Films and Video

**Africa Unite.** Dir. Stephanie Black. Palm Pictures. 2007. This documentary traces the celebration of Bob Marley’s sixtieth anniversary as 350,000 people gather in Meskel Square Ethiopia to realise Marley’s dream of a united Africa. It looks at the effort to bring African unity through the music, works and words of Bob Marley.

**A Culture in Motion: Scripting an Identity with Images.** Dir. Tamara Tam-Cruikshank. 2008. This 31-minute piece is a study of Rastafarianism as practiced in Trinidad and Tobago. The work includes interviews with members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Bobo Shanti sect and it explores the religion’s symbols and iconography.

**A Winter Tale.** Dir. Frances-Anne Solomon. Perf. Peter Williams, Leonie Forbes and Dennis Hall. 2007. This feature film is set against a multicultural community in Canada. Shots ring out one winter night and a bullet meant for a local street dealer kills a ten-year-old boy. In the downtown Toronto community of Parkdale, grief and suspicion hang heavily in the air, while the nightly patrons at Miss G's Caribbean TakeAway resume their ritual of beer and banter. But one of them, Gene Wright, cannot go on. He begs his friends for help. In a most unusual development, six Black men make a pact to form a support group in hopes of salvaging their broken spirits and redeeming their besieged community.

**Aimé Césaire, Poet and Statesman.** Dirs. Ann Armstrong Scarboro and Susan Wilcox. 2001. This forty-minute documentary is one in an educational series of videos entitled Ethnic Expressions from the Mosaic of the Americas. The work features an interview with
world-renowned French Caribbean poet and political activist from Martinique who was Mayor of Fort-de-France for 56 years. He speaks of his passion for the island landscape and his battle against the assimilation of his people by France. The documentary comes with a Teacher’s guide that includes seven suggested classroom activities. Suitable for courses in Black Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, Literature, French and Art.

_Angel in a Cage_. Dir. Mary Jane Gomes. 1999. This work focuses on a group of Portuguese immigrants from Madeira who have settled in the Caribbean.

_And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon_. Dirs. Christopher Laird and Anthony Hall. Prod. Banyan Limited/BBC. 1994. This documentary from Trinidad and Tobago looks at U.S. and French dominance of television programmes in the Caribbean. It underscores how Caribbean viewers receive perspectives from the media that alienate them from their own culture. The work also shows how Cuba has addressed this matter.

_Ava and Gabriel_. Dir. Felix de Rooy. 1990. This story takes place on the island of Curacao in the late 1940s. Upon the request of Father Fidelius, parish priest of St Anna’s, the Suriname painter Gabriel Goedbloed arrives from Holland to paint a mural of the Virgin Mary in St Anna’s Church. The painter arrives in a society that does not welcome strangers who do not conform to their colonial way of life. Firstly, the locals are confused that the painter is black. Secondly, they do not approve when the painter chooses a young teacher, Miss Ava Recordina who is of mixed origin, to be the model for his painting of the Virgin Mary. Ava is married to a white police major who is not too happy with his fiancé posing for the painter, plus, the fact that the Dutch Governor’s wife is interested in Gabriel also fuels tension.

_Barrel Children_. Dir. Cara E. Weir. 2006. A documentary about the impact of migration on a Trinidadian family. A mother goes to the U.S. to earn a better income. There, her job is to care for other children while her own children are in Trinidad. The title of the work is taken from the phenomenon of Caribbean parents/family sending barrels of gifts to children who remain in the Caribbean.
Bartica. Dir. Ian Robertson. 2003. This video documents the sociolinguistic significance of Bartica, a village situated at the confluence of the Essequibo River and one of its major tributaries, the Mazaruni, in Guyana. The outstanding linguistic feature of the society is the representation of a range of languages in keeping with the very mixed sources of its population. The residents of Bartica include “islanders”, French-Lexicon Creole speaking St Lucians in particular, Guyanese indigenous groups, Arawak (Lokono), Carib and Akawaio, coastland English-lexicon Creole speakers and a few users of Bhojpuri, an ancestral language still in residual use by some descendants of indentured Indian groups, and, in more recent times, Brazilian Portuguese. The video relies entirely on the oral accounts of residents of Bartica to tell the story of the village.


Binghi. Dir. Natasha Callender. 2008. This work explores the beliefs of the Bobo Shanti sect, drawing upon Afrocentricity, anti-colonialism, Levitical laws and the teachings of their unique trinity.


Birthright Crisis. Dir. Miriam Neptune. 2006. Thousands of people of Haitian descent live in the Dominican Republic without government acknowledged citizenship. As a result, they lack access to basic services such as education and healthcare. This fifteen-minute documentary features testimonies from deportees and victims of anti-Haitian policy, calling for a unified response from people in the Haitian and Dominican Diaspora.

Black and White in Exile. Dir. Ray Blanco. 1997. This documentary series examines more than 37 years of Cuban and Haitian exile in the United States. The series focuses on the plight of the exiles and their impact on host U.S. communities. This work fills six half-hour
episodes with inner-city clashes, traumatic fallout from terrorist bombings, daring rescues at sea, unprecedented artistic enlightenment, high-stakes struggles for political empowerment, heartbreaking stories of orphaned children and joyful tales of family reunions. The four main groups profiled and probed are Cuban exiles, Haitian exiles, resident whites and resident African Americans.

**Black Men and Me.** Dir. Michèle Pearson Clarke. 2006. Set in a barbershop, a Trinidadian lesbian explores her complex relationships with black men in this documentary.

**Blu In You.** Dir. Michelle Mohabeer. 2008. This 50-minute piece is an essayist rumination mediated through the lens of a female observer (Melanie Smith), who watches the staged conversations between a visual arts curator (Andrea Fatona) and a writer (Nalo Hopkinson). These conversations bridge historical and contemporary representations of the black female body, subjectivity and sexuality exploring various themes from a cultural history of violence and spectacularization (embodied in the figure of “the Hottentot Venus”) to discussions of art, representation and celebrated cultural icons (Josephine Baker, Dorothy Dandridge and the figure of the muse Jeanne Duval), to a contemporary black queer female erotic body and sexuality.

**Breaking Leaves.** Dir. Karen Kramer. 1998. This documentary showcases the use of traditional medicine – local herbs – by Haitian peasants. It takes audiences on a journey through the Haitian countryside.


Carnival Roots, Dir. Peter Chelkowski. 2003. This documentary focuses on the people and music that fuel Trinidad’s Carnival. The work features the music of Machel Montano, Black Stalin and Bunji Garlin among others.

Child-Play, Dir. Michelle Mohabeer. 1996. Set in an imaginary nameless space that closely resembles the Caribbean, this 14-minute piece is an allegorical dream tale paralleling the "innocence" of childhood and the elder phases of existence. Ateesha Mansara, a woman in her early seventies has lived a life colonized by her own fears about the threat of usurpation of her identity by the Dutchman Spirit of a child molester, whom she previously encountered when she was ten years old. The spirit of Georgie De Root revisits Ateesha fifty years later in a final attempt to lay "claim" to her soul. Or does he?

Chinese Restaurants: On the Islands, Dir. Cheuk Kwan. 2005. This documentary tells the story of the Chinese Diaspora through its most recognisable and enduring icon – the family-run Chinese restaurant. Director Kwan takes the viewer on a tour of restaurants in Trinidad, Cuba and Mauritius. Kwan reveals community and personal histories that underscore issues of migration, settlement, integration and resilience. This work is one in a series.

Christ in Trinidad, Prod. Advanced Dynamics. In this work commentators give their interpretations of the meaning of the “Life of Christ” mural by artist Jackie Hinkson. The artist also takes audiences on location to talk about what elements in the paintings signify.
City of God. Dirs. Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund. Perf. Alexandre Rodrigues, Seu Jorge, Leandro Firmino da Hora and Matheus Nachtergaele. 2002. Set in a notorious slum of Rio de Janeiro called ‘City of God,’ this work is a story about a young man who grew up on the gritty streets. His ambition as a photographer allows audiences to see images of his social dynamics.

City of Men. Prod. Fernando Meirelles. Perf. Douglas Silva and Darlan Cunha. 2007. In this work, producer Fernando Meirelles returns to the Brazilian favelas of his academy award-nominated film City of God. Growing up in a culture dictated by violence and run by street gangs, teenagers Acerola and Laranjinha have become close as brothers. With their eighteenth birthdays fast approaching, Laranjinha sets out to find the father he never met, while Acerola struggles to raise his own young son. But, when they suddenly find themselves on opposite sides of a gang war, the lifelong friends are forced to confront a shocking secret from their shared past.

CLR James DVD Series. Prod. and Dir. Onwubiko Agozino. 2008. This work is a collection of interviews with CLR James scholars and acquaintances. Among the interviewees are Professors Gordon Rohlehr and Bridget Brereton, and Doctors Jerome Teelucksingh and Daphne Phillips. Other prominent interviewees include Professor Selwyn Cudjoe, Emeritus Professor, Wellesley College, Boston; Professor Paget Henry, Brown University, USA; and Ms Eintou Pearl Springer, poet and dramatist. The DVD series focuses on CLR James’ contributions to historical sociology, political sociology, sociology of arts and sports, sociology of education and social theory in general. The series consists of thirteen interviews, each one-hour long.

Coconut/Cane & Cutlass. Dir. Michelle Mohabeer. 1994. This 30-minute piece is a fluid rumination on the psyche, collective memory, history and imagination of Indo-Caribbean cultural identity. This poetic rumination on exile and displacement is mediated through the perspective of the filmmaker, a mixed race Indo-Caribbean lesbian who migrated to Canada several years ago. The autobiographical voice – in the realm of mythic/memory
and the personal – co-mingles with the historical, to produce a work that is neither an "official historical document" nor simply a "personal history."

**Courage de Femmes: Bénita et Mérina /Courageous Women.** Dir. Arnold Antonin. 2000. This documentary tells the story of two elderly sisters who now do the work of breaking stone – a task once reserved for prisoners. The 17-minute piece reveals their struggle for survival and dignity in present-day Haiti.

**Cuba, An African Odyssey.** Dir. Jihan el Tahri. 2007. This documentary plots the intensive Cuban support for African revolutionary movements. Beginning with Che Guevara's mission into the Congo to avenge the death of Lumumba and then Cuba's support of Amilcar Cabral's uprising in Guinea-Bissau, the film traces the pivotal role played by Cuba's international policy in helping independence struggles on the Africa continent.

Cuba's military engagement in Angola involved 450,000, who fought alongside Angolan troops including in the battle of Cuito Carnavale. This collaboration was central to the demise of apartheid and gives clue to why Fidel Castro was the first person outside the African continent to be visited by Nelson Mandela upon his release from Robben Island.

**Dancehall Queen.** Dirs. Rick Elwood and Don Letts. Perf. Audrey Reid, Paul Campbell, Carl Davis, Mark Danvers, Anika Grason, Beenie Man and Lady Saw. 1997. This work exposes Jamaican street life and dance culture. The lead character – a single mother and street vendor – is used to showcase a slice of the island’s socioeconomic milieu.

**Dancing Deities.** Dir. Emilie Upczak. 2007. This experimental documentary is an exploration of the cultural tradition and heritage of the Orisha in Claxton Bay, Trinidad.

**Dread, Beat an’ Blood.** Dir. Franco Rosso. 1978. “Inglan is a bitch.” That was dub poet Linton Kwesi Johnson's assessment of his adopted homeland in 1980. Twenty-two years later, the most English of institutions, Penguin Books, made this uncompromising writer only its second living poet ever to appear in their Modern Classics section. This is an early
film about Linton Kwesi, Jamaican-born poet, writer and musician, and the Caribbean working class community from which his material is drawn.

**Edwidge Danticat Visits Her Haitian Roots.** Dirs. Ann Armstrong Scarboro and Susan Wilcox. 2003. This documentary is one in an educational series of videos entitled *Ethnic Expressions from the Mosaic of the Americas.* The work features an interview with the first Haitian woman to compose a novel entirely in English. Danticat speaks of the dictatorship in Haiti, the experience of being separated from her parents for eight years, racism, valuing self and the creative process. The work closes with her reading from her book *Krik? Krak!* The documentary comes with a Teacher’s guide that includes seven suggested classroom activities. Suitable for courses in Black Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, Literature, French and Art.


**Elogio de La Virtud.** Dir. Roberto Chile. 2006. This documentary marks the 80th birthday of Fidel Castro and offers a portrait of the man.

**Engendering Change: Caribbean Configurations.** Dirs. Patricia Mohammed and Luke Paddington. 2007. This forty minute documentary records a one week Intensive Course on Gender Sensitive Policy Making for the Caribbean held in Trinidad in March 2006, implemented by the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies, St Augustine. The work moves from the formal classroom setting with Caribbean experts, to bringing the course participants in contact with the southern community of Debe/Penal and to crosscultured gendered experiences through “The Shape of Water” a documentary by filmmaker Kum-Kum Bhavnani. While “Engendering Change” focuses on the University’s role as an academic and research based institution in challenging accepted ideologies and methodologies of development paradigms, the documentary is an attempt to produce a penetrating critique of the gap between pedagogy and reality, between top-down policies and community needs. The work is divided into four sections:
Regional Education, Gender Policy Issues, Community Outreach and Configuring Policy. It is accompanied by a CD-ROM, which provides pointers to use in the classroom.


_Florentino y El Diablo/Florentino and the Devil_, Dir. Michael New. 1995. This 90-minute piece is inspired by Alberto Arvelo Torrealba’s eponymous poem. The film puts visuals to Venezuelan folk hero, Florentino who defeats the devil with his voice.

_Freddie’s First: Where Reggae Meets Soca_, Dir. Anne-Rhea Smith and Lonai Mosely. 2006. Narrated by reggae music veteran Freddie McGregor, this work highlights the similarities and differences in history, music styles and carnival traditions between Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago.

_Ghare-Baire /Home and the World_, Dir. Satyajit Ray. 1984. Based on the novel ‘Ghare Baire’ by Rabindranath Tagore, this film looks at India during the period of British rule. At that time, the people of India launched a nationalist movement called the Swadeshi to boycott foreign-made goods. Such goods – mainly British textiles – were burned in public.

_Ghosts of Cité Soleil_, Dir. Asgar Leth. 2006. This documentary follows gang leaders who dominate the Haitian slum of Cité Soleil. The foot soldiers of these gang leaders – the Chimères (ghosts) – were alleged to have been employed by former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to silence his opponents.

_Guiana 1838_, Dir. Rohit Jagessar. Perf. Rufus Graham, Kumar Gaurav and Aarti Bathija. 2004. This work traces the recruitment of indentured labourers from India in the wake of the abolition of slavery in the British Caribbean. Director Rohit Jagessar sheds light on the working conditions of these labourers in colonial Guiana.
**Guyana’s Best Kept Linguistic Secret.** Dir. Ian Robertson. 2004. This video documents the presence of St. Lucian French-lexicon Creole speakers in Guyana. There is a thin narrative thread to the accounts presented by a significant few members of this migrant community. By their own accounts, their presence in Guyana has been ongoing from the early twentieth century. The presentation indicates that the migrants continued the vibrant use of their Creole language and even pass it on into the third generation.

**H-2 Worker.** Dir. Stephanie Black. 1990. Black’s documentary exposes the living and working conditions of Caribbean men who enter the U.S on a temporary H-2 work visa and are given the dangerous job of harvesting sugar cane by hand in Florida. The documentary offers an in-depth analysis of various perspectives on the issue, including representatives of the sugar companies and the U.S. Department of Labour but the voices of the workers are foregrounded.

**Haiti: Killing The Dream.** Dirs. Rudi Stern and Katharine Kean. 1992. This documentary traces the history of US imperialism in the Caribbean and highlights the poverty and violence that ravage Haiti. The work takes a stark look at Haiti – the country whose origins as the first independent black republic have been obscured by decades of harsh repression. It gives extensive background to the 1991 coup that overthrew Aristide and looks at the refugee crisis of 1992 and U.S. policies. Interviews with Aristide, Noam Chomsky and numerous Haitians are interwoven with historical and present-day footage.

**Haven.** Dir. Frank E Flowers. Perf. Orlando Bloom, Bill Paxton, Anthony Mackie and Zoe Saldana. 2006. This motion picture is filmed in the West Indies. Two shady businessmen flee to the Caymans to avoid federal prosecution but their escape ignites a chain reaction that leads a British native to commit a crime that affects the nation. The movie pushes the idea of the Caribbean as a paradise or haven and uses such taglines as: “In a place where there are no boundaries, the only thing more dangerous than greed, is love” and “Can love survive the fall of paradise?”
Heading South / Vers Le Sud. Dir. Laurent Cantet. 2006. Based on stories by Haitian writer Dany Laferrière, this work looks at desire (love/sex tourism) and power in 1970s Haiti. The film explores white female tourists who come to Haiti for pampering and attention – while being oblivious to the island’s realities outside of a beach existence – and the Haitian men who offer their services in order to survive.

Hit For Six. Dir. Alison Saunders-Franklyn. Perf. Rudolph Walker, Jeanille Bonterre, Andrew Pilgrim, Varia Williams and Alison Sealy-Smith. 2007. This work is Barbados’s first full-length feature film. It premiered during the period of the ICC Cricket World Cup tournament held in the Caribbean in 2007. It is a film about the game of cricket, love and scandal. It tells the story of a cricketer accused of match-fixing.


I Is a Long Memoried Woman. Dir. Frances-Anne Solomon. 1990. This documentary is adapted from the award-winning book of poems by Guyanese writer Grace Nicholls. This work chronicles the journey of an unnamed African woman from her homeland to slavery in the Caribbean. Using first person narration, the piece culminates in personal liberation.

It’s All About Dancing: A Jamaican Dance-u-mentary. Dir. Jason “Jay Will” Williams. Prod. Carleene Samuels. 2006. This work is shot in Jamaica where dancehall began. It features such artistes as Beenie Man, Elephant Man, Mr. Vegas, Voicemail, Macka Diamond, Tony Matterhorn and Bogle. Through interviews, candid monologues and improvisational dance sequences, all the key figures of dancehall explain the style, history, language and their personal definitions of dancehall culture.

Jab! The Blue Devils of Paramin. Dir. Alex De Verteuil. 2006. This documentary highlights Kootoo, a hillside farmer from the mountain community of Paramin. Once a year, at Carnival time, Kootoo becomes the King of Jab – the head of a Blue Devil Carnival band. Kootoo’s brothers also transform themselves into blue devils. This work traces the
transformation of a tranquil community into a living hell as Kootoo and his brothers compete to win the prize of the most fearsome devils.

**Jamaica for Sale.** Dir. Esther Figueroa. Prods. Esther Figueroa and Diana McCaulay. 2008. This 92-minute documentary takes a sharp look at the environmental, economic, and social impacts of tourism. Jamaica, one of the most indebted countries in the world, is undergoing unprecedented large-scale, mass market, all-inclusive hotel development, as well as the construction of exclusive gated residential schemes and luxury condominiums for non-residents. The documentary counters the dominant view that tourism is the savior of the Jamaican people.

**Jamesie: King of Scratch.** Dir. Andrea Leland. 2006. This documentary reveals performances by James Brewster, aka “Jamesie,” who is a 79-year-pld musician from St Croix. As a young boy he made his own instrument from a sardine can and a piece of white pine lumber. In the decades that followed, Jamesie and other musicians continued to use instruments that one can “scratch up” when performing. Today, scratch band music, also known as Quelbe, is the official music of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Jocelyn Valverde, French Caribbean Poet.** Dirs. Ann Armstrong Scarboro and Susan Wilcox. 1990. This twenty-four-minute documentary is one in an educational series of videos entitled *Ethnic Expressions from the Mosaic of the Americas.* The work features an interview with a young, self-taught and Parisian born poet, whose parents are from Guadeloupe. Valverde focuses on the history of slavery in the French colonies, cultural alienation, Caribbean legacies, poetic sensitivity and the creative process. Illustrations of Valverde’s poetry by the French painter Françoise Laloum are also included. The documentary comes with a Teacher’s guide that includes seven suggested classroom activities. Suitable for courses in Black Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, Literature, French and Art.
La Ultima Cena/The Last Supper. Dir. Tomas Gutiérrez Alea. 1976. Based on an incident from 18th-century Cuban history, this is a story about a plantation owner and slaveholder who decides to instruct his slaves in the ways of Christianity by inviting twelve of them to participate in a re-enactment of the Last Supper. The slave owner plays Christ.


Legacy of Indenture: Biography of Chesney. Dir. Ian Robertson. 2005. This video tells the story of a village on the Courantyne coast in eastern Guyana. The village is inhabited by the descendants of persons who came to the country as indentured labourers, after emancipation of the African slaves in 1838. The story is told mainly by the inhabitants who provide personal testimony to the history, culture, religious and linguistic experiences that shaped the village.

Life and Debt. Dir. Stephanie Black. Perf. Michael Manley, David Coore, Michael Witter, Stanley Fischer, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Tuff Gong Pictures. 2001. This documentary combines excerpts from Jamaica Kincaid’s non-fiction text “A Small Place” with visuals to highlight the impact of foreign economic agendas on the lives of Jamaican people. The work includes a look at the banana industry, milk production and the domestic chicken market.

Living with the Nariva Swamp: Participatory Research in Kernahan and Cascadoux. Dir. Bruce Paddington. Prod. The Centre for Gender and Development Studies, The University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus. 2002. This video traces the progress of a gender case study, which took place over a two to three year period. It integrates gender analysis into the study of the natural and bio-physical reality. The video highlights the Nariva swamp as a wetland of international importance. The work is useful for studies in gender, the environment & rural development.
Made in Jamaica. Dir. Jerome Laperrousaz. 2006. This documentary presents an overview of the reggae music movement past and present. From the crime and violence of the ghetto to political responsibility; from the history of slavery and colonization, to the legacy of Bob Marley and the idea of salvation through music; from religion and the Rasta movement to sex, music, women and their role in reggae music, Made in Jamaica explores the multifaceted reality of Reggae music through interviews with and musical performances by such artists as Capleton, Elephant Man, Bunny Wailer, Toots & the Maytals, Bounty Killer, Gregory Isaacs, Tanya Stephens, Beres Hammond, Third World, Lady Saw, Sly Dunbar & Robbie Shakespeare, Joseph Current, Vybz Kartel, Alaine, Brick & Lace and Bogle.

Maryse Condé Speaks From the Heart. Dirs. Ann Armstrong Scarboro and Susan Wilcox. 2002. This fifty-minute documentary is one in an educational series of videos entitled Ethnic Expressions from the Mosaic of the Americas. The work features an interview with a masterful novelist from Guadeloupe who has written several novels, plays and collections of essays. She speaks about her craft of writing and she describes her experiences with racism in France and the U.S. She also talks about the controversy her books have caused. She ends with a dramatic reading of her work. The documentary comes with a Teacher’s guide that includes seven suggested classroom activities. Suitable for courses in Black Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, Literature, French and Art.

Mas Fever: Inside Trinidad Carnival. Dir. Glenn Micallef. 1996. This work goes behind the scenes to capture the spirit and history of Trinidad’s annual event.

Mi Puerto Rico. Dir. Sharon Simon. 1995. This documentary offers a visual, musical and historical look at Puerto Rico through artworks, archival photographs and stories from poets, abolitionists and revolutionaries. It exposes the relationship between Puerto Rico and the U.S.
Nosotros y el jazz/The jazz in Us. Dir. Gloria Rolando. 2004. This documentary relates a chapter in the history shared by Afrocubans and African Americans through their common culture. The work reveals a group of Black Havana youths in the 1940s and 50s who hung out listening to jazz. In private houses, black societies and some bars in the cities, they enjoyed what was then called “Jam Sessions.” Movies such as “Stormy Weather” and “Cabin in the Sky” made these young men and women dream as they discovered the art of African American musicians, singers and dancers.

Of Men and Gods. Dirs. Anne Lescot and Laurence Magloire. 2002. The directors of this work examine the life of gay men in Haiti. The documentary looks at the acceptance of gay men within Haiti’s voodoo beliefs and rituals. It also considers the impact of the AIDS epidemic upon Haitians.

One Love. Dirs. Rick Elgood and Don Letts. Perf. Ky-Mani Marley, Cherine Anderson and Vas Blackwood. 2003. This motion picture tells the story of the forbidden relationship between a Rastafarian musician and a gospel singer (the daughter of a Pentecostal pastor) who meet when they both enter a music contest in Kingston Jamaica.

Panman: Rhythm of the Palms. Dir. Sander Burger. 2007. This 90-minute piece tells the story of Harry Daniel, the greatest panman in St Maarten. Harry is a star but he is also passionate about passing on his love for the pan to the youth. Yet, as hip-hop becomes more popular among the youth, their interest in pan fades and with it, Harry’s fame.

Paradise Lost. Dir. Inge Blackman. 2003. This documentary is a poetic journey to Trinidad to find out what it is like to be a queer Trinidadian. The work reveals a complex country with a mix of tolerance, censorship, religion and ritual. Through interviews, gay people in Trinidad talk openly about their desires and experiences.

Playing Away. Dir. Horace Ove. 1986. Set in Britain, cultures collide as West Indian immigrants prepare to play a cricket match in an upscale village. Racial and cultural misunderstandings are explored.

Potoprens se pam/Port-au-Prince is Mine. Dir. Rigoberto Lopez. 2000. This documentary paints a vivid portrait of Port-au-Prince, the capital of the Republic of Haiti, which is a victim of overpopulation and is beset with a lack of urban infrastructure and environmental degradation.

Pressure. Dir. Horace Ove. 1976. Set in Britain, the son of a Caribbean immigrant battles racism and a want to reject his heritage as he attempts to adopt White-British ways.

Pro-Test: Young Mothers Speak Out. Dir. Jaime Lee Loy. 2003. This documentary highlights and challenges the social stigma attached to unwed, young mothers in Trinidad. The issue of religion and the link between gender and sexuality are explored.

Queens of Curepe. Dir. Michael Mooleedhar. 2008. This work takes audiences on a walk through the streets at night with transsexual prostitutes.

Queens of Sound. Dir. Sandra Krampelhuber. 2006. This feature-length documentary offers the female perspective of reggae and dancehall music in Jamaica. Those interviewed include artistes Tanya Stephens, Sasha, CeCile, Macka Diamond along with Carolyn Cooper Head of the Reggae Studies Unit & Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of the West Indies Jamaica.

Ramdilla Seen. Dir. Jean Ahn. 2006. A vibrant record of the annual Hindu festival of Ramleela in which the story of the Ramayana is reenacted in some of the villages of Trinidad.
This sixty-minute piece is one in an educational series of videos entitled Ethnic Expressions from the Mosaic of the Americas. The work documents a keynote speech given by a prolific French Caribbean writer from Martinique. Confiant describes his evolution as a writer, his passion for Creole culture and the history of the literary movements of Négritude, Créolité and Antillanité. The documentary comes with a Teacher’s guide that includes seven suggested classroom activities. Suitable for courses in Black Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, Literature, French and Art.

Rent a Rasta. Dir. J Michael Seyfert. 2006. This documentary looks at Jamaica’s sex tourism. It examines the socioeconomic connection between foreign women and Jamaican men. The work highlights the representation of the Rastafari in this context by interrogating members of the Rastafari movement about the use of the Rasta to market Jamaica.

Roble de Olor/Scent of Oak. Dir. Rigoberto Lopez. 2003. This work is set in Cuba at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The story is inspired by the lives of Cornelio Souchay, a German merchant recently arrived on the island, and Ursula Lambert, a freed Black slave from Haiti. Despite being from different cultures and the social and racial barriers that separate them, a tale of love emerges to challenge the taboos and power structures of their time.

Roots Time. Dir. Silvestre Jacobi. 2006. Shot in the Jamaican countryside, Argentinean director Silvestre Jacobi tells the story of two Rastafarians who drive throughout rural communities selling records. They happen upon a well-known radio broadcaster who needs to get his sick girlfriend to a hospital. The two Rastafarians agree to deliver the sick woman to an herbal doctor, rather than the hospital, but the journey to the herbalist turns out to be much more difficult than they expected.

soil. Julius St. John has dreams of making it big in the United States of America as a reggae DJ but in order to attain his goal, he agrees to carry a bag of contraband through customs in exchange for his papers.


**Show Me Your Motion: The Ring Play Games of the Bahamas.** Dir. Ian Gregory Strachan. 2006. This documentary explores issues of gender roles, national identity, sexuality and globalisation in seemingly benign children’s activities. Strachan takes his camera through schoolyards in the Bahamas and includes islands such as St Lucia and Barbados.

**SistaGod.** Dir. Yao Ramesar. Perf. Evelyn Caesar Munroe, Indigo Minerve and Michael Cherrie. 2006. This feature-length piece draws on Caribbean mythology and ritual to present the coming of a Black female messiah who is born out of a period known as the Apocalypso.

**Soca Power.** Dir. Claude Santiago. 2008. This documentary features portraits of Soca artistes Machel Montano, Bunji Garlin, Faye-Ann Lyons-Alvarez and Isaac Blackman. Audiences are carried backstage and on the streets for Trinidad’s Carnival.

**Soy Cuba / I am Cuba.** Dir. Mikhail Kalatozov. 1964. This film by Russian director Kalatozov was created after the Cuban revolution of 1959 – a time when the socialist Castro government took over the pro-U.S. dictatorship and Cuba’s diplomatic and trade relations with the U.S. were severed. The work consists of four short story lines, which explore the context of the revolution.

**Soy Cuba: O Mamute Siberiano / I am Cuba: The Siberian Mammoth.** Dir. Vicente Ferraz. 2005. This documentary by Brazilian director Ferraz explores the making of the 1964 film “Soy Cuba.” It looks at the technical, cinematographic aspects of the film and reveals – through interviews – reflections about the process, the product and the cold reactions received from audiences.

Sugar Cane Alley / Rue Cases Nègres. Dir. Euzhan Palcy. 1983. Based on the book “Black Shack Alley,” by Joseph Zobel, Director Palcy gives audiences a look at French Caribbean colonial history. The work is a story about a boy’s coming of age on a sugar plantation in Martinique during the 1930s.

Territories. Dir. Isaac Julien. 1984. This experimental documentary is about the Notting Hill Carnival. It locates the event within the struggle between white authority and black youth, in this case, over the contested spaces of the carnival and reflects on its history as a symbolic act of resistance. The work juxtaposes carnival scenes with archive news reports (police violence; rioting in the streets). The documentary becomes part of the resistance.

The A-Word. Dirs. Brianne LaBauve and Lisle Waldron. 2005. This documentary is an unbiased exploration of issues related to abortion law reform in Trinidad and Tobago. Such issues include morality, church versus state, policy for a plural society, women’s reproductive health, gender relations and attitudes towards sex.


The Art of Stickfighting. Dir. Joseph Valley. 2008. This documentary takes audiences into the gayelle to reveal the cultural form of stickfighting. Along with the history of the art form it features interviews with stickfighters and others who are guardians of the culture of stickfighting.
The Asian Signature. Dir. Patricia Mohammed. 2008. The notion of the Caribbean as occidental creates for the Asian aesthetic a different, oriental, or “ethnic” oddity in this region. This documentary explores through three vignettes of individuals' lives, how Asian culture has been transformed in the Caribbean and thus constantly transforming the idea of what might be constituted as Caribbean culture. This work is part of a documentary series entitled A Different Imagination, which reads the past with a contemporary lens and examines historical representations of the Caribbean region’s colonial past with a new insider view.

The Black Mozart in Cuba. Dir. Steve James. 2006. Joseph Boulogne, Le Chevalier de St George, was a classical composer and violin virtuoso born in Guadeloupe in the 18th century. The son of a slave and her master, he achieved success in Paris and was said to have influenced the great composer, Mozart. Le Chevalier also fought for the French Revolution, yet when he died in 1799 he seemed to be erased from history. This work tells the story of the so-called Black Mozart. It documents what took place when a ballet about his life was staged in Cuba and how his story inspired those who worked on the project.

The Colour of Darkness: Interview with Barry Chevannes. Dir. Patricia Mohammed. 2005. Drawing on an interview with Professor Barry Chevannes, an anthropologist from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, this documentary examines the iconography of Rastafari and demonstrates that an iconographic representation of self emerges so that slowly the area of darkness, that Atlantic Slave Trade wrought for African populations, begins to be filled with a new sense of self, a new connectedness and a new myth of origin. Chevannes' narrative is juxtaposed with images and symbols of black culture in the region. This work is part of a documentary series entitled A Different Imagination, which reads the past with a contemporary lens and examines historical representations of the Caribbean region’s colonial past with a new insider view. Part of this project involves decentering written sources and extending legitimacy to the pictorial and the visual.
The Garifuna Journey. Dirs. Kelly Berger and Andrea Leland. 1998. Shot in Belize, this documentary examines the resilience of the Garifuna people and the continuity of their culture despite being exiled from St Vincent to Central America by the British at the end of the 18th century.

The Harder They Come. Dir. Perry Henzell. Perf. Jimmy Cliff, Janet Barkley, Carl Bradshaw, Lucia White and Basil Keane. In this film, the urban dynamics and music business of Jamaica are foregrounded as the lead character leaves his country village to go to the big city to become a famous artiste. He finds himself compelled to dabble in illegal activities in order to survive.

The Insatiable Season: Making Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago. Dir. Mariel Brown. 2007. For four months every year, a camp of people in Trinidad converges for the ritual of making a Carnival band. The time together is intense and exhausting. When the insatiable season ends, art will have been made, worn and discarded…until the season returns.

The Journey of the Lion. Dir. Fritz Baumann. 1992. In this 90-minute piece, a Jamaican Rastafarian embarks on a journey in search of his roots and identity. Dreaming of Africa, the land of his ancestry, he travels through continents as he discovers the world and his place in it.


The Mennonites of Belize. Dir. Bruce Paddington. 2006. This documentary uncovers the origins and beliefs of a fundamentalist Christian group – present since the 1950s – in Belize.

The Mystic Masseur. Assoc. Prod. Anthony Maharaj. Dir. Ismail Merchant. 2001. Set in colonial 1940s Trinidad, an expert on healing and Hinduism enters politics and experiences personal conflict. This work is based on the novel of the same title by Trinidadian author V.S. Naipaul.
The Nariva Swamp: A Contested Wetland. Dir. Bruce Paddington. Prod. The Centre for Gender and Development Studies, The University of the West Indies St Augustine Campus. 2005. This work explores the bio-physical status of the swamp and contestation among stakeholders. The intersection of gender and the environment is underscored. The documentary focuses on issues of sustainability, livelihood and equity.

The Price of Sugar. Dir. Bill Haney. 2007. The Dominican Republic is known for its tourist-attracting beaches. Yet a few miles inland exists a troubling secret: the bateys, camps where Haitians who work on sugar plantations live in the most squalid conditions. This documentary goes inside the bateys with Father Christopher Hartley, a priest determined to expose the injustices meted out to the Haitians and improve their way of life.

The Shape of Water. Dir. Kum-Kum Bhavnani. 2006. This documentary weaves together the powerful stories of Khady, Bilkusben, Oraiza, Dona Antonia, Vandana and Gila who, through candor and humour, infuse their communities with passion for change. The women are abandoning female genital mutilation (Senegal), tapping for rubber to protect the rainforest (Brazil), protecting the biodiversity of the planet (India) and opposing military occupations (Jerusalem). “The Shape of Water” offers fresh insight into the complex, revolutionary and inspirational lives of Third World women. The documentary offers a new angle on globalisation, human rights and social justice.

The Siege. Dir. Junior-Andrew Lett. 2008. This documentary addresses the 1990 Muslimeen insurrection in Trinidad by focusing on the experiences of the hostages.

The Sign of the Loa. Dir. Patricia Mohammed. 2007. The intent of this work is to encourage among Caribbean people a different appreciation of Haitian society and its culture. By and large the most popular reading of Haiti is one of primitivism and underdevelopment. To reorient the way in which we can look at Haiti, the documentary examines and demonstrates both the logic and beauty of Haitian art and creativity – the arts being the space most recognised by others as uniquely Haitian and as also highly inventive. The
The documentary proposes that the visual object of the veve or the symbolic representation of the gods made on the prayer ground to invite and propitiate the loas or divinities was a school for artistic training, since it was a learnt skill that was transmitted through memory and practice from one houngan/priest to another. How the loas manifested themselves in human form was through the bodies of those who literally “caught the spirit.” Thus, the relationship between the loa and the dance – dancing with divinity – is in fact a direct one. This bridges the divide between scripted and performance art. The documentary moves visually between fine art – paintings, drawings, installations – to dance as the sign of the loa and thus a signifier of Haiti. This work is part of a documentary series entitled A Different Imagination, which reads the past with a contemporary lens and examines historical representations of the Caribbean region’s colonial past with a new insider view.

The Status of Arawak in Three Places. Dir. Ian Robertson. 2004. This video examines the moribund state of the Arawak (Lokono) language at three different locations in the Essequibo area in Guyana. The evidence and the testimony of the speakers underscore some of the more significant factors relevant to the status of the language.

Three Guyanese Languages: Going, Going, Gone. Dir. Ian Robertson. 2003. This documentary indicates the moribund state of three separate languages in Guyana. One, Arawak is an indigenous Indian language facing extinction. Another, Bhojpuri (referred to as Hindi) was brought to the territories by the Indian indentured labourers who came to the country after the emancipation of the slaves from West Africa. The final language is Berbice Dutch, an indigenous Creole language, which is now dead with the last speaker having died in 2005 at the age of one hundred and three years.

Third World Cop. Dir. Chris Browne. Perf. Paul Campbell, Carl Bradshaw, Mark Danvers, Audrey Reid and John Jones. 1999. Set in Jamaica, a policeman must choose between loyalty to his street crew and the responsibility that comes with his position as an officer of the law.
Uncomfortable: The Art of Christopher Cozier. Dir. Richard Fung. 2005. This documentary is a journey through the art and ideas of contemporary Trinidadian artist Christopher Cozier.

Up and Dancing: The Magic Stilts of Trinidad and Tobago. Dir. Harald Rumpf. 2007. This work follows the lives of students and teachers of the Killimanjaro School of Arts and Culture as they prepare for carnival parades in the streets of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. The documentary takes a look at the practitioners of the traditional art of stilt walking – characters popularly known as Moko Jumbies. Practiced primarily by youths from low-income families in the Cocorite hills, “walking” becomes a creative diversion from the harsh realities of poor urban life.

Visa for a Dream. Dir. Sonia Fritz. 1990. This documentary examines the dire economic conditions in the Dominican Republic that force many people to undertake a dangerous and illegal boat trip to Puerto Rico. The work contrasts the lifestyles of the two countries, focusing on the women of the Dominican Republic and the problems they confront in Puerto Rico.

Walking On a Sea of Glass. Dir. Errol Williams. 2003. This documentary showcases Bermuda activist Kingsley Tweed who went into exile after playing a major role in the desegregation of the island.

What My Mother Told Me. Dir. Frances-Anne Solomon. 1995. This work is a dramatic journey towards self-discovery. The story focuses on Jesses, a young woman from England who goes to Trinidad to bury her father. Reluctantly she agrees to meet her mother, whom she thought had abandoned her when she was a child. Her mother tells her stories, revealing a troubled and violent marriage, and Jesse is forced to face the truth about her past. What My Mother Told Me cleverly evokes complex connections between history, memory, violence and cultural identity.
When the Spirits Dance Mambo. Dirs. Marta Moreno Vega and Robert Shepard. 2002. This work traces Santeria or La Regla de Ocho from Africa to the New World. It looks at the developments of the ritual – songs, dance and music – in Cuba and New York.

When Voices Rise. Dir. Errol Williams. 2002. This work details the events, which led to the desegregation of Bermuda in the 1950s.

Widerstand in Guadeloupe/Resistance in Guadeloupe. Dirs. Rolf Coulanges and Ursula Dieterich. 1983. This documentary focuses on farmers in Guadeloupe who plant products of resistance, not only as food, but as symbols in a fight against the loss of home-grown things in a place replete with imported French goods.

Windows into the Past: Conversation with Bridget Brereton. Dir. Patricia Mohammed. 2006. The central challenge that historians of the Caribbean have been grappling with for many years is precisely to re-orient history away from the outsider perspective to the inner perspective. This digital video documentary work draws on an interview with University of the West Indies historian Professor Bridget Brereton to examine the dilemmas involved in the writing of history while demonstrating the value of adding visual images to sources of data in the ongoing reinterpretation of the past. This work is part of a documentary series entitled A Different Imagination, which reads the past with a contemporary lens and examines historical representations of the Caribbean region’s colonial past with a new insider view. Part of this project involves decentering written sources and extending legitimacy to the pictorial and the visual.

Wrestling with the Angels: An Exploration of Caribbeanness. Prod. and Dir. Marsha Pearce. 2008. This feature-length (91 minutes) documentary explores Caribbean identity through the images and sounds of a ubiquitous feature of contemporary popular culture: the music video. Focusing on the English-Speaking Caribbean, this work wrestles with issues of self, as music video directors, producers and artistes share their views on the complexities of portraying Caribbean people and life using the moving images and sounds of the music video format. The documentary puts the medium of television at the heart of discussions
as it tells a story about struggle – a universal struggle, but one that has a resonant sound in the hearts of Caribbean people who have not had the power to control information and communications technology. The work includes interviews with Ras Kassa, Jay Will, Carleene Samuels, Nordia Rose, Brian St Juste, Tessanne Chin, Little X, Mungal Patasar, Walt Lovelace, Eniola Adelekan, Chantal Esdelle and Robert Yao Ramesar.