

Free to Watch Now: Films by Black Creators

Updated 02/08/21

| Platform/App | Film | Direct Link | Director | Country | Year | Rating | TRT | Synopsis |
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| YouTube | 13TH | Watch the film here | Ava DuVernay | USA | 2016 | NR | 100 | Combining archival footage with testimony from activists and scholars, director Ava DuVernay's examination of the U.S. prison system looks at how the country's history of racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in America. |
| YouTube | BLACK THOUGHTS | Watch the film here | Dwayne Logan | USA | 2020 | NR | 30 | Aiming to bridge the divide that exists between embattled Americans, BLACK THOUGHTS places viewers within the history ravaged mind of a broken-hearted Black man, as he contemplates how confusion has kept citizens engaged in an endless cycle of conflict. |
| YouTube | STRONG ISLAND | Watch the film here | Yance Ford | USA | 2007 | NR | 107 | In 1992, filmmaker Yance Ford's brother William was shot and killed by a 19-year-old white mechanic after a common complaint about a car repair spiraled violently out of control. The mechanic claimed he fired in self-defense, and though William was unarmed, he quickly became the prime suspect in his own death. When an all-white grand jury set the shooter free, Yance's family retreated into a silent fury. STRONG ISLAND dismantles and reimagines the wreckage left in the wake of William's murder, bringing us as close as art can come to the blistering truth. |
| UCLA Film & Television Archive | L.A. Rebellion: Project One Films | Watch the films here | Jamaa Fanaka, Bernard Nicolas, Jacqueline Frazier, Haile Gerima, Alile Sharon Larkin, Ben Caldwell, Melvonna Ballenger, Thomas Penick, Don Amis | USA | 1969-1977 | | | A rite of passage at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television for nearly 50 years, Project One films were undertaken by aspiring filmmakers before most of them ever set foot in a production class. Armed with an 8-millimeter semi-automatic camera, the students were expected to write, direct and edit a motion picture with sound during their first academic quarter. The UCLA Film & Television Archive is pleased to be able to make these Project One films available to the public as part of its ongoing "L.A. Rebellion" initiative. Note: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF WILLIE FAUST, OR DEATH ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN is current offline. |
| Shudder | HORROR NOIRE: A HISTORY OF BLACK HORROR | Watch the film here (with 7-day free Shudder trial) | Xavier Burgin | USA | 2019 | NR | 83 | Delving into a century of genre films that by turns utilized, caricatured, exploited, sidelined, and finally embraced them, HORROR NOIRE traces the untold history of Black Americans in Hollywood through their connection to the horror genre. Adapting Robin Means Coleman's seminal book, HORROR NOIRE presents the living and the dead, using new and archival interviews from scholars and creators — the voices who survived the genre's past trends, to those shaping its future. |
| Tubi | AARON LOVES ANGELA | Watch the film here | Gordon Parks Jr. | USA | 1975 | NR | 99 | Aaron and Angela, two young adults living in the Harlem ghetto of New York City, are deeply in love with each other. The only thing standing in the way of their love is their families. Aaron is black, while Angela is Puerto Rican, and neither family wants one of their own to associate with the others. As the pair rebel against the prejudices of their families, they soon find the conflict spreading out to their friends and neighbors, until the hatred threatens to spiral out of control. |
| Tubi | A LONG WAY FROM HOME: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BASEBALL'S DESEGREGATION | Watch the film here | Gaspar González | USA | 2019 | NR | 41 | A Long Way from Home chronicles the struggles and triumphs of the African-American and Latino players who followed Jackie Robinson into white professional baseball. Playing their minor-league ball in small, remote towns where racial segregation remained a fact of life well into the 1960s, these were the men who, before they could live their big-league dreams, first had to beat Jim Crow. Featuring original, revealing interviews with James "Mudcat" Grant, Grover "Deacon" Jones, Jimmy Wynn, J.R. Richard, Tony Pérez, and Orlando Cepeda, among others. |
| Tubi | BACK TO NATURAL | Watch the film here | Dr. Gillian Scott-Ward | USA | 2019 | NR | 65 | Reveals the shocking truth about hair, politics, and racial identity in Black communities and beyond. Directed by New York City based Clinical Psychologist Gillian Scott-Ward, the film was inspired by the work she was doing in her clinical practice and her own drive to go natural. Back to Natural is a powerful call for healing that takes a grassroots approach to exploring the globalized policing of natural Black hair. Filmed in New York City, Philadelphia, Paris, And Cape Town, this documentary explores universal aspects of the Black experience and the "New" Natural Hair movement. Join us on this journey of discovery and enlightenment while celebrating our history and natural styles that are taking the world by storm. |
| Tubi | BLACK AND CUBA | Watch the film here | Robin J. Hayes | USA | 2015 | PG-13 | 119 | BLACK AND CUBA follows street-smart students, who are outcasts at an elite Ivy League university, as they band together and adventure to Cuba to see if revolution is truly possible. While filming their poignant encounters with AfroCuban youth, breathtaking sites and moving hip-hop performances, the travelers confront realities behind myths of color-blindness and social mobility. This edgy and artful documentary of their journey uncovers renewed hope for equality and human rights. 'Black and Cuba' is the feature film directorial debut of international human rights advocate and scholar Robin J. Hayes, PhD. |
| Tubi | BLACK HOLLYWOOD | Watch the film here | Howard Johnson | USA | 1984 | NR | 85 | In 1984, actor and director Howard Johnson took the temperature of legendary Black filmmakers and actors, allowing them to speak frankly about their exclusion from the Hollywood Establishment while offering solutions for advancing Black narratives. Producer/actor Jim Brown, actress Vonetta McGee, BLACK BELT JONES writer Oscar Williams, and DOLEMITE director D'Urville Martin are scathingly candid about the mechanics of marginalization and the necessary emergence of an independent Black cinema while analyzing the legacy of 'Blaxploitation.' Diahnne Abbott, Rosalind Cash and Alfre Woodard speak to being repeatedly offered roles reinforcing negative stereotypes. Lorenzo Tucker — the 'Black Valentino' — illustrates his career with pioneering filmmaker Oscar Micheaux alongside studio era actors Joel Fluellen and Vincent Tubbs recounting the isolation they felt working under the studio system of '50s and '60s. BLACK HOLLYWOOD stands as a raw, unfiltered testimony of the Black experience in Hollywood. |
| Tubi | BONES | Watch the film here | Ernest R. Dickerson | USA | 2001 | R | 96 | Twenty years after his death, a local legend and benefactor returns as a ghost to avenge those who killed him and restore his neighborhood. |
| Tubi | CHARLIE STEEL | Watch the film here | Bevis Parsons | South Africa | 1984 | NR | 84 | When Dlamini's daughter, Dudu, is kidnapped for ransom, he calls on his old friend Charlie Steel, a renowned Private Investigator. Charlie attempts to infiltrate the gang responsible, but is soon exposed by one of his ex-army comrades, a vicious murderer by the name of Jimmy, working for the gangster known as Sonny. CHARLIE STEEL is distributed by Cape Town based 'Gravel Road Distribution Group', a company dedicated to distributing Afrocentric narratives like CHARLIE STEEL that were unable to find distribution in South Africa at the height of Apartheid. |
| Tubi | CHILDREN'S REPUBLIC, THE | Watch the film here | Flora Gomes | Portugal | 2012 | PG | 75 | When their country is torn apart by the ravages of war, a brave band of West African children fight to survive and put their homeland back together. |
| Tubi | DA SWEET BLOOD OF JESUS | Watch the film here | Spike Lee | USA | 2014 | R | 123 | Dr. Hess Green becomes cursed by a mysterious ancient African artifact and is overwhelmed with a newfound thirst for blood. Soon after his transformation he enters into a dangerous romance with Ganja Hightower that questions the very nature of love, addiction, sex, and status. |
| Tubi | DELIVER US FROM EVIL | Watch the film here | Horace Jackson | USA | 1975 | PG | 96 | Violent and dramatic events dog the life of hot headed rebel Chris Townes. Drifting from one menial job to another, where he finds resentment and eventually arrest, he finally loses his apartment and leaves in a rage. Chris meets Mindy and saves her from the hands of a violent gang. To thank him she introduces him to a happier way of life. Then suddenly, this new world is shattered by the most horrific event in Chris's turbulent life. |

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| Tubi | DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS | Watch the film here | Carl Franklin | USA | 1995 | R | 101 | Private detective Easy Rawlins (Denzel Washington) has been caught on the wrong side of the most dangerous secret in town. |
| Tubi | DISCO GODFATHER | Watch the film here | J. Robert Wagoner | USA | 1979 | R | 93 | Rudy Ray Moore ends his '70s film run in this trippy Blaxploitation classic featuring Kung-Fu moves, disco bliss and nightmarish anti-drug sequences. DISCO GODFATHER was the film debut of Keith David in an unbilled bit-part as a patron in the nightclub. |
| Tubi | DOLEMITE | Watch the film here | D'Urville Martin | USA | 1975 | R | 90 | After he is released from jail, a pimp takes on the criminals and corrupt police officers who framed him in the first place. |
| Tubi | FREE ANGELA DAVIS AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS | Watch the film here | Shola Lynch | USA | 2013 | NR | 102 | The story of professor Angela Davis, whose social activism implicated her in a botched kidnapping and put her on the FBI's Most Wanted List in 1970. |
| Tubi | GET ON THE BUS | Watch the film here | Spike Lee | USA | 1996 | NR | 120 | ON OCTOBER 16, 1996, THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLION MAN MARCH, SPIKE LEE INVITES YOU TO LIFT YOUR HEAD, RAISE YOUR VOICE, AND...GET ON THE BUS. Several Black men take a cross-country bus trip to attend the Million Man March in Washington, DC in 1995. On the bus are an eclectic set of characters including a laid-off aircraft worker, a man whose at-risk son is handcuffed to him, a black Republican, a former gangsta, a Hollywood actor, a cop who is of mixed racial background, and a white bus driver. All make the trek discussing issues surrounding the march, including manhood, religion, politics, and race. |
| Tubi | GO DOWN, DEATH! | Watch the film here | Spencer Williams | USA | 1944 | NR | 56 | The owner of a juke joint arranges to frame an innocent preacher with a scandalous photograph, but his scheme backfires when his own adoptive mother interferes. |
| Tubi | GOOD FENCES | Watch the film here | Ernest R. Dickerson | USA | 2003 | R | 119 | Set in the 1970s, Tom Spader is an attorney who is determined to end what he has dubbed "the colored man's losing streak." When his winning of a high-profile case thrusts him into the limelight, he decides to move his wife and their two kids out of their mixed lower-middle-class town and into the posh enclave of Greenwich, Connecticut. Myriad microaggressions ensue. |
| Tubi | GREAT DEBATERS, THE | Watch the film here | Denzel Washington | USA | 2007 | PG-13 | 127 | The true story of Melvin B. Tolson (Denzel Washington), a brilliant but politically radical debate team coach from the historically black Wiley College in East Texas, who uses the power of words to transform a group of underdog African-American college students into a historical powerhouse that took on the Harvard elite. |
| Tubi | HUMAN TORNADO, THE | Watch the film here | Cliff Roquemore | USA | 1976 | R | 98 | In this action-packed sequel, Dolemite flees after getting caught with a Sheriff's wife and helps a madam at war with a local gangster. |
| Tubi | INVISIBLE VEGAN, THE | Watch the film here | Jasmine Leyva; Kenny Leyva | USA | 2019 | NR | 84 | The Invisible Vegan is a 90-minute independent documentary that explores the problem of unhealthy dietary patterns in the African-American community, foregrounding the health and wellness possibilities enabled by plant-based vegan diets and lifestyle choices. |
| Tubi | JASON'S LYRIC | Watch the film here | Doug McHenry | USA | 1994 | R | 119 | In inner-city Houston, a man (Allen Payne) from a struggling family finds love and hope with a woman named Lyric (Jada Pinkett Smith). |
| Tubi | MEAN JOHNNY BARROWS | Watch the film here | Fred Williamson | USA | 1975 | R | 90 | Discharged from the army, an ex-GI is hired as a hit-man by a crime syndicate that is at war with another Mafia family. |
| Tubi | MESSENGER, THE | Watch the film here | Fred Williamson | USA | 1986 | R | 95 | When his girlfriend dies of a drug overdose, a former Green Beret decides to take vengeance on the drug gangs responsible for her death. Superstar of 70s "blaxploitation" cinema Fred Williamson directed, produced, conceptualized, and played the starring role of Jake Sebastian Turner in THE MESSENGER. |
| Tubi | MOTHER OF GEORGE | Watch the film here | Andrew Dosunmu | Nigeria and USA | 2013 | R | 107 | Adenike and Ayodele, a Nigerian couple living in Brooklyn, are having trouble conceiving a child — a problem that defies cultural expectations and leads Adenike to make a shocking decision that could either save or destroy her family. |
| Tubi | NAS: TIME IS ILLMATIC | Watch the film here | One9 | USA | 2014 | NR | 74 | Time Is Illmatic is a feature length documentary film that delves deep into the making of Nas' 1994 debut album, Illmatic, and the social conditions that influenced its creation. |
| Tubi | NIGHT CATCHES US | Watch the film here | Tanya Hamilton | USA | 2010 | R | 90 | After growing up during the tumultuous 1960s, ex-Black Panther Marcus returns to his home in Philadelphia in 1976 and reconciles with his past. |
| Tubi | PETEY WHEATSTRAW | Watch the film here | Cliff Roquemore | USA | 1977 | R | 99 | Rudy Ray Moore is PETEY WHEATSTRAW, whose talent for comedy is only topped by his gift for Kung Fu. When his arch-rivals Leroy and Skillet massacre him and his friends, Petey mistakenly ends up in Hell and is given a one-way ticket out: wed Satan's daughter. |
| Tubi | RED HOOK SUMMER | Watch the film here | Spike Lee | USA | 2012 | R | 125 | When his mom deposits him at the Red Hook housing project in Brooklyn to spend the summer with the grandfather he's never met, young Flik may as well have landed on Mars. Fresh from his cushy life in Atlanta, he's bored and friendless, and his strict grandfather, Enoch, a firebrand preacher, is bent on getting him to accept Jesus Christ as his personal savior. Only Chazz, the feisty girl from church, provides a diversion from the drudgery. As hot summer simmers and Sunday mornings brim with Enoch's operatic sermons, things turn anything but dull as people's conflicting agendas collide. |
| Tubi | RUN FOR THE DREAM | Watch the film here | Neema Barnette | USA | 1996 | PG-13 | 94 | The true story of Olympic gold medalist Gail Devers (Charlayne Woodard) and her fight to combat Graves disease while becoming the fastest female sprinter in the world. From a setback in Seoul that nearly costs her the use of her feet to her excruciating battle with the crippling illness to victories in Barcelona and Atlanta, Gail proves she's got the heart of a champion in this little seen gem of an inspirational biography. Louis Gossett Jr., Jeffrey Sams, Tina Lifford, Robert Guillaume and Paula Kelly costar. |
| Tubi | SOMETHING FROM NOTHING: THE ART OF RAP | Watch the film here | Ice-T; Andy Baybutt | USA | 2012 | R | 106 | HIP HOP DIDN'T INVENT ANYTHING. HIP HOP REINVENTED EVERYTHING SOMETHING FROM NOTHING: THE ART OF RAP is a feature length performance documentary about the runaway juggernaut that is Rap music. At the wheel of this unstoppable beast is the film's director and interviewer Ice-T. Taking us on a deeply personal journey Ice-T uncovers how this music of the street has grown to dominate the world. Along the way Ice-T meets a whole spectrum of Hip-Hop talent, from founders, to new faces, to the global superstars like Eminem, Dr Dre, Snoop Dogg and Kanye West. He exposes the roots and history of Rap and then, through meeting many of its most famous protagonists, studies the living mechanism of the music to reveal 'The Art Of Rap'. This extraordinary film features unique performances from the entire cast, without resorting to archive material, to build a fresh and surprising take on the phenomenon that is Rap. |
| Tubi | SOUL ON ICE | Watch the film here | Damon Kwame Mason | USA | 2017 | TV-14 | 86 | SOUL ON ICE: Past, Present, and Future is a film that presents and retells the unknown contributions of black athletes in ice hockey. For untold decades, hockey was seen as a homogeneous sport, exciting to watch but played by one kind of player. But people deserve to now know of the exploits of athletes who dared to stand out, and dared to make the sport their own. These Black athletes dared to give their sport soul. |
| Tubi | THOMASINE & BUSHROD | Watch the film here | Gordon Parks Jr. | USA | 1974 | PG | 95 | A rare blaxploitation classic starring VONETTA MCGEE and MAX JULIEN, Thomasine and Bushrod was intended as a counterpart to Bonnie and Clyde. This pair of thieves, who operate in the American south between 1911 and 1915, pattern themselves after Robin Hood and hold the White Establishment as (a 'modern-day') Sheriff of Nottingham. Here's the clincher-- Thomasine and Bushrod steal from rich, white capitalists, then give to Mexicans, Native Americans and poor whites. |
| Tubi | TOP OF THE HEAP | Watch the film here | Christopher St John | USA | 1972 | R | 94 | A Washington D.C. cop is proud to be one of the few African-Americans on the force. He is not well loved by his peers or by street people. Trouble erupts when he is overlooked for a promotion in writer/director/star Christopher St. John's complex surrealist drama. |

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| Tubi | WHO KILLED CAPTAIN ALEX? | Watch the film here | Nabwana I.G.G. | Uganda | 2010 | NR | 80 | A mafia leader's brother is captured in a shootout, prompting a revenge attack on the army camp. But when troop leader Captain Alex is killed during a raid, a violent war escalates between the two sides. The captain's brother takes matters into his own hands, while mafia henchmen take to the skies to bomb Kampala. Narrated with energy and wit by 'Video Joker' Emmie, ultra-low budget thriller WHO KILLED CAPTAIN ALEX? became an international viral sensation when its trailer first hit YouTube. Self-taught filmmaker Nabwana Isaac Godfrey Geoffrey produced, directed, shot, wrote and edited the film from his home in the slums of Uganda (a.k.a 'Wakaliwood') for under \$200. |
| Tubi | WOMAN THOU ART LOOSED | Watch the film here | Michael Schultz | USA | 2004 | R | 94 | An adaptation of Bishop T.D. Jakes' self-help novel, chronicling a woman's struggle to come to terms with her legacy of abuse, addiction and poverty. |
| PBS | AGAINST ALL ODDS: The Fight for a Black Middle Class | Watch the film here | Bob Herbert | USA | 2017 | NR | 77 | A documentary about the extraordinary difficulty African-Americans have faced in their efforts to establish and maintain a middle class standard of living. Nearly 40 percent of all black children are poor. And the black middle class remains proportionally much smaller and far less healthy than the white middle class. With a compelling narrative, dramatic historical footage and a series of deeply personal interviews, Bob Herbert shows why this is still the case a half century after the heyday of the civil rights movement. |
| PBS | DRIVING WHILE BLACK: RACE, SPACE, AND MOBILITY IN AMERICA | Watch the film here | Gretchen Sullivan Sorin & Ric Burns | USA | 2020 | NR | 115 | Discover how the advent of the automobile brought new mobility and freedom for African Americans but also exposed them to discrimination and deadly violence, and how that history resonates today. |
| PBS | DUSABLE TO OBAMA: CHICAGO'S BLACK METROPOLIS | Watch the film here | Barbara E. Allen & Daniel Andries | USA | 2010 | NR | 136 | The history of Chicago's African-American community told like never before -- through the voices of its leading citizens, scholars, artists, politicians, and business leaders. |
| PBS | THE FIRST RAINBOW COALITION | Watch the film here | Ray Santisteban | USA | 2019 | NR | 57 | In 1969, the Chicago Black Panther Party began to form alliances across lines of race and ethnicity with other community-based movements in the city, including the Latino group the Young Lords Organization and the southern whites of the Young Patriots. Banding together in one of the most segregated cities in postwar America to collectively confront issues such as police brutality and substandard housing, they called themselves the Rainbow Coalition. The First Rainbow Coalition tells the movement's little-known story through rare archival footage and interviews with former coalition members in present-day. |
| PBS | FORGOTTEN GENIUS: PERCY JULIAN | Watch the film here | Llewellyn M. Smith | USA | 2007 | NR | 112 | The grandson of Alabama slaves, Percy Julian met with every possible barrier in a deeply segregated America. He was a man of genius, devotion, and determination. As a black man he was also an outsider, fighting to make a place for himself in a profession and country divided by bigotry—a man who would eventually find freedom in the laboratory. |
| PBS | FREEDOM SUMMER | Watch the film here | Stanley Nelson | USA | 2014 | NR | 113 | The story of 10 memorable weeks in 1964 known as Freedom Summer, when more than 700 student volunteers from around the country joined organizers and local African Americans in a historic effort to shatter the foundations of white supremacy in Mississippi - then one of the nation's most viciously racist, segregated states. |
| PBS | HOW IT FEELS TO BE FREE | Watch the film here | Yoruba Richen | USA | 2021 | NR | 120 | A documentary that tells the inspiring story of how six iconic African American women entertainers -- Lena Horne, Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Diahann Carroll, Cicely Tyson and Pam Grier -- challenged an entertainment industry deeply complicit in perpetuating racist stereotypes, and transformed themselves and their audiences in the process. |
| PBS | MAYA ANGELOU: AND STILL I RISE | Watch the film here | Rita Coburn Whack; Bob Hercule | USA | 2016 | NR | 112 | Distinctly referred to as "a redwood tree, with deep roots in American culture," Dr. Maya Angelou led a prolific life. She inspired generations with lyrical modern African-American thought that pushed boundaries. Best known for her autobiography, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, she gave people the freedom to think about their history in a way they never had before. |
| PBS | THE TALK: RACE IN AMERICA | Watch the film here | Samuel D. Pollard | USA | 2017 | NR | 114 | This two-hour documentary is about the increasingly common conversation taking place in homes and communities across the country between parents of color and their children, especially sons, about how to behave if they are ever stopped by the police. This program originally aired in 2017. |
| PBS | TELL THEM WE ARE RISING | Watch the film here | Stanley Nelson | USA | 2017 | NR | 85 | The rich history of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) began before the end of slavery, flourished in the 20th century, and profoundly influenced the course of the nation for over 150 years — yet remains largely unknown. With Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities, the latest documentary from Stanley Nelson (Black Panthers, Freedom Riders) and Marco Williams, the powerful story of the rise, influence, and evolution of HBCUs comes to life. |
| PBS | WE LIKE IT LIKE THAT | Watch the film here | Mathew Ramirez Warren | USA | 2015 | NR | 82 | Created by largely Puerto Rican, Cuban and African American youths living alongside each other in the 1960s, Boogaloo served as an authentic and vibrant cultural expression. "We Like It Like That" explores a pivotal moment in '60s music history when blues, funk and traditional Caribbean rhythms were fused to define a new generation of urban Latinos. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | BEYOND THE LIGHTS | Watch the film here | Gina Prince-Bythewood | USA | 2014 | PG-13 | 116 | The pressures of fame have superstar singer Noni on the edge, until she meets Kaz, a young cop who works to help her find the courage to develop her own voice and break free to become the artist she was meant to be. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE | Watch the 4 part series here | Leslie Asako Gladsoj & Talleah Bridges McMahon | USA | 2016 | NR | 240 | BLACK AMERICAN SINCE MLK: AND STILL I RISE looks at the last five decades of African American history through the eyes of Henry Louis Gates Jr., exploring the tremendous gains and persistent challenges of these years. Drawing on eyewitness accounts, scholarly analysis and rare archival footage, the series illuminates our recent past, while raising urgent questions about the future of the African American community — and our nation as a whole. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | BLACK MOTHER | Watch the film here | Khalik Allah | USA | 2018 | NR | 77 | Part film, part baptism, in BLACK MOTHER director Khalik Allah brings us on a spiritual journey through Jamaica. Soaking up its bustling metropolises and tranquil countryside, Allah introduces us to a succession of vividly rendered souls who call this island home. Their candid testimonies create a polyphonic symphony, set against a visual prayer of indelible portraiture. Thoroughly immersed between the sacred and profane, BLACK MOTHER channels rebellion and reverence into a deeply personal ode informed by Jamaica's turbulent history but existing in the urgent present |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION | Watch the film here | Stanley Nelson | USA | 2015 | NR | 120 | In the turbulent 1960s, change was coming to America and the fault lines could no longer be ignored — cities were burning, Vietnam was exploding, and disputes raged over equality and civil rights. A new revolutionary culture was emerging and it sought to drastically transform the system. The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense would, for a short time, put itself at the vanguard of that change. 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. Master documentarian Stanley Nelson goes straight to the source, weaving a treasure trove of rare archival footage with the diverse group of voices of the people who were there: police, FBI informants, journalists, white supporters and detractors, and Black Panthers who remained loyal to the party and those who left it. Featuring Kathleen Cleaver, Jamal Joseph, Ericka Huggins and dozens of others, as well as archival footage of the late Huey P. Newton and Eldridge Cleaver, |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | DARK GIRLS | Watch the film here | D. Channsin Berry & Bill Duke | USA | 2011 | NR | 71 | Documentary exploring colorism—the deep-seated biases and attitudes about skin color—outside of and within the Black American culture. |

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| Hoopla (Library Card required) | FREEDOM RIDERS | Watch the film here | Stanley Nelson | USA | 2010 | NR | 120 | From May until December 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives – many endured savage beatings and imprisonment – for simply traveling together on buses as they journeyed through the Deep South. Determined to test and challenge segregated travel facilities, the Freedom Riders' were greeted with mob violence and bitter racism, sorely testing their belief in non-violent activism. From award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson, FREEDOM RIDERS features testimony from a fascinating cast of central characters; the Riders themselves, state and federal government officials, and journalists who witnessed the rides firsthand. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN | Watch the film here | Stan Lathan | USA | 1985 | NR | 100 | This film adaptation of James Baldwin's celebrated novel tells the journey of a family from the rural South to "big city" Harlem seeking both salvation and understanding and of a young boy struggling to earn the approval of a self-righteous and often unloving stepfather. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO | Watch the film here | Raoul Peck | Switzerland France and USA | 2016 | NR | 86 | I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, a radical narration about race in America, drawing on the writer's original words on the lives and assassinations of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | MAYA ANGELOU AND STILL I RISE | Watch the film here | Rita Coburn Whack & Bob Hercules | USA | 2016 | NR | 114 | Celebrates Dr. Maya Angelou by weaving her words with rare and intimate archival photographs and videos, which paint hidden moments of her exuberant life during some of America's most defining moments. From her upbringing in the Depression-era South to her work with Malcolm X to her inaugural speech for President Bill Clinton, the film takes us on an incredible journey through the life of a true American icon. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | MOONLIGHT | Watch the film here | Barry Jenkins | USA | 2016 | R | 111 | A young African-American man grapples with his identity and sexuality while experiencing the everyday struggles of childhood, adolescence, and burgeoning adulthood. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME | Watch the film here | Sam Pollard | USA | 2015 | NR | 90 | SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME challenges one of America's most cherished assumptions — the belief that slavery in the U.S. ended with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation — by telling the harrowing story of how in the South, a new system of involuntary servitude took its place with shocking force. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | SPIES OF MISSISSIPPI | Watch the film here | Dawn Porter | USA | 2014 | PG-13 | 90 | View the story of a secret spy agency formed during the 1950s and '60s by the state of Mississippi to preserve segregation and maintain white supremacy. Over a decade, the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission employed a network of investigators and informants, including African Americans, to help infiltrate the NAACP, CORE and SNCC. They were granted broad powers to investigate private citizens and organizations, keep secret files, make arrests and compel testimony. The program tracks the commission's hidden role in important chapters of the civil rights movement, including the integration of the University of Mississippi, the trial of Medgar Evers, and the KKK murders of three civil rights workers in 1964. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: THE STORY OF BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES | Watch the film here | Stanley Nelson and Marco Williams | USA | 2017 | NR | 85 | Though much of its history was eclipsed by the explosiveness of the 1960s, the essential role the nation's historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) played in shaping Black life, creating a Black middle class, and dismantling segregation cannot be overstated. |
| Hoopla (Library Card required) | WHOSE STREETS? | Watch the film here | Sabaah Folayan and Damon Davis | USA | 2017 | R | 101 | An unflinching look at the Ferguson uprising and a powerful battle cry from a generation fighting, not for their civil rights, but for their lives. |
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