

SankofaSpirit

Looking Back to Move Forward

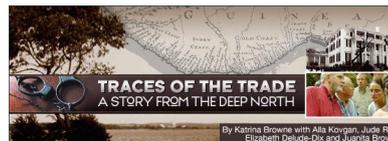
(770) 234-5890 • www.sankofaspirit.com

P.O. Box 54894 • Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Movies with a Mission 2009 Season
The APEX Museum, 135 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta
Gallery Walk, Screening and Dialogue
Schedule Subject to Change

Season Premiere, Saturday, February 7, 6:00-8:00pm
“Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North”

A unique and disturbing journey of discovery into the history and "living consequences" of one of the United States' most shameful episodes — slavery. In this bicentennial year of the U.S. abolition of the slave trade, one might think the tragedy of African slavery in the Americas has been exhaustively told. Katrina Browne thought the same, until she discovered that her slave-trading ancestors from Rhode Island were not an aberration. Rather, they were just the most prominent actors in the North's vast complicity in slavery, buried in myths of Northern innocence.



Browne — a direct descendant of Mark Anthony DeWolf, the first slaver in the family — took the unusual step of writing to 200 descendants, inviting them to journey with her from Rhode Island to Ghana to Cuba and back, recapitulating the Triangle Trade that made the DeWolfs the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Nine relatives signed up. **Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North** is Browne's spellbinding account of the journey that resulted.

Thursday, March 5, 6:00-8:00pm
“500 Years Later”



Beautifully filmed with compelling discussions with the world's leading scholars, 500 Years Later explores the collective atrocities that uprooted Africans from their culture and homeland, and scattered them into the vehement winds of the New World, 500 years ago. Infused with the spirit and music of liberation, this epic documentary span over 25 countries to explore the victories and struggles of a people who have fought and continue to fight for the most essential human fight - freedom.

The award-winning cast of 500 Years Later is comprised of internationally-recognized scholars, activist, and artist, which include; Civil Rights Activist Paul Robeson, Jr; Kwanzaa Founder Dr. Maulana Karenga; Professor Molefi Kete Asante; Poet Amiri Baraka; Author and Psychiatrist, Dr. Francis Cress Welsing; and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Thursday, April 2, 6:00-8:00pm
“Blacks Without Borders: Chasing the American dream in South Africa”

A groundbreaking documentary that takes a heartfelt look at the emotional journey of a group of African Americans who called it quits in the U.S. to start a new life in South Africa. With 4 to 5 million immigrants coming to America every year to pursue the American dream why are they leaving? Blacks Without Borders answers that question and more...the film chronicles 12 modern day globetrotters who have uprooted their lives in pursuit of their dreams and are finding that America is not the only land of opportunity.

The film provides a candid and touching tale of sacrifice, hardship and great rewards by U.S. born citizens. Blacks Without Borders examines the trails and tribulations that come along with being an outsider in a foreign land...dealing with “xenophobia” to adjusting to the cultural differences to combating the negative perceptions that America now garners around the world. From great sacrifice comes event greater rewards, this film reveals the incredible lifestyle these worldly go getters now live. Blacks Without Borders is a tell-all, “no-holds-barred” film that brings a whole new perspective to living your ultimate life.

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Thursday, May 7, 6:00-8:00pm
“Sierra Leone’s Refugee All-Stars”

If the refugee is today’s tragic icon of a war-torn world, then Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars, a reggae-inflected band born in the camps of West Africa, represents a real-life story of survival and hope. The six-member Refugee All Stars came together in Guinea after civil war forced them from their native Sierra Leone. Traumatized by physical injuries and the brutal loss of family and community, they fight back with the only means they have – music. The result, as shown in **Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars**, is a tableau of tragedy transformed by the band’s inspiring determination to sing and be heard .

Thursday, June 4, 6:00-8:00pm
“Tulia, Texas”



In 1999 undercover narcotics agent Thomas Coleman executed one of the biggest drug stings in Texas history. Coleman and his drug task force arrested 46 Tulia residents—of which 39 were African American—on charges of suspected drug dealing. Tulia, Texas is the story of a small town's search for justice and the price Americans pay for the nation's war on drugs.



Thursday, July 2, 6:00-8:00pm
“End of the Rainbow”

In English, Mandinke, and French with English sub-titles

End of the Rainbow provides a concise, in-depth look at the impact of global extractive industries on local populations, their economy, their traditions and their environment. It depicts in striking details the confrontation of two cultures, one indigenous the other a unique reflection of the age of globalization. The film uses a gold mine in Guinea to explore whether concessions granted to transnational corporations are in the interest of the companies, the governing elite or the local community.

Thursday, August 6, 6:00-8:00pm
“God’s Gonna Trouble the Water”



Narrator Ruby Dee relates the little-known history of the ancestors of African-American slaves who settled in the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. Scholars and locals recount the history of the Gullah people, and discuss the influences of praise houses, West African songs and dances, and the Gullah language on African-American customs and lifestyle.



Thursday, September 3, 6:00-8:00pm
“Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans”

Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans was largely shot before the Katrina tragedy but edited afterward, giving the film both a celebratory and elegiac tone. It is a film of such effortless intimacy, subtle glances and authentic details that only two native New Orleanians could have made it. Our guide through the neighborhood is New Orleans Time-Picayune reporter Lolis Eric Elie, who decided that rather than abandon his heritage he would invest in it by rehabilitating an old house in the Tremé district. His 75 year old contractor, Irving Trevigne, whose family has been in the construction business there for over 200 years, becomes a symbol of the neighborhood’s continuity and resourcefulness; Irving Trevigne represents a man who, unlike many Americans, is deeply rooted in his community and its traditions.

Louisiana Poet Laureate Brenda Marie Osbey and noted historians John Hope Franklin and Eric Foner explain what made Tremé different, such a fertile ground for African American life. New Orleans was a French and Spanish city before it was incorporated into the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Latin and urban attitudes towards slavery tended to be more relaxed than in the plantation South; slaves were allowed to walk freely through the city, to work for themselves and hence often to buy their freedom. New Orleans had the largest number of free people of color in the South, a dangerous anomaly in a slave society.

Thursday, October 1, 6:00-8:00pm
“Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai”



Taking Root tells the dramatic story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights, and defend democracy- a movement for which this charismatic woman became an iconic inspiration.



Thursday, November 5, 6:00-8:00pm
“Brick by Brick: A Civil Rights Story”

Brick by Brick: A Civil Rights Story shows that segregation has been as virulent and persistent in the North as in the South and that it too has resulted from deliberate public policies based in deep-rooted racial prejudice. The film uses the bitter struggle over equal housing rights in Yonkers, New York during the 1980s to show the "massive resistance" the Civil Rights Movement confronted when it moved north. **Brick by Brick** is not only a brilliant legal history of one of the most important cases in civil rights law, it narrates through the passionate experiences of Yonkers residents on both sides of the issue. The film demonstrates how courageous citizens and dedicated lawyers can enforce the constitutional rights of African Americans in the face of dangerous demagogues fomenting racial hatred.

Thursday, December 3, 6:00-8:00pm
“The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration”



The Black Candle is a landmark, vibrant documentary that uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American experience.

Narrated by world renowned poet Maya Angelou and directed by award-winning author and filmmaker M.K. Asante, Jr., The Black Candle is an extraordinary, inspirational story about the struggle and triumph of African-American family, community, and culture.

Filmed across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, The Black Candle is a timely illumination on why the seven principles of Kwanzaa (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith) are so important to African-Americans today.

The first feature film on Kwanzaa, The Black Candle traces the holiday's growth out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over 40 million celebrants.

With vivid cinematography and an all star cast that features the best and brightest from the hip-hop and the civil rights generations, The Black Candle is more than a film about a holiday: it's a celebration of a people!

Screenings are Free and Open to the Public