NOT CHANNEL ZERO
A video series by Black Planet Productions

"An inventive New York media collective with an afrocentric perspective and a
refreshing way of combining aesthetic imagination with political savvy."
- Jonathan Rosenbaum, Chicago Reader

“Not Channel Zero encourages viewers to locate and challenge the biases of television
and other media.”
Laurie Oullette, Will the Revolution be Televised?

“NCZ jars viewers’ ordinarily passive acceptance of visual images and challenges them
to form their own interpretations and, most important, their own opinions.”
LaRose Parris, American Visions

“The show has a hyperactive style that often jolts viewers into a stimulative,
occasionally witty visual escapade.”
Ray Smith, New York Newsday

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About Black Planet Productions

Black Planet Production was a New York City-based video collective of African American video artists formed in the early 1990s. It combined alternative television style with a critique of commercial media, using low-end, accessible technology and extremely small budgets, sometimes only fifty dollars. For three years, the collective produced regular programming for Manhattan Cable Access on the anti-war movement, homophobia in communities of color, police brutality, sexism, and urban issues in Black and Latino communities. Revising the famous Gil Scott Heron phrase, their motto was “The Revolution, Televised,” asserting they were making “grassroots, Afrocentric television aiming at politics, culture, and re-education.” The collective adopted Afrocentric style, form, and content, bringing hip hop strategies of slow motion, fast forwarding, and repetition to their videos as they appropriated commercial media images. Black Planet Production was founded by Thomas Poole, George Sosa and Cyrille Phipps, and members included Jacqueline Dolly, Donna Golden, Mark Aubert, Joan Baker and Art Jones.

Ten-Point Plan

1. To provide a forum for the education of the African community, promoting a cultural connection among all people of the African Diaspora
2. To promote political, social and economic empowerment
3. To act as a forum to discuss issues and evaluate problems
4. To locate and provide resources that will develop problem solving techniques
5. To acknowledge the cultural contributions of Africans in the United States and abroad
6. To provide a provocative alternative to mainstream media
7. To reflect the concerns of our community and provide an outlet for their grievances
8. To celebrate and honor the memory of our African ancestors
9. To act as a creative venue for emerging artists
10. To provide a positive and respectful analysis of the African American community

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Black Women, Sexual Politics and the Revolution

(Black Planet Productions, 1992, 29 min., Color, US)
Black women speak candidly on issues of sex, class and gender roles. The video examines how African American women deal with issues of poverty, abortion, battering and lack of health care, and addresses how women's roles in community struggle and activism are often overlooked or ignored. The video also looks at media portrayals with an emphasis on the representation of Black women in music video.

“Confronting a wrongheaded ideology based on a male point of view, ego, and capitalist greed, not human need, several African-American women argue forcefully for radically different perspectives.”
Diane Carson, The Riverfront Times

Screenings
Juror's Choice Award, Black Maria Film Festival
Women in the Director’s Chair Touring Program
   University of Illinois
   University of Toledo
   Women's Center at Northwestern University
   Yale University
   Walker Art Center
   Women's Resource Center at Washington University

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Northern Illinois University
Black Cinemateque, Dallas
American Film Institute National Video Festival
Institute of Contemporary Art
The Third Wave International Women’s Film and Video Festival
Women in the Director’s Chair International Film & Video Festival
Black International Cinema, South Bend and Berlin
Forum for Contemporary Art
African American Women Behind the Camera, Brooklyn Museum

Executive Producers
George A. Sosa
Thomas Poole
Cyrille Phipps

On-line Editor
Marc “Mack Daddy” Gaynor

Producers
Michele McKenzie
Cyrille Phipps

Special Thanks
Downtown Community TV Center
Rise and Shine Productions
NCZ Posse
Jackie Edwards

Camera
Cyrille Phipps
Michele McKenzie
Joan Baker
Tracy Williams

Music
L.L Cool J
James Brown
Public Enemy
Shabba Ranks
The Last Poets
Bell, Biv, Devoe
Steve Coleman

Production Crew
Jacqueline Dolly
Donna Golden

Research
Michele McKenzie

Much Respect to me Sistren
Queen Mother Moore
Assata Shakur
Angela Davis
Jeanne Noble
Barbara Smith
Audrey Lourde
Paula Giddings
Shirley Chisolm
Ida B. Wells

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Doing What It Takes: Black Folks Getting and Staying Healthy

(Donna Golden, Producer: Black Planet Productions, 1994, 23 min., Color, US)
Black communities are disproportionately affected by cancer, heart disease, low birth weight and infant mortality rates. Facing political, economic and racial barriers to good health, this video documents the anger and mistrust in the Black community towards the medical establishment based on a history of abuse and lack of access.

Screenings
DuSable Museum of African American History

Thanks to all the people who appeared in this tape and talked with us about their health
Senmut
Nazalima
Digna
Justin
Louis Jones
Dr. Monica Sweeney
Ulysses Kilgore

Marco
Dynamite
Chris
Clairesa
Wista
Linwood Collins
T'wana
Blanca

All the people on Fulton Mall
All the people on 125th Street

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Thanks to Genesis 1:27
The Park Slope Food Coop
Where some of the footage was shot

Special Thanks to
Educational Video Center
(where I did the editing)

Cynthia Lopez - Deep Dish TV
(she kept extending my deadline!)

Camera Persons
Sound Persons
Intrepid Reportes
Donna Golden

Aisha Hakim-Dyce
Diana Murillo
Cyrille Phipps
DaShawn Pretlow

Produced and Edited by
Donna Golden

For… Not Channel Zero
Mark Aubert
Donna Golden
Art Jones
Tom Poole
George Sosa

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The Nation Erupts

(Black Planet Productions, 1992, 60 min., Color, US)
Focusing on nationwide responses in the wake of the Rodney King verdict. Grassroots producers across the country reflect on the media coverage of the resulting L.A. uprising and its aftermath. Community members grapple with their feelings about their own actions as they debate what is right vs. wrong, what is perception vs. reality.

"Not Channel Zero...offers the most sophisticated and complex reading of the riots and the Holliday videotape to date."

“A powerful example of how alternative production and sophisticated media critique can work through video.”
—Laurie Oullette, Will the Revolution Be Televised?

Screenings
Images, Festival of Independent Film and Video, Toronto

Deep Dish T.V. Network presents

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Deep Dish T.V. The First Public Access Satellite Network
Not Channel Zero presents
The Nation Erupts
Not Channel Zero
Coordinating Producer/Editors
Donna Golden “The Hippie Chick”
Thomas Poole “Not Uncle Tom”
Art Jones “Art”
Writer/Editor
George Sosa “The Media Wilder”
Research
Kim Barker
The Rest of the NCZ Posse
Cyrille Phipps “Revolutionary Sista”
Mark Aubert “Makabu”
NCZ members missing in action
Jackie Dolly
Joan Baker
Animation/Title
Cheché Martinez
Titler
Joe Friendly
Music Mix
Mark Aubert
Richard Hood
Special Special Shout Outs
Cynthia Lopez
Paper Tiger TV
Special Shout Outs
Dee Dee Halleck
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Richie Perez “East Oakland Forum”
May Ying Welsh
“Post Riot Demon in K-Touwn”
Linda Mabalot
Taiji Mayagaud
John Esaki

“Street of New York”
DNA

Music
“Gimme Some More”
James Brown & The JB’s (People Records)
“Fire”
Ohio Players (Polygram Records)
“My Favorite Things”
John Coltrne (Atlantic Records)
“Fite dem back”
Linton Kwesi Johnson (Island Records)
“Times Running Out”
Last Poets

“Just a Friendly Game of Baseball”
Main Source (Quest Records)
“Violence & Non Violence”
Malcolm X (Paul Winley Records)
“Winter in America”
Gil Scott Heron (Artista Records)
“Inoperative”
Mark Aubert & Richard Hood (Black Planet)
“No”
Prince (Paisley Park)
“Black in America”
MC Supreme

“Misere”
Michael Nyman
“So What Cha Want”
Beastie Boys (Capital Records)
“Hootchei Kootchies “
Steppenwolf (MCA)
“Hazy Shade Criminal”
Public Enemy (Def Jam/Columbia)
“Steady Mobin”
Ice Cube (Priority)

“Get the F** Out of Dodge”
Public Enemy (Def Jam/Columbia)
“We are the World”
USA for Africa
“Hands Worth Revolution”
Steele Pulse (Mango/Island)
“The Queen is Dead”
The Smiths (Sire)
“Cop Killer”
Ice-T (Warner Brothers)

Deep Dish TV Network
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Programming Director
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Operations Manager
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Yvette Nieves-Cruz
Quincentenary Outreach Coordinator
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Special Thanks
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Rika Welsh
Gloria Williams

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And
The New York State Council on the Arts
NCZ Goes to War

(Black Planet Productions, 1992, 30 min., Color, US)
An examination of the Persian Gulf anti-war movement and its scant coverage in the mainstream media. NCZ went out in the streets and documented the response from activists, demonstrators, journalists and others in the movement.

Screenings
First Place, Community Video, Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame
First Place, Hometown Video Award
Signals exhibition, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
Dallas Video Festival

Not Channel Zero
The Revolution, Televised

Executive Producers

Cyrille Phipps “Revolutionary Sista”
Thomas Poole “Not Uncle Tom”
George Sosa “The Media Wilder”

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Producers
Jacqueline Dolly “Blacque Jacque”

Special Thanks to
Allah/God/The Spirits
Dorrie Brooks

Media Wilder
Blacque Jacque

Cameras
Rise & Shie Productions
Laural Vural

Media Wilder
Third World Newsreel

Blacque Jacque
Revolutionary Sista

Not Uncle Tom
Joan Baker
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Gulf Crisis TV Project

Editors
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Herbie Quinones
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(718) 712-5447
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Joan Morgan

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Outreach
Joan Baker

Herbie Quinones
Mr. Dolly
Mr. Dolly
Brooklyn
Bronx
Manhattan

Kevin Miller
Cathy Scott
Naadu
Kevin Powell

NCZ Intro
Directed by
Not Uncle Tom

Jackie Edwards
Ada Gay Griffin
Ed Daniels
Black Rock Coalition

Featuring
Lisette Sosa
Messenger Lisette Sosa
Uncle Willy Himself
Guy in the office Al Drears
NCZ Theme Performed by
Steve Coleman
Seku Sundiata
Mrs. Poole
Al Drears
Melissa Fernandez
And all our families for their love and support

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Our House: Lesbians and Gays in the Hood

(Black Planet Productions, 1993, 28 min., Color, US)
Up front and in your face interviews with Black gays and lesbians provide an uncompromising look at homophobia, racism, alienation and empowerment for queer African Americans. This riveting documentary powerfully contextualizes gay and lesbian experience within the African American experience.

Screenings
Honorable Mention, Public Affairs Documentary, Prized Pieces International Film & Video Competition
Lesbian Film Festival, Berlin
San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival
International House
NewFest, New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
American Film Institute National Video Festival
London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
The Third Wave International Women’s Film and Video Festival

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A Not Channel Zero production

NCZ Presents
This show is dedicated to the Memory of:
Audre Lorde
Donald Woods
Cliff Goodman

NCZ Members
Mark Aubert
Donna Golden
Art Jones
Cyrille Phipps
Tom Poole
George Sosa

Produced and Edited by:
Cyrille Phipps
Donna Golden

Special thanks to:
Jacqueline Dolly
Laura Vural - Rise & Shine Productions
Joan Nestle - Lesbian Herstory Archives
Che-Ché Martinez

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X 1/2: The Legacy of Malcolm X

(Black Planet Productions, 1994, 45 min., Color, US)
Set within the context of current African American struggles, this video examines the historical and contemporary legacies of Malcolm X. Using mixed media and experimental audio, X & 1/2 explores Black pride, unity and self-defense, a new generation's interpretations of his heritage, and a popular culture which commercializes his memory.

Screenings
Flaherty Film Seminar
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
New York Video Festival
Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens
International Video Week, Switzerland
The Mint Museum of Art
Through the Lens, WYBE

Produced by
Black Planet Productions
Black Planet is:
Mark Aubert
Donna Golden
Art Jones

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X ½: The Legacy of Malcolm

The struggle as always continues

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Melodie Calvert
Brian Camp

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The Careys
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December 12th Movement
Deep Dish TV

Sheila Dennies
Peggy Dye

Tim Frank
Ada Griffin
Robert Haggins

Oona Haggins & ACCAD
Danny Hamilton
Ted Hardin

William Harrigan
Dee Dee Halleck
Hallwalls
Chris Hill

Devorah Hill
Johnson Cultural Center
Lorna Johnson
Cathering Kim

Roland Legiardi-Laura
Manhattan
Arn Mcconnell
Talk with Tom Poole and Art Jones

https://mediaburn.org/events/12-16-2021-virtual-talks-with-video-activists-not-channel-zero/

Tom Poole Interview
https://www.vdb.org/titles/tom-poole-interview

Cyrille Phipps interview
https://www.vdb.org/titles/cyrille-phipps-interview

Art Jones interview
https://www.vdb.org/titles/art-jones-interview

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