

Videos Purchased by the Multi-Ethnic Student Program Office with Funds Received from the Otto Bremer Foundation*

A Matter of Respect: A stereotype-breaking documentary about the meaning of tradition and change, this film portrays modern Alaska Natives expressing and passing on their culture and identity, from a silver-carving radio D.J. to a Tlingit elder teaching at a fish camp.

America's Great Indian Leaders: Often overlooked in the history books, many great Native American men have made a significant impact on the development of our country's history.

American Sons: In an examination on how racism shapes the lives of Asian American men, this film presents a painful and angry view of American life never before explored. It is an intimate and disturbing exploration of how prejudice, bigotry, and violence twist and demean individual lives.

A Question of Color: The first documentary to confront "color consciousness" in the black community. It explores the devastating effect of a caste system based on how closely skin color, hair texture, and facial features conform to a European ideal, particularly that imposed on women. Darker women recall how they have felt devalued and desexualized because of the bias for European standards, while lighter women reveal the pain of exclusion and ridicule because of their presumed sense of superiority. Comments by young people indicate that the color problem lingers.

Banana Split: Through interwoven narratives and media clips, this video addresses ethnic dating patterns and stereotypes of Asian American men as well as identity and biracial ethnicity issues in relationships.

Becoming American: After fleeing their war-consumed native Laos, Hang Sou and his family, preliterate tribal farmers, await resettlement in a refugee camp in Thailand. This film records their travel and resettlement in the United States. Through nine months of intense culture shock, prejudice, and gradual adaptation in Seattle, the family provides a rare insight into refugee resettlement.

Black and Jews: This video fills in the back story and presents both sides to such widely reported flash-points as the Crown Heights disturbances, disputes around Louis Farrakhan, and the media uproar over the Oakland high school students who laughed during a screening of Schinder's List. Scholars and critics trace the conflict back to a shared history and psychology of victimization and its exploitation by the media. They suggest that mutual respect for the historical experiences of other groups is the first step towards resolving racial conflict.

Black Is...Black Ain't: Based on profound empathy for the struggle for self-affirmation fought by each African American, this film eaves together the testimony of those whose complexion, class, gender, speech or sexuality has made them feel "too black" or "not black enough." Scholars, artists, and other African Americans, movingly recall their own struggles to discover a more inclusive definition of "blackness."

Camp Arirang: Through interviews with sex workers, soldiers, and scholars and with contemporary and archival footage, the film reveals the story of how the Korean government and U.S. military have cooperated in the sale of control of women's bodies. The filmmakers explore the lives of sex workers and their fatherless Amerasian children who live U.S. camp towns throughout South Korea.

Carved from the Heart: After losing his son to a cocaine overdose, Stan Marsden, decides to create a totem pole. Through his project, the importance of ceremony and culture for facing grief and loss are illustrated. The film also acknowledges the intergenerational grief that grows from rapid changes in the lifestyle within the Alaska Native and American Indian communities.

Chinese Roots: A group of young adults research their family backgrounds in U.S. archives and embark on a trip to their ancestral villages in China. Along the way, they come to understand and appreciate their parents and grandparents and what they went through to become Americans.

Color Adjustment: Color Adjustment traces 40 years of race relations through the lens of prime time entertainment, scrutinizing television's racial myths and stereotypes. Narrated by Ruby Dee, the 88 minute documentary allows viewers to revisit some of television's most popular stars and shows, among them Amos and Andy, The Nat King Cole Show, I Spy, Julia, Good Times, Roots, Frank's Place and The Cosby Show. But this time around, Riggs asks us to look at these familiar favorites in a new way. The result is a stunning examination of the interplay between America's racial consciousness and network primetime programming.

Ethnic Notions: Ethnic Notions traces the evolution of the deeply rooted stereotypes which have fueled anti-Black prejudices. Faithful mummies, ridiculous coons, and wide-eyed pickaninnies permeated popular culture from the antebellum period to the Civil Rights era, implanting themselves deep into the American psyche. Eminent scholars shed light on the origins and devastating consequences of this 150-year-long parade of bigotry.

Ghost Dance: Through art, poetry, and the haunting beauty of the Dakota landscape, the massacre of Chief Big Foot and 300 of his followers, by the U.S. Army, at Wounded Knee is commemorated. Most of those killed were followers of the Ghost Dance Religion which promised the return of the old way of life. Their dancing was ended but the story of their journey and dream are with those who remember.

I Shall Not Be Removed: This loving film biography is a fitting memorial to Marlon Riggs, the gifted, gay, black filmmaker who died from AIDS in 1994. It traces his development from childhood, to his political awakening at Harvard, to his final years as an advocate for stigmatized people everywhere. This film also recounts the "Culture War" which erupted around his autobiographical film, Tongues United, and reached the Senate floor and nightly news, turning Marlon into an articulate spokesman for free expression.

In Who's Honor?: The film takes a critical look at the long-running practice of "honoring" American Indians by using them as mascots and nicknames in sports. It examines the issues of race, stereotypes, minority representation, and the powerful effects of mass-media imagery.

Letter Back Home: Shot in San Francisco's "inner city" Tenderloin District, this is a rare and uncompromising look at life in the United States for some Laotian and Cambodian youth. This video letter contains topics of concern for all in this American democracy.

Miles From the Border: A portrait of a Mexican-American family caught between the white and Mexican cultures in Filmore, California in 1986. Originally brought here by their parents in search of a better future, two siblings share their experiences and feelings about coming to the U.S. as immigrants. As successful professionals who speak English, they tell of the prejudice they experience from both the white community, who did not encourage them to succeed and go to college. And the rejection of other Mexican families who arrived with them, calling them "traitors" for not working in the orange groves or factories.

Mi Nombre es Carlos (My Name is C Barrera): My Name is Carlos is an intimate portrait of an immigrant from Guatemala, who comes to New York City in search of the American dream. Still a window washer 30 years later, Carlos begins to have "visions" of the love he left behind. He feels the regret of never having become successful, so he yearns for her, his family and his country. Carlos' relationship with a "friendly" American chess opponent forces him to remember and retain his cultural identity.

Mi Otro Yo: Expanding his exploration of marginalized identity and border videomaker Artenstein's (My Other Self) looks at the work of Chicano artists living in southern California. Their cultural ties to Mexico and historical presence in the U.S., well before it became the "new world," broadens the contemporary debates on identity and multiculturalism. Mi Otro Yo features the views and work of artists like Luis Valdez, Amalia Mesa Bains, and Jose Montoya with a narration written and performed by Guillermo Gomez Pena.

One Drop Rule: One Drop Rule asks what makes someone Black? Is it "one drop of blood?" A way of speaking and dressing? Is being Black really a matter of attitude and worldview? The film tactfully explores skin color consciousness with African Americans and inter-racial adults of Black and white parents.

Rabbit in the Moon: In this documentary on the lingering effects of WWII internment of the Japanese American community, two sisters revisit the absence of this vital history while searching for the memory of their mother. The film reveals the racist subtext of the loyalty questionnaire and exposes the absurdity of the military draft within the camps.

Race Against Prime Time: This film documents how local television news anoints Black community spokespersons, characterizes whites as victims, and Black as rioters and fails to place the disturbances within the context of decades of civic neglect. This hard-hitting documentary goes behind the scenes in three affiliated newsrooms during the Liberty City uprising in Miami which left 18 dead. This film reminds us that 25 years after the Kerner report, news reporting remains very much a white view of Black reality.

Spirit of the Dawn: This video explores the dramatic change in Native American education from the boarding schools of the past, where children were beaten for speaking their language, to the more culturally sensitive classrooms of today. On the Crow Reservation in Montana we meet two sixth graders as they participate in an innovative writing program to create poems that celebrate the Crow culture and history. Through the children, their parents, and teachers, we see the strength and resiliency of a community fighting the constraints of the past to secure a future for its children.

Strange Fruit: The first documentary exploring the history and legacy of the Billie Holiday classic. This history of the song's evolution tells a dramatic story of America's radical past using one of the most influential protest songs ever written as its epicenter. The saga brings viewers face-to-face with the terror of lynching even as it spotlights the courage and heroism of those who fought for racial justice when to do so was to risk ostracism and livelihood if white and death if Black. It examines the history of lynching, and the interplay of race, labor and the left, and popular culture as forces that would give rise to the Civil Rights Movement.

Talking Back: This documentary examines the lives and concerns of Latinas who are members of the service industry in the U.S. Video maker Gangemi weaves her own experiences as domestic with those of other Latin American women. This video attempts to break the silence and invisibility they face because of their precarious economic and political status.

The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords: This film recounts the largely forgotten stories of generations of Black journalists who risked their lives and livelihood so African Americans could represent themselves in their own words and images. It offers an intimate social history of African American life from antebellum America to the Civil Rights Movement - the achievements trumpeted, defeats pondered, celebrities admired, even the products advertised. The Black Press commemorates a heroic and indispensable chapter in the ongoing struggle for a diverse and democratic media.

The Politics of Love in Black and White: In this film, mixed couples testify to the joys and strengths of their relationship, but also to their pain and anxieties. They talk of the pressure from both races, including family, friends, and frat-brother, to stay with their own. Black and white students opposed to interracial dating argue about its political implications for race relations today. It provides a "safe space" for students and viewers to discuss submerging racial attitudes while respecting conflicting and conflicted opinions.

The Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr: Not only was Martin Luther King, Jr. a great social, political and religious leader, he was also one of the greatest speakers of this country.

The Truth about Slavery in History: This video examines a dark time in American history - when slavery was often used to gain power, cheap labor, and financial backing. This video takes a hard look at America and engages in a frank discussion about prejudice.

The Way Home: Sixty-four women, representing a cross-section of cultures in America came together to share their experiences of oppression through the lens of race. Separated into ethnic councils (Indigenous, African-American, Arab, Asian, European-American, Jewish, Latina and Multiracial), they explored their stories of identity, oppression and resistance.

Voices From Inside: Karin Epperlein, a German-born theater artist, is followed into a federal women's prison where she teaches weekly classes as a volunteer. Through breath, sound, poetry and song, she helps her racially-mixed group of women plunge deeper into their inner selves and experiences.

HAPA: Hapa is a term used to describe someone of partial Asian or Pacific Islander ancestry. Through interviews with individuals of diverse backgrounds, this documentary calls attention to the pressure hapas feel to choose between supposedly opposing cultural heritages as well as to their anxieties of feeling like outsiders in their parents' communities.

Underground Railroad: The Underground Railroad was successful because Whites and Blacks stood together against the injustice of slavery. Learn about the heroes and heroines who risked their lives to protest an institution that stripped an entire ethnic group of its human rights. The Underground Railroad was the manifestation of a people's steadfast refusal to submit to subjugation.

Understanding Hindu Traditions: Visit historic Benares and see how a religious tradition, at least 5,000 years old, remains vital today. The major deities and their purposes are examined.

Additional American Indian Videos in the Library Purchased with Salt Springs Funds*

Imagining Indians: This film, by acclaimed Hopi filmmaker/photographer Victor Masavesya, features interviews and discussion with Native actors and artists about working in and against Hollywood stereotypes of Indians.

Redskins, Tricksters and Puppy Stew: Newly released video featuring a range of Native comics who use humor to skewer stereotypes.

Warriors: Native American Vietnam Vets: Winner of Best Feature Documentary, American Indian Film Festival, and Outstanding Media Award from the National Indian Education Association.

Words and Place Series: This is an 8-part series produced by the University of Arizona that features American Indian historians, authors, and storytellers, and includes issues such as uranium mining on reservations. Videos also include "a conversation with Vine Deloria" and Leslie Silko's stories of her home in Laguna Pueblo.