

# SankofaSpirit

Looking Back to Move Forward

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## Movies with a Mission 2010 Season

Alexandria Black History Museum  
902 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA  
Gallery Walk, Screening and Dialogue  
*Schedule Subject to Change*

**Saturday, January 9, 2010, 4:30-6:30pm**

**"Banished"** *An investigation into ethnic cleansing in post-reconstruction America*



How did three U.S. towns make African Americans disappear? Marco Williams, award-winning filmmaker of *Two Towns of Jasper*, visits some of the whitest counties in the country to confront the legacy of "banishment" - a wave of racial purging that tore through the South 100 years ago. Williams sits down with KKK leaders, white residents of these all white communities, as well as descendants of the banished alike, opening the wounds of history. Will he help these communities heal? Is reconciliation possible? Or reparations or both?

**Saturday, February 13, 4:30-6:30pm**

**"The Language You Cry In"**

The Language You Cry In tells an amazing scholarly detective story that searches for -and finds- meaningful links between African Americans and their ancestral past. It bridges hundreds of years and thousands of miles from the Gullah people of present-day Georgia back to 18th century Sierra Leone. It recounts the even more remarkable saga of how African Americans have retained links with their African past through the horrors of the middle passage, slavery and segregation. "This is a story of memory, how the memory of a family was pieced together through a song with legendary powers to connect those who sang it with their roots."



**Saturday, March 13, 4:30-6:30pm**

**"From Florida to Coahuila"**

In Spanish with English subtitles



This second film by Rafael Rebollar Corona is a part of a series of films by Rafael Rebollar Corona on the African Legacy in Mexico. It focuses on those Africans who escaped from slavery in the United States, made their way to Florida, where they inter-married with the Seminoles (creating the group known as the Black Seminoles), fought to preserve their freedom, eventually made their way into Mexico, and gradually integrated into that culture. A fascinating exploration of a cultural identity that transcends the constraints of political borders.

**Saturday, April 10, 4:30-6:30pm**

**"Quilombo Country"**

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

Contrary to popular myth, Brazil was a brutal and deadly place for slaves. But they didn't submit willingly. Thousands escaped, while others led political and militant movements that forced white farmers to leave. Many of the resulting communities founded by free blacks, known as quilombolas, survive today. "Quilombo Country" provides a glimpse into these communities, with



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extensive footage of ceremonies, dances and lifestyles, interwoven with discussions about their history and the issues most important to them currently.

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

**Saturday, May 8, 4:30-6:30pm**  
**"Rain in a Dry Land"**



How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today's "global village"? **Rain in a Dry Land** provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families, transported by relief agencies from years of civil war and refugee life to Springfield, Massachusetts and Atlanta, Georgia. As the newcomers confront racism, poverty and 21st-century culture shock, the film captures their efforts to survive in America and create a safe haven for their war-torn families. Their poetry, humor and amazing

resilience show us our own world through new eyes.

**Saturday, June 12, 4:30-6:30pm**  
**"New Muslim Cool"**

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

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

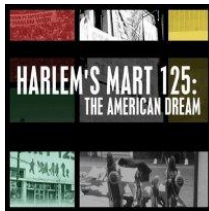


Raising his two kids as a single dad and longing for companionship, Hamza finds love on a Muslim networking website and seizes the chance for happiness in a second marriage.

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

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

**Saturday, July 10, 4:30-6:30pm**  
**"Harlem's Mart 125: The American Dream"**



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

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

**Saturday, August 14, 4:30-6:30pm**

***“Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans”***

**Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans** was largely shot before the Katrina tragedy but edited afterward, giving the film both a celebratory and elegiac tone. It is a film of such effortless intimacy, subtle glances and authentic details that only two native New Orleanians could have made it. Our guide through the neighborhood is New Orleans Time-Picayune reporter Lolis Eric Elie, who decided that rather than abandon his heritage he would invest in it by rehabilitating an old house in the Tremé district. His 75 year old contractor, Irving Trevigne, whose family has been in the construction business there for over 200 years, becomes a symbol of the neighborhood’s continuity and resourcefulness; Irving Trevigne represents a man who, unlike many Americans, is deeply rooted in his community and its traditions.



Louisiana Poet Laureate Brenda Marie Osbey and noted historians John Hope Franklin and Eric Foner explain what made Tremé different, such a fertile ground for African American life. New Orleans was a French and Spanish city before it was incorporated into the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Latin and urban attitudes towards slavery tended to be more relaxed than in the plantation South; slaves were allowed to walk freely through the city, to work for themselves and hence often to buy their freedom. New Orleans had the largest number of free people of color in the South, a dangerous anomaly in a slave society.

**Saturday, September 11, 4:30-6:30pm**

***“Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai”***



**Taking Root** tells the dramatic story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights, and defend democracy- a movement for which this charismatic woman became an iconic inspiration.

**Saturday, October 9, 4:30-6:30pm**

***“From Barbados to Carolina”***

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



**Saturday, November 13, 4:30-6:30pm**

***“The Principal Story”***



**The Principal Story** tells two stories, painting a dramatic portrait of the challenges facing America’s public schools — and of the great difference a dedicated principal can make. Tresa Dunbar is a second-year principal at Chicago’s Nash Elementary, where 98% of students come from low-income families; in Springfield, Illinois, Kerry Purcell has led Harvard Park Elementary, with similar demographics, for six years. Tod Lending and David Mrazek followed both women over the course of a school year, discovering each one’s unique styles yet similar passions. **The Principal Story** takes the viewer along for an emotional ride that reveals what effective educational leadership looks like in the 21st century.

**Saturday, December 11, 4:30-6:30pm**  
**"The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration"**



The Black Candle is a landmark, vibrant documentary that uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American experience.

Narrated by world renowned poet Maya Angelou and directed by award-winning author and filmmaker M.K. Asante, Jr., The Black Candle is an extraordinary, inspirational story about the struggle and triumph of African-American family, community, and culture.

Filmed across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, The Black Candle is a timely illumination on why the seven principles of Kwanzaa (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith) are so important to African-Americans today.

The first feature film on Kwanzaa, The Black Candle traces the holiday's growth out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over 40 million celebrants.

With vivid cinematography and an all star cast that features the best and brightest from the hip-hop and the civil rights generations, The Black Candle is more than a film about a holiday: it's a celebration of a people!

**Screenings are Free and Open to the Public**