

SankofaSpirit

Looking Back to Move Forward

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Movies with a Mission 2008 Season
The APEX Museum, 135 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta
Gallery Walk, Screening and Dialogue
Schedule Subject to Change

Season Premiere, Saturday, February 2, 6:00-9:00pm

"Banished" *An investigation into ethnic cleansing in post-reconstruction America*

How did three U.S. towns make African Americans disappear? Marco Williams, award-winning filmmaker of *Two Towns of Jasper*, visits some of the whitest counties in the country to confront the legacy of "banishment" - a wave of racial purging that tore through the South 100 years ago. Williams sits down with KKK leaders, white residents of these all white communities, as well as descendants of the banished alike, opening the wounds of history. Will he help these communities heal? Is reconciliation possible? Or reparations or both?



Thursday, March 6, 6:00-8:00pm

"Iron Ladies of Liberia"



An intimate documentary that goes behind-the-scenes with Africa's first freely elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia. The film explores the challenges facing President Sirleaf and the extraordinary women surrounding her as they develop and implement policy to rebuild their ravaged country and prevent a descent back into civil war.

Thursday, April 3, 6:00-8:00pm

"From Florida to Coahuila"

In Spanish with English subtitles

This second film by Rafael Rebollar Corona is a part of a series of films by Rafael Rebollar Corona on the African Legacy in Mexico. It focuses on those Africans who escaped from slavery in the United States, made their way to Florida, where they inter-married with the Seminoles (creating the group known as the Black Seminoles), fought to preserve their freedom, eventually made their way into Mexico, and gradually integrated into that culture. A fascinating exploration of a cultural identity that transcends the constraints of political borders.



Thursday, May 1, 6:00-8:00pm

"Black Gold"



Multinational companies have made coffee the second most valuable trading commodity in the world. But as westerners revel in designer lattes impoverished Ethiopian coffee growers suffer the bitter taste of injustice. Tracing one man's fight for a fair price, BLACK GOLD is an eye-opening expose of the eighty-billion-dollar coffee industry.

Thursday, June 5, 6:00-8:00pm

“Congressman Robert Smalls: A Patriot’s Journey from Slavery to Capitol Hill”

A documentary film full of Americanisms – strong work ethic, rags-to-riches, patriotism. It follows Smalls’ evolution from a slave to Civil War hero to master politician in South Carolina. Exploring why he chose this journey, the story demonstrates personal commitment and strength, foreshadowing the modern-day civil rights movement.



Thursday, July 3, 6:00-8:00pm

“The Lion Mountains – A Journey Through Sierra Leone’s History



This documentary is about a journey to Sierra Leone,, West Africa seen through the eyes of Louis Buckley a 25-year old Jamaican English man who was born and grew up in England. After a long desire to visit the continent of Africa and learn more about his history he finally decides to visit the country of Sierra Leone.

Sierra Leone is rich in natural resources, yet today its recorded to be one of the poorest countries in the world. Louis arrives in Sierra Leone, while it’s recovering from an 11 year civil war, which devastated the whole country. He heads out to discover first hand about the countries past, offering a unique narrative and perspective. The question is what happened in the days of the British empire and how did this country get to this point?

The documentary has a hip-hop & reggae fused soundtrack with stunning visual of the landscape. The Lion Mountain looks at pre-colonial Sierra Leone, the beginning of African & European trade, slavery, resistance, the 1807 Abolition Act & some of the effects of Western imperialism and colonial rule.

Thursday, August 7, 6:00-8:00pm

“The Will To Survive: The Story of The Gullah/Geechee Nation”

The documentary tells the living history of the Gullah/Geechee people, Americans who trace their lineage back to the original Africans that were captured and brought to the barrier islands along the south east coast. As industry drove settlers inland, the Gullah/Geechee people have remained in isolation for more than 200 years. The result is an American culture with many elements of African life still intact. Over the years the island’s population has diminished to about 70 people.



Thursday, September 4, 6:00-8:00pm

“Our Pride – The Spirits of Black Japanese in Georgia”



This is a documentary that deals with the experiences of individuals of both Japanese and African American descent living in Georgia. They live in African American communities. However, because of their dual ethnic backgrounds, their ethnic identity is a major issue. They want to identify themselves as African American, but their African American friends sometimes do not consider them as African Americans. They overcome their issues and start to take pride in who they are.



Thursday, October 2, 6:00-8:00pm
"Found Sounds of Bahia"

Since the beginning of time, music has been a major social influence, affecting tradition and cultures around the world. Music, like most art, has the ability to transcend the barriers of race, religion, class, and poverty. But more importantly, music has the ability to bring people together to share in a common experience. Historically, in countries where there is a lack of material resources, people have invented a style of playing: rhythm on found objects. In Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, Found Sound is about creating exhilarating music out of material that would otherwise be thrown away. One man by the name of Jair Rezende has taken it upon himself to transform not only his community, but also the entire world through his band, LACTOMIA.

Because of the tremendous social chord this band is hitting within their community of Candeal, Jair's relationship with the young children of Salvador can be likened to the Pied Piper. Kids flock to him, wanting nothing more than to be a part of this movement. Whereas children of other more developed countries might have access to musical instruments and education, the children of Candeal are focused on exploring the creation of sound through recycled materials. This enlightening film offers never-before-seen footage of how one community comes together through the power of music and creativity.

Thursday, November 6, 6:00-8:00pm
"Rain in a Dry Land"



How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today's "global village"? "Rain in a Dry Land" provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families transported by relief agencies from years of civil war and refugee life to Atlanta, Georgia, and Springfield, Massachusetts.

Thursday, December 4, 6:00-8:00pm
"Panther in Africa"

On October 30, 1969, Pete O'Neal, a young Black Panther in Kansas City, Missouri, was arrested for transporting a gun across state lines. One year later, O'Neal fled the charge, and for over 30 years, he has lived in Tanzania, one of the last American exiles from an era when activists considered themselves at war with the U.S. government.

Today, this community organizer confronts very different challenges and finds himself living between two worlds - America and Africa, his radical past and his uncertain future.



Screenings are Free and Open to the Public