



THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

A Cultural Journey to Freedom through the Lens of Black Cinema



The Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center's **African American Film Festival** showcases films by filmmakers that explore the rich African American Culture. Now in its third year, the festival brings and addition - a community participation initiative, "**The Underground Railroad Film Series**" We use the metaphor of the Underground Railroad to define the moveable feast of provocative films shown in a "safe house" - an intimate place where dialogue can flourish and provide an opportunity for community engagement and self reflection. Each "safe house" will host a screening of films by or about African Americans that allow an opportunity for different communities to engage in the commonalties and unique differences that make up the rich tapestry of American culture.

October Safe House Screening

The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords

An engaging account of the history of the black press featuring interviews with the remaining living publishers, writers and editors of America's black newspapers. The film reveals a collective history of Black America not found in textbooks, publications or mainstream historical accounts. This award winning film was directed by Stanley Nelson who decided on the project while using the papers to research historical information on other documentaries he was producing. Paired with an engaging discussion featuring panelists from Colors NW Magazine, the Seattle Medium and other leaders in black and ethnic print media. Co-Sponsored by Colors Northwest and Reclaim the Media

Wednesday, October 19

7:00 PM

Location: Central Cinema

Admission: \$5.00



November Safe House Screening

Rare Documentary Yuri Kochiyama: Passion for Justice

Etched in the pages of black history is a photo of Yuri Kochiyama, the petite Asian woman wearing cat's-eye glasses, holding Malcolm X, after his assassination at the Audubon Ballroom.

While others ran for cover, Kochiyama ran to the stage where Malcolm X had fallen and was by his side as he



died. Kochiyama, then known as Mary, became involved in the civil rights movement after being imprisoned in Arkansas with other Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. She moved to New York City after marrying and became a member of Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU). Co-Sponsored by the Japanese American Citizen's League.

www.jaclseattle.org

Wednesday, November 9th

7:00 PM

Location: Theater off Jackson (tentative)

Admission: Free (Donation accepted)

December Safe House Screening

When Spirits Dance the Mambo

Tracing the role of sacred African thought and practices in the formation of Cuban society, culture and music, the 90-minute documentary is a tribute to the spiritual energy that traveled from West Africa to Cuba and New York. This lively and engaging and deeply reverent film makes its delightful return to Seattle in December. Co-produced and directed by Robert "Bobby" Shepard and Marta Moreno Vega, "When the Spirits Dance Mambo" was shot in Cuba and New York over a three month period. The film is a vivid study of ancestor worship, also known as Santeria. Co-sponsored by the U.S. Women and Cuba Collaboration.

www.womenandcuba.org

Thursday, December 8

7:00 PM

Location: TBD

Admission: Free



For more information, updates, advance event notice and other goodies, check out our website:

www.langstonblackfilmfest.org

