

SankofaSpirit

Looking Back to Move Forward

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Movies with a Mission 2010 Season
The Dusable Museum, 740 E. 56th Place, Chicago
Gallery Walk, Screening and Dialogue
Schedule Subject to Change

Sunday, January 10, 2:00-4:00pm
"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 Springfield, Massachusetts and Atlanta, Georgia. As the newcomers confront racism, poverty and 21st-century culture shock, the film captures their efforts to survive in America and create a safe haven for their war-torn families. Their poetry, humor and amazing

resilience show us our own world through new eyes.

Sunday, February 14, 2:00-4:00pm
"Bronx Princess"

BRONX PRINCESS follows headstrong 17-year-old teenager Rocky's journey as she leaves behind her mother in New York City to reunite with her father, a chief in Ghana, West Africa. Filmed over the tumultuous summer between high-school and college, BRONX PRINCESS tells Rocky's coming-of-age story. By confronting her immigrant parents' ideas of adulthood, Rocky reconciles her African heritage with her dream of independence.



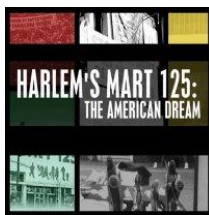
Sunday, March 14, 2:00-4:00pm
"The Principle Story"



The Principle Story tells two stories, painting a dramatic portrait of the challenges facing America's public schools — and of the great difference a dedicated principal can make. Tresa Dunbar is a second-year principal at Chicago's Nash Elementary, where 98% of students come from low-income families; in Springfield, Illinois, Kerry Purcell has led Harvard Park Elementary, with similar demographics, for six years. Tod Lending and David Mrazek followed both women over the course of a school year, discovering each one's unique styles yet similar passions. **The Principle Story** takes the viewer along for

an emotional ride that reveals what effective educational leadership looks like in the 21st century.

Sunday, April 11, 2:00-4:00pm
"Harlem's Mart 125: The American Dream"



Harlem's Mart 125: The American Dream is a documentary film about the history of Mart 125 and how it correlates to the "revitalization" of 125th street. Harlem's main commercial sector. This film takes its viewers on a historical journey which depicts the economic transition of 125th street from the late 1960's to present day. Mart 125 is used as a metaphor which examines the plague of perplexities that surround this unique black community and its relationship with the plans of urban renewal from a commercial stand point. Harlem's Mart 125: the American Dream portrays a microcosmic analysis of the displacement of Black American communities today. This is a story that takes an introspective look at the changing face of the most well known African-American

neighborhood and a complexity of issues that surround this community in peril.

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Sunday, May 9, 2:00-4:00pm
"Quilombo Country"

Narrated by Chuck D, *Quilombo Country* provides a portrait of rural communities in Brazil that was either founded by runaway slaves or began from abandoned plantations. This type of community is known as a quilombo, from an Angolan word that means "encampment." As many as 2,000 quilombos exist today.



Contrary to popular myth, Brazil was a brutal and deadly place for slaves. But they didn't submit willingly. Thousands escaped, while others led political and militant movements that forced white farmers to leave. Many of the resulting communities founded by free blacks, known as quilombolas, survive today. "Quilombo Country" provides a glimpse into these communities, with extensive footage of ceremonies, dances and lifestyles, interwoven with discussions about their history and the issues most important to them currently.

The film takes place in three distinct settings: The Trombetas region of the Amazon, Marajo Island at the mouth of the Amazon River, and the Itapicuru-Mirim area in the state of Maranhao.

Sunday, June 13, 2:00-4:00pm
"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.

Sunday, July 11, 2:00-4:00pm
"New Muslim Cool"

Puerto Rican American rapper Hamza Pérez ended his life as a drug dealer 12 years ago, and started down a new path as a young Muslim.



Now he's moved to Pittsburgh's tough North Side to start a new religious community, rebuild his shattered family, and take his message of faith to other young people through his uncompromising music as part of the hip-hop duo M-Team.

Raising his two kids as a single dad and longing for companionship, Hamza finds love on a Muslim networking website and seizes the chance for happiness in a second marriage.

But when the FBI raids his mosque, Hamza must confront the realities of the post-9/11 world, and challenge himself. He starts reaching for a deeper understanding of his faith, discovering new connections with people from Christian and Jewish communities.

NEW MUSLIM COOL takes viewers on Hamza's ride through the streets, projects and jail cells of urban America, following his spiritual journey to some surprising places — where we can all see ourselves reflected in a world that never stops changing.

Sunday, August 8, 2:00-4:00pm
"The Lion Mountains: A Journey Through Sierra Leone's History"



A documentary about a journey to Sierra Leone, West Africa seen through the eyes of 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 Louis Buckley finally decides to visit the country of Sierra Leone, as it was the head of British West Africa in days of the Empire.

Sierra Leone is rich in natural resources, yet today is 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 firsthand about the countries past, offering a unique narrative and perspective. The question is what happened in the days of the empire and how did this country get to this point?

Sunday, September 12, 2:00-4:00pm
"Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela"

In the wake of his stepfather's death, Thomas Allen Harris embarks on a journey of reconciliation with the man who raised him as a son but whom he could never call "father." As part of the first wave black South African exiles, Harris's stepfather, B. Pule Leinaeng, and his eleven comrades left their home in Bloemfontein in 1960. They told the world about the brutality of the apartheid system and raised support for the fledgling African National Congress and its leader, Nelson Mandela. Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela tells an intimate story of family and home against the backdrop of a global movement for freedom.



Sunday, October 10, 2:00-4:00pm
"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 Conora 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.

Sunday, November 14, 2:00-4:00pm
"From Barbados to Carolina"

From Barbados to Carolina explores the connections between colonial South Carolina and the island of Barbados in the British West Indies. It presents a detailed look at the heritage and culture of both early Charleston plantation owners and African slaves of Barbadian ancestry.



Sunday, December 12, 2:00-4:00pm
"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.

Screenings are Free and Open to the Public