Final Report

African and African American Studies Film Series: Promoting Diversity at UMD

The African and African American Studies Minor (AAAS) organized a film series to promote diversity at UMD. Characterized by discussions among students, faculty, staff, and off-campus community, the series examined sustainable ways of building a rainbow world. The AAAS program is grateful to the Office of the Chancellor whose generous support in the form of UMD Chancellor’s Diversity Grant made the series possible. The program is also grateful to students, faculty, staff, and off-campus community for creating time out of their busy schedules not only to attend the film showings, but also to participate in film discussions.

The following films and documentaries were shown:

- *Citizen King* by Orlando Bagwell: February 28, 7pm, Griggs Center
  The film allows us to participate in the defining moments of the civil rights movement, including a peaceful protest of over 200,000 Americans at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC on August 28, 1963. These moments remain special in the history of America, as they led to the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that banned racial discrimination and enforced the right to vote.

- *Mandela: Son of Africa, Father of a Nation* by Angus Gibson and Jo Menell: March 8, 7pm, Griggs Center
  The documentary entitled explores the African National Congress’s struggle against the apartheid system in South Africa. It is a testament to Mandela’s famous statement, “I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal, which I hope to live for and achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”

- *Long Night’s Journey into Day* by Frances Reid and Deborah Hoffman: March 22, 7pm, Griggs Center
  This documentary explores South Africa’s search for Truth and Reconciliation following the dismantling of Apartheid. The chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, uses this forum to advocate restorative justice as opposed to retributive justice.

- *Lumumba* by Raoul Peck: April 5, 7 pm, Griggs Center
  This is a story of the Congolese national movement for independence, and the assassination of its revolutionary leader Patrice Lumumba following his demand for Congo’s economic independence.

- *The Other Side of the Water* by Jeremy Robins: April 20, 7 pm, Griggs Center
The film explores the journey of a Haitian Rara Band in Brooklyn, New York City. It demonstrates how Haitians in the diaspora attempt to move beyond the agonies of displacement. For example, they draw on traditional Haitian music to create a home far away from home.

In keeping with our commitment to diversity and social justice both on and off campus, we propose to hold this film series every semester. To this end, we look forward to your continued support.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted:
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