



WOMEN'S STUDIES

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Our mission is to foster the **creation, appreciation and dissemination of social issue media made by or about people of color**. Today, TWN carries on the progressive vision of its founders, and remains the **oldest media arts organization** in the United States **devoted to filmmakers of color and their global constituencies**.

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Cover Photo: *The Way North* by Shara K. Lange



NEW THE WAY NORTH: MAGHREBI WOMEN IN MARSEILLE

Shara K. Lange, 2008, 60 min

"I thought that in France life would be easier—it's the land of liberty. But it wasn't like that at all." --Fatima Rhazi

From Marseille come the stories of North African women making new lives for themselves in tense, complex, contemporary France.

Riots throughout France in November 2005 and the presidential election in 2007 are backdrops to this documentary about the women of the community organization Women From Here and Afar, and community activist Fatima Rhazi.

Fatima gave up a successful career as a sports photographer in Morocco and immigrated to France in order to protect her daughter from in-laws who would have taken her away. Itto, a young, newly immigrated bride, negotiates a new culture while raising her young

daughter. Hadja, a political asylum seeker from Algeria, is *sans papiers* (without papers). The documentary shows these women's struggles to cultivate alternative economic and social supports for themselves in a society that has historically ignored or misunderstood them.

"These women's lives in the context of a France that seemed on the brink of exploding, provide the opportunity for an "inside view" of part of one of the most consequential mass migrations in the world today as the Islamic population of Europe grows."

Paul Stekler, Director of Last Man Standing

Arab Film Festival, San Francisco, 2008
Cinematheque de Tanger, Morocco, 2008
Austin Film Society, 2008

DVD Sale: \$225



The Way North

NEW WHO GIVES KISSES FREELY FROM HER LIPS

Simin Farkhondeh, 2008, 41 min.

Inspired by the work of Sara Gomez and Cuban Imperfect Cinema, **Who Gives Kisses Freely From Her Lips**, weaves together fiction and documentary to tell the story of Salomé, an Iranian-American filmmaker determined to make a film on temporary marriage, a taboo subject in Shia Iran. In this docudrama real Iranians who have engaged in temporary marriage speak frankly about the pros and cons of this type of union as opposed to permanent marriage. In the process of learning about Salomé's alienation from the customs of her homeland, we learn about the complexities of the Shia' Islamic institution of temporary marriage.

DVD Sale: \$175



Who Gives Kisses Freely From Her Lips



AWOL

NEW AWOL

Brigid Maher, 2005, 20 min.

Keisha Johnson, an African American woman soldier, goes AWOL in Iraq after she flees a violent incident. On her "walkabout" journey, she encounters children who decide to help her. Keisha and the children grow to understand each other despite the political barriers that have torn their lives apart.

"Maher evokes a wealth of cross-cultural ambiguities and tensions generated by the war"

Pat Aufderheide, Film Critic

National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC, 2007
Reel Women International Film Festival, Los Angeles, 2007

DVD Sale: \$125

NEW IN MY GENES

Lupita Nyong'o, 2009, 78 min.

This is the life story of Agnes, a Kenyan woman with albinism of few means who heads a household of seven children, her 17-year-old daughter expecting another. During the course of the documentary, Agnes discovers she has skin cancer and finds out the real reason why she lost both of her eyes. Yet Agnes keeps going, trusting in the work of her hands and the strength of her God. The threads of the woolen baskets she weaves blindly hold her family together as she tells us her story. Interviews with seven other individuals' inter-cut Agnes' narrative to share their unique experiences of living with albinism. They ponder on questions about the effects of their condition on aspects of their childhood, adolescence, sexuality, and race.

"A candid exposé of what it means to live with albinism in Africa."

Isaac Mwaura, Albinism Society of Kenya
"A salutary rebuke to prejudice, in all its forms... an important, challenging and necessary film."

Mwalimu John Sibi-Okumu, Kenyan writer, actor and television presenter



In My Genes

What is it like to be 'white' in a 'black' society?



Lupita Nyong'o presents
IN MY GENES
Stories on living with albinism in Kenya

Best Documentary, Five College Film Festival, Northampton, 2008
Souvenir Selection, Africala Film Festival, Mexico City, 2008
New York African Film Festival, 2009
Zanzibar International Film Festival, 2008
Re-Imagine Kenya, New York, 2008
Kenya International Film Festival, Nairobi, 2007

DVD Sale: \$225



NEW ONE PEOPLE

Al Santana, 2007, 30 min.

Is everything political? Against the backdrop of a gentrified Harlem community, the story centers on two sisters who have opposite views about social responsibility and the role of artists. Aliyah, a self-styled revolutionary filmmaker, is producing a documentary about the 1960's black power movement. Her sister, Valerie, is a poet whose work centers on themes of sensuality and love. They challenge each other on the purity of art and the need for art to inspire social change. Together, they discover a politicized Lorraine Hansberry, her vision and her

commitment to use art to raise the level of understanding about social injustices.

"Explores serious political issues in very human terms."

St. Clair Bourne

DVD Sale: \$175

NEW FROM MALI TO MICHIGAN: A MUSICAL BRIDGE

Louise Bourgault, 2006, 28 min.

A documentary about musical collaboration in the global age, From Mali to Michigan follows African World Music pop diva and griotte (traditional female bard) Nainy Diabaté during her 2005 visit to the Northern Michigan University. The film traces the musical history of Mali, including the development of pop music in the country.

Best Arts and Cultural Production,
Michigan Association of Broadcasters,
2007

Best Television Program, Good News
Award, Roman Catholic Diocese of
Marquette, 2007

DVD Sale: \$175

ALSO AVAILABLE

**A Litany for Survival: The Life and
Work of Audre Lorde**

**Yari Yari: Black Women Writers and
the Future**

NEW YARI YARI PAMBERI: BLACK WOMEN WRITERS DISSECTING GLOBALIZATION

Jayne Cortez, 2007, 75 min.

Documents selected scenes from panels, readings, and performances during the 2004 conference and features renowned writers Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Maryse Conde, Nawal El Saadawi, Aminata Traore, Ama Ata Aidoo, Edwidge Danticat, Gloria Naylor, Sohna Benga, Latasha N Nevada Diggs and others.

*"Can be used to supplement
African, African-American studies,
global studies, literature, and
women's studies."*

Educational Media Reviews Online

DVD Sale: \$225

NEW THE ART OF LOVE AND STRUGGLE

Jessica Habie, 2006, 78 min.

In this film, artists, singers, emcees, activists, poets and writers come together in an explosive exploration of feminine creation. Each lady brings to the screen her innermost struggles in an attempt to outline the obstacles that face the female artist. **The Art of Love and Struggle** navigates the challenges of poverty, politics and personal sacrifice and explores love, identity and urban culture.

*"I would definitely recommend it...
the message speaks to everyone."*

David Applebaum

DVD Sale: \$275



NEW PRIMETIME: FIGHTING BACK AGAINST FORECLOSURE

Jennifer Fasulo & Manuvaskar Kublall,
2009, 23 min.

This timely film takes the viewer behind the foreclosure statistics and into the homes and hearts of two New York City women of color who have been pummeled by the foreclosure tsunami. It breaks down the complex issues of the sub-prime mortgage industry into easy to understand language and reveals the systematic culpability of the financial institutions.

PRIMETIME brings to light the disproportionate impact of the foreclosure crisis on women of color. As the US government continues to bail out the financial industry, **PRIMETIME** is an urgent reminder of the on-the-ground struggles of people fighting to keep their homes. A TWN Workshop Production and part of the **Call for Change Series**.

"Includes useful information about resources available to those caught up in the foreclosure process and would be a very valuable addition to public library collections, especially those located in areas of high foreclosure rates."

Educational Media Reviews Online

DVD Sale: \$125



Our Lady Queen of Harlem

NEW OUR LADY QUEEN OF HARLEM

Trinidad Rodriguez, 2008, 17 min.

On a crumbling sidewalk in the heart of Spanish Harlem, a small but impassioned group of women are fighting for their community. When the Archdiocese of New York locked the doors of the church where many of them spent their entire lives worshiping, this determined family of parishioners decided to resist the ministerial decision and take matters into their own hands. A portrait of faith and disobedience, **Our Lady Queen of Harlem** is an exploration of activism and the very definition of church. Part of the **Call for Change Series**.

DVD Sale: \$125

NEW IN BED WITH A MOSQUITO

Sarah Frank, 2008, 18 min.

Betty Brassell has spent nearly every day of her retirement - rain or shine - protesting in the streets of New York City. **In Bed With a Mosquito** is an intimate portrait of activism and aging in New York City. Part of the **Call for Change Series**.

"A great film for an introductory women's studies class or a political science class that focused on political dissent. Courses or discussions centered on aging, ageism, anti-war movements and feminism would find the film worthwhile."

Educational Media Reviews Online
(EMRO)

DVD Sale: \$125

**NEW
DREAMS
DEFERRED:
THE SAKIA
GUNN FILM
PROJECT**

Charles B. Brack, 2008, 58 min.

Why was Sakia Gunn murdered? In 2003, Sakia Gunn was fatally stabbed in a gay hate crime in Newark, New Jersey. She was fifteen years old and called herself and Aggressive, a homosexual woman who dresses in masculine attire but does not necessarily identify as a female-to-male transgender. *Dreams Deferred* depicts the homophobia that caused her untimely death and questions the lack of national media coverage of the murder of a gay Black youth.



Dreams Deferred: The Sakia Gunn Film Project

World Premiere, NewFest, New York City, 2008
 Best of NewFest at BAM, Brooklyn, 2008
 Documentary Fortnight, MoMA, New York 2009
 London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 2009
 Newark Black Film Festival, 2009
 The LGBT Community Center, New York, 2008
 Reel Affirmations, Washington D.C., 2008
 Pace University LGBTQ Symposium, New York, 2008

DVD Sale: \$225

*"An emotional examination of the Gunn case."
 Sewell Chan, New York Times*
*"Recommended. The documentary reminds us that LGBT youth are often dismissed, ignored, or rejected and frequently subjected to violence."
 Educational Media Reviews Online (EMRO)*
*"Compelling... raises tough questions about a biased media that ignores hate crimes against African Americans. Highly recommended."
 Video Librarian Magazine*



**NEW
EXCUSE MY
GANGSTA WAYS**

Corinne E. Manabat, 2008, 15 min.

We all go through transitions in life, whether it's a career change, or moving, but for Davina Wan, hers has been very extreme - from the gang life to a "normal" life. ***Excuse My Gangsta Ways*** is a documentary portrait on Davina Wan, a Chinese American woman, who was a former gang member from the 1990s Lower East Side. With interviews from her grandmother and godfather, we will take a look at the person she was and the person she has become, where fate and inspiration endure. A TWN Workshop Production and part of the ***Call for Change Series***.

*"From child immigrant to urban gangster, Davina Wan's adolescence resembles few others. This intimate portrait reveals her quest to turn her life around."
 San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival*
*"An extraordinary look at Davina Wan's intense and troubled youth of drugs, crime and family dysfunction, and her eventual transformation."
 Ravi Chandra, SFIAAFF Blog*
*"It tells a surprising story about Davina Wan and her past life. Definitely worth watching."
 Hyphen Magazine Blog*

Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, 2009
 Documentary Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2009
 San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, 2009

DVD Sale: \$175

NEW

SEEN, BUT NOT HEARD: AIDS AND THE UNTOLD WAR AGAINST BLACK WOMEN

Cyrille Phipps, 2008, 12 min.

Explores the historical antecedents, current trends, and emerging activism concerning HIV/AIDS and women of African descent. Through revealing personal accounts and comprehensive investigative journalism, **Seen, But Not Heard** challenges, informs, and inspires viewers to look past the daunting HIV/AIDS statistics; to experience the real stories of women of color whose lives are affected by it.

DVD Sale: \$125

BORN IN BRAZIL

Cara Biasucci, 2002, 52 min.

The World Health Organization suggests a maximum cesarean rate of 15%. Although research shows the majority of Brazilian women prefer natural birth, statistics provide a different story --- 65% - 85% of all births in private Brazilian hospitals are by cesarean section. Many obstetricians attribute this to patient demand, when in fact the unnecessary surgery is more convenient and lucrative for doctors. This film challenges the dominant cultural belief that surgical delivery is the modern, painless way to give birth, and that cesareans are what women want.



"This excellent documentary is a powerful, accessible, and gentle approach to pregnancy and childbirth that will be of interest to those who study women's issues, sociology, parenting and medicine. Highly recommended for high school students, college students, adult viewers, and libraries."
Educational Media Reviews Online (EMRO)

"With U.S. cesarean rates also exceeding the world health organizations recommendation, this film about birth practices in Brazil is relevant to North American audiences as well as our South American neighbors. Recommended for most health collections."

Video Librarian Magazine

LASA Award of Merit in Film, 2004

DVD Sale: \$250



Bringin' in Da Spirit

BRINGIN' IN DA SPIRIT

Rhonda L. Haynes, 2003, 60 min.

Through the use of first person narrative and rare archival images, this documentary provides a moving glimpse of the women who have skillfully brought scores of children across the threshold of existence. This evocative and passionate film celebrates women who have committed themselves to holistic answers amidst powerful misconceptions about the practice of midwifery and virulent opposition from practitioners of Western medicine.

Paul Robeson Award Initiative Special Prize, FESPACO, Burkina Faso, 2005

DVD Sale: \$225

NEW TINKU KAMAYU

Mabel Maio, 2008, 30 min.

This inspiring documentary tells the story of a group of Indigenous women who responded to Argentina's 2001 economic crisis by rediscovering the ancestral tradition of spinning and weaving wool. They call themselves "Tinku Kamayu" which means in the Quechua language "working together".

DVD Sale: \$175

LA BRUJA: A WITCH FROM THE BRONX

Felix Rodriguez, 2005, 50 min.

Art, labor and family blend in this intimate documentary about performance artist Caridad De La Luz, better known as 'La Bruja'. Born and raised in the Bronx, this daughter of Puerto Rican immigrants takes the number 6 train to downtown Manhattan where she performs at popular New York City venues. But opportunities are scarce and she struggles to make ends meet in an industry where 'to keep it real' often means to work for free. This documentary is a celebration of La Bruja's perseverance to gain visibility and recognition in the entertainment industry and her extended family's unconditional support.



La Bruja: A Witch From the Bronx

"The film provides a foundation for classroom discussion on everyday performativity intertwined with a theatrical performance. The film also serves as useful performance ethnography."

- Dr. Victoria Newsom, Films for the Feminist Classroom

DVD Sale: \$225

Rican performer in an industry that often marginalizes ethnic artists and women in particular. Highly recommended for collections of Puerto Rican and U.S. Latino artists."

Rafael Ocasio, Criticas Magazine

SHE RHYMES LIKE A GIRL

J.T. Takagi, 2005, 7 min.

Toni Blackman and the FreeStyle Union are challenging the male dominated world of Hip-Hop and empowering women to speak their minds in freestyle workshops. This music video/documentary hopes to promote a movement of female MCs. Part of the Call for Change Series.

DVD Sale: \$25

"Recommended"
- Educational Media Reviews Online (EMRO)

"La Bruja draws from popular and folkloric themes to explore her multicultural background. Her most powerful poems speak about her pride in being a Puerto

SCENE NOT HEARD

Maori Karmael Holmes, 2005, 45 min.

Right from the beginning of the Hip-Hop movement, Philadelphia's artists have made major contributions as emcees, graffiti artists, dancers, and especially as deejays. Native talents such as Will Smith, The Roots and Eve have made great strides domestically and internationally. But somehow Philly still doesn't get the kind of props that L.A. or even Atlanta does, despite its unique proliferation



Scene Not Heard

of women emcees, vocalists, poets and deejays. **Scene Not Heard** seeks to tell the story of these women--the legends and the ingenues--as they struggle to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

This documentary features interviews with pioneer hip hop artists Lady B, Schoolly D, Rennie Harris, Bahamadia and Ursula Rucker, as well as emerging talents such as Versus, Keen of Subliminal Orphans and Michele Byrd-McPhee of Montazh, intercut with scholars, critics and local promoters.

DVD Sale: \$175



Scene Not Heard



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