

DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

F Y I



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 2006 FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMS
PRESENTED BY DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

All programs held in the Donnell Library Center Auditorium
20 West 53rd Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues) (212) 621-0609

The New York Public Library

ADMISSION FREE

- Every Wednesday in February at 2:30 P.M., Donnell Media Center presents **Meet the Music Makers: Silent Film Accompanists**. Musicians from all corners of North America will be performing musical scores for a series of recently restored silent films. **Jon Spurney, David Knudtson, Carolyn Swartz** and **Sylvia Moscovitz** will explain their methodologies of matching music to formerly "lost films." An extra bonus will be an appearance by Leatrice Joy's daughter, **Leatrice Gilbert Fountain**, at the screening of her mother's film on February 8th.

The films in this series, recently restored by Harold Casselton, the Library of Congress and the Douris Corporation, allow for the opportunity to examine the work of some important female comediennes whose films have remained unseen since originally exhibited in the 1920's. The four programs in February will feature a film by Colleen Moore, *SO LONG LETTY* (1920); Leatrice Joy, *FOR ALIMONY ONLY* (1926); Constance Talmadge, *MAMA'S AFFAIR* (1921); and Dorothy Devore, *HOLD YOUR BREATH* (1924).

- In February, Donnell Media Center delights in celebrating **William Miles**, one of this country's most prolific award-winning filmmakers documenting the history, culture and achievements of African-Americans, in its Thursday afternoon "Viewpoint" series. A member of the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, Mr. Miles has also received the "Lifetime Achievement" Award from the Association for Independent Video and Filmmakers in acknowledgment of his outstanding contribution to the history of African-Americans on film. Films being screened include: *I REMEMBER HARLEM, Episode 2: The Depression Years (1930 – 1940)* (1980); *I REMEMBER HARLEM, Episode 4: Toward a New Day (1965-1980)* (1980); *PAUL ROBESON: MAN OF CONSCIENCE* (1986); *BLACK STARS IN ORBIT: NASA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS* (1990); *THE UNTOLD WEST: THE BLACK WEST* (1993); *THE DIFFERENT DRUMMER: BLACKS IN THE MILITARY* (1984); *BLACK CHAMPIONS, Part 2: Who Will Wear the Crown* (1986); *LIBERATORS: FIGHTING ON TWO FRONTS IN WORLD WAR II* (1992).
- On Thursday, February 16th at 6:00 P.M., Donnell Media Center presents a "Meet the Makers" with documentary filmmaker and historian **William Miles**, who presents and discusses *MEN OF BRONZE* (1977), on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the 369th, the "Harlem Hellfighters," the all-black infantry combat regiment in World War I. Using photographs, interviews, and interviews with regiment veterans, and film from the French and American national archives, this documentary tells of their experiences in France, where they spent 191 days in front line trenches, fighting alongside French, Moroccan and Senegalese soldiers. **James Murray**, Director for Media Productions and Theatre Operations, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Moving Image & Recorded Sound Division, will introduce the program.
- On Saturday, February 18th at 2:30 p.m., Donnell Media Center screens a newly struck print of *OTHELLO* (115 min., 1980, made 1962 - 66), a ground-breaking production featuring performances by an all black cast, including Yaphet Kotto (in his first starring role) as Othello, Richard Dixon as Iago, and The Harlem Players.
- On Saturday, February 25th Donnell Media Center screens newly struck prints of all four episodes of *I REMEMBER HARLEM* (William Miles, 1981), a four-hour documentary that traces Harlem's 350-year social, political and religious history as one of America's most vibrant and volatile communities. Episodes 1 and 2 of *I REMEMBER HARLEM* begin screening at 11:00 A.M., and Episodes 3 and 4 begin screening at 2:30 P.M.

Wednesday, February 1, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...MEET THE MUSIC MAKERS: SILENT FILM ACCOMPANISTS

So Long Letty, 16mm film, b&w, 70 minutes

Directed by Al Christie, 1920

Musical accompaniment by **Jon Spurney**

Starring Colleen Moore, T. Roy Barnes, Walter Hiers and Grace Darmond

Two married couples that live next door to one another swap spouses.

Thursday, February 2, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...A SALUTE TO WILLIAM MILES, HISTORIAN AND FILMMAKER

I Remember Harlem, Episode 2: The Depression Years, 1930-1940, 16mm film, b&w/color, 58 minutes, 1980

Explores Harlem's ethnic heritage and looks at the area's development against the background of the Great Depression.

I Remember Harlem, Episode 4: Toward a New Day, 1965-1980, 16mm film, b&w/color, 58 minutes, 1980

Charts Harlem's decline, its rebirth and encouraging redevelopment.

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...MEET THE MUSIC MAKERS: SILENT FILM ACCOMPANISTS

For Alimony Only, DVD, b&w, 74 minutes

Directed by William C. de Mille, 1926

Musical accompaniment by **David Knudtson**

Starring Leatrice Joy, Clive Brook, Lilyan Tashman and Casson Ferguson

Based upon a story by Lenore J. Coffee. A divorcee becomes bitter toward all women after being taken to the cleaners by his ex-wife.

Thursday, February 9, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...A SALUTE TO WILLIAM MILES, HISTORIAN AND FILMMAKER

Paul Robeson: Man of Conscience, DVD, b&w/color, 58 minutes, 1986

Documents Paul Robeson the celebrated athlete, scholar, singer, actor and early activist against racial injustice.

Black Stars in Orbit: NASA's African-American Astronauts, DVD, color, 60 minutes, 1990

Documents the contributions that African-American astronauts, astrophysicists and engineers have made to NASA and the American space exploration program.

Wednesday, February 15, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...MEET THE MUSIC MAKERS: SILENT FILM ACCOMPANISTS

Mama's Affair, DVD, b&w, 67 minutes

Directed by Victor Fleming, 1921

Musical accompaniment by **Carolyn Swartz**

Starring Constance Talmadge, Kenneth Harlan and Effie Shannon

Written by Anita Loos and John Emerson.

A comedy about a selfish rich widow who meddles in her daughter's love life.

Thursday, February 16, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...A SALUTE TO WILLIAM MILES, HISTORIAN AND FILMMAKER

The Untold West: The Black West, DVD, color, 48 minutes

Directed by Nina Rosenblum, 1993

Narrated by Danny Glover

William Miles' film depicts the contributions of the African-American experience in the building of the American West.

The Different Drummer: Blacks in the Military, DVD, color 55 minutes, 1984

Depicts African-American military participation from World War II to the Vietnam War.

Thursday, February 16, 2006
6:00 P.M.

MEET THE MAKERS...DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER AND HISTORIAN WILLIAM MILES

Documentary filmmaker and historian **William Miles** presents and discusses **Men Of Bronze** (16mm film, 60 minutes, 1977), on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the 369th "Harlem Hellfighters" the all-black infantry regiment in World War I. Using photographs, interviews, and interviews with regiment veterans, and film from the French and American national archives, this documentary tells of their experiences in France, where they spent 191 days in front line trenches, fighting alongside French, Moroccan and Senegalese soldiers.

Saturday, February 18, 2006
2:30 P.M.

SATURDAY PROGRAM...OTHELLO

Othello, 16mm film, color, 115 minutes

Directed by Liz White, 1980, made 1962 - 67

Starring Yaphet Kotto, Richard Dixon and Audrey Branker

Shakespeare's play featuring an African-American cast.

Wednesday, February 22, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...MEET THE MUSIC MAKERS: SILENT FILM ACCOMPANISTS

Hold Your Breath, DVD, b&w, 82 minutes

Directed by Scott Sidney, 1924

Musical Accompaniment by **Sylvia Moscovitz**

Starring Dorothy Devore, Max Davidson, Walter Hiers and Tully Marshall

After losing her job in a beauty parlor, a determined young lady fills in for her ailing brother at a newspaper office.

Thursday, February 23, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...A SALUTE TO WILLIAM MILES, HISTORIAN AND FILMMAKER

Black Champions, Part 2: Who Will Wear the Crown, DVD, color, 60 minutes, 1986

Liberators: Fighting on Two Fronts in World War II, DVD, color, 90 minutes, 1992

Narrated by Denzel Washington and Louis Gossett, Jr.

Examines African-American soldiers in World War II and their fight against racism in the military as well as at home.

Saturday, February 25, 2006
11:00 A.M.

SATURDAY PROGRAM... A SALUTE TO WILLIAM MILES, HISTORIAN AND FILMMAKER, PROGRAM I

I Remember Harlem, Episode 1: The Early Years, 1600-1930, 16mm film, b&w/color, 58 minutes, 1980

Examines Harlem's early days as a Native American fishing village, a Dutch farming community and an English colony. It traces the community's growth as an affluent New York City suburb and as a burgeoning black neighborhood between 1910-1920.

I Remember Harlem, Episode 2: The Depression Years, 1930-1940, 16mm film, b&w/color, 58 minutes, 1980

Explores Harlem's ethnic heritage and looks at the area's development against the background of the Great Depression.

2:30 P.M.

SATURDAY PROGRAM... A SALUTE TO WILLIAM MILES, HISTORIAN AND FILMMAKER, PROGRAM II

I Remember Harlem, Episode 3: Toward Freedom, 1940-1965, 16mm film, b&w/color, 58 minutes, 1980

In the years after World War II, Harlem began to deteriorate due to chronic unemployment, slum housing, high rents and food prices, the emergence of uptown gangs, crime, police brutality and inadequate segregated schools.

I Remember Harlem, Episode 4: Toward a New Day, 1965-1980, 16mm film, b&w/color, 58 minutes, 1980

Charts Harlem's decline, its rebirth and encouraging redevelopment.