



*"This fascinating hybrid of documentary and fiction employs a number of strategies to create a complex look at different Black American families. As the scene shifts from urban building projects to suburbia, from the present to the past, the filmmakers eavesdrop on intimate kitchen-table conversations, fold in historical re-enactments, drop by community meetings and conduct talking-head interviews."*

- Manohla Dargis, New York Times

*"Larry Bullard and Carolyn Johnson's striking A DREAM IS WHAT YOU WAKE UP FROM (78) employs vignettes and self-reflexive techniques to question the American dream and the accepted role of black women in families."*

- Violet Lucca, Film Comment

Directed by Larry Bullard and Carolyn Y. Johnson

Produced by Third World Newsreel

1978, 50 minutes, Color, English

Original Format: 16mm print

Screening Format Available: Blu-Ray and DVD

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Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/229050499>

Website: <http://www.twN.org/catalog/pages/cpage.aspx?rec=1375&card=price>

**Stills:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ichu3ehra21cm0o/AABm23RhMmCbPbPho01bm1Wla?dl=0>

## **A DREAM IS WHAT YOU WAKE UP FROM**

Originally released in 1978, A DREAM IS WHAT YOU WAKE UP FROM explores the role of Black families in American society. The everyday lives of three Black families with different approaches to their struggle for survival in the United States are represented through a mix of fiction and documentary scenes, a docudrama style inspired by the work of Cuban filmmaker Sara Gómez.

Filmmakers Larry Bullard and Carolyn Y. Johnson relied on a mix of documentary and drama to record families engaged in their day to day activities at home, at work, and in school. This material was juxtaposed with a soundtrack on which family members discuss their individual thoughts, values, and aspirations. With this hybrid film style, the filmmakers were able to reveal and examine the gaps between everyday reality and the way in which it is perceived by each individual.

One of the first Third World Newsreel productions, A DREAM IS WHAT YOU WAKE UP FROM was part of two award-winning film programs in New York City: Film Society of Lincoln Center "Tell It Like It Is: Black Independents in New York, 1968 - 1986" and BAMcinematek "One Way or Another: Black Women's Cinema 1970-1991".

## **SCREENINGS**

*Tell It Like It Is: Black Independents in New York, Film Society of Lincoln Center, 2015*

*Billy Wilder Theater, UCLA, 2015*

*One Way or Another: Black Women's Cinema, BAMcinematek, 2016*