

BREAKING THE SILENCE BEATING THE DRUM

2009 Commemoration
of the International Day
of Remembrance of the
Victims of Slavery and
the Transatlantic
Slave Trade

The United Nations Department of Public Information
is pleased to invite you to

DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENINGS IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 2009 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2009

1:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

Moderated by Juan Carlos Brandt
Chief, Advocacy and Special Events Cluster

1:15 P.M. SCATTERED AFRICA: FACES AND VOICES OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA



During the centuries of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, an estimated 100 million African people were torn from their homelands. Cultural anthropologist and filmmaker Dr. Sheila S. Walker takes viewers across the Americas, to Argentina, Uruguay and the United States, exploring past and current contributions that African people made to American culture. **USA, 2008, 52 min. Director: Sheila M. Walker, Ph.D.**

Following the screening: Q&A with Mr. Georges Collinet, who is featured in the film.

2:45 P.M. BLACK ATLANTIC: ON THE ORIXAS ROUTE



The waters of the Atlantic brought the slaves from Africa to Brazil, their bodies in chains but their souls inexorably tied to mother Africa. This Brazilian-made film takes us to both shores, to show how spiritual life, dance and song came with the captive people and took root in the new soil. Among the many traditions were the language and gods of Yoruba and Jejes from the Republic of Benin. When a group of freed slaves returned to Africa to rediscover their roots they were looked upon as outsiders. They became tradespeople - tailors, accountants and builders- and they actually brought Portuguese culture to Africa. Today, when Brazilians revisit Africa, they teach the Africans the culture that these descendants of slaves keep alive in Brazil. The documentary is a testimony to some of the ironies of the Diaspora. **Brazil, 2001, 55 min. Director: Renato Barbieri**

Following the screening: Q&A with director Renato Barbieri

4:15 P.M. MERRITT COLLEGE: HOME OF THE BLACK PANTHERS



This documentary remembers the sixties and the first awakenings of the Black Power movement in the US. It explores the legacy of slavery in the US and the formation of the Black Panther party. Narrated by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, this film chronicles the birth of the Black Panther Party at Merritt College in Oakland during the politically, socially and economically turbulent times of the late 1960. This story is told through rare interviews with original party members and other key players – who were Merritt students at the time – and features original artwork from the many Black Panther Party publications as well as rarely seen photos – and focuses on the positive achievements of the Panthers movement and its legacy, not of violence but of what it learned and what it left behind. **USA, 2008, 62 min. Director: Jefferey Heyman**

Following the screening: Q&A with director Jeffrey Heyman, Executive Director, Marketing, Public Relations and Communications, Peralta Community College District

Please R.S.V.P. by 20 March, 2009 to temkin@un.org or by fax: 212-963-0536
Photo I.D. required to pass through Security at 46th St. and First Ave.

For more information, please contact temkin@un.org, tel: (917) 367-5841