligent strength in writing her way out of her trauma. Her words will inspire and stimulate discussion in a wide range of courses in ethnic studies, psychology, sociology, social welfare, and women's studies. Produced by Jill Evans Petzall; directed by Deeds Rogers.

"An exceptional and engaging work that stimulates discussion and helps viewers think about the kinds of help children like Veronica need. However, the film goes far beyond this. It touches the viewer profoundly. Through Veronica's insightful words and the filmmaker's artistic portrayal, we feel Veronica's distress, her love, and her potential. With its brevity and powerful effect, the film can be used successfully in a variety of courses and settings."—Margaret Sherraden, Prof. of Social Work, Univ. of Missouri St. Louis

6 min. Color 1997 Catalog #38395
 Sale: video \$100, Rental: video \$45

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