

ISLANDS OF GLOBALIZATION

All films are free and open to the public. Shown Fridays at 12 Noon
Burns Hall, East-West Center in room 3121/3125

A PACIFIC-CARIBBEAN FILM SERIES - 2004

Curated by Esther Figueroa

SEPT 24 - Three Films by Sima Urale Sima Urale in Person

Tamaiti: The Children (15 mins.) 1996

TAMAITI portrays the impressions of a young boy in an adult dominated world. Seen through the eyes of 11-year-old Tino, the eldest of five children of a Samoan family, the film opens with the birth of yet another baby, and Tino must cope with the added pressure and responsibilities expected of him as the eldest. With Mother and Father figures who are heard but not seen, Tino must carry the weight of responsibilities, tending to the needs of his younger siblings and newborn baby with adult maturity.

Still Life (11 mins.) 2003

"True love never dies." Still Life explores how love overcomes physical pain. An elderly couple, who decide to throw away life to re-unite in death, find that great love defies all.

Velvet Dreams (45 mins.) 2000

A documentary about the kitschy velvet renderings of Polynesian women told through the eyes of a man who becomes obsessed with a woman featured in a painting. More a documentary than a traditional documentary, Velvet Dreams includes an interview with the velveteer Eric Cridland, and Jacqueline Cadousteau, the main model for the father of contemporary black velvet painting, Edgar Leeteg.

OCT 1 - Daughters of the Dust (113 mins.)

Julie Dash; 1991

Daughters of the Dust chronicles two very pivotal days in 1902 in the life of the Peazant family, descendants of enslaved Africans who reside on the Gullah speaking islands off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. Against the wishes of the family matriarch, Nana, the younger Peazants are planning to leave the island for mainland. Viola Peazant, who has turned her back on the African folk-ways still practiced by Nana, is thrilled at her family's decision to assimilate and has brought a photographer to capture the event for posterity. In the end not everyone "crosses over." Daughters of the Dust is a break through film in African-American cinema because of its African Diasporic story telling and lush cinematography using consciously developed techniques for filming Black rather than White bodies.

OCT 8 - The Tracker (95 mins.) Rolf De Heer; 2002

Set "somewhere in Australia" in 1922, this is a resonant tale of racism, revenge and retribution. A tall Aboriginal in baggy trousers and shirt, The Tracker (David Gulpilil), picks his way through a dusty landscape. Through the shimmer of heat haze three white policemen ride close behind in the hunt for another Aboriginal who has allegedly raped and killed a White woman. Names are not given, rather each man represents a type: The Veteran (Grant Page) is a middle-aged draftee who would rather be back at the ranch; The Follower (Damon Gameau), a boyish recruit still in uniform who is new to the bush; and The Fanatic (Gary Sweet), a cruel man who harbours deep-seated racist beliefs, who is in charge.

OCT 15 - Dancehall Queen (96 mins.) Carolyn Pfeiffer, Carl Bradshaw, Don Letts; 1997

Dancehall Queen is a modern-day Cinderella story, with no Prince Charming, but one very strong woman. In the gritty world of the Kingston ghetto, there are few ways out. Marcia, a street vendor struggling to survive as a single mother, discovers the world of the dancehall. By day, she toils on the hot Kingston streets and by night she becomes "the mystery lady", the new star of the dancehall. If Marcia can win the dancehall contest, the prize money and, more importantly, her own sense of worth, she will finally be free. Featuring music by Chevelle Franklin, The Marley Girls, Grace Jones, and more!

OCT 22 - The Agronomist (91 mins.) Jonathan Demme; 2003

A profile of Haitian radio journalist and human rights activist, Jean Dominique. Dominique, a journalist who became known as Haiti's "voice of the people", gets a fitting tribute. Tracing his life from the time he purchased the lease of Radio Haiti Inter, Haiti's oldest radio station, in 1968, to his brutal assassination 32 years later, when he was gunned down outside the building, the film paints a picture of an extraordinary character who paid the ultimate price for his bravery, and gives a rare and powerful portrayal Haiti, the place and people Dominique so loved.

OCT 29 - Since the Company Came (52 mins.) Russell Hawkins; 2000

A documentary about a community's struggle to come to terms with the social, cultural and ecological disruption that threatens to fragment the Solomon Islands. Set on the remote island of Rendova, the film focuses on dispute and division caused by the Haporai tribe's latest development activity: a logging operation.

"Moving Islands" Writers Festival Featured Films

NOV 5 - Films about Derek Walcott

Derek Walcott of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, Nobel Laureate for poetry 1992, is one of the world's greatest poets and playwrights.

A World of Ideas: Derek Walcott (29 mins); 1988

Bill Moyers interviews Derek Walcott who discusses the language of poetry, the language of politics, and the story of Robinson Crusoe as metaphor.

Derek Walcott : Pantomime (26 mins.) Paul Kafno; 1980

This short play by Derek Walcott, performed in 1980, is a metaphorical exploration of relations between black and white in the postcolonial world. The plot concerns a retired white actor and his black factotum; presumably they will perform a pantomime version of Robinson Crusoe, but roles become reversed, much to the white man's bewilderment and discomfort.

NOV 12 - Flying Fox in a Freedom Tree (90 mins.) Martyn Sanderson, Grahame McLean; 1989 Albert Wendt in Person

Adapted from the novel by Albert Wendt.

Pepe is the son of a successful Samoan businessman, who rejects his father's world and his Christianity. He becomes rebellious, anti-social and is expelled from school. However, when he gets his girlfriend pregnant, he takes on the responsibilities of a family. Through his close associate with the character Tagata, he enters the supernatural realm of his traditional ways and begins to find some peace and meaning to his life.

NOV 19 - An Island Invaded (50 mins.) Esther Figueroa, Jim Bannan; 2004

Esther Figueroa in Person

A documentary about the island of Guam during World War II as told through personal narratives of Guam residents who were children, teenagers and young adults at the time of the war. These compelling stories, combined with WWII archival footage, tell tales of brutality, survival, resistance, and resilience.

DEC 3 - Aku Ingin Menciummu Sekali Saja - Birdman Tale (90 mins.) Garin Nugroho; 2003

Garin Nugroho is closely involved in questions of politics and freedom and in his films he often tackles the complex relationship between the various ethnic groups in Indonesia and the central government in Jakarta. The poetic Birdman Tale focuses on the quest for the identity of the Papuans, their desire for freedom, their customs and idiosyncrasies. The mysterious and fairytale Birdman from the title is Bertold, a teacher of traditional dance and supporter of Theys Eluay, the advocate of independence for West Papua who tried in a non-violent way to find a solution and who was killed in 2000.

www.movingislands.net

"Islands of Globalization" is a Ford Foundation-supported collaborative research project of the East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program and the University of Hawai'i's Center for Pacific Islands Studies. The project seeks to enhance understandings of the origins, nature and consequences of globalization in developing island societies. It asks what is globalization when viewed from the framework of islands and "islandness." In addressing this question, the project is specifically concerned with the Caribbean and Pacific regions, and is pursuing pedagogical, policy and popular research that engages different types of audiences: intellectuals and academics; artists, policy makers, and members of the general public. Project goals include more closely linking the Pacific and Caribbean, as well as scholarly publications and film products.



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