



CARIBBEAN DIASPORA & CARIBBEAN STUDIES

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Our mission is to foster the **creation, appreciation and dissemination of social issue media made by or about people of color**. Today, TWN carries on the progressive vision of its founders, and remains the **oldest media arts organization** in the United States **devoted to filmmakers of color and their global constituencies**.

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*Cover Photo: **SecondHand (Pepe)**, Hanna Rose Shell & Vanessa Bertozzi*

SECOND HAND (PEPE)

Hanna Rose Shell & Vanessa Bertozzi,
2007, 24 min.

In the early 1900s, immigrant Jews from Eastern Europe collected, sorted, and sold secondhand clothing. Today, at the beginning of the 21st century, the used clothing industry has gone global. Billions of pounds go to developing nations each year. Used American clothes play an especially central role in Haiti where, as one peddler reveals, 'It's all pepe, all the time.'

In this documentary about used clothing, the historical memoir of a Jewish immigrant rag picker intertwines with the present-day story of 'pepe' — secondhand clothing that flows from North America to Haiti.

Secondhand (Pepe) animates the materiality of recycled clothes — their secret afterlives and the unspoken connections among people in an era of globalization.

Secondhand (Pepe)'s two stories converge as American castoffs travel from the Jewish memoir reader's rag factory to the Haitian shores. As pepe makes its way to Port-au-Prince, passing through an intricate network of peddlers, seamstresses and entrepreneurs, the past recycles into the present.

"Fascinating!"

Robin Young, Here & Now



"Weaving the old with the new, the past with the present, the local with the global, and the social with the economic, Shell and Bertozzi have created a stylistically compelling and thought provoking tapestry of a film."

Alan Berliner, Filmmaker

"Recommended. This interesting, film develops a historical, if impressionistic, perspective on the used clothing industry."

Educational Media Reviews online

Slamdance Film Festival
Black Maria Film Festival
Society for Cinema and Media Studies
Conference
Best Student Documentary, Brooklyn
Arts Council Film Festival
Best Musical Score, Rhode Island
International Film Festival

DVD Sale: \$175 \$157.50

VOODOO DANCE

Elsie Haas, 1989, 52 min.

This film documents the significant role of Voodoo in Haitian culture from the perspectives of Voodoo priests, government officials, historians and politicians. Attacked by Western clerics and declared a "superstition" by law in 1935, Voodoo has always been a source of empowerment for the average Haitian. Scholars argue that despite the exploitation and vilification of voodoo, it remains an authentic and stabilizing cultural base of everyday Haitian society.

"A remarkable document of the years after the 1986 fall of Duvalier, showcasing a wide-range of prominent intellectuals and artists... it would be an excellent resource in a course that dealt with dictatorship and society in 20th century Haiti. Will likely challenge many viewers of the U.S., notably students, who sometimes find it difficult to shed the encrusted visions of Vodou--inherited often unconsciously from popular culture--when confronted with the complex realities of the religion."

*Laurent Dubois, Duke University,
Caribbean Studies Journal*

**Best Foreign Documentary, Black
Filmmakers Hall of Fame, 1991**

DVD Sale: \$150 \$135

LANDSCAPE & MEMORY: MARTINICAN LAND- PEOPLE-HISTORY

Renee Gosson & Eric Faden, 2001, 30 min

In this documentary, the French West Indies most renowned identity theoreticians Jean Bernabe, Patrick Chamoiseau and Raphael Confiant investigate the different ways in which France, as a colonial power, marks colonized lands and peoples. Importantly, this is one of the few films about Martinique that adopts a Martinican perspective on France's overwhelming and continued colonial and cultural presence. The Martinican writers ask how, in a country like Martinique, does a colonial power "re-map" space and land? How does it "re-map" Martinique's memories and identities? Can they resist this mapping?

"A wake-up call about the ways that modernization and Frenchification are bringing about the destruction of the local environment, the "cementing over" of agricultural lands, unbridled consumerism, and loss of Creole identity..."

Richard Price, Caribbean Studies Journal

DVD Sale: \$175 \$157.50



LA BRUJA: A WITCH FROM THE BRONX

Felix Rodriguez, 2005, 50 min.

Art, labor and family blend in this intimate documentary about performance artist Caridad De La Luz, better know as 'La Bruja'. Born and raised in the Bronx, this daughter of Puerto Rican immigrants takes the number 6 train to downtown Manhattan where she performs at popular New York City venues. She reads her poetry at Joe's Pub, stages her one-woman show at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, and performs at Def Poetry Jam. But opportunities are scarce and she struggles to make ends meet in an industry where 'to keep it real' often means to work for free.

This documentary is a celebration of La Bruja's perseverance to gain visibility and recognition in the entertainment industry and her extended family's unconditional support.

*"Highly recommended for collections of Puerto Rican and U.S. Latino artists.
- Criticas Magazine*

*"A useful pedagogical tool in its representation of a strong woman creating a uniquely feminine performance in her homespace, expanding it into the public eye, building her community through these efforts, and continuing that performance whether or not it is appreciated by normative society. The film also serves as useful performance ethnography."
- Films for the Feminist Classroom*

DVD Sale: 225





PALANTE, SIEMPRE PALANTE

Iris Morales, 1996, 48 min.

From Chicago streets to the barrios of New York City and other urban centers, the Young Lords emerged to demand decent living conditions for Puerto Rican people in the United States. This documentary surveys Puerto Rican history, the Young Lords' activities and philosophy, the torturous end of the organization and its inspiring legacy.

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50

EL PUEBLO SE LEVANTA

Newsreel, 1971, 50 min.

In the late 60's faced with racial discrimination, deficient community services, and poor education and job opportunities, Puerto Rican communities in New York City began to address these injustices by using direct action. This docu-

mentary captures the compassion and militancy of the Young Lords as they implemented their own health, educational, and public assistance programs.

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50

BREAK AND ENTER

Newsreel, 1970, 42 min.

In 1970, several hundred Puerto Rican and Dominican families reclaimed housing left vacant by the city. They pulled the boards off the doors, cleaned and repaired the buildings and moved in.

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50

THE CASE AGAINST LINCOLN CENTER

Newsreel, 1968, 12 min.

More than 20,000 Latino families were displaced to make way for New York City's Lincoln Center. Juxtaposing the atmosphere of Lincoln Center with the vibrant street culture of a displaced neighborhood, the film correctly predicts the gentrification of the Upper West Side.

DVD Sale: \$125 \$112.50

LINCOLN HOSPITAL

Newsreel, 1970, 12 min.

When a city-run health clinic in the South Bronx fails to meet the needs of the city, local residents and health workers form a strike and then run the clinic themselves.

DVD Sale: \$125 \$112.50

SAMUEL LIND'S COASTAL WORLD

Sonia Fritz, 2006, 24 min.

This documentary captures the colors, music and culture that inspire the art of Samuel Lind, an Afro-Puerto Rican painter, graphic artist and sculptor. Originally from Loiza, Puerto Rico, Lind celebrates Afro-Puerto Rican culture in his work and is inspired by the Santiago Apostle Festivities, the popular bomba music and dance, local personalities and the beauty of the east coast scenery. Also an activist, Lind heads a movement to stop gentrification in his beloved coastal town.

"Recommended."

*Educational Media Reviews
Online*

DVD Sale: \$175 \$157.50

PERCUSSION, IMPRESSIONS AND REALITY

Allan Siegel, 1978, 30 min.

This is the first comprehensive U.S. film to explore the origins and growth of Puerto Rican folk music. Interviews with musicians living in New York City reveal how traditional music is used as a source of resistance against cultural domination. Their music is also a means by which Puerto Rican culture is maintained



and transformed. Featuring music by "Lexington Avenue Express", a group that takes their music to community centers, political events, prisons and music festivals.

DVD Sale: \$175



INVENTOS: HIP HOP CUBANO

Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi, 2005, 50 min

Explores the burgeoning Hip-Hop scene in Cuba. In spite of the US trade embargo against Cuba, the Hip-Hop movement is flourishing with popular innovative groups such as EPG&B, Grandes Ligas, Anonimo Consejo, and Sexto Sentido offering creative energy and powerful social commentary on Cuban social issues and politics. The film follows these artists to their homes, various performances, the Cuban Hip-Hop festival, and to perform and record in New York City, *Inventos* shows us that the best art is made from pure creativity, inspiration, and drive.

"Inventos is fascinating... a wonderfully refreshing reminder of the power of hip-hop."

Undercover Magazine, UK

Documentary of the Year, Pan African Film Festival
Best Documentary, Cine Las Americas, Austin

DVD Sale: \$275 \$247.50

MUSICA

Gustavo Paredes, 1985, 59 min.

A unique look at Afro-Cuban music in the United States. The video offers a rich overview of a wide number of musical styles from "Cubop" to Salsa, Big Band to jazz, and of musicians from Chano Pozzo to Tito Puente and Desi Arnaz to Johnny Colon. It examines the significant role of women performers and contains interviews with Mario Bauza and Dizzy Gillespie as they reveal the parallel course of jazz with the "latin sound".

"Facilitates discussion about racism in the mid-century music industry; sexism and the marginalization of female performers in the world of Latin music; generational shifts in the tastes of Latino audiences; inter-influences between North American jazz musicians and others from Cuba, Puerto Rico and elsewhere in Latin America; and the common roots of both black North American and Afro-Caribbean music."

Robin Moore, Caribbean Studies Journal

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50



CUBAN ROOTS/ BRONX STORIES

Pam Sporn, 2000, 57 min.

Highlights the experience of a black Cuban American family, revealing that the Cuban-American experience is more diverse, racially and ideologically, than we are often led to believe.

"An important documentary about one family's odyssey in overcoming migration, language difficulties, culture and personal tragedies, to settle in and prosper in the United States... [The film] tells the story of migration from an Afro-Cuban perspective, which is clearly at variance with the story of exile and nostalgia of white Cubans..."

Linden Lewis, Caribbean Studies Journal

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50

QUIENES SON?

Alex Stikich, 2002, 8 min.

In October 1962, the world was at a standstill. In response to the failed invasion of Cuba by the United States, the Soviet Union began a buildup of offensive missiles on the island. The United States, in turn, imposed a blockade on Cuba and demanded that the Soviets dismantle their arms. After two tense weeks, the Soviets finally agreed, and in exchange, the Americans promised never to invade Cuba. This promise, however, never fully allayed Cuban fears of an attack.

Using an extraterrestrial metaphor to look at the possible invasion of Cuba by the US, this short combines elements of documentary with fantasy to portray a surreal vision of Cuba.

DVD Sale: \$175 \$157.5



SLAVE ROUTES: RESISTANCE, ABOLITION AND CREATIVE PROGRESS

Jayne Cortez, 2009, 100 min

From the 1400s to the 1800s millions of Africans were forcefully removed from Africa and shipped across the Atlantic to the so-called "New World". In 1808, the passage of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act made transporting or importing slaves in the United States or its territories illegal.

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade by the US, distinguished scholars, writers, musicians, visual artists, and organizers from the United States, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America convened to discuss slavery, the slave trade and its consequences. Participants included Maya Angelou, Rex Nettleford, Amiri Baraka, Ali Mazrui, Nicole Lee, Randy Weston and many others.

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50

YARI YARI

This documentary present scenes from panels, readings, and performances during the Black Women Writers and the Future conference. This event was the first major international literary conference of its kind, featuring such renowned writers as Edwidge Danticat, Sonia Sanchez, Maya Angelou and Sapphire.

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50

YARI YARI PAMBERI

Globalization has shaped the culture and politics of Africa and its diaspora for centuries. Renowned and emerging writers, performers, filmmakers, scholars, critics, publishers, translators, visual artists, organizers, and archivists of African descent from across the US, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and South America define the real meaning of globalization and its possibilities for development. Featuring Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Maryse Conde, Nawal El Saadawi, Aminata Traore, Ama Ata Aidoo, Gloria Naylor, Sohna Benga and others.

"The content is valuable, and can be used to supplement African, African-American studies, global studies, literature, and women's studies. Recommended."

Educational Media Reviews Online

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50

BURNING AN ILLUSION

Menelik Shabazz, 1981, 101 min.

A young British-born woman of color comes of age while seeking security through marriage. But the false arrest and merciless beating of her boyfriend by police forces a turning point in both their lives. While in prison, Del asks Pat to bring him books on Black history; she reads them first. As she becomes more politically aware, their relationship changes and Pat begins to question her middle-class aspirations and attitudes. She begins shedding her old biases to reclaim her African heritage.

"Everything is recognizable, from the characters to the music to the street scenes."

West Indian World

Grand Prix Amiens Film Festival

DVD Sale: \$325 \$292.50



DREAMING RIVERS

Martina Attille, 1988, 33 min.

A middle-aged Black woman contemplates her past, present and future from her death bed in Britain. Offering images of the experiences of Caribbean immigrants in Britain and a discussion of their fading heritage. A Sankofa Film & Video Collective production.

"Remarkable for its syncretic use of Afro-Caribbean rituals and Christianity, the Creole language, and other Atlanticisms which indicate that Britishness is no longer the terrain of whiteness and Christianity."

Manthia Diawara, Black American Literature Forum

DVD Sale: \$225 \$202.50



PRIMETIME: FIGHTING BACK AGAINST FORECLOSURE

*Jennifer Fasulo & Manuvasakar Kublall,
2009, 23 min.*

This timely film takes the viewer behind the foreclosure statistics and into the homes and hearts of two NYC women who have been pummeled by the foreclosure tsunami. It breaks down the complex issues of the sub-prime mortgage industry into easy to understand language and reveals the systematic culpability of the financial institutions.

PRIMETIME weaves individual stories into a collective narrative, bringing to light the disproportionate impact of the foreclosure crisis on communities of color. As the US

government continues to bail out the financial industry, **PRIMETIME** is an urgent reminder of the on-the-ground struggles of people fighting to keep their homes. Part of the Call for Change Series.

"Recommended. This film does an excellent job of explaining the sub-prime market, and how lack of regulation allowed this market to flourish. Includes useful information about resources available to those caught up in the foreclosure process and would be a very valuable addition to public library collections, especially those located in areas of high foreclosure rates."
Educational Media Reviews Online.

Documentary Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2009

DVD Sale: \$125 \$112.50

OUR LADY QUEEN OF HARLEM: A PORTRAIT OF FAITH AND REBELLION

Trinidad Rodriguez, 2008, 17 min.

"Some people have said to me that I am in disobedience, and because of that I'm in sin. We are not in sin, we are fighting for our rights!" --Carmen Villegas, parishioner and protest organizer.

On a crumbling sidewalk in the heart of Spanish Harlem, a small but impassioned group of women are fighting for their community. When the Archdiocese of New York

City locked the doors of the church where many of them spent their entire lives worshipping, this determined family of parishioners decided to resist the ministerial decision and take matters into their own hands. A portrait of faith and disobedience, ***Our Lady Queen of Harlem*** is an exploration of activism and the very definition of church. Part of the Call for Change Series.

Documentary Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art

DVD Sale: \$125 \$112.50





CLOSE TO HOME

Rodney Evans, 1998, 24 min.

Documents the filmmaker's journey as he comes out to a conservative, Jamaican family and negotiates a painful relationship with a 21-year old heterosexual man.

*"Increasingly raw and riveting."
Ernest Hardy, LA Weekly*

"Incorporating home movies and stills from his childhood, superimpositions of sexual encounters, and black and white and color footage of him addressing the camera, Evans puts a uniquely innovative spin on the personal doc genre."

Thomas White, International Documentary

**London Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
OUTFEST, Los Angeles**

DVD Sale: \$175

SWEET SUGAR RAGE

Honor Ford-Smith & Harclyde Walcott,
1985, 45 min

A popular Jamaican women's troupe uses improvisation and theater as consciousness-raising tools for both rural and urban audiences. Their performances speak directly to the daily experiences of women—the least empowered workers, who labor long hours for low wages with no benefits or rights to organize for better conditions. Using role-play and interviews with female cane workers, the collective develops dramatizations which analyze social issues and pinpoint their concerns.

"[The] film shapes a generalised image of the conditions of low pay, burdensome hard work, isolation and powerlessness of women within a patriarchal system, in this instance exemplified by the Sugar Cane Belt

and its system of management. A truthful representation of the actual lived existence of the Caribbean woman in one of her many faces. Shows what it truly means to be a working class Jamaican woman working in the cane fields in the nineteen eighties."

Jean Antoine-Dunne, Caribbean Studies Journal

"Takes an active political stance on women's oppression in working-class communities."

Ute Buesing, The City Sun

DVD Sale: \$175 ~~\$157.50~~



CHEATING DEATH

Eric Geringas, 2005, 25 min.

A documentary about choices and second chances. For ten years, Trinidadian-Canadian Gyasi Ferdinand was known as J9, a crack dealer in a very rough neighborhood. Then he got shot. After getting shot Gyasi had a profound spiritual experience, and a personal struggle that he had never anticipated. For Gyasi to live, J9 had to die.

A frank, intimate documentary that takes us inside the mind of a man struggling to break free of the street. The film is a journey into a world much talked about but rarely understood. A National Film Board of Canada production.

"Provocative and insightful tale... it gives the audience a glimpse into the lives of innumerable young Black men in the Caribbean diaspora... Geringa's video can act as a springboard for deeper discussions of issues such as childshifting, the feminization of poverty (particularly among racialized immigrant workers), cultural alienation, migration and racism."

Caribbean Studies Journal

San Francisco International Film Festival, 2006

DVD Sale: \$175 ~~\$157.50~~



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