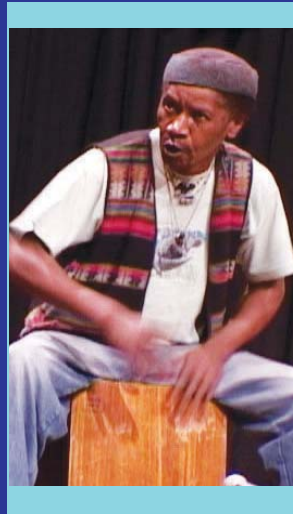


2010-11

Films from Africa and the African Diaspora



ArtMattan Productions
www.Africanfilm.com



ARTMATAN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A SPECIAL 2-DVD SET

THE COLORS OF CURAÇAO

"GORGEOUS" - CHICAGO READER

"FASCINATING" - A. O. Scott, NY TIMES

AVA & GABRIEL
A Love Story

A film by FELIX DE ROOY and NORMAN DE PALM

Distributed by ArtMattan Productions

Papa's Song

A Romantic Thriller
by SANDER FRANCKEN and NORMAN DE PALM

Distributed by ArtMattan Productions

MESSAGE FROM ARTMATTAN PRODUCTIONS

In 1993, ArtMattan Productions launched the first African Diaspora International Film Festival (ADIFF). One of the purposes of the festival was to present to New Yorkers, in a commercial setting, a more varied choice of films depicting the human experience of people of color. We conceived ADIFF as an open event which would be a way to encourage a critical analysis of people's lives here in the United States as well as an open window to other people's lives all over the world. The producers of ADIFF wanted to contribute to a more sophisticated analysis of the interaction between art and entertainment. The African Diaspora International Film Festival was from the start a cultural event aimed at refuting the marginal status imposed on Black art and culture in this country.

ADIFF is today an internationally known film festival that has gained the respect of those interested in Black films in particular and good films in general. In the past nineteen years, ADIFF has presented more than 1,000 films focusing on the richness and diversity of the lives of people of color all over the world. Some of those films are now distributed in the United States and Canada by several distributors including ArtMattan Productions.

With no intention of defining a canon, the films in this catalog are as diverse in genre and style as any contemporary artistic expression can be. From the strong "Faraw!, Mother of the Dunes" by Malian filmmaker Abdoulaye Ascofare to the joyous "Journey of the Lion" by Fritz Baumann, these films offer snapshots of the incredible range of the lives of people of color whose place in history has been marked by a distinctive sign: the color of their skin. These films have enjoyed acclaim in different festivals all over the world, including the African Diaspora International Film Festival. They are components of a movement of images and ideas that has created a strong and diverse cinematic body of work.

ArtMattan Productions is pleased to launch this new edition of its Catalog of Films from Africa and the African Diaspora. Titles distributed can also be reviewed on line at www.AfricanFilm.com.

Reinaldo Barroso-Spech, Ed.D.
President

Diarah N'Daw-Spech, MBA
General Manager

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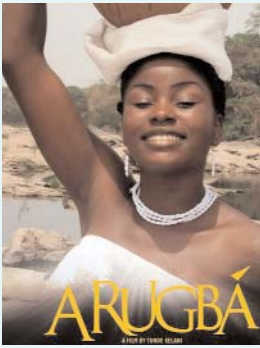
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NEW 2010-11 RELEASES



ARUGBÁ

Nigeria, 2009, 97mins, drama in English and Yoruba with English subtitles, Tunde Kelani, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2009.**

In "Arugbá," the latest masterpiece by leading Nigerian filmmaker Tunde Kelani, the king of a small town in south-western Nigeria makes much publicized statements against corruption while instituting economic reforms and embracing foreign investors. But the reforms don't appear to be trickling down to the people, the king trusts no one and has a weakness for women, which compromises his leadership.

Meanwhile, preparations are being made for a traditional ritual in which a young virgin - the arugbá - carries a sacrificial calabash. Adetutu is the beautiful young priestess selected by the oracle to carry the sacred calabash at the Osun Osogbo festival. The calabash can only be carried by a virgin, and after being abducted by three men, Adetutu's chastity and suitability as the chosen one is questioned. Interwoven with themes of balance, love, loyalty, and loss, her tale also explores issues of governance, political corruption, HIV/AIDS and the influence of modernity over convention, all within the context of a culture that is rich with traditional values yet marred by traditional viewpoints.

With superb performances from Awoyemi and some of Nigeria's leading actors, **Arugbá** is a beautifully executed film which functions as an allegory for contemporary Nigeria. Set against the backdrop of a corrupt society seeking cleansing, rebirth and nationhood, with all its attendant intrigues, the film intimately presents a world in which modernity and tradition exist alongside each other but seldom in equilibrium.

DVD Sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



JOSEPHINE BAKER: BLACK DIVA IN A WHITE MAN'S WOLD

English/French/German with English subtitles, 2006, 45min, documentary in English and French/German with English Subtitles, Annette von Wangenheim, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2007.**

A tender, revealing documentary about one of the most famous and popular performing artists of the 20th century. Her legendary banana belt dance created theatre history; her song "J'ai deux amours" became a classic, and her hymn. The film focuses on her life and work from a perspective that analyses images of Black people in popular culture. It portrays the artist in the mirror of European colonial clichés and presents her as a resistance fighter, an ambulance driver during WWII, and an outspoken activist against racial discrimination involved in the worldwide Black Consciousness movement of the 20th century.

"**Josephine Baker: Black Diva in a White Man's World**, focuses on Josephine Baker's life and work from a black perspective. For black Americans, Baker became 'a role model' and their 'queen'. Baker herself "wasn't allowed to be the real American [she] wanted to be..." where in another article she says, "I had been suffocating in the United States... A lot of us left, not because we wanted to leave, but because we couldn't stand it anymore..." - Pat Reid

DVD Sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



SCHEHERAZADE, TELL ME A STORY *EHKY YA SCHEHERAZADE*

Egypt, 2009, 134 minutes, drama, Arabic with English subtitles, Yousry Nasrallah dir. **Winner Lina Mangiacapre Award, Venice Film Festival 2009.**

Cairo, today. Hebba, a television show host, presents a successful political talk show on a privately owned network. Karim, her husband, is deputy editor in chief of a government-owned newspaper. His ambition is to become editor in chief. He is led to believe by the party leaders that his wife's constant meddling with opposition politics could put his promotion in danger. Using his boyish charm and sexual prowess, he convinces Hebba to stay away from politics, and devote her program to social issues for which the government cannot be held responsible.

She starts a series of talk shows around issues involving women. She listens to the stories of resilient, strong women, who, like Scheherazade in "A Thousand and One Nights," tell their stories to stay alive. Hebba knows, of course, that women's issues are political. But she could not imagine up to which extent. Gradually, she finds herself walking in a minefield of abuse, sexual, religious, social and political repression that lead to the break up of her marriage. From storyteller, Hebba herself becomes a story. Official selection Venice and Toronto film festivals.

Cameron Bailey, Co-Director of the Toronto Film Festival writes "*Fluid, handsome and gorgeous to behold, Scheherazade, tell me a story is a polished piece of Egyptian storytelling - polished to an edge. Nasrallah proves himself a master of compelling narrative that carries a strong social critique. Provocative and audacious in its exploration of how men and women shape each other's lives in today's Cairo, Scheherazade, tell me a story marks an important addition to the canon of Egyptian cinema.*"

DVD Sale: \$295. Rental: Please inquire.

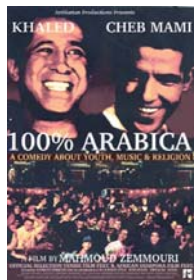


AN UNCOMMON WOMAN *UNE FEMME PAS COMME LES AUTRES*

Burkina Faso, 2009, 101 minutes, comedy, French with English subtitles, Dao Abdoulaye, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora International Film Festival 2010.**

Mina is tired of her husband's infidelity and decides to take a drastic decision: She takes a second husband. Based on his conversations with women involved in polygamist relationships, he illustrates - to very funny effects - the daily life of two persons - in this case two men - who share a spouse. On a comedic tone, Abdoulaye Dao tells us a story of jealousy, infidelity, romance and revenge. **An Uncommon Woman-Une Femme Pas Comme Les Autres** - was a success in its native Burkina Faso and is cast with some the best actors of Burkinabe cinema.

SPECIAL: TWO FILMS ON ONE DISC



100% Arabica & Rotating Square

"The joyous and vibrant sound of rai - a centuries-old Algerian folk music known for its often racy and politically charged lyric, and influenced over the years by flamenco, jazz and, most recently rap-gorgeously suffuse **100% Arabica's** culture-clash story. Rai, performed by real-life stars Khaled and Cheb Mami, is an eloquent and essential element of the film, and the music's power to captivate is greater than that of Julia Roberts and Bratt Pitt combined." – Nicole Keeter – Time Out NY. *France, 1997, 85 mins, comedy, French with English subtitles, Mahmoud Zemmouri, dir. Official Selection, Venice Film Festival, 1997.*

Bonus Short film with DVD: **ROTATING SQUARE**. A surrealist comedy about two couples scamming each other to immigrate for the USA. *Egypt, 2002, surrealist comedy in Arabic with English subtitles, Ahmed Hassouna dir.*

DVD sale: \$245.

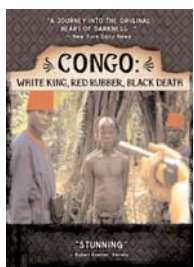


Adios Momo/Good-Bye Momo & Candombe, Black Culture in Uruguay

Obdulio, an 11-year-old Afro-Uruguayan boy, can neither read nor write is introduced by a Maestro to the power of literacy and the meaning of life through the lyrics of the Murgas, the songs of the Uruguayan carnival. *Uruguay, 2005, 100min, drama, Spanish with English subtitles, Leonardo Ricagni, dir. Official selection Tribeca and African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.*

Bonus Short film with DVD: **CANDOMBE, BLACK CULTURE IN URUGUAY**. Follow Fernando Nuñez, a black man, a musician, and a maker of drums, sees him self as the heir to "Candombe," an important social and cultural legacy from his slave forefathers. *Uruguay, 1993, 16min, docu-drama in Spanish with English subtitles, Rafael Deugenio, dir. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1996.*

DVD sale: \$245.

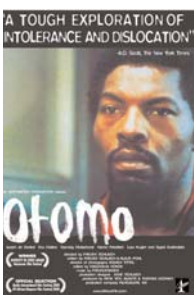


Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death & Boma Tervuren, The Journey

The Belgian government has denounced **Congo:White King, Red Rubber, Black Death** as a "tendentious diatribe" for depicting King Leopold II - still a heroic figure in Belgium - as the moral forebear of Adolf Hitler, responsible for the death of 10 million people in his rapacious exploitation of the Congo. This true, shocking, astonishing story of what the Belgians did in the Congo was forgotten for over 50 years. "[A] stunning indictment" (Variety). *Peter Bate---Great Britain---2004---84 mins.*

Bonus Doc. with DVD: **Boma Tervuren, The Journey**. This is the extraordinary and tragic saga of 267 Congolese men and women brought to Brussels for the 1897 World's Fair. After a four month journey toward Belgium, they were exhibited before a million visitors. Subjected to the crushing gaze of the "Whites" and the cold climate, many fell prey to disease and some even lost their lives. *Belgium, 1999, 54min, documentary in French with English subtitles, Francis Dujardin, dir.*

DVD sale: \$245.



Otomo & Waalo Fendo

A powerful film portraying institutionalized racism and police brutality, Otomo provides a convincing look at the everyday world of refugees, who are continuously surrounded by tension and insecurity.

West African immigrant Frederic Otomo (Isaach de Bankole) lacks the proper papers to be hired for the most menial of jobs; he has survived for eight years with the help of a Catholic charity. Otomo is the target of verbal abuse, is thrown out of his boarding house, and even scorned by neighborhood dogs. He feels and looks out of place. A stoic bubbling pot of wrath on the run, de Bankole's performance establishes Otomo's essence without words-language cannot express the gravity of his situation. As a ticking soundtrack counts down his fated minutes, Otomo is helped by a kind, aging hippie and her granddaughter, establishing the potential for an inclusive German society...if it is not too late... *Germany, 1999, 84 mins, drama, German with English subtitles, Frieder Schlaich, dir.*

Bonus Fiction Film with DVD: WAALO FENDO: WHERE THE EARTH FREEZES

Senegal / Switzerland, 1998, 65 mins, drama in Wolof and Italian with English subtitles, Mohammed Soudani, dir. Milan, like Paris or Stuttgart, and like many other European cities, is the theater of the drama of immigration. Demba reconstructs his story and that of his brother Yaro, both Senegalese immigrants in Italy, in a long and fragmentary flashback that begins with Yaro's murder and recounts their departure from the village, arrival in Europe, the work they find selling lighters and picking tomatoes in the south of Italy: the stages every "non-EEC citizen" goes through in Italy. It is a story of immigration like so many others but that most people are unaware of. Waalo Fendo illustrates the dehumanization faced by so many immigrants all over the world.

DVD sale: \$245.



The Tracker & David Gulpilil: One Red Blood

DVD with two films starring legendary Aborigine actor, David Gulpilil

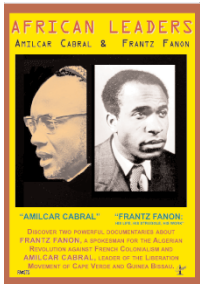
The year is 1922 and The Tracker (David Gulpilil, *Walkabout, Rabbit-Proof Fence*) has the job of pursuing The Fugitive - an aborigine who is suspected of murdering a white woman - as he leads three mounted policemen: The Fanatic, The Follower and also The Veteran across the outback. The Tracker, a mysterious and enigmatic figure whose true character remains unknown, assists them in their quest. As they move deeper into the bush and further away from civilization, the toxic forces of paranoia and violence begin to escalate, stirring up questions of what is black and what is white and who is leading whom. Their journey becomes an acrimonious and murderous trek that shifts power from one man to another, challenged by the indigenous people they come across as well as each other. *Australia, 2002, 98 mins, Epic Drama, English, Rolf de Heer, dir. Winner Best Film, Best Actor (David Gulpilil), Australian Film Critic Circle.*

Bonus Documentary with DVD: Gulpilil: One Red Blood Australia, 2003, 56 mins, Documentary in English, Darlene Johnson, dir.

Legendary Aboriginal actor and Australian icon David Gulpilil's life has been one of dueling lifestyles, with his jet-setting movie star life on a completely different plane from his life as an Aboriginal village elder, and director Darlene Johnson manages to capture intimate details from both lifestyles in her 2003 biographical documentary **Gulpilil: One Red Blood**. As Johnson films a number of very candid encounters with the actor in both settings -- David lives in a tent shed and is quite open about the lack of facilities in his abode and the exploitation he's experienced during his career -- she documents the class differences that still exist between the indigenous population of Australia versus the relatively new white population.

DVD sale: \$245.

NEW: TWO FILMS - TWO DISCS - ONE DVD



African Leaders - 2 disc set

Portrait of two leaders of the Pan-African Liberation Movement with “**Frantz Fanon: His Life, His Struggle, His Work**” by Cheikh Djemai and “**Amilcar Cabral**” by Ana Lucia Ramos Lisboa.

Using rare archival footage, director Ana Lucia Ramos Lisboa accurately chronicles both the personal and public sides of an African icon in **Amilcar Cabral** (*Cape Verde/ Portugal, 2001, 52 mins., in Portuguese with English Subtitles*). The founder of the African Party for Independence of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC), Amilcar Cabral led the Liberation Movement against Portugal for those countries.

In the documentary **Frantz Fanon: His Life, His Struggle, His Work** (*Algeria/France, 2001, 52 mins., in French and Arabic with English subtitles*), director Cheikh Djemai uncovers and interviews scores of former associates of Frantz Fanon, a psychiatrist, philosopher and political leader. He became a spokesman for the Algerian revolution against French colonialism, and as the author of *Black Skin, White Masks*, Fanon documented the effects of colonialism and racism on the people of colonized countries.

DVD sale: \$295.



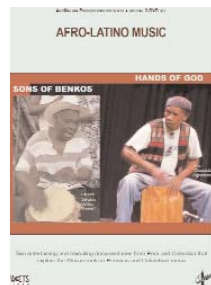
Afro-Cuba: Yesterday & Today - 2 disc set

Two exciting, colorful films spotlight the African roots of Cuba's culture by focusing on two legendary artists -- Rumbero Papa Montero and Filmmaker Sara Gomez -- in this unique box set.

Get ready to rumba! The life of Cuba's last great rumbero is detailed in **The Last Rumba of Papa Montero**, a bold story that captures Cuban traditions and culture through beautiful imagery, sensual music, and Afro-Cuban mythology. *Cuba/Martinique, 1992, 52 mins, docu-drama in Spanish with English subtitles, Octavio Cortazar, Dir.*

Acclaimed filmmaker Sara Gomez comes to life in the rich, multilayered documentary **Sara Gomez, An Afro-Cuban Filmmaker**. Though trained in ethnography, Gomez became the first female Cuban filmmaker. Her background shaped her films, which reflect her interests in Afro-Cuban cultural traditions and women's issues. *Cuba/Switzerland, 2005, 76 min, documentary in Spanish with English subtitles,*

DVD sale: \$295.



Afro-Latino Music - 2 disc set

This two-disc set showcases the influence and importance of African sounds, rhythms, and beats to the music of Latin America.

Sons of Benkos (*Los Hijos de Benkos, Lucas Silva, Colombia, 2003, 52 mins.*) shows the evolution of Afro-Colombian music over generations while exploring the presence of African culture in Colombia. The title pays homage to Benkos, an important black leader in the fight for freedom during the era of slavery in Colombia.

Hands of God (*Las Manos de Dios, Delia Ackerman, Peru, 2004, 54 mins.*) tells the story of Peruvian percussionist Julio "Chocolate" Algondones, a legendary musician famous for his speed and dexterity on drums. Mixing traditional African influences with contemporary jazz, Algondones composed, taught, and performed musical styles all over the world.

DVD sale: \$295.



Colors of Curacao, The - 2 disc set

Feature classic film "Ava & Gabriel: A Love Story" and contemporary drama "Papa's Song" serves as a window into the world of Curacao, part of the Dutch colonial domain in the Caribbean.

Set in Curacao in the 1940s, "**Ava & Gabriel: A Love Story**" (*Felix de Rooy, 1990, 100 mins.*) tells of the painter Gabriel Goedbloed originally from Surinam, who arrives from Holland to paint a mural of the Virgin Mary in St. Anna's Church. The colonial Antillean society proves less than tolerant towards the visitor, especially after he chooses as his model a young black teacher, Ava, who is engaged to a white police official. When the Dutch Governor's wife also becomes interested in Gabriel, tensions and hypocrisies rise within the community.

Addressing the complex and difficult state of race relations in the Netherlands, **Papa's Song** (*Sander Francken, 1999, 95 mins.*) is "an interesting drama of domestic tension and cross-cultural misunderstanding" (*The New York Times*).

DVD sale: \$295.



Dany Laferrière: Films from a Poet's Imagination - 2 disc set

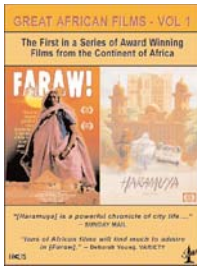
The mystery and wonder of modern-day Haiti come alive in this two-film set based on the work of writer-director Dany Laferriere with the two films **How to Conquer America in One Night** (96 mins) and **On the Verge of a Fever** (88 mins).

In the clever comedy **How to Conquer America in One Night** (*Comment Conquerir l'Amerique en une Nuit*), newly arrived in Montréal, and determined to conquer North America by charming blonde-haired women, Gégé, a Haitian in his thirties, lands up at Fanfan's - his nostalgic uncle who has given up poetry for a good old taxicab and dreams of returning to his homeland. *Haiti/Quebec-Canada, 2004, 96 mins., comedy in French with English subtitles | Dany Laferriere, Dir.*

Against a backdrop of poverty, fear, and the brutal dictatorship of Haiti in 1971, **On the Verge of a Fever** (*Le Gout des Jeunes Filles*) tells the story of Fanfan, a 15-year-old boy who wants to experience life for himself with his streetwise friend Gégé. *Haiti/Quebec-Canada, 2004, 88 mins., comedy in French with English subtitles, John L'ecuyer, Dir.*

DVD sale: \$295.

NEW: TWO FILMS - TWO DISCS - ONE DVD (CONTINUED)

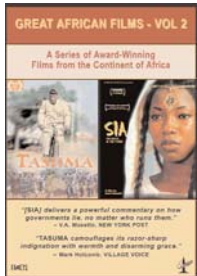


Great African Films - Vol. 1 - 2 disc set

Haramuya & Faraw! Mother of the Dunes are two films included in the package, making for an entertaining and edifying double feature experience:

Drissa Toure's *Haramuya* (1995) is a sprawling dramatic comedy about several generations of a traditional Muslim family scraping up against various temptations (crime, movies, drugs, music) of modernity in the city of Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. *87min, comedy in French with English subtitles Official selection, Cannes 1995 "Un Certain Regard."* Abdoulaye Ascofare's *Faraw: Mother of the Dunes* (1997), from Mali is about a mother of three who struggles to support her family while saving her daughter from becoming the concubine-maid of a French colonialist. "One of the strongest portraits of female determination to come out of Africa in recent years." ~ VARIETY Mali, 1997, 90min, drama in Songhai with English subtitles, Abdoulaye Ascofare, Dir.

DVD sale: \$295.



Great African Films, Vol. 2 - 2 disc set

The second installment in this series of award-winning films from Africa includes *Tasuma, the Fighter* and *Sia, the Dream of the Python* both from Burkina Faso.

Kollo Sanou's *Tasuma, the Fighter* (2003, 90 minutes, French and Jula with English subtitles), a comic look at the impact of French colonialism on Africa; Retired from the French army, Burkinabe soldier Sogo Sanou waits patiently for his pension, which he plans to use to build a grain mill for the women of his village. Dani Kouyate's *Sia, the Dream of the Python* (2001, 96 minutes, Bambara with English subtitles), a modern adaptation of a seventh-century African legend: A poor village decides it must make a human sacrifice to a mystical snake god to guarantee a better future; Sia, the most beautiful woman in the village, is chosen for the ritual, but she runs away in revolt.

DVD sale: \$295.

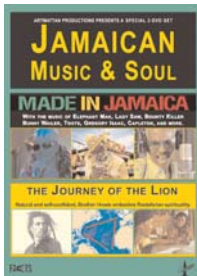


Great African Films, Vol. 3 - 2 disc set

The third installment in this series of award-winning films from Africa includes *Dry Season/ Daratt* from Chad and *The Desert Ark* from Algeria.

Mahamat-Saleh Haroun's *Dry Season* (2006, 95 minutes, French and Arabic with English subtitles), a subtle and often surprising film from Chad about the relationship between a young man and his father's killer set at the end of the country's civil war when the government has granted amnesty to war criminals. Mohamed Chouikh's *The Desert Ark* (1997, 90 minutes, Arabic with English subtitles), Two teenagers from opposite sides of the tracks fall in love, their forbidden relationship pitting family against family.

DVD sale: \$295.



Jamaican Music & Soul - 2 disc set

Jerome Lapperousaz's powerful *'Made in Jamaica'* (2006) and the classic rasta repatriation story by German film maker Fitz Baumann *'Journey Of The Lion'* (1992), which is a beautiful film that has withstood the test of time and continues to be screened at film festivals each year.

Through music, interviews, and performances, *Made in Jamaica* explores the roots and influence of reggae and its evolution into dance-hall music as a reflection of a changing Jamaican society. It is a powerful portrait of reggae's best musicians and of Jamaica itself - the island that spawned a musical revolution. *Jamaica/France, 2006, 110 mins, English, Jerome Lapperousaz, Dir.* *The Journey of the Lion* is a rare docudrama starring Rastafarian musician Brother Howie, who dreams of the land of his ancestors - Africa. On a journey in search of his roots and his identity he travels across three continents with his humor and sensitivity intact. *Jamaica and Germany, 1992, 90 mins, docu-drama, English, Fritz Baumann, dir.*

DVD sale: \$295.



Race and History in Brazil - 2 disc set

Race and its impact on the art and history of Brazil are highlighted in this two-disc set with Joel Zito Araujo's documentary *Denying Brazil* (*A Negacao do Brasil*, 92 mins) and Geraldo Santos Pereira's *Aleijadinho: Passion, Glory and Torment* (*Aleijadinho: Paixao, Gloria e Suplicio*, 100 mins.)

Denying Brazil / A Negacao do Brasil

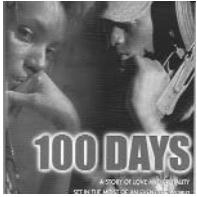
A documentary film about the taboos, stereotypes, and struggles of Black actors in Brazilian television "soaps." Based on his own memories and on a sturdy body of research evidence, the director analyzes race relations in Brazilian soap operas, calling attention to their likely influence on Black people's identity-forming processes.

Aleijadinho: Passion, Glory and Torment / Aleijadinho: Paixao, Gloria e Suplicio

Set in 18th century Brazil - a time when slavery was still the foundation of the Latin American economy - this fascinating historical drama is loosely based on the life of Black sculptor Antonio Francisco Lisboa "Aleijadinho," one of the greatest sculptors of Latin America.

DVD sale: \$295.

TITLES FROM CONTINENTAL AFRICA



100 Days

Rwanda/UK, 2001, 96,om. drama in English, Nick Hughes, dir. **Official selection, Toronto Film Festival 2001, African Diaspora Film Festival 2001 and more than 40 interntaional film festivals.**

Set in the breathtaking natural beauty of the Rwanda countryside, this fist ever fiction film made about the Rwanda civil war tells a powerful story of genocide and human survival with compassion and integrity. The film centers on a pair of young lovers; Bapiste is more than ready to have sex with his girlfriend Josette, but she refuses, arguing that when they are married they can have all the sex they would like. Meanwhile, powerful Hutu leaders have had enough of Tutsi rebels and call on all Hutus to kill their Tutsi neighbors. As chaos breaks out, the Tutsis flee and the lovers are separated. Josette and her family find solace in a Catholic church run by a Hutu priest. The Catholic Church, the state, and the French army look the other way as bloodshed ensues. When the Belgian army sent in to protect the church is called away on an emergency, the Hutus attack and massacre hundreds of women and children. Josette is saved by the priest who obliges her to become his concubine and repeatedly rapes her. She miraculously survives, but she is only a husk of the woman that she was. As the Tutsis regroup, they exact terrible revenge. ~ Jonathan Crow, ALL MOVIE GUIDE

DVD Sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Aces

South Africa, 1999, 17min, short drama in English, Ntandazo "Didi" Gcingca, dir. **Official Selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2000.**

Aces is the story of a young man who fights against the battering of his mother by his drunken father. The situation escalates until Ace desperately stabs his father to death, and is sent to jail for a period of 15 years. Nine years later he is out on parole. He kills again within a day's time of his release.

DVD Sale: \$145. Rental: Please inquire.



Almodou

Senegal, 2002, 85min, comedy in Wolof/French with English subtitles, Amadou Thior, dir. **Official Selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2002.**

Sometimes distasteful practices are most effectively criticized with a good sense of humor. Meet Modou, a young, courageous and determined talibé - a pupil in a Koranic school - who manages to escape from his corrupt and abusive teacher to find a better life in contemporary Dakar, Senegal.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Almícar Cabral

Cape Verde/Portugal, 2001, 52min, Portuguese with English Subtitles, Ana Lucia Ramos Lisboa, dir. **Official Selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2008.**

Amílcar Cabral was the leader of the Liberation Movement of Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau and the founder of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC). He was born in Guinea in 1924 and assassinated in Conakry in 1973. Regarded as a true icon of African history, this documentary provides considerable background to this revolutionary giant and reveals Cabral in several dimensions: as a man, a father, politician, humanist and poet. The documentary is skillfully produced and uses a wealth of rare archive footage, balanced inclusion of varied testimonies of important African personalities and the credible recreation of notable episodes of Cabral's life.

DVD sale: \$295 part of African Leaders DVD set with Frantz Fanon: His Life, His Struggle, His Work. Rental: Please inquire.



Arugba

Nigeria, 2008, 97mins, drama in English and Yoruba with English sub., Tunde Kelani, dir. **Official Selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2009.**

In "Arugba," the latest film from leading Nigerian filmmaker Tunde Kelani, the king of a small town in south-western Nigeria makes much publicized statements against corruption while instituting economic reforms and embracing foreign investors. But the reforms don't appear to be trickling down to the people and the king trusts no one and has a weakness for women, which compromises his leadership. Meanwhile, preparations are being made for a traditional ritual in which a young virgin – the arugba – carries a sacrificial calabash.

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



Bezness

Tunisia, 1992, 100min, drama in French with English subtitles, Nouri Bouzid, dir. **Official selection, Cannes 1992.**

Bezness takes place in one of Tunisia's beautiful coastline tourist cities. it tells the contemporary story of a young man trapped between Arab tradition and prostitution. Through this young man who dreams of escape, the Director, Nouri Bouzid, criticizes both the restrictions associated with what he calls "the hypocrisy of Islam" and the European ruling on Arab society. **DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.**



Borders

France/Algeria, 2002, 102min, drama in French with English subtitles, Mostefa Djadjam, dir. **Official Selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2002.**

Six men and a woman set out on the hazardous journey from Senegal to Morocco in a bid to slip illegally into Europe to escape from the poverty and internecine warfare of Africa. All are lured by the promise of a better life, but the challenges are numerous. Passing through the hands of various smugglers, they cross the desert of Mauritania and Algeria, first in a pick up, then in the back of refrigerated fish trucks, and are finally dumped and forced to walk to the Moroccan border. Though each is lured by a different reason, they unite to overcome obstacles and finally reach the coast of Morocco, where they stand looking at Spain across the narrow Straits of Gibraltar. On reaching Tangiers, the invisible travelers go their separate ways and prepare to attempt the fateful crossing to Spain.

Mostefa Djadjam's beautiful debut feature confronts the global controversy of refugees while examining the complexities of human nature. Djadjam, originally trained as an actor, gives a restrained, compassionate account of what is at stake for illegal immigrants, fashioning a stunning film for its subtleties about identity. He presents consistent moral questions, demanding judgment on the decisions and actions of his characters when even the most sympathetic become ruthless and callous in their quest for a better life. The trip in **Borders** is not easy for either the travelers or the viewer who must watch these sad all-too human beings endure physical and psychological hardships before attaining "freedom." Not all the travelers succeed. Some find love – some manage to laugh. The viewer, meanwhile, gains a new understanding of the problems which confront Africa-and more importantly, Africans today.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Cape Verde My Love

Cape Verde, 2007, 77min, drama in Portuguese Creole with English subtitles, Ana Lucia Ramos Lisboa, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2007.**

Praia, Cape verde. Laura, Flavia and Bela are childhood friends. Each leads her own life and they sometimes meet to dance, dine and have fun. But one day the calm rivers of their lives break their banks and become wild torrents: Ricardo, Flavia's husband, rapes his pupil Indira, Laura's 13-year old eldest daughter. A film that takes a critical look at the lives of women in Cape Verde.

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.

TITLES FROM CONTINENTAL AFRICA



The Cathedral

Mauritius, 2006, 78min, drama/comedy, Mauritian Creole with English subtitles, Harrikrisna Anenden, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.**

The Cathedral is a lyrical narration set in the beautiful and unusual setting of Port-Louis, capital of Mauritius. Lina, a young woman in search of her identity interacts daily with friends and family in a carefree happy manner that will be challenged when one day her dancing catches the eye of a photographer...

DVD Sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Childhood Destroyed

Chad 1999, 26min, drama in Arabic/Frech with English subtitles, Zara M. Yacoub, dir. **Runner-up BET movies award for the Best Film Directed by a Woman of Color, African Diaspora Film Festival 2000.**

Eleven year old Mariam works as a domestic to provide for her guardian, her unemployed Uncle Djimet, and his family. Mariam wakes up early each day to go to work while Djimet, his wife Isabelle and their children are still asleep. Mariam works as an all-purpose maid, housekeeper, cook and baby sitter for the Nadji family. With her many tasks, she is constantly under pressure from Nadji and his son Moussa, and must answer to the whims of his wife, and young children. One day, Mariam is arrested for having unwittingly thrown rubbish in a prohibited place. She is detained for five days in prison without her uncle or employer even inquiring of her whereabouts. "Childhood destroyed" denounces the living conditions of young girls in Chad in a delicate yet powerful way.

DVD Sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Colobane Express

Senegal/France, 1999, Docu-Drama, 52min, Wolof with English subtitles, Khady Sylla, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.**

Public vans provide the traditional and sole means of city transportation in Dakar, Senegal. In a frenzy of activity, from the outskirts to downtown, people from all walks of life as well as fruits, vegetables, chickens, etc. are transported daily in these public vans. **Colobane Express** opens a window on a slice of life in the busy urban metropolis where drivers and their trainees are always on the go, managing relationships, incidents and conflicts, dealing with the competition and providing an invaluable service to demanding yet loving customers.

DVD Sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Le Damier, Papa National Oye!

Democratic Republic of Congo, 1996, 40min, comedy in French with English subtitles, Bakupa Kanyinda Balufu, dir. **Winner Best Short, FESPACO 1997.**

A wicked political satire about African dictators, this film tells the story of the president of a fictitious African nation who spends a sleepless night playing checkers with a pot-smoking vagabond who is claimed to be the "all-around-champion." However, the rules of the game entail opponents howling vulgar and foul obscenities at one another. The Champion proceeds to insult, and trounce, the President. His reward - and fate - are not exactly unexpected in this hilarious send-up of living under tyranny.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



The Desert Ark

Algeria, 1997, 90min, epic drama in Arabic with English subtitles, Mohamed Chouikh, dir. **Award: Best Image, FESPACO 1999.**

Romeo and Juliet in the Algerian desert. Amin and Myriam are secretly in love. Their families are rivals, and when their relationship is discovered, conflict is inevitable. In the quiet atmosphere of the palm groves, the two communities have long nurtured the seeds of discord and hatred. The persecution is the first signal of inevitable evil. From inside the cave where they have taken refuge, the two young people hear the cries of a senseless murderous raid. A universal metaphor to denounce the horror of all extremist violence, *The Desert Ark* is a splendid and terrifying metaphor for a burning contemporary reality.

DVD sale: \$295 part of Great African Films Vol. 3 2-DVD set with Dry Season/Daratt. Rental: Please inquire.



Dry Season / Daratt

France / Chad, 2006, 95min, French & Arabic with English subtitles, Drama, Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, dir. **Special Jury Prize, Venice Film Festival 2006, Winner Bronze Yennenga Stallion, FESPACO 2007.**

Chad, 2006, The government has granted amnesty to all war criminals. Atim, 16 years old, is given a revolver by his grandfather so that he may kill the man who killed his father... Atim leaves his village for N'djamena, seeking a man he does not know. He quickly locates him: former war criminal Nassara is now married and settled down as the owner of a small bakery... With the firm intention of killing him, Atim gets closer to Nassara under the guise of looking for work, and is hired as an apprentice baker...

"Using a simple storytelling style that grows stronger with each passing scene, *Dry Season* draws the viewer into its small two-character drama set in post-war Chad, while it offers a deep reflection on injustice and frustrated revenge." -Deborah Young, VARIETY

DVD sale: \$295 part of Great African Films Vol. 3 2-DVD set with The Desert Ark. Rental: Please inquire.



Fallen Angels Paradise

Egypt, 1999, 80min, dramatic comedy in Arabic with English subtitles, Ossama Fawzi, dir. **Best Director, Best Actor, Festival of Egyptian Cinema 2000.**

A homeless man dies of an overdose in a popular Cairo neighborhood. He was once an ideal husband and represented security for his family. Then one day, everything changed. Upon his death, his friends from the underworld drag the corpse around for a whole night of madness, drinking and hallucinating situations. This is a game with death where the dead man becomes more alive than the living and fallen angels live according to their own rules, laws and desires in the chaos of the Egyptian capital. The film is loosely based on the famous short story by Brazilian writer Jorge Amado *A morte e a morte de Quincas Berro d'Aqua/The Man who Died Twice* (1961).

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Faraw! Mother of the Dunes

Mali, 1997, 90min, drama in Songhai with English sub., Abdoulaye Ascofaré, dir. **Award: Best Actress, FESPACO 1997. Cannes 1997 Official Selection, International Critics Week.**

Zamiatou is the mother of two quarrelsome boys and a depressed teenage girl. She is also the wife of a man arrested for political reasons who returns from prison mentally and physically destroyed. She struggles hard to survive in a poor and desolate area. She is ready to face anything to keep the family alive except prostituting her beautiful daughter. Her determination will take her far from her family... Detail by detail, this finely lensed first feature salutes the triumph of human ingenuity over terrible odds. "One of the strongest portraits of female determination to come out of Africa in recent years." ~

DVD sale: \$295 part of Great African Films Vol. 1 2-DVD set with Haramuya. Rental: Please inquire.

TITLES FROM CONTINENTAL AFRICA



Feminine Dilemma

Chad, 1994, 22min, documentary in Arabic/French with English sub., Zara M. Yacoub, dir.
Winner BET Movies Award for the Best Film Directed by a Woman of Color, ADFF 2000.

Images presented in *Feminine Dilemma* are almost unbearable to watch. One witnesses the circumcision operation performed on two young girls as women surrounding them in a courtyard clap their hands, dance and sing, "You will not cry or we will never forgive you." Following this harrowing sequence, the film presents a series of interviews with religious leaders, women's group representatives, health workers, everyday people and the girls themselves and asks the question: Why female circumcision? Should it be performed and how? And what are the consequences? The making of this film created a scandal, and threats and attacks against the filmmaker followed. But once the dust settled, a debate started in Chad which allowed for open discussion of a topic that is still taboo in many parts of the world today.

DVD Sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



The Great Bazaar

Mozambique, 2005, 58min, Comedy, Portuguese with English subtitles, Licinio Azevedo, dir.
Winner Best Short Film, Durban International Film Festival.

In the suburb of an African city, 12-years-old Paito sells fritters outside his house. One day, a band of young robbers takes his money. He decides he's not going to go home until he recovers what he lost. With this in mind, he heads out for the big city on the same train as the thieves. Looking for work, he begins to live in a market square that at night becomes a dormitory for homeless vendors. There he meets Xano, a boy his age, whose insolent behavior and fearlessness attract him. Unlike Paito, Xano despises work and he steals. Despite their differences, they become friends. Together, they reinvent the world.

DVD Sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Haramuya

Burkina Faso/France, 1995, 87min, comedy in French with English subtitles, Drissa Toure, dir.
Official selection, Cannes 1995 "Un Certain Regard."

Ouagadougou, its buildings and shantytowns... Wealth in a modern town and poverty in the suburbs. Through Fousseini — a Muslim firmly attached to his faith, traditions and family, *Haramuya* draws a picture of Ouagadougou trapped between modernism and traditionalism. Fousseini tries to take care of his family according to the old precepts and the code of honor inherited from his ancestors. One of his sons is a cinema projectionist and supports all the family against the will of his wife. The other son idles around all day long in Ouagadougou, looking for a girlfriend.

DVD sale: \$295 part of Great African Films Vol. 1 2-DVD set with Haramuya. Rental: Please inquire.



Homecoming

South Africa, 2005, 90min, fiction in English, Norman Maake, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.

Charlie, Thabo and Peter, three "MK" veterans from the armed branch of the African National Congress, return to post-apartheid South Africa in 1996 after years of exile. It will not be easy for them to find their place in society again. Charlie dreams of opening a club, Thabo has to patch up his relationship with his wife and son and Peter continues to work in the Party and investigate the traitors of the ANC. Continuously hampered as he delves into the Government's files, his ensuing investigations provide shocking revelations of the identities of the traitors. Pared down from a successful mini series for the South African Broadcasting Corporation, *Homecoming* draws its plot from the real life experiences of acclaimed filmmaker and writer, Zola Maseko, a former "MK" soldier of the ANC. Morman Maake (26) is perhaps the most promising young director from South Africa. He studied at ADFA, a dynamic young film and drama school in Johannesburg.

DVD Sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Kukurantumi: The Road to Accra

Ghana/West Germany, 1983, 83min, fiction in English, King Ampaw, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2008.

In a revealing melodrama that contrasts the hectic life in Accra, the capital of Ghana, with the relative peace of Kukurantumi, a rural town, a truck driver makes runs between the two locations with few problems until he is forced to replace his truck. In order to raise the money to get a new vehicle, he sells some stolen watches and promises his daughter in marriage to a rich merchant. Rebelling against this fate, the daughter runs off to Accra with her boyfriend -- but then nothing turns out quite like she had planned, and the rich merchant looks better with each passing day.

DVD Sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



No Time To Die

Ghana/Germany, 2006, 95min, love and comedy in English. King Ampaw, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2007.

Death and funeral traditions play a significant role in African culture. *No Time to Die* is director King Ampaw's contribution to passing the tradition onto the next generation. A hearse driver meets and falls in love with a young, beautiful dancer that is planning an elaborate homegoing celebration for her mother. This love and comedy feature length film follows the Hearse Driver as he does everything to win the affection of her heart and the approval of her father.

DVD Sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



Nothing But the Truth

South Africa, 2008, 78min, drama in English, John Kani, dir.
Winner Silver Stallion, Fespaco 2009. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2009.

Nothing But The Truth is a gripping investigation into the complex dynamic between those blacks who remained in South Africa and risked their lives to lead the struggle against apartheid and those who returned victoriously after living in exile. In New Brighton, South Africa, 63-year-old librarian Siphon Makhaya prepares for the return of the ashes of his brother Themba, recently deceased while in exile in London after gaining a reputation as a hero of the anti-apartheid movement. Internationally recognized, multiple award-winning actor John Kani is the lead actor in this film version of the internationally acclaimed award-winning play *Nothing But The Truth* which he also authored.

DVD Sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



The Other World

France/Algeria, 2001, 90min, drama in French with English subtitles, Merzak Allouache, dir.
Official Selection World Film Festival, Montreal 2001.

L'Autre Monde (The Other World) is the heart-breaking story of one woman's search for the truth. Yasmine Hattou, a young French-Algerian, goes to Algiers in search of her fiancée, Rachid, only to be told that he was the victim of an ambush and that he has disappeared. She desperately travels in a country she does not know, where nothing seems normal, another world filled with violence where death is ever-present. For a while, she is protected by Akim, a young deserter of a rebels' camp who follows her and watches her unnoticed from afar... "Allouache shows the hidden face, sensed but never seen, of this dirty war. With *The Other World*, he offers an intelligent, sensitive and gripping account of the new war in Algeria... This isn't fiction, but poetry. A percussive poetry." ~ George de Lassalle, Afrik.com

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.

TITLES FROM CONTINENTAL AFRICA



Rotating Square Egypt, 2002, 14min, surrealist comedy in Arabic with English subtitles, Ahmed Hassouna, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2002.**

Sami and his wife Sarah are packing to move to the USA, where they intend to open a restaurant. Rania, Sarah's sister, goes to their house to take them to the airport, but some unexpected and unforeseeable events take place in the apartment: games of seduction, and murder. A surrealist comedy by Ahmed Hassouna, who belongs to a new group of young promising Egyptian filmmakers.

DVD sale: \$245- DVD also includes Bonus film 100% Arabica. Rental: Please inquire.



Scheherazade, Tell Me a Story Egypt, 2009, 134 minutes, drama, Arabic with English subtitles, Yousry Nasrallah dir. **Winner Lina Mangiacapre Award, Venice Film Fest 2009**

A sharp observation of Egyptian society, **Scheherazade, Tell Me a Story** uses the classic Arabian Nights framework of a story within a story. Hebba Younis (Mona Zakki), is a contemporary, fiercely independent talk-show host. She is married to Karim Hassan (Hassan El Raddad), an opportunistic newspaper editor for a government-owned daily. Hebba is asked to forfeit the success of her career for the professional ambitions of her husband and in the eyes of government officials, he must persuade his wife to soften the critical tone she broadcasts across the nation. Afraid of how yet another divorce may affect her celebrity status with the public, Hebba finally complies, ultimately privileging the success of her marriage over her own personal and professional aims. In shifting away from hard politics to devote her program to social issues for which the government cannot be held responsible - the so-called "women's stories" - she discovers lives and struggles that may be even more damaging to reveal. **Scheherazade, Tell Me a Story** is a surprising, engrossing and thoughtful film about modern gender politics in Egypt.

DVD sale: \$295. Rental: Please inquire.



Sia, The Dream of The Python Burkina Faso/France, 2001, 96min, Epic Drama in Bambara with English subtitles, Dani Kouyaté, dir. **Winner "Special Prize of the Jury" FESPACO 2001, Official Selection Cannes 2001.**

Kombi is a poverty-stricken city dominated by a tyrant king. In order to bring back prosperity, the king is advised by his priests to make the traditional human sacrifice of a young virgin to a mystical snake god. Sia, the most beautiful young woman of the village, has been designated. Lieutenant Mamadi, her fiancé, rebels against the decision to perform this ritual, and the village becomes divided. Struggles and revelations follow as the characters confront issues of honor, corruption and power.

"A delightful, pointed fable of religious and political extremism that's extra-relevant at present" ~ Dennis Harvey - VARIETY

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-DVD set Great African Films, Vol. 2 also includes Tasma



Sotigui Kouyate, A Modern Griot Chad/France, 1998, 58min, documentary, French with English subtitles, Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2008.**

Through testimonies by Peter Brook, Jean-Claude Carriere, Jean-Pierre Guigane, and Sotigui Kouyate himself, **Sotigui Kouyate: a Modern Griot** presents a portrait of one of Africa's greatest actor (19 July 1936 – 17 April 2010). From Africa to Europe, the film unveils the multiple facets of Sotigui Kouyate, actor, musician and modern griot. Directed by award winning director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun (*Dry Season/Daratt*).

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



Stambali Tunisia, 1999, 52min, documentary in English and Arabic with English subtitles, Nawfel Saheb-Ettaba, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2001.**

Stambali is an annual tribute that the disciples of Sidi Saad pay to their master during an initiatory journey and rite of purification that lasts three days. This Tunisian religious ritual, brought into the country by Sub-Saharan Africans, is a healing ceremony led by musicians who are also healers as they enter into a trance to the mesmerizing rhythm of the "gombri" and "chkakkek" and incarnate a deity that takes possession of their body. In **Stambali**, the camera follows the rhythm of the possessions and dances of the healing ceremony as it develops into an individual and collective hypnosis and takes the audience into the trance of eroticism that is released by this physical and spiritual representation.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Tasuma, The Fighter Burkina Faso, 2003, 90min, comedy, French/Moore with English subtitles, Daniel Kollo Sanou, dir. **Winner Bronze Yennenga Stallion, FESPACO 2005.**

Sogo Sanou, a.k.a. Tasuma, is a former French soldier, a part of the African troops better known as "tirailleurs senegalais" who fought in the French wars in Europe and its colonial territories. He was a soldier in the wars of Indochina and Algeria. Although an honored veteran, Tasuma spends decades painfully waiting for his small pension, an amount that in his native Burkina Faso represents a fortune, even though it will equal only a small fraction of the amount paid to his French counterparts. **Tasuma the Fighter**, is a portrait of a bureaucratic adventure that, even 60 years after World War II and 44 years after the independence movement in Africa, is not yet resolved. As Kollo Daniel Sanou, the director of *Tasuma*, points out: "*The story of Tasuma is also the narration of a historic mismatch, that of the particular status of those former combatants of the African troupes in the French Army.*"

DVD sale: \$295 part of Great African Films Vol. 2 2-DVD set with Sia, The Dream of the Python. Rental: Please inquire.



Thomas Sankara Democratic Republic of Congo, 1991, 26min, documentary, French with English subtitles, Balufu Bakupa Kanyinda, dir. **Official Selection, FESPACO 1993.**

Captain Thomas Sankara was the leader of the Burkinabe Revolution in the former Upper Volta, known today as Burkina Faso. He led a group of men that decided to launch a revolution that would enable the country "to accept the responsibility of its reality and its destiny with human dignity." Thomas Sankara belonged to the group of African leaders who wanted to give the continent in general and their countries in particular a new socio-political dimension.

DVD sale: \$145. Rental: Please inquire.



AN UNCOMMON WOMAN UNE FEMME PAS COMME LES AUTRES Burkina Faso, 2009, 101 minutes, comedy, French with English subtitles, Dao Abdoulaye, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora International Film Festival 2010.**

Mina is tired of her husband's infidelity and decides to take a drastic decision: She takes a second husband. Based on his conversations with women involved in polygamist relationships, he illustrates - to very funny effects - the daily life of two persons - in this case two men - who share a spouse. On a comedic tone, Abdoulaye Dao tells us a story of jealousy, infidelity, romance and revenge.

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.

COLLABORATION AFRICA AND THE WEST



Ashakara

Burkina Faso/Togo/ Switzerland/ France, 1991, 90min, action film in French with English subtitles, Gerard Louvin, dir. **Official Selection, 1992 Cognac International Film Festival of Thrillers.**

Set in Togo, West Africa, **Ashakara** is a modern African tale. An African doctor finds a cure to a deadly virus and decides to mass produce the drug at low cost in Africa. However, a pharmaceutical multinational does not want the doctor to succeed and sends an agent to Africa first to buy the drug, then to destroy it. Mixing action, suspense, good humor, and a lucid depiction of the contemporary African continent, **Ashakara** entertains and educates all at once.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death

Belgium/UK/Congo. 2004. 84min, documentary, English, Peter Bate, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2004.**

This true, revealing story of what King Leopold II did in the Congo was forgotten for over 50 years. **Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death** describes how King Leopold II of Belgium turned Congo into his private colony between 1885 and 1908. Under his control, Congo became a gulag labor camp of shocking brutality. Leopold posed as the protector of Africans fleeing Arab slave-traders but, in reality, he carved out an empire based on terror to harvest rubber. Families were held as hostages, starving to death if the men failed to produce enough wild rubber. Children's hands were chopped off as punishment for late deliveries. The Belgian government has in his rapacious exploitation of the Congo. Yet, it is agreed today that the first Human Rights movement was spurred by what happened in the Congo. "Nick Fraser's commanding narration lends real punch to Bate's tough-minded text [in this] stunning indictment of Belgium's brutal colonization of the Congo in the late 19th century." ~ Robert Koehler, VARIETY

DVD sale: \$245-DVD also includes Bonus Documentary **Boma Tervuren: The Journey**. Rental: Please inquire.

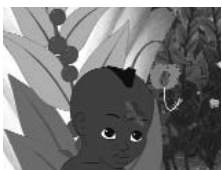


Glorious Exit

Nigeria, 75mins, documentary in English and German with English subtitles. Kevin Merz, dir. **Winner "Festival Real Life" Accra 2008.**

Jarret Merz, a Swiss-Nigerian actor living in Los Angeles is summoned to Nigeria to bury his father. Nigerian tradition mandates the eldest child to take charge of a father's burial. Although he accepts the responsibility he struggles with why he feels morally responsible towards a family whom he hardly knows, Nigerian tradition and a societal mores. Jarret starts a journey of self-discovery.

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



Kirikou and the Sorceress

France, 1998, 70 min, animated feature for children of all ages, French with English subtitles or dubbed in English, Michel Ocelot, dir. **Winner Grand Prize for best animated feature, International Festival of Animated Film in Annecy, France; First Prize from both children and adult juries, Chicago International Children's Film Festival.**

This animated film exquisitely recounts the tale of tiny Kirikou, born in an African village on which Karaba the Sorceress has placed a terrible curse. Kirikou sets out on a quest to free his village of the curse and find out the secret of why Karaba is so wicked. A blend of African folktales, **Kirikou** has both humor and flair. **Kirikou** depicts a precocious newborn infant who battles ignorance, and so-called evil, with endearing perseverance. This film speaks to the child within us all who yearns to express and defend the best in others and ourselves. **Kirikou's** stunning visuals are accented by a traditional music soundtrack by African music giant Youssou N'Dour of Senegal.

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



Masai: The Rain Warriors

France/Kenya, 2005, 94min, Epic Drama, Masai with English subtitles, Pascal Plisson, dir. **Official Selection, the African Diaspora Film Festival 2005.**

Faced with a drought that endangers the continuity of their people, Masai elders are convinced that they have been cursed by the Red God -- the God of Vengeance. Following the death of the war chief, a group of adolescents must now cross over to adulthood, forced to quickly form a new generation of inexperienced but brave warriors. The adolescents must bring back the mane of a legendary lion, which appears at every critical period of the Masai history to appease the wrath of the God and bring back the rains. The survival of their culture depends on this quest. **Masai the Rain Warriors** is the debut fictional film of Pascal Plisson, a devoted nature documentarian. It is the first film to be solely populated by real-life Masai and spoken entirely in their native tongue.

"A story of initiation, friendship, teamwork and sacrifice set on the vast ochre savannah of Kenya, **Masai: The Rain Warriors** builds slowly to a powerful and touching finale." - Lisa Nesselson, VARIETY

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Nelio's Story Comedia Infantil

Sweden/Mozambique, 1997, 92min, drama, Portuguese with English subtitles, Solveig Nordlund, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2001**

Shot in Mozambique, but set in an unnamed city, the film depicts the life of an orphan boy, Nelio, whose parents were killed by guerrillas. He escapes to the city and finds magic there and is soon rumored to possess healing powers, in this violent, yet mythic coming-of-age story. Based on a novel by the popular Swedish writer Henning Mankell.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Return to Gorée

Switzerland/Luxembourg/Senegal, 2006, 90min, musical documentary, English and French with English subtitles, Pierre-Yves Borgeaud, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2007.**

A musical road movie, **Return to Gorée** follows Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour's epic journey tracing the trail left by slaves and the jazz music they invented. Youssou N'Dour's challenge is to bring back to Africa a jazz repertoire of his own songs to perform a concert in Gorée, the island that today symbolizes the slave trade and stands to commemorate its victims. From Atlanta to New Orleans, from New York to Bordeaux and Luxembourg, the songs are transformed, immersed in jazz and gospel. Transcending cultural divisions and rehearsing with some of the world's most exceptional musicians, Youssou N'Dour is preparing to return to Africa for the final concert.

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.

BLACK EUROPE



100% ARABICA

France, 1997, 85min, comedy in French with English subt., Mahmoud Zemmouri, dir.
Official Selection, Venice Film Festival, 1997.

In a housing project located on the outskirts of Paris renamed "100% Arabica" by its inhabitants, African immigrants live side by side. The residents are united by their struggle for recognition in a society where immigrants are often regarded as second-class citizens. In a world of exiles, poverty is the common denominator. Against this backdrop, director Zemmouri has brought together two of the biggest and most charismatic stars of the cross-cultural musical form known as Rai, Cheb Mami and Khaled, who play the leaders of a band called Rap Oriental. As the band of musicians starts to gain in popularity, the Imam of the local mosque (Mouss) tries to destroy them by stirring up racial and cultural tensions. However, no one can stop the infectious popularity of the songs in this story of music triumphing over bigotry and violence.

DVD sale: \$245- DVD also includes Rotating Square. Rental: Please inquire.



Black Dju

Cape Verde/Luxembourg, 1995, 80min, drama in Portuguese/French with English subtitles, Pol Cruchten, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1997.**

The Cape Verdian singer Cesaria Evora is the mother of Dju, a young man who leaves his country, Cape Verde, in search of his father, a migrant African worker in Luxembourg. Dju encounters an alcoholic cop (veteran actor Philippe Leotard), who becomes his partner in this tale of love and friendship. Original score by the internationally acclaimed superstar Manu Dibango.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Boma-Tervuren, The Journey

Belgium, 1999, 54min, documentary in French with English subtitles, Francis Dujardin, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2000.

This is the extraordinary and tragic saga of 267 Congolese men and women brought to Brussels for the 1897 World's Fair. After a four month journey toward Belgium, they were exhibited before a million visitors. Subjected to the crushing gaze of the "Whites" and the cold climate, many fell prey to disease and some even lost their lives. The dead were hastily dispatched in a common grave, sparking a fierce debate in Belgian society. The project was overblown but necessary in the eyes of the first colonizers, who presumed to have tamed the far-flung savages. One hundred years later, Congolese compatriots return to the scene of these events and question the "Whites" of today on the incredible story of that "human zoo." They carry out the ritual of "a return to the earth" by way of reparation for so great a hurt... A film that revisits a century of stereotyped conceptions about Africans. And running through it, the almost aching question: "How is today different?"

DVD sale: \$245-DVD also includes Congo: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death. Rental: Please inquire.



Burning An Illusion

UK, 1981, 107min, drama in English, Menelik Shabazz, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1988.

The illusions being burnt are those of Pat Williams (Cassie McFarlane), an attractive 22-year old Black girl with a steady clerical job, her own little flat in West London, and the aim of settling down to a comfortable lower-middle class married life with Mr. Right. She is shaken out of this by Del, a feckless, disgruntled macho type (played with sullen charm by one of this country's best Black actors, Victor Romero), who moves in with her uninvited. He expects sex and food on demand and comes to regard the right side of the bed as his private preserve. The film explores first the growing tensions of the affair and then the girl's gradual realization that her aspirations are simply those that a white world has imposed upon her. Drawn into the world of 'Africa' (and the realization of her own cultural background) and also one in which women are not mere chattels, looking for more chattels, she begins to see society more sharply.

"Burning an Illusion powerfully evokes young Black lifestyles in the London eighties. It wants to show what it's like to live in Britain now."
~ CITY LIMITS

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



The Glass Ceiling

France, 2004, 90min, Documentary, French with English subtitles, Yamina Benguigui, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2005.

Europe's racial make-up is quickly changing. French-Algerian filmmaker Yamina Benguigui is hoping to start a conversation about affirmative action - a policy that does not exist in France today. Benguigui's *Le Plafond de Verre (Glass Ceiling)* presents a series of sometimes very emotional poignant and revealing first-hand accounts of discrimination faced by full-fledged French citizens who are also children of African immigrant parents.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Names Live Nowhere

Belgium, 1994, 76 min, docu-drama in French with English subtitles, Dominique Loreau, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1996.

In this film, whose title is a Senegalese proverb, a griot (story teller) traveling from Dakar to Brussels weaves a tale about African expatriates and offers a candid look at the life of African immigrants in Belgium. With Sotigui Kouyate - a real life griot - as the story teller..

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Night of Destiny *France, 1997, 96min, thriller in French with English subtitles, Abdelkrim Bahloul, dir. Best Director, Best Film, All Africa Film Awards, 1998.*

Abdelkader Sillmani, a sixty-five-year-old Algerian Muslim living in France, inadvertently witnesses a murder and escapes from the killers by hiding out in a mosque. The masked murderers dressed in black leather with their firearms in hand do not hesitate to enter the mosque full of praying men to look for the eyewitness. They leave empty handed but determined not to give up their search. Detective Leclerc is assigned to the case. As he searches for the eyewitness, who stays mute with fear, the detective slowly discovers the Northern Paris Muslim community and its traditions. For the first time, the French detective is exposed to the contradictions and challenges minority communities face as they struggle to live in a new culture with a different set of values and religious beliefs.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Otomo *Germany, 1999, 84min, drama in German with English subtitles, Frieder Schlaich, Dir. Best Actress, Valenciennes Film Festival 2000. Diversity Award, Vancouver Film Festival 2000.*

A powerful film portraying institutionalized racism and police brutality, **Otomo** provides a convincing look at the everyday world of refugees, who are continuously surrounded by tension and insecurity. In the summer of 1989, a Stuttgart newspaper reported the true story of a West African asylum seeker who physically assaulted an intolerant subway ticket-taker, fled, and became the target of a city-wide manhunt. *Otomo* is a sober, fictionalized reconstruction of a tale that shocked Stuttgart and a gripping portrait of how institutionalized racism drives a disempowered individual to violence and inhumanity.

"*Otomo* is a bleak and powerful work, one we probably need more than ever these days." ~Elvis Mitchell, THE NEW YORK TIMES

DVD sale: \$245 - DVD also includes Bonus film *Waaloo Fendo*. Rental: Please inquire.



Papa's Song *Netherlands/Curaçao, 1999, 95min, romantic thriller in Dutch and Papaminto with English subtitles, Sander Francken, dir. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1999.*

Papa's Song is a drama of domestic tension and cross-cultural misunderstanding. Nico Verema (Rene van Asten), a decorous, somewhat gloomy Dutch magistrate, lives happily with his wife, Shirley (Roman Vrede), who is from Curaçao. Shirley's two young nephews, who are in the Netherlands to escape a bad situation at home, complete the household. This atmosphere of calm bourgeois propriety is soon upended by the arrival of the boys' mother, Magda (Lisette Merenciana). Shirley and Magda's relationship is very stormy: they careen from screaming recrimination to tearful tenderness. Nico tries to mediate and soothe, but when Shirley, who cannot bear children, demands that he impregnate her sister, the good judge finds himself entangled in an intergenerational, trans-Atlantic web of family dysfunction.

Papa's Song touches on a number of fascinating and difficult themes, including the state of race relations in contemporary Netherlands." ~ A. O. Scott, NY TIMES.

DVD sale: \$295 part of *Colors of Curacao* 2-DVD set with *Ava & Gabriel*. Rental: Please inquire.



Playing Away *Trinidad & Tobago /UK, 1986, 100min, comedy in English, Horace Ove, dir. Official Selection, London Film Festival 1986.*

To mark the conclusion of their "Third World Week" celebration, a cricket team in a small English village invites a West Indian cricket team from South London to a charity game. "Not surprisingly, there's wariness on both sides. But Willie Boy (Norman Beaton), the proud, wryly philosophical captain of the Conquistadors, is intent on accepting the invitation. Meanwhile, the captain of the Sneddington Cricket Club, the innocent but overweeningly self-satisfied Derek (Nicholas Farrell), is confident of a handy Sunday afternoon victory. Obviously, the possibilities, both comic and serious, in this cultural exchange are endless, and the filmmakers seem not to have missed any of them. But, for all the film's abundant humor, Ove, said to be Britain's first black film maker, and the Oxford-educated Phillips, never let us forget that racial tensions lurk beneath the occasion's surge of good will. In the end, *Playing Away's* pleasures are subtle and genuine." ~ *Los Angeles Times*

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Time & Judgement a Diary of a 400 Year Exile *UK/Barbados, 1988, 84min, documentary in English, Menelik Shabazz, dir. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1998.*

Time and Judgement is an overview of the African Liberation Movement that spans a period of 400 hundred years. The film narrates the tribulations and successes of people of African descent in and out of Africa with a special focus on the struggles of the last century. Through extensive footage of the movement in the Caribbean, Africa, America and Europe, the viewer is exposed to the critical political analysis of leaders such as: Maurice Bishop of Grenada, Walter Rodney of Guyana, Jessie Jackson, Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael) and Louis Farrakhan of the USA, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, Bob Marley and Marcus Garvey of Jamaica, and more. Through the creative use of various art forms including theater, poetry, songs and art, *Time and Judgement* establishes a connection between a biblical prophecy with the times we are living in, leading toward the final confrontation between the heart and money - the heart symbolizing love and life, and money symbolizing greed and lust for power.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Waaloo Fendo Where The Earth Freezes *Algeria/Italy, 1997, 63min, drama in Wolof with English subtitles, Mohammed Soudani, dir. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2000.*

Milan, like Paris or Stuttgart and like many other European cities, is the theater of the drama of immigration. Demba reconstructs his story and that of his brother Yaro, both Senegalese immigrants in Italy, in a long and fragmentary flashback that begins with Yaro's murder and recounts their departure from the village, arrival in Europe, the work they find as street vendors and picking tomatoes in the South of Italy. *Waaloo Fendo* is a story of immigration like so many others of which most people are unaware. The film portrays the stages every "non-EU citizen" goes through in the new Europe and illustrates the dehumanization faced by so many immigrants all over

DVD sale: \$245- DVD also includes film *Otomo*. Rental: Please inquire.

BLACK USA & CANADA



Desirée

Netherlands/USA, 1984, 96min, drama in English, Felix de Rooy, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2001.

Set in Brooklyn, New York, this Dutch film is based on a true story that appeared in a New York newspaper in 1980. Desirée lives in the past. A series of flashbacks expose us to her psychologically troubled childhood very much affected by a promiscuous mother. Her present life revolves around three people: her employer Mrs. Resnick, her lover Freddy, and Father Siego, leader of the church, "The True Confessors." Desirée's relationship with each one of these characters is at the origin of her falling apart. Freddy is an insecure black man who finishes their love affair with a sad note, Father Siego is the leader of a rigid, narrow-minded religious sect, and Mrs. Resnick is a racist, prejudiced white woman who feels black people are inferior and incapable of living their own lives. Rejected by all because of her pregnancy, Desirée blames her child as the source of evil. She is then "possessed by" evil and wants to exorcise it--the only way is to get rid of her daughter...

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Family Motel

Canada, 2007, 88min, drama in English, Helene Klodawsky, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2008.

Living in Canada with two teenage daughters, Ayan, a Samilian refugee, has difficulty keeping things afloat as she provides for her daughters (food, shelter, expensive braces, etc.) and sends money back to Somalia to her husband and two sons left behind. After two months of late rent, Ayan and her daughters are evicted. Despite Ayan's two service jobs she still is unable to afford the soaring rents. Social service, having no space in local shelters sends Ayan and her daughters to the Family Hotel. Far from being a five- star hotel, Ayan makes the best of the situation and approaches it with great fortitude. A devout muslim, Ayan isn't unsure of her neighbors, insisting that the eldest daughter, Nasrah stay inside the room and watch her younger sister Leila. Instead of obeying her mother, Nasrah drifts off causing Ayan added stress. Through these challenges, Ayan shows great strength of character and resilience.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.

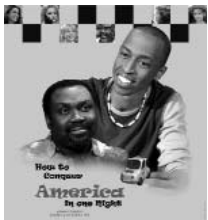


FLMKR

USA, 1999, 89min, satirical comedy in English, John Carstarphen, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1999.

A provocative digital feature that dares to probe the question: What the f*ck is going on in American filmmaking? *FLMKR*, a quirky, comic thriller, traces the odyssey of independent filmmaker Veronica Davidson, as professional setbacks are amplified by personal betrayals; then she realizes something more sinister has taken over the film industry in America. Independent African American filmmaker John Carstarphen explores in *FLMKR* the agonies of filmmaking, from personal compromises, to the concessions required of an entertainment-addicted society. All seen through the eyes of one paranoid filmmaker, living and working in the heart of the "conspiracy capital of the world," Dallas, Texas.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



How To Conquer America in One Night

Canada/Haiti, 2004, 96min, Romantic Comedy in French with English Subtitles, Dany Laferriere, dir.
Recipient of Zenith Prize (Best First Fiction Feature), Montreal World Film Festival 2004.

Newly arrived in Montréal, and determined to conquer North America by charming blond-haired women, Gégé, a Haitian in his thirties, lands up at Fanfan's - his nostalgic uncle who has given up poetry for a good old taxicab and dreams of returning to his homeland. Over the course of one night filled with humor and friendship -- highlighted by a party attended by twins Andrée and Denise, two Quebecers with contrasting charms -- the two fun-loving guys take stock of their lives, memories and fantasies. Meanwhile, on television, various celebrities draw up a comic portrait of North American society.

"A shrewd, funny, humane and very well-written and acted comedy from Haitian-born Montreal writer Dany Laferriere (author of *How To Make Love To a Negro Without Getting Tired* and *On the Verge of a Fever*), who makes a lively directorial debut with this comic-dramatic tale." ~ Michael Wilmington - CHICAGO TRIBUNE

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-DVD set Dany Laferriere: Films from a Poet's Imagination with On the Verge of a Fever. Rental: Please inquire.



Josephine Baker Black Diva in a White Man's World

English/French/German with English subtitles, 2006, 45min, documentary in English and French/German with English Subtitles, Annette von Wangenheim, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2007.

A tender, revealing documentary about one of the most famous and popular performing artists of the 20th century. Her legendary banana belt dance created theatre history; her song "J'ai deux amours" became a classic, and her hymn. The film focuses on her life and work from a perspective that analyses images of Black people in popular culture. It portrays the artist in the mirror of European colonial clichés and presents her as a resistance fighter, an ambulance driver during WWII, and an outspoken activist against racial discrimination involved in the worldwide Black Consciousness movement of the 20th century.

"*Josephine Baker: Black Diva in a White Man's World*, focuses on Josephine Baker's life and work from a black perspective. For black Americans, Baker became 'a role model' and their 'queen'. Baker herself "wasn't allowed to be the real American [she] wanted to be..." where in another article she says, "I had been suffocating in the United States... A lot of us left, not because we wanted to leave, but because we couldn't stand it anymore..." - Pat Reid

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



What's Your Verdict?

Canada, 1995, 92min, drama in English by Nigerian, Anthony Metchie, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1995.

A psychological drama about the outcome of choices we make in life. This film is a positive message to all those who have faced difficulties in life and to the people who are affected by their decisions to cope with it.

16mm rental: \$250

US LATINO FILMS



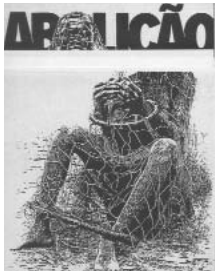
White Like The Moon

USA, 2001, 23min, fiction, English Marina Gonzalez Palmier, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2002.

A Mexican-American girl struggles to keep her identity when her mother forces her to bleach her skin. *White Like the Moon* is a revealing film about a dilemma not very well known outside Latino communities; that of the myth of the light skin superiority in Indigenous and Indigenous descendant communities.

DVD sale: \$145. Rental: Please inquire.

FILMS FROM LATIN AMERICA



Abolition

Brazil, 1988, 150mins, documentary in Portuguese with English subtitles, Sozimo Bulbul, dir.
Best historical research and best photography, 1988 21st Festival of the Brazilian Cinema of Brasilia, Brazil; Best Documentary, 1989 11th Festival of the New Latin American Cinema of Havana, Cuba; Best Documentary, 1990 New York Latin Film Festival.

Abolição is a startling look at the racial situation of Black Brazilians in contemporary Brazil. The director asks the following question to Black Brazilians from diverse walks of life — musicians, politicians, activists, people in government, ambassadors, social workers, sport stars, actors, street kids, farmers, etc... — “We are celebrating 100 years since the abolition of slavery in Brazil, what does the abolition of slavery mean to you?”... Divided in sections addressing political, economic, social and cultural issues, *Abolição* is an indispensable title to have in a library for the study of the African presence in Latin America and the New World.

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



Aleijadinho: Passion, Glory and Torment

Brazil, 2001, 100min, drama in Portuguese with English subtitles, Geraldo Santos Pereira, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2002.

Set in 18th century Brazil - at a time when slavery was still at the foundation of the Latin American economy - this fascinating historical drama is loosely based on the life of Black sculptor/architect Antonio Francisco Lisboa “Aleijadinho,” one of the greatest sculptors of Latin America.

“Aleijadinho’s early career gets the usual biopic treatment as he seeks his style, his place in the world. But film’s forward projection stops abruptly when he contracts a mysterious debilitating disease, possibly syphilis or leprosy, that eats away at his extremities (his sobriquet “O Aleijadinho” means the cripple). Film lovingly details Aleijadinho’s constant severe pain, his disfigurement and the excruciating difficulty of climbing scaffolding on dysfunctional feet and legs. Aleijadinho’s mental suffering caused by his beautiful wife’s infidelity and desertion, and his final bed-bound two years are also detailed.” ~ VARIETY

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-set DVD *Race and History in Brazil* with *Denying Brazil*. Rental: Please inquire.



Candombe, Black Culture in Uruguay

Uruguay, 1993, 16min, docu-drama in Spanish with English subtitles, Rafael Deugenio, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1996.

More than two hundred years ago, there was an influx into Uruguay of slaves from Africa who, after being freed, continued to make up the poorest and most marginalized stratum of society. Fernando Nuñez, a black man, a musician, and a maker of drums, sees himself as the heir to “Candombe,” an important social and cultural legacy from his slave forefathers. The official history and culture of Uruguay, on the other hand, which has never acknowledged this contribution to the degree it deserves, continues to marginalize expressions of black culture. Fernando Nuñez and his friends from the Barrio Sur backstreet quarter of Montevideo have decided to fight to keep these important cultural roots alive in the consciousness of the Uruguayan people.

DVD sale: \$245, also includes Bonus film *GoodBye Momo*. Rental: Please inquire.



Denying Brazil

Brazil, 2000, 92 min, documentary in Portuguese with English subtitles, Joel Zito Araujo, dir.
Best Documentary Feature Screenplay, 2001 National Documentaries Competition, Brazilian Ministry of Culture; Best film of the Brazilian Competition and Best Research - 6th International Documentary Film Festival - It's All True 2001. São Paulo/Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Gilberto Freire Film Award and Best Screenplay - 5th Recife Film Festival- 2001. Recife, Brazil.

A documentary film about the taboos, stereotypes, and struggles of Black actors in Brazilian television “soaps.” Based on his own memories and on a sturdy body of research evidence, the director analyzes race relations in Brazilian soap operas, calling attention to their likely influence on Black people’s identity-forming processes. “As a sociological dissection on how popular entertainment can shape racial prejudice and help to build racial justice, ‘Denying Brazil’ is a strong and significant work of intelligence.” ~ Phil Hall, FILMTHREAT

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-set DVD *Race and History in Brazil* with *Aleijadinho: Passion, Glory & Torment*. Rental: Please inquire.



The Exception and The Rule

Brazil, 1997, 38min, documentary in Portuguese with English subtitles, Joel Zito Araujo, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2000.

On March 13, 1992, Vicente Francisco do Espirito Santo, a Black Brazilian who worked in a government-owned electricity company, was fired from his job. It did not take long for him to realize that his dismissal was directly linked to his skin color. Encouraged by his union and a strong Black empowerment movement, he began a judicial process which he won, and as a result was reinstated in his former position. This informative documentary about an unknown victory illustrates how the courts of Brazil did recognize the company’s prejudice and racism in a country where such realities are usually dismissed as atypical.

DVD sale: \$145. Rental: Please inquire.

FILMS FROM LATIN AMERICA



Good-Bye Momo *Uruguay, 2005, 100min, drama, Spanish with English subtitles, Leonardo Ricagni, dir. Official selection, Tribeca and African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.*

Obdulio is an 11-year-old Afro-Uruguayan boy who lives with his grandmother and sells newspapers for a living while he cannot read or write. Obdulio is not interested in going to school until he finds out that the night watchman of the newspaper's office is a charismatic magical "Maestro" who not only introduces him to the world of literacy but also teaches him the real meaning of life through the lyrics of the "Murgas" (Carnival Pierrots) during the mythical nights of the irreverent and provocative Uruguayan carnival.

DVD sale: \$245-DVD also includes *Candombe*. Rental: Please inquire.



Hands of God *Peru, 2004, 54 min, documentary, Spanish with English subtitles, Delia Ackerman, dir. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.*

The stunning dexterity and mastery of famous Afro-Peruvian percussionist Julio "Chocolate" Algendones are on display in this affectionate documentary about the great master. Afro-Peruvian music is rooted in multiple rhythms coming from Africa. Mixing the traditional and the contemporary, from cajun to jazz, Chocolate composed and played many music styles, taught all over the world and contributed to the creative development of numerous artists, including the dance group Peru Negro.

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-DVD set *Afro-Latino Music with Sons of Benkos*. Rental: Please inquire.



Human Behavior *Brazil, 1995, 12min, drama, silent, Flavio Leandro, dir. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1996.*

In 1993, police officers opened fire on a group of sleeping street children camped on the steps of a cathedral in Rio de Janeiro's central financial district, killing six. This event, later called the Candelaria massacre, is vividly depicted in this short film about the plight of street children in Brazil.

DVD sale: \$145. Rental: Please inquire.



Maria Bethania: Music is *Brazil/Switzerland, 2005, 82min, Musical Doc., Portuguese with English subtitles, Georges Gachot, dir. Winner Best Music and Best Soundtrack, Festival Di Palazzo Venezia 2006, Winner Special Jury Prize, FAMA Film Festival 2006.*

In his captivating film, Georges Gachot invites us to enter the universe of Maria Bethania, the famous Brazilian singer. Narrated by Bethania herself, the film gives us an insight into the intimate sphere of Maria Bethania's creative process, and explores the history of Brazilian music as well. First a muse of the so-called counterculture, and then the queen of romantic ballads, Maria Bethania chronicles her musical life experience in relation to Brazilian society's development. In addition to this, filmmaker Gachot gathers together a fantastic ensemble of contributors including Gilberto Gil, Nana Caymmi, Miucha, Chico Buarque and Caetano Veloso, all of them witnesses and participants to some of the greatest music history of our time.

DVD sale: \$245. Rental: Please inquire.



El Mestizo *Venezuela, 1989, 82min, drama in Spanish with English subtitles, Mario Handler, dir. Best Cinematography, Caracas Film Festival 1989.*

The action takes place in a village on the Venezuelan coast, a place of fishermen and big haciendas. Jose Ramon, son of a white aristocrat and a humble Black fisher-woman, is trying to define his own identity while dealing with social and sexual conflicts, power, culture, the law, and the impossible relationship he has with both his parents. Based on the novel *El Mestizo Jose Vargas* by Guillermo Meneses about race relations in Venezuela.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Natal Da Portela *Brazil, 1988, 100min, drama in Portuguese with English subtitles, Paulo Cezar Saraceni, dir. Official Selection, World Film Festival, Montreal 1988.*

The name "Natal da Portela" is historically attached to the cultural identity of Brazil. Natal da Portela created the first escola de samba in Rio de Janeiro. The schools of samba are the soul of carnival in Brazil and major reservoirs of Afro-Brazilian culture. The film depicts the life of Natal da Portela as a young man from the favelas-the slums of the northern part of Rio de Janeiro--up to the creation of "la Portela," the school of samba he created.

The principal role played by Milton Gonçalves, one of the major Black actors in Brazil, gives the story an authentic flavor rarely seen in films portraying the contemporary life of Black people in Brazil. This is a film filled with joy, music and laughter. *Natal da Portela* is also a film that narrates the story of contemporary Brazil and the legacy of African people in that country. Several other major actors enrich the story: Zeze Mota well known for her role in *Quilombo* and the dean of Black Brazilian actors, the great Grande Otello much remembered for his major role in *Rio Zona Norte* and *Macunaima*, just to mention a few titles.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.

FILMS FROM LATIN AMERICA



Sons of Benkos

Colombia/France, 2003, 52min, documentary, Spanish with English subtitles, Lucas Silva, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.

An entertaining documentary that explores the African culture of Colombia through music. The film presents the music of the Sons of Benkos, one of the most important Black leaders in the fight for freedom during the times of slavery in Colombia. The film also shows the evolution of Afro-Colombian music over time through the fusion of Cuban and contemporary African rhythms with traditional Afro-Colombian music.

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-DVD set Afro-Latino Music with Hand of God. Rental: Please inquire.



Soul in the Eye

Brazil, 1974, 8min, drama, silent, Zozimo Bulbul, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1996.

This short film on the legacy of culture and survival bestowed by enslaved Africans brought to the Americas features the music of John Coltrane.

16mm rental: \$150



Susana Baca: Memoria Viva

Peru/Belgium, 2003, 54min, musical documentary in Spanish with English subtitles, Mark Dixon, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2003.

Susana Baca is not only a champion in the performance and preservation of Afro-Peruvian heritage, but also an elegant singer whose shimmering voice sings of love, loss and life. Susana and her husband Ricardo Pereira have founded the Instituto Negrocontinuo "Black Continuum" in Lima, a spirited facility for the exploration, expression, and creation of Black Peruvian culture. While Baca has dedicated herself to researching and performing virtually all forms of Afro-Peruvian folklore, it is the *lando* that has become her trademark. This slow to mid-tempo, highly evocative mix of Spanish, Indigenous and African rhythms has become what the *son* is to Cuba, or the *samba* to Brazil the *lando* is the sound of Black Peru.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.

BLACK AUSTRALIA



Gulpilil: One Red Blood

Australia, 2003, 56min, documentary, English, Darlene Johnson, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2003.

Legendary Aboriginal actor and Australian icon David Gulpilil's life has been one of dueling lifestyles, with his jet-setting movie star life on a completely different plane from his life as an Aboriginal village elder, and director Darlene Johnson manages to capture intimate details from both lifestyles in her 2003 biographical documentary *Gulpilil: One Red Blood*. At the age of 17, Gulpilil made history as the first Aboriginal actor to appear on film -- in Nicolas Roeg's 1971 *Walkabout* -- which, in turn, led to a historic acting career that culminated in his receiving numerous awards and an Order of Australia medal.

All the while, Gulpilil remained true to his culture by accepting his tribal responsibilities, which include living in a primitive house and procuring his household's daily food and water. As Johnson films a number of very candid encounters with the actor in both settings -- David lives in a tent shed and is quite open about the lack of facilities in his abode and the exploitation he's experienced during his career -- she documents the class differences that still exist between the indigenous population of Australia versus the relatively new white population.

DVD sale :\$295 also includes film *The Tracker*. Rental: Please inquire.



The Tracker

Australia, 2002, 98min, Epic drama in English, Rolf de Heer, dir.
WINNER, Adelaide Festival of Arts - David Gulpilil, Best Actor. WINNER, Australian Film Critics Circle - Best Film, Best Lead Actor, Best Music Score.

The year is 1922. The Tracker (David Gulpilil, *Walkabout*, *Rabbit-Proof Fence*) has the job of pursuing The Fugitive, an aborigine who is suspected of murdering a white woman, as he leads three mounted policemen: The Fanatic, The Follower and also The Veteran across the outback. The Tracker, a mysterious and enigmatic figure whose true character remains unknown, assists them in their quest. As they move deeper into the bush and further away from civilization, the toxic forces of paranoia and violence begin to escalate, stirring up questions of what is black and what is white and who is leading whom. Their journey becomes an acrimonious and murderous trek that shifts power from one man to another; challenged by the indigenous people they come across as well as each other.

"A stark moral fable told in the language of the sort of western Hollywood has stopped making, the Australian director Rolf de Heer's film *The Tracker*" is constructed around a suite of 10 interlocking story-songs that simmer with political outrage. Composed by Graham Tardif, with lyrics by Mr. de Heer, and performed by Archie Roach, a husky-voiced Aboriginal singer, together they suggest an extended folk ballad in the mode of Curtis Mayfield's "Superfly." The lyrics describe the oppression of Australian Aboriginals with the same mixture of sorrow and resistance that fueled the songs of Bob Marley." ~ THE NEW YORK TIMES

"[Gulpilil] is a commanding screen presence, and his character's abundant humanism makes him the film's moral compass."
~ PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

DVD sale :\$295 also includes Bonus film *Guipili: One Red Blood*. Rental: Please inquire.

FILMS FROM THE CARIBBEAN

When talking about Caribbean images and stories, several names come to mind: Raoul Peck, Nicolas Guillén, Felix de Rooy, Menelik Shabazz, Euzhan Palcy, Sergio Giral, Horace Ove, Edward Kamau Brathwaite, Aimee Cesaire, and many more names of people who have created a body of work that speaks loudly of the distinct identity of the Caribbean.

The different layers of African retention characterize the cultures of this part of the world as well as the creation of a *je ne sais quoi* that's definitely Caribbean.

Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao are known as the ABC islands. With a large population of African descent and a language of its own-Papiamentu-that is a melange of African languages, Spanish, English and Portuguese, the ABC islands are a reservoir of stories and images that has not yet been exposed to the world in its total splendor.

Far from presenting an exotic vision of the Caribbean, Felix de Rooy and Norman de Palm have developed a body of cinematic work that depicts a more realistically sophisticated representation. One might attribute their working style to the peculiar relationship that exists between these islands-the ABC islands are autonomous territories attached to the Dutch Kingdom-and the Netherlands, known in Europe and throughout the world as a very liberal country. It is not too daring to think that this liberal country has had an undeniable impact upon the work of these two "enfants terribles" of Dutch/Caribbean cinema.

The films created by de Rooy and de Palm never had found a distributor in the United States until now. ***Desirée, Almacita, Soul of Desolato, Ava & Gabriel and Papa's Song*** are very strong films that question religion, attack racism, and portray people of color in various, sometimes difficult situations. Through their work, they present a more realistic depiction of people.

ArtMattan Productions took up the challenge and decided to include in its catalog the work of these masters of Caribbean cinema. Their work is highly important in its blending of influences, presentation of themes, and depiction of the particularities of the Dutch Caribbean. Their work serves as a window open to some of the most vibrant members of the Caribbean family of islands.



Almacita, Soul of Desolato

Curaçao, 1986, 100min, drama in Papiamentu with English subtitles, Felix De Rooy, dir. Paul Robeson Prize for Best Diaspora Film, FESPACO 1991.

Based on old legends, the film depicts a fictional agricultural community in an isolated part of Curaçao at the turn of the century. The central theme of the film is the struggle between creative and destructive forces. In the village of Desolato, Solem, the priestess, protects the villagers from Alma Sola, the symbol of evil, the patriarch of the "shons," the white landowners. Alma Sola has the power to transform into male, female or animal and always strikes when the vigilance of Desolato weakens. Solem has sacrificed her fertility for the welfare of the community. Therefore, she is not allowed to have a relationship with a man. Her longing for physical love provides Alma Sola with an opportunity to lead her astray.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Ava and Gabriel

Holland/Curaçao, 1990, 100min, drama in Dutch and Papiamentu with English subtitles, Felix de Rooy, dir. Jury Prize, Festival International de Cine Latino Americano, Havana, Cuba, 1990. Dir. Official

The story takes place on the island of Curacao in the late forties. At the request of Father Fidelius, parish priest of St. Anna's, the Surinam painter Gabriel Goedbloed arrives from Holland to paint a mural of the Virgin Mary in the church. The drama unfolds from different angles. First, the clergy and locals are confused by the fact that the painter is black, originating from Surinam, but resettled in The Hague, where he received a Fine Arts education. The close-knit Antillean society did not welcome strangers who would not conform to their colonial way of life in those days. Contributing factors arise when he chooses a young teacher, Miss Ava Recordina, who is of mixed origin, to be his model for the painting of the Virgin Mary. Ava is engaged to the white police chief, Carlos Zarius, who is not too happy with his fiancée posing for the painter. The fact that the Dutch Governor's wife, Louise van Hansschot, is interested in Gabriel also fuels the tension. In the end, Gabriel Goedbloed falls victim to the controversies, hypocrisies and intrigues that have arisen around

DVD sale :\$295 in 2-DVD set *The Colours of Curacao*. also includes *Papa's Song*. Rental: Please inquire.



Catch A Fire

Jamaica/UK, 1995, 30min, docu-drama in English, Menelik Shabazz, dir. Prize for Best Diaspora Film, FESPACO 1991.

Catch a Fire tells the story of Deacon Paul Bogle, often described as a 19th century Malcolm X. Thirty years after the end of slavery in Jamaica, the Morant Bay Rebellion of 1865 provoked outrage in Victorian Britain, shaping race and land attitudes. The story is constructed using extensive interviews with Paul Bogle's grandson as well as archival material.

DVD sale: \$145. Rental: Please inquire.



Franz Fanon: His Life, His Struggle, His Work

Martinique/France/Algeria/Tunisia, 2001, 52min, Documentary, French with English Subtitles, Cheikh Djemai, dir. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.

Frantz Fanon was a psychiatrist, originally from Martinique, who had become a spokesman for the Algerian revolution against French colonialism. Embittered by his experience with racism in the French Army, he gravitated to radical politics, Sartrean existentialism and the philosophy of Black consciousness known as negritude. His 1952 book, "Black Skin, White Masks," offers a penetrating analysis of racism and of the ways in which it is internalized by its victims. While secretly aiding the rebels of the Algerian anti-colonial war as a doctor in Algeria, Fanon cared for victims and perpetrators alike, producing case notes that shed invaluable light on the psychic traumas of colonial war. Expelled from Algeria in 1956, Fanon moved to Tunis, where wrote for *El Moudjahid*, the rebel newspaper, founded Africa's first psychiatric clinic, and wrote several influential books on decolonization. ***Frantz Fanon: His Life, His Struggle, His Work*** traces the short and intense life of one of the great thinkers of the 20th century.

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-DVD set *African Leaders with Amilcar Cabral*. Rental: Please inquire.

FILMS FROM THE CARIBBEAN



Jacques Roumain: Passion for a Country

Haiti/Canada, 2008, 111min in Creole and French with English subtitles, Arnold Antonin, dir. **Paul Robeson Prize for Best Diaspora Film, FESPACO 2008.**

This exploration of Haitian society of the late 19th and early 20th centuries focuses on the tormented life of one of Haiti's most important authors and prominent political figures, Jacques Roumain. His perceptive writings illuminated issues still relevant today.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



The Journey of the Lion

Jamaica/Germany, 1992, 90min, docu-drama in English, Fritz Baumann, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1994.**

Brother Howie is a Jamaican Rastafari who dreams of the land of his ancestors: Africa. On a journey in search of his roots and his identity he travels through three continents and - with great humor and sensitivity - discovers the world...and Africa.

DVD sale :\$295 in 2-DVD set *Jamaican Music and Soul*. also includes *Made in Jamaica*. Rental: Please inquire.



The Last Rumba of Papa Montero

Martinique/Cuba, 1992, 52min, docu-drama in Spanish with English subtitles, Octavio Cortazar, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1998.**

A fascinating film on the rhythmic dance genre known as Rumba, *La Ultima Rumba de Papa Montero* dances around the life of Papa Montero, one of the famous rumberos of Cuba, assassinated during carnival. The film is a discovery of Cuban traditions and everyday life told through beautiful images, sensual music and dance. The use of Afro-Cuban mythology is the force behind the characters as orishas guide the characters' fate.

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-DVD set *Afro-Cuba: Yesterday and Today with Sara Gomez, An Afro-Cuban Filmmaker*. Rental: Please inquire.



Looking For Life

Haiti/Germany, 1999, 60 min, documentary in Creole and French with English subtitles, Claudette Coulanges, dir. **Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2000.**

Looking for Life introduces the viewer to two women, Anne-Rose and Rosemene, each of whom has her own particular way of battling through life. The former makes lunches in a factory yard in Port-au-Prince and sells her meals to the factory workers; the latter is employed in the same factory as a production worker making pullovers and T-shirts. Every day she buys her midday meal on credit from Anne-Rose. Through the connection between these two women, the film reveals part of their daily work and the constant battle for survival that they lead together with other women in Haiti. Going beyond this, however, the film demonstrates the extent to which the importation of North American goods has brought about the collapse of Haitian regional production and ruined Haiti's economy. The connection between the two topics of the film reveals the significant role that Haitian women of today play in an economy that has been bled dry.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Made In Jamaica

Jamaica/France/US, 2006, 110min, doc, English, Jerome Laperrousaz, dir. **Official selection, Toronto, Cannes and African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.**

Made in Jamaica is a thrilling musical documentary that presents an overview of the Jamaican music movements past and present. From the crime and violence of the ghetto to political responsibility; from the history of slavery and colonization, to the legacy of Bob Marley and the idea of salvation through music; from religion and the Rasta movement to sex, music, women and their role in Jamaican music, *Made in Jamaica* explores the multifaceted reality of Jamaican, including Reggae and Dance Hall music, through interviews with and musical performances by such artists as Grammy Award Winner Toots & the Maytals, Gregory Isaacs, Bunny Wailer (Bob Marley's brother), 2006 Grammy Award Nominees Third World, Shiah and Cat Coore, Beres Hammond, Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare, Alaine Laughthon, Tanya Stephens, Bounty Killer, Blessed, Elephant Man, Lady Saw, Joseph Current, Vybz Kartel, Brick and Lace, Bogle, Dr. Marshall, Capleton, Koolant, and Left Side & Esco.

Made in Jamaica is the powerful story of how a small island nation in the Caribbean of only three million people took their human experience and turned it into songs full of emotions that resonate around the world. Reggae is Jamaica's blues: a music of both desperation and hope.

DVD sale :\$295 in 2-DVD set *Jamaican Music and Soul*. also includes *The Journey of the Lion*. Rental: Please inquire.

FILMS FROM THE CARIBBEAN



Maluala

Cuba, 1979, 95min, historical drama in Spanish with English sub., Sergio Giral, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2005.

Maluala takes us into a palenque, a settlement of escaped slaves hidden somewhere in Cuba's eastern mountains, where discord is sown between black "kings" by clever subversives working for the Spanish government.

"Sergio Giral is the best known of the Black Cuban directors and his previous films were historical observations of the period of slavery in Cuba, the gradual rise of rebellion against colonial traditions, and the ultimate freedom that resulted. **Maluala** is the most striking addition to this genre. The action takes place during the last century in the region of Maluala. Gallo, the black chieftain, together with his cohort, Coba, present a petition for land and liberty to the colonial government. Governor Escudero offers liberty if the rebellious villages will be dismantled and their men offer themselves in surrender. He promises that they will be freed shortly thereafter. Three chieftains agree, but Gallo and Coba refuse.... Giral has mounted **Maluala** with colorful ritual and acting. Samuel Claxton, as Gallo, is highly stylized in the heroic tradition. It is an absorbing adventure film wrought from historical events which appear violent, but Giral constantly implants into every image the necessity for unity among people in order to combat man's seemingly casual desire to subjugate mankind, in the struggle for power and undefined ambition." ~ SAN FRANCISCO FILM FESTIVAL, 1980

"The historically lucid intrigues of *Maluala* (1979), where the Afrocentric leadership of fugitive palenque communities is pitted against each other COINTELPRO-style by Spanish colonists, is one of those Cuban films that were forged in a righteous, red-hot ferment but still found the courage and wit to ask questions about the society around them."

~ Gary Dauphin, THE VILLAGE VOICE

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



On The Verge of A Fever

Haiti/Quebec-Canada, 2004, 88 min., drama, French with English sub., John L'Ecuyer, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2005.

Against the backdrop of poverty, fear and the brutal dictatorship of Haiti in 1971, **On the Verge of a Fever (Le goût des jeunes filles)** is about Fanfan, a 15-year-old boy who just wants to experience life for himself with his streetwise friend Gégé. Having lived a somewhat sheltered life with his protective mother, Fanfan experiences a bizarrely terrifying incident involving a Tonton-Macoute. As a result, he decides to hide out at his beautiful neighbor's house for the weekend. There, he is trapped between his fear of being caught and the fulfilling of his deepest fantasy. Based on the Book *Le Gout des Jeunes Filles* by famous Haitian novelist Dany Laferriere.

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-DVD set *Dany Laferriere: Films from a Poet's Imagination with How to Conquer America in One Night*. Rental: Please inquire.



Placido, The Blood of The Poet

Cuba, 1986, 96min, drama in Spanish with English subtitles, Sergio Giral, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 1995.

Placido portrays the dramatic story of Gabriel de la Concepcion Valdes (Placido), a Cuban poet who was the son of a Black woman and a white man and was accused of leading a conspiracy against the Spanish colonial government. Preoccupied by the development of Afro-Hispanic artists and craftsmen of the mid-XIX century, Placido was executed after living a short and controversial life as a man torn between two races and crushed by a cruel reality that denied him his dreams of freedom.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



The President Has AIDS?

Haiti, 2007, 110min, Comedy-Drama, in Creole/French with English subtitles, Arnold Antonin, dir.
Winner Paul Robeson Award - FESPACO 2007.

Jimmy Jean-Louis—featured among the cast of the television phenomenon *Heroes*—stars as President, a musician extraordinaire in denial, in this Haitian comedy-drama about the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

DVD sale: \$195. Rental: Please inquire.



Sara Gomez, An Afro-Cuban Filmmaker

Cuba/Switzerland, 2005, 76min, Documentary, Spanish with English subtitles, Alessandra Muller, dir.
Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2006.

Sara Gomez, An Afro-Cuban Filmmaker (¿Dónde está Sara Gomez?) is a rich, multilayered documentary about the first Afro-Cuban director, Sara Gomez. Born in 1943, she studied literature, piano, and Afro-Cuban ethnography before becoming the first female Cuban filmmaker. A woman of great intelligence, independence and generosity, she was a revolutionary filmmaker with intersecting concerns about the Afro-Cuban community and the value of its cultural traditions, women's issues, and the treatment of the marginalized sectors of society. Through archival footage of her works and interviews with her children and husband Germinal Hernandez, cast members of her best-known film *De cierta manera/ One Way or the Other*, as well as colleagues and friends, we get closer to a filmmaker who invented new landscapes and brought together opposite worlds.

DVD sale: \$295 in 2-DVD set *Afro-Cuba: Yesterday and Today with The Last Rumba of Papa Montero*. Rental: Please inquire.

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