

Screening Schedule: UWI

Friday, March 18, 2016

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Obama Mama

Vivian Norris (82m, USA)

Stanley Ann Dunham was more than the mother of the first black President of the United States of America. As an anthropologist with a PhD and as a lifelong globetrotter, her intelligence, progressive politics, and activism made for a profound life - one whose inspiration continues to resonate through her son, President Barack Obama. Through interviews with high school friends and colleagues, film clips, and archival footage, the documentary explores Dunham's travels from small-town Kansas to Seattle, Hawaii, and Indonesia as well as her work in the Civil Rights and Feminist Movements. The film explores her dedication to raising awareness of global poverty and her development of microcredit programs to address poverty in rural villages. Dunham is indirectly responsible for some of the greatest contributions to American and global history, especially Obama's revolutionary health care bill. The "largeness of her heart," as her son describes it, is the centerpiece of this inspiring documentary.

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

The Conversation Doc Series

- ❖ **A Conversation With My Black Son**
- ❖ **A Conversation About Growing Up Black**
- ❖ **A Conversation With White People on Race**
- ❖ **A Conversation With Police on Race**
- ❖ **A Conversation With Black Women on Race**
- ❖ **A Conversation with Latinos on Race: What does Latino Identity Mean?**
- ❖ **A Conversation with Latinos on Race: Bettering the Race**

Blair Foster, Michele Stephenson, Geeta Gandhir, Perri Peltz, Joe Brewster (38m, USA)

"The Conversation Doc Series" are short Op-Doc video series on race in America. Broadly speaking, each video feature frank and open revelations on the incendiary topic. These short Op-Docs are the New York Times editorial department's award-winning section for short, opinionated documentaries (op-docs), covering current affairs, contemporary life and historical subjects produced by both renowned and emerging filmmakers.

The March and Freedom 1963

Davon Johnson (10m, USA)

Nonviolent civil disobedience based on Christian beliefs started long before the peaceful protest, March for Freedom on Washington, D.C. A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and A.J. Muste formed the idea of a peaceful movement including a march on Washington in the early 1940's. They successfully pressured sequential Presidents to issue executive orders that advanced the civil right cause greatly and forestalled the March. Their call to action passed to a next generation. In the 60's, ordinary brave Americans followed the very strong leadership of MLK Jr. and others to make the March for Freedom a reality. This movement changed the nation forever; yet work remains as the torch of freedom and equality passes to our newest generation—our children.

The Rock that Sambas (*Pedra Que Samba*)

Camila Agustini (11m, Brazil)

A trip around the African Heritage Circuit in the old port of Rio de Janeiro reveals a samba circle called *Pedra do Sal*. The voice of a slave evokes the past. Constructions turn to dust. People remain. So does samba.

Alive & Kicking

Lara-Ann de Wet (20m, South Africa)

Filmed in Limpopo, South Africa the film takes us on an emotional journey as neglected grandmothers take on the sport of soccer. These village grannies, "*Vhakegula Vhakegula*", lace up their soccer boots and start kicking their way through centuries of subjugating taboos. Through their camaraderie on the field, the grandmothers erupt into laughter and song, helping to fuel their singular struggle towards decent lives, health and a true taste of joy in an otherwise harsh and desolate world.

Kissed by the Sun: A Study of Nile Valley Cultural Continuity

Steffan Spencer (15m, Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan)

The documentary celebrates the cultural continuity and the historical importance of the nations of the Nile Valley known today as Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan - once known to the world as Khemet, Axum/Punt and Nubia. Till this day, these lands feature monuments and traditions viscerally known by the world, which still retain their power to invoke wonder. From the days of antiquity, to classical civilizations, 'Kissed By The Sun' studies how the people have creatively endeavored to understand themselves, and the world, while honoring the vibrant traditions & cultural achievements that bind the great Nile Valley Civilizations.

Ror

Natalie Cunningham (14m, South Sudan, Australia)

A short documentary about the story of a young poet following his hip-hop dream. Ror Akot, a sixteen year old former South Sudanese refugee is making his mark on the Australian hip-hop scene. In this short documentary, Ror discusses his love of music and his determination to succeed. An inspiring portrait of a young rapper trying to find his way.

Nascent

Jonathan Kasbe, Lindsay Branham (6m, Central African Republic, USA)

A short documentary about two children on the opposing sides of Central African Republic's sectarian civil war. Bintou, a Muslim girl, and Gaus, a Christian boy, are on opposing sides of the sectarian civil war in Central African Republic. With escalating personal, tit-for-tat revenge violence, both Bintou and Gaus must discover who they are. The film is about how social identities are constructed and deconstructed through the circle of interactions with others and the self and how social identity influences why war is waged. Nascent explores the dichotomies of otherness and distills the conversation through the clarifying stories of two children and their individual yet unifying desire to move forward.

Ferguson Documented: In 36 Hours

Carla Usher (15m, USA)

On August 5, 2014, Michael Brown an 18 year-old black teenager was killed by a white police officer in the town of Ferguson, Missouri. What appeared to be yet another police involved shooting of an unarmed black man proved to be something more. The outrage over the killing of Michael Brown served to mobilize not only residents of Ferguson's black community, but the incident sparked massive protests and public demonstrations in both large and small communities across the country. The events of Ferguson forced white, middle class America to confront issue of racism and policing in communities of color. The documentary explores these issues through a diverse collection of voices sharing their experiences

8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

China Remix

Melissa Lefkowitz, Dorian Carli-Jones (29m, China, USA)

The city of Guangzhou is home to China's largest community of African immigrants. This short documentary explores the city's burgeoning African entertainment industry through the lives of three African hip-hop artists who are trying to find success in the face of China's challenging labor and immigration laws. The film follows the entertainers as they prepare for their shows, perform, and live their daily lives with their Chinese and African family members and friends despite facing prejudice and the risk of deportation.

Roaring Abyss

Quino Piñero (87m, Ethiopia)

If you go out around music bars and venues in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia you will enjoy a very characteristic scene, but if you want to get an idea of the different sounds from the country, you will get a very narrow view of it. There are more than eighty different nationalities and cultures spread all along the mountains, deserts and forests of Ethiopia. Nowadays many of the traditional instruments in Ethiopia have been replaced for electronic keyboards, and many local traditional bands have been reduced to a front(wo)man singing along to a keyboard which plays beats and melodies all in one. But there are still some musicians spread along the country playing the music they learned from their fathers and mothers; instruments like the *Krar*, *Washent*, *Masinko* or *Kabero*, are nowadays roaring and bouncing against the hills of this land of contrasts and diversity. In order to unveil the music universe and keep a record of this endangered music tradition, SolySombra Recordings, together with Sheba Sound teams, spent two years performing field recordings around every corner of Ethiopia, documented in this audiovisual poem. This film is an immersion into the deepest sounds of contemporary Ethiopia.