

RACIAL JUSTICE FILMS

*Note * means shown by the Racial Justice Advocates*

DOCUMENTARIES: BLACK AMERICANS

***JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE.**

Using interviews and rare archival footage, "John Lewis: Good Trouble." chronicles Lewis' 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health care reform and immigration. Director Dawn Porter's poignant, powerful documentary is both a tribute to a living legend and a call to action, arguing that the work of fighting racial injustice isn't done. Watch on: You Tube, Amazon Prime Video, Google Play, Apple TV

***Origin:** When filmmaker Ava DuVernay first read [Isabel Wilkerson's](#) 2020 book, [Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents](#), she was so stunned, she reread it twice. The bestselling book draws a line between [India's caste system](#), the hierarchies of Nazi Germany and the historic subjugation of Black people in the United States.

"It took me a really long time to wrap my mind around the idea that there's something underneath racism that's called caste," DuVernay says. "It doesn't mean racism doesn't exist. It means the foundation, the root, the origin, underneath is the very simple premise — someone has to be better than someone else." Available on Disney and HULU.

***Just Mercy:** A powerful and thought-provoking true-story, "Just Mercy" follows young lawyer [Bryan Stevenson](#) (Jordan) and his history-making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan might have had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley (Larson). One of his first, and most incendiary, cases is that of Walter McMillian (Foxy), who, in 1987, was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence and the fact that the only testimony against him came from a criminal with a motive to lie. In the years that follow, Bryan becomes embroiled in a labyrinth of legal and political maneuverings and overt and unabashed racism as he fights for Walter, and others like him, with the odds - and the system - stacked against them. Available on Amazon and Apple TV.

***Marion Anderson, The Whole World in Her Hands:** Spotlighting Anderson's voice and point of view, the documentary draws from 34 cassette tapes of interviews recorded in the 1950s, when she was preparing to write her memoir, "My Lord, What a Morning," and other archival interviews. Anchored by key performances in her career, American Masters – Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands shows how her quiet genius and breathtaking voice set the stage for Black performers in classical music, and a louder voice for civil rights. Additionally, with unprecedented access to the Marian Anderson Estate, the documentary draws on rare audio recordings, photographs and personal correspondence to and from family and friends, including Martin Luther King, Jr., Josephine Baker and Langston Hughes.

“Previous documentaries centered around her life without her own voice. That’s what sets our documentary apart,” said director Rita Coburn. “Marian Anderson directly discusses her personal experiences, allowing the viewer to explore history from her point of view.”

***Screening: PBS: Henry Louis Gates’ Reconstruction After the Civil War.** This series explores the transformative years following the American Civil War, when the nation struggled to rebuild itself in the face of profound loss, massive destruction and revolutionary social change. These twelve years witnessed change. It was a history few of us studied in our schools and we all need to know. To see episodes of Reconstruction, Click [Here](#).

***Heather McGhee: The Sum of Us.** Heather McGhee’s specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a common root problem: racism. But not just in the most obvious indignities for people of color. Racism has costs for white people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaCrsBtiYA4>

SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME. Did Slavery really end with the Civil War? The documentary Slavery by Another Name explores how in the years following the Emancipation Proclamation, systematic approaches were taken to re-enslave newly freed Blacks in the United States. This system included new brutal methods of forced labor in which men were arrested and forced to work without pay, bought and sold, and coerced to do the bidding of masters. Spanning the 60 years following the Civil War, this 90-minute documentary includes interviews with key Black history scholars like Khalil Muhammad, Mary Ellen Curtin, Risa Goluboff and Adam Green, in addition to moving reactions from descendants of both victims and perpetrators of the forced labor system. Giving voice to the thousands of victims from this period, Slavery by Another Name will challenge assumptions that slavery ended 150 years ago.

Running time: 90 minutes

Watch on: “Films for Action”. <https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/slavery-by-another-name/>

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO. “I Am Not Your Negro” is a journey into black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter. Master filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, “Remember This House” to examine race in America then and now. The result is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race in America, using Baldwin’s original words and flood of rich archival material., It is a film that questions black representation in Hollywood and beyond. And, ultimately, by confronting the deeper connections between the lives and assassination of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., Baldwin and Peck have produced a work that challenges the very definition of what America stands for. Available on PBS Passport.

Running time: 1 hour: 35 minutes

Watch on Netflix, You tube, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu

BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE. In this four-hour series, “Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise,” Henry Louis Gates, Jr. embarks on a deeply personal journey through the last fifty years of African American history. Joined by leading scholars, celebrities, and a dynamic cast of people who shaped these years, Gates travels from the victories of the civil rights movement up to today, asking profound questions about the state of black America—and our nation as a whole.

Running time: Episode One: 1 hour:49 minutes; Episode Two: 1 hour:49 minutes
Watch on Amazon Prime Video, You Tube

TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM. Winner of the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Documentary, this documentary film is an artful and intimate meditation on the life and works of the legendary storyteller and Nobel prize-winner. From her childhood in the steel town of Lorain, Ohio, to '70-era book tours with Muhammad Ali, from the front lines with Angela Davis to her own riverfront writing room — Toni Morrison leads an assembly of her peers, critics and colleagues on an exploration of race, America, history and the human condition as seen through the prism of her own literature. Woven together with a rich collection of art, history, literature and personality, the film includes discussions about her many critically acclaimed works, including novels “The Bluest Eye,” “Sula” and “Song of Solomon,” her role as an editor of iconic African American literature and her time teaching at Princeton University. Featuring interviews with Hilton AL's, Angela Davis, Fran Leibowitz, Walter Mosley, Sonia Sanchez and Oprah Winfrey, who turned Morrison's novel “Beloved” into a feature film.

Running time: 2 hours
Watch on Netflix, Hulu, You Tube, Amazon Prime Video

DARK GIRLS. Dark Girls an emotional exposé on what it means to be dark skinned in America. Filmmakers D. Channsin Berry and Bill Duke capture moving interviews with women who open up about their experiences being dark, Black women in America. They share painful stories about things their mothers, sisters and friends have said, in addition to what they've taken away from mass media. Overwhelmingly these interviews reveal the same thing: To them, Black is not beautiful. In an effort to learn more about the concept of Black beauty, the filmmakers reach both in and outside the Black community to seed conversations that reveal deep-rooted biases about race. Combining these emotional interviews with historical context and well-known psychological studies, the film sheds light on the perceived biases of “dark versus light,” and its ultimate aim to help people see that Black is beautiful.

Running time: 1 hour:12 minutes
Watch on Netflix, You Tube, Amazon Prime Video

DOCUMENTARIES: NATIVE AMERICANS

***DAWNLAND.** For decades, child welfare authorities have been removing Native American children from their homes to “save them from being Indian.” In Maine, the first official Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the United States begins a historic investigation. *Dawnland* goes behind-the-scenes as this historic body grapples with difficult truths, redefines reconciliation, and charts a new course for state and tribal relations. *Dawnland* aired on Independent Lens on PBS in November 2018 reaching more than 2 million viewers. The film won a national Emmy® Award for Outstanding Research in 2019 and made the American Library Association’s list of 2020 Notable Videos for Adults: “a list of 15 outstanding films released on video within the past two years.”

Running time: 1 hour:26 minutes

Watch on PBS Independent Lens (Available with GBH Passport)

***WE SHALL REMAIN.** This 2009 PBS 5-Part documentary series focuses on 300 years of Native American history, showing how Native people valiantly resisted expulsion from their lands and fought the extinction of their culture. It covers the time after the Mayflower pilgrims first arrived, the horrific Trail of Tears, and Wounded Knee to activist events in the 1970s. Both native and non-native experts worked on this film, and many Native American experts were interviewed and approached for help. In the end, the dramatizations mixed with recorded information make for an engaging and informative presentation told from both sides as much as possible.

Running time: Each episode runs between 71 to 82 minutes. A DVD of the series can be purchased at Amazon for \$31.94

It aired on PBS American Experience in 2009. DVDs can be rented

<https://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/American-Experience-We-Should-Remain/70213105>

DOCUMENTARIES: LATINO AMERICANS

STOLEN EDUCATION. Stolen Education documents the untold story of Mexican American school children who challenged discrimination in Texas schools in the 1950’s and changed the face of education in the Southwest. This 2014 film shows the lesser-known side of discrimination in the Civil Rights era school system. You might know about the classic Supreme Court case of Brown vs. Board of Education to end segregation in the US, but Latinx communities were being discriminated against even after that. What stands out in this film is not the unjust treatment of Latinx students, but rather what they do to change it—by bringing the case to federal court and persevering against further discrimination in the courtroom to ultimately win.

Running time: 1 hour 7 minutes

Available on free streaming site [Kanopy](#).

Prime Video - Amazon

CESAR'S LAST FAST. Through never-before-seen footage from 1988, this powerful documentary humanizes labor leader Cesar Chavez as it dramatically chronicles his selfless and life-threatening protest against the use of pesticides on farmworkers. The film reminds us why his fight for civil rights still resonates today. Richard Ray Perez, director: "When I was 4, I was attending a preschool program for low-income kids in San Fernando, California. Idealistic Chicano students from the local college would volunteer. One day I noticed one of the college students was plucking the grapes out of the fruit cocktail that came with our free lunch. I asked him, "Why aren't you eating your grapes?" He held up a grape and he described the horrible conditions under which the grape pickers were forced to work. Suddenly grapes became ugly in my mind and I couldn't eat them anymore. My classmates all looked at their grapes and they too refused to eat them. At that moment, we inadvertently became part of a national grape boycott led by Cesar Chavez. Years later, I inherited a cache of dramatic footage of a 36-day fast Chavez undertook in 1988. My childhood experience joining the grape boycott, later learning that my father had been a migrant farmworker for decades, and the power of the footage I inherited made it clear that I had to make this documentary."

Running time: 1 hour 40 minutes iTunes

<https://reelgood.com/movie/cesars-last-fast-2014?fromAMP=true>

DOLORES. This in-depth portrait of the activist Dolores Huerta explores her fight for racial, gender and labor justice for more than 60 years. While assembling material for this PBS Independent Lens documentary, the director Peter Bratt came across an old cassette tape of Huerta recalling how family members fought in American wars, including a great-grandfather who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. On the tape, Huerta says that as a young girl she was proud to be an American and to be part of a democracy where people could organize and make real change. But as she watched Black and Brown people killed for demanding their civil rights, she goes on to say, she had a devastating realization that in her birthplace she will always be perceived as a guest or a threat. "I will never be an American," she declares. Bratt said that "even though the sound quality of the tape was poor, we knew this had to be in the film. It captures what so many of us who were born and raised here continue to experience but are often unable to articulate."

Running time: 1 hour 35 minutes

Watch on Prime Video - Amazon, Google Play, iTunes or Vudu

FEATURE FILMS

MOONLIGHT. Moonlight is the winner of multiple Academy Awards, including "Best Picture" This film shows the grief and trauma of Black men through an entirely different lens than police brutality while also highlighting the Black LGBTQ community. It's about seeing the wholeness of

Black people and the wholeness of Black men and how they can surprise you by not being who you think they are. This story is a moving and transcendent look at three defining chapters in the life of Chiron, a young man growing up in Miami. His epic journey to adulthood, as a shy outsider dealing with difficult circumstances, is guided by support, empathy and love from the most unexpected places.

Running time: 1 hour 51 minutes
Watch on Netflix, Amazon Prime

MUDBOUND. Mudbound is a 2017 American historical drama film. In the aftermath of WWII, somewhere in the muddy Mississippi Delta, two families--one black, the Jacksons, and the other white, the McAllans--are forced to share the same patch of land, keeping a frail race-based peace with each other. However, as they both struggle with hardship and dire poverty, the long-awaited return of two war veterans--Ronsel, the Jacksons' eldest son, and Jamie, Henry McAllan's younger brother--will unexpectedly nurture a budding friendship that transcends prejudice and race. But, in the end, against a backdrop of fevered Mississippi sunsets and vitriolic racism, life can be hard when the law of the land is still segregation and hatred. And then, no one can be safe.

Running time: 2 hours: 14 minutes
Watch on: Netflix

IF BEAL ST. COULD TALK. This is a 2018 American romantic drama film written and directed by Barry Jenkins and based on James Baldwin's 1974 novel of the same name. Set in early-1970s Harlem, If Beale Street Could Talk is a timeless and moving love story of both a couple's unbreakable bond and the African American family's empowering embrace, as told through the eyes of 19-year-old Tish Rivers (screen newcomer KiKi Layne). A daughter and wife-to-be, Tish vividly recalls the passion, respect and trust that have connected her and her artist fiancé Alonzo Hunt, who goes by the nickname Fonny (Stephan James). Friends since childhood, the devoted couple dream of a future together but their plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit.

Running time: 117 minutes
Watch on Netflix, Hulu, You Tube, Amazon Prime

HIDDEN FIGURES. As the United States raced against Russia to put a man in space, NASA found untapped talent in a group of African American female mathematicians that served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in U.S. history. Based on the unbelievably true-life stories of three of these women, known as "human computer", we follow them as they quickly rose the ranks of NASA alongside many of history's greatest minds specifically tasked with calculating the momentous launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, and guaranteeing his safe return. Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Katherine Gubels Johnson crossed all gender, race and professional lines while their brilliance and desire to dream big, beyond anything else ever

accomplished before by the human race, firmly cemented them in U.S. history as true American heroes.

Running time: 2 hours: 7 minutes

Watch on Amazon Prime

WE THE ANIMALS. Adapted from Justin Torres's best-selling novel, this drama set in upstate New York follows a chaotic, bicultural household that includes the sensitive young Jonah, his brothers and their father (played by Raúl Castillo) **Raúl Castillo:** "If I can highlight one theme in "We the Animals" that, to me, embodies Latinos in this country, it would have to be the story of the resilience of the human spirit. We are a resilient people and that shows itself in the family of this film and in the character of Jonah, specifically. How vehemently we have been attacked and vilified in recent years and yet we still rise. That, to me, is the story of the Latino family in this country. Justin Torres gave us a great gift with his story about a young, brown queer boy's coming-of-age."

Running time: 1 hour 33 minutes

Watch on Netflix

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

***Til Kingdom Come.** Millions of American Evangelicals are praying for the State of Israel. Among them are the Bingham, a dynasty of Kentucky pastors, and their Evangelical congregants in an impoverished coal mining town. They donate sacrificially to Israel's foremost philanthropic organization, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, because they fervently believe the Jews are crucial to Jesus's return. This film traces this unusual relationship, from rural Kentucky to the halls of government in Washington, through the moving of the American Embassy to Jerusalem and the annexation plan of the West-Bank. With unparalleled access, the film exposes a stunning backstory of the Trump and Netanyahu administrations, where financial, political and messianic motivations intersect with the apocalyptic worldview that is insistently reshaping American foreign policy toward Israel and the Middle East. Watch on Amazon, YouTube, or Apple TV.

***The Law and the Prophets.** In Israel, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank, the law is whatever Israel deems to be in the best interest of Jewish Israelis, to the detriment of Palestinians. In this, Israel violates the civil and human rights of Palestinians as a matter of standard, accepted policy. However, there are brave, determined individuals — prophets — who are trying to expose the destructive, unjust, and sometimes invisible ways in which Israel exploits and oppresses Palestinians. *The Law and The Prophets* explains the mechanisms of control that Israel deploys to control Palestinians. These mechanisms, some violent and some nonviolent, have been perfected through decades of civil and military rule of Palestinians both within Israel, and in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Watch for free on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_kF35lgF40&t=2s

Louis Theroux: The Settlers (2025). Louis Theroux spends time with the growing community of [Israeli religious-nationalist settlers](https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/louis-theroux-the-settlers/). Their settlements are illegal under international law, and they have been protected by the army, the police and the Israeli government. Louis Theroux embeds himself in the West Bank, meeting prominent settlers - including the 'godmother' of the movement, Daniella Weiss - and travelling throughout the territory to understand the consequences of their activity. Louis also meets Palestinians whose lives have been impacted by settlers moving into their communities. As the world focuses on Gaza, where at least 50,000 Palestinians are estimated to have been killed by Israeli forces since 7 October, Louis discovers that the settlers are already making plans to move into that territory, too. WATCH NOW here: <https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/louis-theroux-the-settlers/>