

WORLD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#WORLDxBHM

PRESENTED BY:



FUNDED BY:



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrate
with **WORLD**
Channel!

#WORLDxBHM

Black history is American history every day of the year. But too often, and for too long, our history books have told an incomplete story about America.

Each year, Black History Month offers us all the opportunity to explore diverse new aspects of Black culture and American history. This year with a range of films from both established and emerging filmmakers, WORLD Channel invites you to discover something new!

Join us on WORLD Channel and WorldChannel.org for more than 45 Black History Month programs throughout the month of February...Including fresh, new content and encores of audience favorites. Go online to talk about what you saw with our team and with other viewers at the hashtag #WORLDxBHM.

Activities included in this guide will help you engage in the conversation in a meaningful way. Post and participate with us on social media, and extend an invitation to your friends, family, and followers to join in too.

**CHECK OUT THE BLACK HISTORY
MONTH PROGRAM GUIDE HERE!**

WORLD

WORLD CHANNEL is a 24/7, full-service multicast channel featuring public television's signature nonfiction documentary, science, and news programming complemented by original content from emerging producers. Our mission is to inform and inspire with real stories from around the world. You can find WORLD Channel through your local PBS station and can access our programming directly on **WORLDCHANNEL.ORG**.



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Part One

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FIRELIGHT MEDIA

This Black History Month, WORLD Channel is proud to recognize **Firelight Media**, as they celebrate their twentieth anniversary. Firelight is a creative force for non-fiction cinema by and about communities of color. The organization produces documentary films, supports emerging filmmakers of color, bringing awareness to marginalized communities through powerful storytelling.

As part of this year's Black History collection, WORLD Channel is excited to present a retrospective of Firelight films, featuring selections from award-winning producer and director Stanley Nelson, including ***Independent Lens: THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION*** and ***TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: THE STORY OF BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES***. We are also proud to present an all new film: ***MILES DAVIS: THE BIRTH OF COOL***.

For the past twenty years, Stanley Nelson, documentary filmmaker and founder of Firelight Media, has brought to the forefront stories that might otherwise go untold, introducing us to aspects of ourselves and capturing history in a compelling way for future generations. **Firelight Media Documentary Lab** also supports and develops projects created by emerging filmmakers of color, films like, **Jackie Olive's *ALWAYS IN SEASON*** which we will highlight in February as well.

From a compelling portrait of a complex and brilliant artist to a landmark documentary that re-introduces a dynamic group of young Black people determined to improve the conditions of their community, the Firelight Retrospective on WORLD Channel reflects the diverse contributions of Black people from art to politics and beyond.



FIRELIGHT FILM DESCRIPTIONS



TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities

Independent Lens: Wednesday, February 5
The rich but untold history of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), from pre-slavery to now. **Lesson Plans Available.**



BOSS: The Black Experience in Business

Friday, February 7
Learn about the untold story of African American entrepreneurship, where skill, industriousness, ingenuity and sheer courage in the face of overwhelming odds provide the backbone of this nation's economic and social growth. **Watch a panel discussion with Stanley Nelson.**



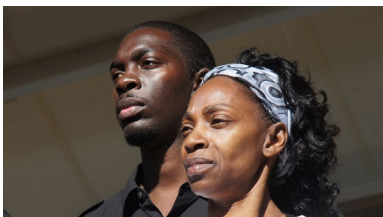
THE BLACK PANTHERS: Vanguard of the Revolution

Independent Lens: Monday, February 24
THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION is the first feature-length documentary to explore the Black Panther Party, its significance to the broader American culture, its cultural and political awakening for Black people, and the painful lessons wrought when a movement derails. **Discussion Guide Available.**



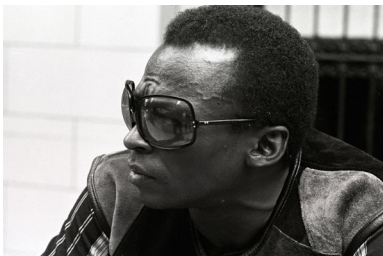
CALL HER GANDA

P.O.V.: Wednesday, February 26
When a Filipina trans woman, is brutally murdered by a U.S. Marine, three women intimately invested in the case galvanize a political uprising, pursuing justice and taking on hardened histories of U.S. imperialism. **Reading List from P.O.V.**



ALWAYS IN SEASON

Independent Lens Wednesday, February 26.
A suspicious death and a mother's quest for truth show us America's history of lynching isn't history at all.



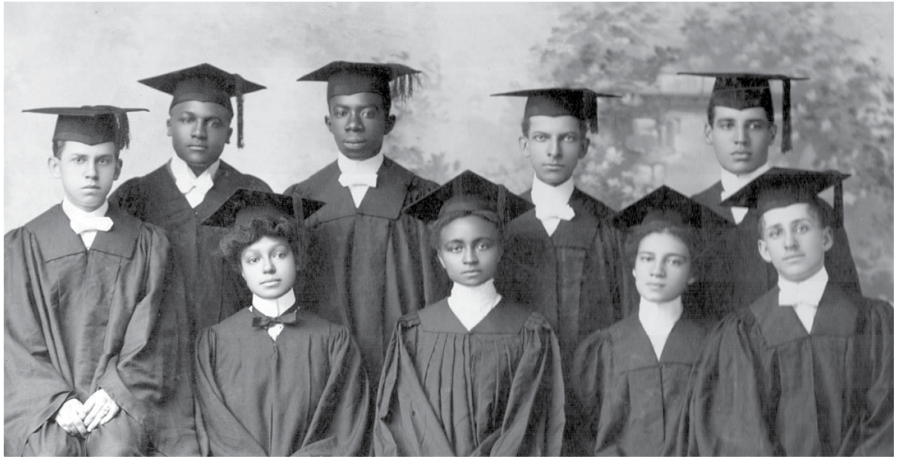
MILES DAVIS: Birth of the Cool

American Masters: Saturday, February 29
A visionary known for his restless aesthetic, Davis is widely regarded as one of the most innovative, influential and respected figures in music. **American Masters - MILES DAVIS: BIRTH OF THE COOL** takes a hard look at the mythology that surrounds the legend. **Miles Davis PBS Playlist.**

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

This Black History Month, WORLD Channel invites you to look at your culture, community and our world through a lens like that of filmmaker Stanley Nelson—with the curiosity and determination to explore the questions and the courage to seek the answers.

- After watching **THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION**, what parallels can you draw between the social and political climate of the 1960s and today's divisive atmosphere?
- How did Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) come about in America? In what ways did **TELL THEM WE ARE RISING** change or inform your understanding of HBCUs? What questions or ideas did the film spark for you?
- How do you see communities across the United States currently being affected by violence? How did **ALWAYS IN SEASON** and **CALL HER GANDA** inform your perspective about the dangers that exist in many marginalized communities and who is impacted most?
- "All I ever wanted to do was communicate how I felt through music." - Miles Davis. After watching **MILES DAVIS: BIRTH OF THE COOL**, take some time **exploring Miles's music**. What speaks to you? How does it make you feel?
- **Review the entire Firelight Media catalogue**, and consider the larger story that Stanley Nelson and his colleagues are trying to tell. Are there any themes or throughlines that you notice? Which do you think is the most impactful for important film in the collection?



HBCUs & YOU

Many influential and accomplished American leaders are graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Toni Morrison. Do a quick Google search to identify someone you admire who graduated from a HBCU. Or do you have an HBCU graduate in your family, social circle or town that has contributed greatly to your community? Take a moment to share a brief social media post about this person, including their photo, to honor their accomplishments and the legacy of HBCUs highlighted in **TELL THEM WE ARE RISING**.

EXAMPLES:



Part Two

AFROPOP CONNECTS US TO THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

Now in its 12th season, **AFROPOP: THE ULTIMATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE** offers fresh perspectives on complex social and political realities in the African Diaspora. AfroPoP is the only series on US public television that focuses solely on stories from the African Diaspora.

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange celebrates the cultural and historical growth that has occurred in Africa during the last generation using films tailored to a world audience from insightful, artful and often unique local perspectives.

These films are carefully selected to portray a more balanced view of Africa than you'll get on the nightly news and to provide fuel for what must be a global conversation on the present day realities and contemporary lifestyles of Africans, both on the continent and in the Diaspora.

This season our anthology continues as AfroPoP presents new stories that chronicle individuals challenging systems of oppression and inequality.



AFROPOP FILM DESCRIPTIONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

MY FRIEND FELA (2019)

Director: Joel Zito Araújo

My Friend Fela provides a new perspective on the Nigerian musician Fela Kuti, in order to counter the most often portrayed narrative of Fela “as an eccentric African pop idol of the ghetto” according to director Joel Zito Araújo. The complexity of Fela’s life is unraveled through the eyes and conversations of his close friend and official biographer, the African-Cuban Carlos Moore.

BIRTH OF AFROBEAT (2018)

Director: Opiyo Okeyo

In September of 2017, 77-year-old Nigerian drummer Tony Allen was invited to record the album ‘What Goes Up’ with American band, Chicago Afrobeat Project. During their time together, Allen recounts how he and his partner, late music legend, Fela Kuti, created the Afrobeat genre in Lagos, Nigeria. In this hybrid live-action/animated film, director Opiyo Okeyo presents a snapshot of Tony Allen’s story.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020

AMINA (2019)

Director: Kivilcim Akay

Amina is a 29-year-old Senegalese woman who works as a dress model in a textile company in Istanbul. Leaving her daughter behind, she immigrated to Turkey seven years ago to earn money and to take care of her daughter’s needs. Amina faces many challenges each day in Turkey as an African woman. While she fights against the numerous difficulties in her life with the hope that she will go back to her daughter and her country, she also dreams of being a real model one day. As an immigrant, Amina is in two minds between her realities and her dreams.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

DADDY AND THE WARLORD (2019)

Directors: Clarice Gargard, Shamira Raphaela

Clarice Gargard grew up with an idealized image of her father, but unresolved questions about his past now haunt her. Why did he collaborate with three corrupt government leaders in Liberia and with the infamous war criminal Charles Taylor? Gargard travels to postwar Liberia to uncover the truth about his activities.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

GILDA BRASILEIRO - AGAINST OBLIVION (2018)

Directors: Viola Scheuerer, Roberto Manhães Reis

Gilda Brasileiro discovers documents about an illegal slave-trading point in the Brazilian rain forest, where hundreds of thousands of Africans were enslaved and begins a search for the memory of slavery in the largest coffee-growing region of the 19th century.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

SPIT ON THE BROOM (2019)

Director: Madeleine Hunt-Ehrlich

A short programmed with **TWELVE DISCIPLES OF NELSON MANDELA**. **SPIT ON THE BROOM** is a surreal documentary that explores the United Order of Tents, a clandestine organization of Black women organized in the 1840s through the height of the Underground Railroad. Read more here about the United Order of Tents.

TWELVE DISCIPLES OF NELSON MANDELA (2005)

Director: Thomas Allen Harris

Confronted with the death of his stepfather, Director Thomas Allen Harris embarks on a journey to understand the man who raised him, Pule Benjamin Leinaeng (“Lee”) —an ANC foot-soldier who sacrificed his life for the freedom of his country. This film is an intimate tale about an African-American family, the anti-apartheid movement and the quest for reconciliation between a father and son.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

- This season’s AFROPOP takes us on a global journey of the African Diaspora, beginning in Nigeria, Liberia and South Africa with stops in Turkey, Cuba, Brazil and the United States.
- Review the chart (A) on the next page from 2019 and consider the global nature of the African Diaspora. Are you surprised by any of the entries or their population size? Review the entries by continent, and consider which are represented and which are not. What do you notice about it?
- Take this opportunity to test your knowledge of Africa’s geography by clicking on the correct country in the map of Africa (B - on the next page) corresponding to the country names below; only the countries listed have active links on the map, and each will take you to a website with more information.
**NIGERIA | LIBERIA | NAMIBIA
ETHIOPIA | UGANDA**
- Select one fact or figure about each country that interests you, and share it on social media with the hashtags **#WORLDxBHM** and **#AFROPOP12**



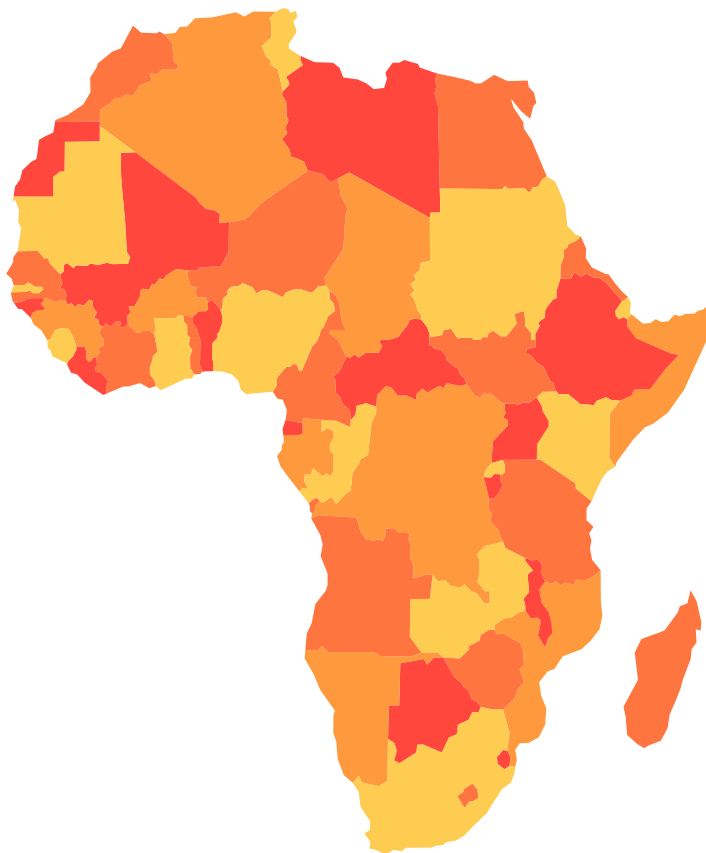
AFRICAN DISAPORA ACTIVITIES

A

COUNTRY	POPULATION
Brazil	55,900,000
United States	46,350,467
Haiti	8,788,439
Dominican Republic	7,985,991
Colombia	4,944,400
France	Approximately 5.5 million (8% of the French population)
Jamaica	2,731,419
United Kingdom	2, 497,373
Mexico	1,400,000
Cuba	1, 126,894
Italy	1, 100,000
Spain	1,045,120
Puerto Rico	979,842
Peru	875,427
Germany	817,150
Canada	783,795
Ecuador	680,000
Trinidad & Tobago	607,472

Review this chart from 2019 and consider the global nature of the African Diaspora. Are you surprised by any of the entries or their population size? Review the entries by continent, and consider which are represented and which are not. What do you notice about it?

B



Take this opportunity to test your knowledge of Africa's geography by clicking on the correct country in this map of Africa corresponding to the country names below; only the countries listed have active links on the map, and each will take you to a website with more information.

**NIGERIA | LIBERIA | NAMIBIA
ETHIOPIA | UGANDA**

MORE BLACK HISTORY RESOURCES

BLACK PUBLIC MEDIA support diverse voices by developing, producing and distributing innovative media about the Black experience and by investing in visionary content makers.

FIRELIGHT MEDIA was born in 2000 to address the deficit of films made by and about diverse communities, particularly people of color.

PBS BLACK CULTURE CONNECTION is a resource and guide to films, stories and voices across public television centered around Black history & culture.

AfroPoP: THE ULTIMATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE is a series on WORLD CHANNEL that presents informative and entertaining films about modern life in the African Diaspora.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BLACK HISTORY MONTH WEBSITE The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.