

Anti-Racism? I Want to Learn. Where Do I Start?

The murders of unarmed African-American people in the USA and the racism and injustice directed toward people of colour here in Canada are beginning to shed a light on problems that go back for hundreds of years. It is hard to know where to start to learn about the important issues surrounding racism and people of colour in North America.

Reading, watching documentaries, and educating ourselves about these issues is probably the best place to start. Once we begin to understand the history and the problems that marginalized peoples deal with, we can then find ways to get involved and support the work being done to combat racism and help to solve problems faced by people of colour in our own communities. We aren't called to solve the whole thing, but neither are we free to abandon the work.

The resources contained in the pages that follow are by no means comprehensive and I cannot claim to have read or watched each item on this list. However I have searched trusted sources and have done my best to include a variety of voices and topics to get you started.

If you have suggestions to offer that could be added to this list, please forward them to lorre.calder@sympatico.ca and we will update the list accordingly.

Lorre Calder,
March 2023

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The History of Black People in North America--Documentary Series

The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross (Documentary Series, 2014)

Written and Presented by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

From Wikipedia

"The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross is a six-part documentary miniseries written and presented by Henry Louis Gates Jr. It aired for the first time on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in the fall of 2013. The companion book to the series, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* (SmileyBooks, 2013), was co-authored by Gates and historian Donald Yacovone. The two-DVD set of the series was released in January 2014.

The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross chronicles the full sweep of the African-American experience, from the origins of the transatlantic slave trade to the re-election and second inauguration of President Barack Obama. It is the first documentary series to recount this history in its entirety since the nine-part *History of the Negro People* aired on National Educational Television in 1965, and the one-hour documentary *Black History: Lost, Stolen, or Strayed*, narrated by Bill Cosby and broadcast in 1968. According to the PBS website for the series, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* "explores the evolution of the African-American people, as well as the multiplicity of cultural institutions, political strategies, and religious and social perspectives they developed — forging their own history, culture and society against unimaginable odds. Commencing with the origins of slavery in Africa, the series moves through five centuries of remarkable historic events right up to the present — when America is led by a black president, yet remains a nation deeply divided by race."

For the series, Gates collaborated with more than 30 historians to identify and select 70 of the most important and illustrative stories of the African-American experience to serve as the epic's narrative spine. Among the more notable figures Gates highlighted was the black Spanish conquistador Juan Garrido, who, in 1513, accompanied Ponce de León on his expedition into what is now the state of Florida. As a result, the airing of *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* coincided with the 500th anniversary of the presence of persons of African descent in what is today the continental United States. Among the other prominent figures profiled in the series are: Harriet Tubman, Richard Allen, Frederick Douglass, Robert Smalls, Ida B. Wells, W. E. B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey, Oscar Micheaux, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Ruby Bridges, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Kathleen Neal Cleaver, Maulana Karenga, Colin Powell, and many more."

This documentary series is free for you to watch at the following links:

The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross (Documentary Series)

<https://www.bitchute.com/playlist/TwkMN8mPr4HP/> Complete Series (Scroll Down)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/V31FbpS4om0c/> Part 1 The Black Atlantic (1500-1800)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/vVV1xdI2V9gZ/> Part 2 The Age of Slavery (1800-1860)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/bED7rYUTCbWW/> Part 3 Into The Fire (1861-1896)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/v7eJtsIDWDI1/> Part 4 Making A Way Out Of No Way (1897-1940)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/mic3fRBTi8UO/> Part 5 Rise! (1940-1968)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/QtzkU4csYnPz/> Part 6 A More Perfect Union (1968-2013)

Emancipation Road (Documentary Series, 2014)
Produced by LionHeart Filmworks
Narrated by Coby Batty

From the IMDB website:

"From The Creators Of The Best-Selling Documentary Series "Up From Slavery"... A 7-Part Compelling Journey Through America's Greatest Saga. In 1860, the nation founded upon an idea that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness had as many as four hundred thousand slave-owners and almost four million slaves. By denying these rights to more than twelve percent of its population, America would soon pay with the blood of a generation. The story of African Slavery in America started with the first permanent English Colony in the 17th century... and ended with the Civil War. But those two hundred and fifty years of struggle were just the beginning. The beginning of a journey down the long Emancipation Road."

This documentary series is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slsLmhQ40E8> Part 1- 1625-1863 - The Shadows of Slavery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXTH1Gx-xTk> Part 2- 1863-1870 - The Emancipation Proclamation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7YuwraGq54> Part 3- 1870-1909 - Separate But Equal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pxpz5Ys6a7I> Part 4- 1909-WWII - Regardless of the Color of One's Skin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OW74fR-sjKk> Part 5- 1945-1963 - The Double Victory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFO6gBGAPsA> Part 6- 1963-1968 - The Civil Rights Era

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxHy49RLSyM> Part 7- 1968-Today - Heroes of Hope

Eyes on the Prize (Documentary Series, 1987)

Narrated by Julian Bond

Film Description From the PBS Website:

“Produced by Blackside, *Eyes on the Prize* tells the definitive story of the civil rights era from the point of view of the ordinary men and women whose extraordinary actions launched a movement that changed the fabric of American life, and embodied a struggle whose reverberations continue to be felt today. Winner of numerous Emmy Awards, a George Foster Peabody Award, an International Documentary Award, and a Television Critics Association Award, *Eyes on the Prize* is the most critically acclaimed documentary on civil rights in America.

Eyes on the Prize recounts the fight to end decades of discrimination and segregation. It is the story of the people — young and old, male and female, northern and southern — who, compelled by a meeting of conscience and circumstance, worked to eradicate a world where whites and blacks could not go to the same school, ride the same bus, vote in the same election, or participate equally in society. It was a world in which peaceful demonstrators were met with resistance and brutality — in short, a reality that is now nearly incomprehensible to many young Americans.

Through contemporary interviews and historical footage, *Eyes on the Prize* traces the civil rights movement from the Montgomery bus boycott to the Voting Rights Act; from early acts of individual courage through the flowering of a mass movement and its eventual split into factions. Julian Bond, political leader and civil rights activist, narrates.

The driving force behind *Eyes on the Prize* and *Blackside*, Henry Hampton (1940-1998) won numerous awards for this landmark series including the duPont-Columbia Gold Baton, the Peabody Award, and Academy Award nominations. He set out to share his vision of what he called "the remarkable human drama that was the Civil Rights Movement" through the *Eyes on the Prize* documentary and a book of the same title by Juan Williams. In recent years, a number of key figures who appear in the films (including the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, a leader of the Montgomery bus boycott; Coretta Scott King, wife of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, and an activist in her own right; Kwame Ture, also known as Stokely Carmichael, leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; and George Wallace, the 1960s Alabama governor who resisted integration) have died, making this record of their testimony all the more valuable.”

This documentary series is free for you to watch at the following links:

Eyes on the Prize (Documentary Series Episode Links)

<https://www.bitchute.com/playlist/TwkMN8mPr4HP/> Complete Series

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/wtmS6TSLpg05/> Part 1 Awakenings (1954–1956)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/QDHo1U5b1IKP/> Part 2 Fighting Back (1957-1962)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/6beWa4BAvMZI/> Part 3 Ain't Scared of Your Jails (1960-1961)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/223a1Y0IW6Wd/> Part 4 No Easy Walk (1962-1966)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/gxSjsXE6ucck/> Part 5 Mississippi: Is This America? (1963-1964)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/PUwDiw83kGSW/> Part 6 Bridge to Freedom (1965)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/9fuz2MGXmU0q/> Part 7 The Time Has Come (1964-66)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/Piek3QacSLcz/> Part 8 Two Societies (1965-68)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/EW7VhJ04QS5T/> Part 9 Power! (1966-68)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/xOMErzyzd5xt/> Part 10 The Promised Land (1967-68)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/IHZCxCoE636T/> Part 11 Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More (1964-72)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/E8cM7dd9jJoJ/> Part 12 A Nation of Law? (1968-71)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/glbwBsm70hUG/> Part 13 The Keys to the Kingdom (1974-80)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/AGXJsKbcCfQz/> Part 14 Back to the Movement (1979-mid 80s)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/s51ZlW0Bvf5V/> Part 15-Director's Interview

The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow (Documentary Series, 2002)
PBS Production
Narrated by Richard Roundtree

From the PBS website

'The landmark four-part series The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow explores segregation from the end of the Civil War to the dawn of the modern civil rights movement. It was a brutal and oppressive era in American history, but during this time, large numbers of African Americans and a corps of influential black leaders bravely fought against the status quo, amazingly acquiring for African Americans the opportunities of education, business, land ownership, and a true spirit of community.'

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3lxWEK0uJA> Part 1 Promises Betrayed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utwE5ZPd7Gk> Part 2 Fighting Back

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWEbqU9CfyI> Part 3 Don't Shoot Too Soon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vadRcW_r-SE Part 4 Terror and Triumph

Up From Slavery (Documentary Series, 2011)
Directed by Kevin R. Hershberger
Narrated by Coby Batty

From the IMDB website:

“In 1860, as the American Experiment threatened to explode into a bloody civil war, there were as many as four hundred thousand slave-owners in the United States, and almost four million slaves. The nation was founded upon the idea that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The nation would pay a bloody cost for denying that right to more than twelve percent of its population.

But when slavery was first brought to America's shores, this war, and even the nation it tore apart, was centuries in the future. With incredibly detailed historical re-enactments, expert commentary and the stories of slavery told through first-hand accounts, this is an epic struggle 400 years in the making. A journey into the past like none other. This is the story of these men and women who by their hands laid the foundation of what would become the most powerful nation on Earth. “

This documentary series is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8tEhggLsy4> Part 1 - 1619 Virginia - The First African Slaves arrive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dX289mrDIVE> Part 2 - 18th Century Colonial America and Slavery under the rule of the British Empire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuMUSIG-cbc> Part 3 - Slavery in the United States after the Revolution

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlabx1OmMzQ> Part 4 - Nat Turners Rebellion, 1831

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgrY7BVvrF8> Part 5 - Abolition from the North grows

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLCrwNdxNO4> Part 6 - The Civil War. Emancipation Proclamation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tswcM3Xheg> Part 7 - Aftermath of the Civil War and new freedom

Black Lives and Stories--Documentaries

Journey to Justice (Documentary)

Roger McTair

2000 | 47 min

This documentary pays tribute to a group of Canadians who took racism to court. They are Canada's unsung heroes in the fight for Black civil rights. Focusing on the 1930s to the 1950s, this film documents the struggle of 6 people who refused to accept inequality. Featured here, among others, are Viola Desmond, a woman who insisted on keeping her seat at the Roseland movie theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia in 1946 rather than moving to the section normally reserved for the city's Black population, and Fred Christie, who took his case to the Supreme Court after being denied service at a Montreal tavern in 1936. These brave pioneers helped secure justice for all Canadians. Their stories deserve to be told.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on the National Film Board website.

https://www.nfb.ca/film/journey_to_justice/

I Am Not Your Negro (Documentary)
Directed by Raoul Peck
Running Time: 95 minutes

From the TVO website:

In his incendiary documentary, Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished – ‘Remember This House’. The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and successive assassinations of three of his close friends -Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. The result is a radical, examination of race in America, using Baldwin's original words, spoken by Samuel L. Jackson, and a flood of rich archival material.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on the TVO website:

<https://www.tvo.org/video/documentaries/i-am-not-your-negro>

Zero Tolerance (Documentary)
Michka Saäl
2004 | 1 h 15 min

From the National Film Board website:

Being young is tough, especially if you're Black, Latino, Arab or Asian. In a city like Montreal, you can get targeted and treated as a criminal for no good reason. Zero Tolerance reveals how deep seated prejudice can be. On one side are the city's young people, and on the other, its police force. Two worlds, two visions. Yet one of these groups is a minority, while the other wields real power. One has no voice, while the other makes life-and-death decisions.

When a policy of zero tolerance to crime masks an intolerance to young people of colour, the delicate balance between order and personal freedom is upset. A blend of cinéma vérité and personal testimonies, this hard-hitting film will broaden your mind and change your way of thinking. **In French with English subtitles.**

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on the National Film Board website. Click here: https://www.nfb.ca/film/zero_tolerance-edu/

Freedom Riders (Documentary 2010)
Director/Writer : Stanley Nelson

The film chronicles the story behind hundreds of civil rights activists called the Freedom Riders who challenged the racial segregation of the American interstate transport and by traveling together in small interracial groups and sitting where they chose on the buses and trains to demand equal access to terminal restaurants and waiting rooms, and to bring racial segregation national attention.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srlcN1Eo_y8

***We Are the Roots: Black Settlers and their Experiences of Discrimination on the Canadian Prairies
(Documentary)***

Produced and directed by Dr. Jenna Bailey

In collaboration with Dr. David Este and Deborah Dobbins

From the Bailey and Soda films website:

An intriguing and moving new documentary.”

– Paula Simons, Edmonton Journal

We are the Roots: Black Settlers and their Experiences of Discrimination on the Canadian Prairies tells the story of a wave of African American immigrants who moved to Alberta and Saskatchewan between 1905-1912 to escape racism and persecution in the United States. Taking advantage of Canada’s offer of 160 acres of land for a \$10 fee, 1000-1500 individuals moved to the Prairies and helped develop several settlements throughout the provinces. Through the stories of 19 descendants of the original settlers, We are the Roots focuses on the experiences of discrimination these individuals encountered while living in the rural communities and in Edmonton.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free

<https://vimeo.com/257364347>

Remember Africville (Documentary)
Shelagh Mackenzie
1991 | 35 min

From the National Film Board website:

"Africville, a small black settlement, lay within the city limits of Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the 1960s, the families who lived there were uprooted and their homes demolished in the name of urban renewal and integration. Now, more than twenty years later, the site of the community of Africville is a stark, under-utilized park. Former residents, their descendants and some of the decision-makers, speak out and, with the help of archival photographs and films, tell the story of that painful relocation."

This documentary is available to watch for free on the National Film Board website:

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/remember-africville/>

The Road Taken (Documentary)
Selwyn Jacob
1996 | 52 min

From the National Film Board website:

This 1996 documentary takes a nostalgic ride through history to present the experiences of Black sleeping-car porters who worked on Canada's railways from the early 1900s through the 1960s. There was a strong sense of pride among these men and they were well-respected by their community. Yet, harsh working conditions prevented them from being promoted to other railway jobs until finally, in 1955, porter Lee Williams took his fight to the union.

Claiming discrimination under the Canada Fair Employment Act, the Blacks won their right to work in other areas. Interviews, archival footage and the music of noted jazz musician Joe Sealy (whose father was a porter) combine to portray a fascinating history that might otherwise have been forgotten.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free at the National Film Board's website:

https://www.nfb.ca/film/road_taken/

John Ware Reclaimed (Documentary)
By Cheryl Foggo
2020 | 1 h 12 min

Please note: This film contains explicit language. Viewer discretion is advised.

From the National Film Board's website:

John Ware Reclaimed follows filmmaker Cheryl Foggo on her quest to re-examine the mythology surrounding John Ware, the Black cowboy who settled in Alberta, Canada, before the turn of the 20th century. Foggo's research uncovers who this iconic figure might have been, and what his legacy means in terms of anti-Black racism, both past and present.

This film is available for you to watch for free at the National Film Board's website:

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/john-ware-reclaimed/>

The Untold Story of EMMETT LUIS TILL (Documentary 2005)
by Keith Beauchamp

From YouTube:

Never-before-seen testimony is included in this documentary on Emmett Louis Till, who, in 1955, was brutally murdered after he whistled at a white woman.

Simple yet riveting, The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till articulates the madness of racism in the South of the 1950s. Combining archival photos and footage with deeply felt interviews, this documentary tells the harrowing story of what happened when a mischievous 14 year old black boy from Chicago, visiting his relatives in Mississippi, whistled at a white woman in the street.

The lynching that followed was so gruesome that a media circus surrounded the trial--and what stunned the nation was not only the crime, but the blithe unconcern the citizens of a small Mississippi town felt toward the brutal murder of a black teenager.

The interviews suspensefully unveil the story, moving from the viewpoint of Till's mother to the perspective of his Southern cousins to actual film of Till's uncle, who had the astonishing courage to accuse the two killers in court. Till's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, addressed the entire country in news footage, begging that something be done so that her son did not die in vain.

The awkward, un-media-savvy quality of the 1950s interviews may seem to come from another world, but the harsh truth of what happened sprang all too clearly from America's still unresolved racial conflicts. A passionate, compelling documentary.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT6ZYcYuL9o>

Seeking Salvation-A History of the Black Church in Canada (Documentary)
Directed by Phillip Daniels, 2004, Running Time: 1hr 30min

From YouTube:

“Spanning four centuries on a joyful voyage of music and heritage, Seeking Salvation traces the history of the Black Church and considers its future in a changing society.”

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8qc8PQU8es>

4 Little Girls (Documentary)
Directed by Spike Lee, 1997
Running Time 1hr 42min

From YouTube

"4 Little Girls is a 1997 American historical documentary film about the 15 September 1963 case of four African-American girls (Addie May Collins, Carol Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Rosamond Robertson) in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama. It was directed by Spike Lee and nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary.

In 2017, the film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

This documentary is available for you to watch for free at either of the following two links:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h3PcGLIFACFOWJh3u4s3k1zuFOjmXxSa/view>
or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebuKaY0KlbI>

Josiah (Documentary 2018)
Directed by Jared Brock
Running Time: 56 min

From the TVO website:

Narrated by Danny Glover, 'Josiah' tells the remarkable story of author, abolitionist, and former slave, Josiah Henson, who escaped to Canada in 1830 after 42 years of enslavement, and was a key inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin. Once free, Henson rescued 118 slaves and founded the Dawn freeman settlement in Dresden, Ontario. Viewer discretion advised.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free at either of the following two links:

<https://www.tvo.org/video/documentaries/josiah> TVO website

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0ZyJKVirgw> YouTube

Slavery by Another Name (Documentary, 2012)

Running Time: 1Hr 24min

Directed by Sam Pollock

Based on the Pulitzer-Prize-winning book by Douglas Blackmon, 'Slavery By Another Name'

From the PBS website:

"Slavery by Another Name is a 90-minute documentary that challenges one of Americans' most cherished assumptions: the belief that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. The film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the South in 1865, thousands of African Americans were pulled back into forced labor with shocking force and brutality."

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on the PBS website until February 12, 2028

<https://www.pbs.org/video/slavery-another-name-slavery-video/>

The Godmother of Rock and Roll-Sister Rosetta Tharpe (Documentary 2014)

Running Time: 1Hr

Produced and Directed by: Mick Csaky

From the PBS website:

Sister Rosetta Tharpe: The Godmother of Rock & Roll. Southern-born, Chicago-raised and New York-made. Despite not being a household name today, Sister Rosetta Tharpe is one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/101093967>

The Children's March | 1963 (Documentary)
Running Time 42min
Directed by Robert Houston
2005, Southern Poverty Law Centre

From YouTube

“American short documentary film about the Birmingham, Alabama civil rights marches in the 1960's, highlighting the bravery of young activists involved in Children's Crusade (1963).

In 2005, this film won an Oscar at the 77th Academy Awards for Documentary Short Subject and was made by the Southern Poverty Law Center (<https://www.splcenter.org/>)”

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5enZRwbniSQ>

Harriet Tubman: They Called Her Moses (Documentary 2018)

Director: Robert Fernandez, Running Time 45min

From YouTube

“Discover the real Harriet Tubman in this compelling documentary narrated by Alfrelynn Roberts and featuring expert interviews with leading scholars, including Dr. Eric Lewis Williams of the Smithsonian Institute and Carl Westmoreland of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. It also features remarkable early 20th century audio recordings of African-American spirituals sung by former slaves.

Harriet Tubman is a familiar and revered name in American history. But many are unfamiliar with the details of her remarkable story, the depth of her character, and the inner motivations that drove her. Born into slavery in Maryland in the 1820s, Harriet Tubman's resolute Christian faith would compel her to extraordinary acts of courage and sacrifice. Through her selfless efforts, hundreds of African-American slaves escaped to freedom. Tubman's tenacious trust in God and love for others earned her the title "the Moses of her people." Discover the real Harriet Tubman in this compelling documentary narrated by Alfrelynn Roberts and featuring expert interviews with leading scholars, including Dr. Eric Lewis Williams of the Smithsonian Institute and Carl Westmoreland of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. It also features remarkable early 20th century audio recordings of African-American spirituals sung by former slaves.”

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIXGK2wi5oM>

George Washington Carver: An Uncommon Life (Documentary, 2018)

Running Time: 56min

Directed by: Laurel Bower

From the PBS website:

While George Washington Carver's rise from slavery to scientific accomplishment has inspired millions, time has reduced him to the man who did something with peanuts. This documentary uncovers Carver's complexities and reveals the full impact of his life and work.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CVmluYFtI>

Or on the PBS website

<https://www.pbs.org/video/george-washington-carver-an-uncommon-life-qeru7s/>

1964: The Fight for a Right (Documentary 2018)

Producers: Taiwo Gaynor, Edie Greene

Running Time: 57min

From YouTube

By the mid twentieth century, Mississippi's African Americans had suffered from nearly 75 years of Jim Crow discrimination. In order to break open the closed society and improve their lives, they needed to be able to vote. In the summer of 1964, hundreds of young white volunteers converged in Mississippi for a 10-week voter registration campaign. The results of their efforts still reverberate.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOX36uYgMys>

Black Wall Street (Documentary 1999)
Produced by Sean P. Geary, Mark Montgomery
Running Time 43min.

From YouTube

"The Tulsa race riot was a large-scale, racially motivated pogrom on May 31 and June 1, 1921, in which a group of whites attacked the black community of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Greenwood District, the wealthiest black community in the United States (now commonly referred to as "the Black Wall Street"), was burned to the ground. Over the course of 16 hours, more than 800 people were admitted to local white hospitals with injuries, the two black hospitals were burned down, and police arrested and detained more than 6,000 black Greenwood residents at three local facilities. An estimated 10,000 blacks were left homeless, and 35 city blocks composed of 1,256 residences were destroyed by fire, resulting in over \$26 million in damages. The official count of the dead by the Oklahoma Bureau of Vital Statistics was 36, but other estimates of black fatalities vary from 55 to about 300.

The events of the massacre were long omitted from local and state histories: "The Tulsa race riot of 1921 was rarely mentioned in history books, classrooms or even in private. Blacks and whites alike grew into middle age unaware of what had taken place." [1] With the number of survivors declining, in 1996, the state legislature commissioned a report to establish the historical record of the events, and acknowledge the victims and damages to the black community. Released in 2001, the report included the commission's recommendations for some compensatory actions, most of which were not implemented by the state and city governments. The state passed legislation to establish some scholarships for descendants of survivors, economic development of Greenwood, and a memorial park to the victims in Tulsa. The latter was dedicated in 2010."

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJbF9SGB3Yk>

Double Victory: The Tuskegee Airmen At War (Documentary 2010)
Running Time 1hr 30min
Produced by Lucasfilm

From IMDB

“Double Victory spotlights the historic role of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, revealing the ways these African Americans bravely fought a war on two fronts: they helped the world triumph against fascism abroad and they fought valiantly for racial justice and equality at home. Though the Tuskegee Airmen faced the enormous challenges of discrimination from military officers, inferior equipment and heightened scrutiny, these pilots and their support personnel excelled. Featuring many Tuskegee pilots who tell powerful stories of their experiences during the war, Double Victory shows how these airmen helped defeat fascism in Europe and helped inspire the Civil Rights Movement upon their return. “

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmcplLi1Rxc>

Dawn of Day: Stories from the Underground Railroad (Documentary, 2016)
Produced by: Debbie K. Mercer, College of Education, Kansas State University
Directed by: Rusty Earl
Running Time: 55min

From YouTube

Dawn of Day is a historical documentary about the Underground Railroad in Kansas that brings to light Wabaunsee County's unsung heroes who traversed one of the most turbulent times in our nation's history. Faith, family, and politics united a community of neighbors who lived and died to ensure Kansas was a free state. Richard Pitts, director of the Wonder Workshop in Manhattan, Kansas, narrates the film and interviews educators, historians and descendants of abolitionists whose shared heritage lives on in the freedom we enjoy today.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5c6cDCTJNY>

The Story of Marcus Garvey A Documentary (Documentary, 2017)
Running Time 2Hr 2min
Produced by Institute of the Black World 21st Century

From the IBW21.org (The Institute of the Black World 21st Century) website:

“Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr., (August 17, 1887 – June 10, 1940), was a Jamaican political leader, publisher, journalist, entrepreneur, and orator who was a proponent of the Pan-Africanism movement, to which end he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL). He also founded the Black Star Line, a shipping and passenger line which promoted the return of the African diaspora to their ancestral lands.

Prior to the 20th century, leaders such as Prince Hall, Martin Delany, Edward Wilmot Blyden, and Henry Highland Garnet advocated the involvement of the African diaspora in African affairs. Garvey was unique in advancing a Pan-African philosophy to inspire a global mass movement and economic empowerment focusing on Africa known as Garveyism. Promoted by the UNIA as a movement of African Redemption, Garveyism would eventually inspire others, ranging from the Nation of Islam to the Rastafari movement (some sects of which proclaim Garvey as a prophet).

Garveyism intended persons of African ancestry in the diaspora to “redeem” the nations of Africa and for the European colonial powers to leave the continent. His essential ideas about Africa were stated in an editorial in the Negro World entitled “African Fundamentalism”, where he wrote: “Our union must know no clime, boundary, or nationality... to let us hold together under all climes and in every country...”

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpsKWGIZlhw>

Hope & Fury: MLK, The Movement and The Media (Documentary)
NBC News Production, 2018
1hr 25min

From YouTube

"Hope & Fury: MLK, The Movement and The Media" is a gripping account of American history told like never before by an all-star lineup of civil rights leaders, pioneering African-American reporters who chronicled the movement, and journalists from across generations, as well as present-day activists who have adopted the tactics of their forbearers to shine a light on inequality in the modern era."

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLUFIZhbXZ8>

Slavery by Another Name (Documentary)
1hr 25 min running time

From the PBS website:

“Slavery by Another Name is a 90-minute documentary that challenges one of Americans’ most cherished assumptions: the belief that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. The film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the South in 1865, thousands of African Americans were pulled back into forced labor with shocking force and brutality.”

From Wikipedia:

Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II is a book by American writer Douglas A. Blackmon, published by Anchor Books in 2008. It explores the forced labor of prisoners, overwhelmingly African American men, through the convict lease system used by states, local governments, white farmers, and corporations after the American Civil War until World War II in the southern United States. Blackmon argues that slavery in the United States did not end with the Civil War, but instead persisted well into the 20th century. It depicts the subjugation of convict leasing, sharecropping and peonage and tells the fate of the former but not of the latter two.

Slavery by Another Name began as an article which Blackmon wrote for The Wall Street Journal detailing the use of black forced labor by U.S. Steel Corporation. Seeing the popular response to the article, he began conducting research for a more comprehensive exploration of the topic. The resulting book was well received by critics and became a New York Times Best Seller. In 2009, it was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction. In 2012, it was adapted into a documentary film of the same name for PBS.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on the PBS website until 12 February 2028:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/slavery-another-name-slavery-video/>

13th (Documentary)

Running Time: 1Hr 40 min

Directed by Ava DuVernay

From YouTube:

“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. This piercing, Oscar-nominated film won Best Documentary at the Emmys, the BAFTAs and the NAACP Image Awards. US Rating: TV-MA For mature audiences. May not be suitable for ages 17 and under.”

From Wikipedia:

13th is a 2016 American documentary film by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States;" it is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction of a crime.

DuVernay contends that slavery has been perpetuated since the end of the American Civil War through criminalizing behavior and enabling police to arrest poor freedmen and force them to work for the state under convict leasing; suppression of African Americans by disenfranchisement, lynchings, and Jim Crow; politicians declaring a war on drugs that weighs more heavily on minority communities and, by the late 20th century, mass incarceration affecting communities of color, especially American descendants of slavery, in the United States. She examines the prison-industrial complex and the emerging detention-industrial complex, discussing how much money is being made by corporations from such incarcerations.

13th garnered acclaim from a number of film critics. It was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 89th Academy Awards, and won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Special at the 69th Primetime Emmy Awards. It experienced a surge in viewership by 4,665 percent in June 2020 during the George Floyd protests.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>

Malcolm X: Make it Plain (Documentary)
2hr 18 min

Malcolm X: Make It Plain is a 1994, documentary by PBS about the life of Malcolm X, or El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. The documentary was narrated by Alfre Woodard, produced and directed by Orlando Bagwell, written by Steve Fayer and Orlando Bagwell and co-produced by Judy Richardson. Executive producer was Henry Hampton. Interviewees include Ossie Davis, Alex Haley, Betty Shabazz and Wallace D. Muhammad, among others.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csWByunwVI8>

1963: The Year That Changed Everything (Documentary, 2013)
A film by John Jenkins. 59 Minutes.

From YouTube

"1963 changed the direction of the country and Birmingham, Alabama was front and center through it all. "1963- The Year That Changed Everything" chronicles many of the events that happened that year. See and hear first-hand accounts of the boycotts, the Children's March, the integration of the University of Alabama, and the tragic bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. This film offers unique insight into the conditions so prevalent in the South at the time, and the bravery of those who were determined to change things. The film features special appearances by Carolyn McKinstry, Shelley Stewart, Sara Collins Rudolph, Barnett Wright, Joe Langston, Dr. Jesse Lewis and some of the unsung "foot-soldiers," who as children, marched and were jailed."

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vEZR5XON4Y>

Ida B. Wells: A Chicago Stories Special (Documentary)
2021; Written and Produced by Stacy Robinson
Running Time: 1 Hr

From YouTube

There are few Chicago historical figures whose life and work speak to the current moment more than Ida B. Wells, the 19th century investigative journalist, civil rights leader, and passionate suffragist. WTTW (PBS Chicago) brings you a new CHICAGO STORIES special that tells her story as never before.

Freed from slavery just six months after she was born, Ida B. Wells once described her childhood with her parents and siblings in Holly Springs, Mississippi as “happy.” But a tragedy would alter the course of Wells’ youth. As a young woman and teacher, she refused to give up her seat on a train car that she was told was reserved white women. That incident launched the young Wells into her first public fight for justice.

Through writing, Ida B. Wells found her “real” self. As she put pen to paper, her words became an important tool to analyze, debate, and persuade readers on the issues of the day, particularly when it came to race and gender. But after the lynching of her close friend in Memphis, Wells found a new kind of power in her pen.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ML8XiKVStWQ>

Olympic Pride, American Prejudice (Documentary)
Written and Directed by Deborah Riley Draper
Narrated by Blair Underwood
2016; Running Time: 1Hr 20 min

From YouTube:

Narrated by Blair Underwood, 'Olympic Pride, American Prejudice' is set in the strained and turbulent atmosphere of a racially divided 1930's America, torn between boycotting Hitler's Olympics or participating in the Third Reich's grandest affair.

The film follows 16 men and two women through their heroic turn at the Summer Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936. The athletes represented a country that considered them second-class citizens and competed in a country that rolled out the red carpet in spite of an undercurrent of Aryan superiority and Anti-Semitism.

18 athletes carried the weight of a race on their shoulders and stood tall in the middle of a political firestorm. They made the team, travelled to Berlin and did the unexpected with grace and dignity. Their presence on the world stage is a seminal precursor to the Civil Rights Movement.

History forgot all except one. This is the story of the other 17.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ch9QT25LvAo>

Reputations-Billie Holliday (Documentary)
2001; Produced and Directed by David F. Turnbull
Running Time: 57m

Please note: This film contains explicit language. Viewer discretion is advised.

From YouTube:

Billie Holiday was a jazz diva who became the stereotypical victim - unlucky in life, unlucky in love and dead from drink and drugs at the age of only 44. *Reputations* re-examines Billie Holiday's life and career. Was life hard on Billie, or was she always a tragedy waiting to happen?

Holiday was born in Baltimore in 1915, the illegitimate daughter of a 16-year-old jazz musician and an 18-year-old cleaner. She was raped by a neighbour at the age of 11, and began work as a prostitute in Harlem at the age of 14.

However, she was already listening to jazz -- Louis Armstrong records on a wind-up Victrola -- and started to think about a career which would take her out of the brothel where she worked. She began singing in Harlem's night spots and was soon noticed as something different. She cut her first record at the age of 18 and, by the time she was 23, she had recorded with most of the great names in jazz - including Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Artie Shaw.

Reputations includes interviews with many of the people who knew Billie best - including Bobby Tucker, who played piano for her and visited her in prison, William Duffdey, who co-wrote Billie's autobiography, and close friend Annie Ross. Writers Maya Angelou and Alice Walker talk of their respect for her. The film also includes rare footage of Billie Holiday in performance, some of it unseen for nearly 50 years. These add up to a portrait that looks beyond the legend of Billie as the stereotypical victim. Instead, the program reveals a determined woman with a great appetite for life, who lived it on her terms.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CG_cxm_190E

The Birth of Gospel-Chicago Stories (Documentary)
2022; Produced and Written by Stacy Robinson
Running Time: 56min

From YouTube:

This episode of Chicago Stories traces the birth and growth of gospel music in Chicago in the 1930s. The story follows "The Father of Gospel", Thomas A. Dorsey, who wrote one of gospel's early hits while coping with his grief over the death of his wife and child. It explores the roots of gospel from southern spirituals during slavery, through gospel's early years.

From WTTW Chicago's website:

For generations, Black music has been one of the foundational sources for liberation, survival, salvation, and entertainment. Gospel music has been one of the most integral and sacred forms of that music. It birthed a generation of storytellers, influential musicians, and agents of social change, such as Mahalia Jackson, Shirley Caesar, Kirk Franklin, and many others. The origins of gospel music lie in the transatlantic slave trade, as African musical traditions blended with new forms born out of the horrors of slavery. The rich lineage of gospel music began in earnest as a young man named Thomas Dorsey came to Chicago during the Great Migration. His own spiritual rebirth at Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago created a form of music that married blues influences with religious themes. Dorsey's legacy ushered in a generation of Black artists who broke new ground by turning their voices of joy and pain into something powerful.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNbMYuwxceo>

Two Dollars and a Dream: The Story of Madame C. J. Walker (Documentary)
1989; Produced and Directed by Stanley Nelson
Running Time: 51min

From the World Channel Website:

Two Dollars And A Dream is the biography of Madame C.J. Walker, America's first self-made millionairess. Mrs. Walker's fortune was built on skin and hair care products, parlaying a homemade beauty formula into a prosperous business from coast to coast. By interweaving social, economic and political history, the film also offers a view of black America from 1867 to the 1930s.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrpVozNIHds>

The Art of the Possible: The Life and Legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune (Documentary)
2022; Produced by The Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Fund, Inc
Written by Len Lempel
Running Time: 1Hr 18min

From YouTube:

Mary McLeod Bethune was born on a farm near Mayesville, South Carolina, in 1875, the fifteenth child of former slaves. She rose from those humble beginnings to become a world-renowned educator, civil rights and human rights leader, champion for women and young people, and advisor to five U.S. presidents.

The Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Project is a proud moment for the entire state of Florida and our nation. Learn more about Dr. Bethune and the statue that was erected in her honor in this compelling feature length documentary.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGFaYP76-cw>

King in The Wilderness (Documentary)
2018; Directed by Peter Kunhardt; Produced by George & Teddy Kunhardt
HBO Documentary Films and Kunhardt Film Foundation
Running Time: 1Hr51m

From YouTube

King in the Wilderness chronicles the final chapters of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, revealing a conflicted leader who faced an onslaught of criticism from both sides of the political spectrum. While the Black Power movement saw his nonviolence as weakness, and President Lyndon B. Johnson saw his anti-Vietnam War speeches as irresponsible, Dr. King's unyielding belief in peaceful protest became a testing point for a nation on the brink of chaos.

Dr. King's leadership during the bus boycotts, the sit-ins and the historic Selma to Montgomery marches is now legendary, but much of what happened afterward – during the last three years of his life – is rarely discussed. It's a time when Dr. King said his dream "turned into a nightmare." From the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 to his assassination in 1968, King remained unshakably committed to nonviolence in the face of an increasingly unstable country.

The documentary debuted at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and is directed by Peter Kunhardt (HBO's Emmy-winning *Jim: The James Foley Story*). Drawing on conversations with those who knew Dr. King well, including many fellow members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), *King in the Wilderness* reveals stirring new perspectives on Dr. King's character, his radical doctrine of nonviolence and his internal philosophical struggles prior to his assassination in 1968. The documentary also features archival footage, behind-the-scenes video of Dr. King's private moments, intimate archival photographs and phone conversations recorded by President Johnson, who was both ally and adversary in King's fight for civil rights.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eQXD_44Kso

Black Mother Black Daughter (Documentary)
Directed by Sylvia Hamilton & Claire Prieto
Produced by Shelagh Mackenzie
1989 | Running Time: 29 min

From the National Film Board of Canada Website

Black Mother Black Daughter explores the lives and experiences of black women in Nova Scotia, their contributions to the home, the church and the community and the strengths they pass on to their daughters.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free at the NFB website:

https://www.nfb.ca/film/black_mother_black_daughter/

Charles Houston: The Man Who Killed Jim Crow (Documentary)
1990; Produced by William Elwood and Mykola Kulish
Directed by Mykola Kulish
Running Time: 57m

From YouTube

This video is about how Charles Hamilton Houston laid the foundations for the historic 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Topeka, KS decision. Everyone remembers Thurgood Marshall and his pivotal legal work to win this important decision, but hardly no one knows about this man, who did almost all the documentation BEFORE the Supreme Court case.

Unfortunately, Dr. Houston died in 1950, four years before the case was decided by the Supreme Court, which unanimously declared that segregated schools are unconstitutional. Because of his death, his recognition has been left out of the mainstream history books.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwscFd2aUO4>

Home Feeling: Struggle for a Community (Documentary)
Written & Directed by Jennifer Hodge
Additional Direction by Roger McTair
1983 | Running Time: 57 min

From the National Film Board of Canada Website

This feature documentary takes us to the heart of the Jane-Finch "Corridor" in the early 1980s. Covering six square blocks in Toronto's North York, the area readily evokes images of vandalism, high-density subsidized housing, racial tension, despair and crime. By focusing on the lives of several of the residents, many of them black or members of other visible minorities, the film provides a powerful view of a community that, contrary to its popular image, is working towards a more positive future.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free at the NFB website:

https://www.nfb.ca/film/home_feeling_struggle_for_a_community/

The Little Rock Nine
Directed by Fern Levitt
Turning Points of History-The History Channel
2011; Running Time: 47min

From YouTube:

The story of a group of African American high-school students in the 1950's who challenged racial segregation in the public schools of Little Rock, Arkansas. Directed by Fern Levitt, as part of the History Channel's, Turning Points of History series.

From the Globe and Mail:

Not many Canadian documentary filmmakers get an interview with Bill Clinton but Fern Levitt got him and he's got a lot to say in *The Little Rock Nine*, a good documentary about the bitter desegregation of an Arkansas school in 1957. That's when nine students attempted to attend an all-white school in Little Rock, a right they were guaranteed by the courts. The Governor of Arkansas sent the National Guard to stop them and President Eisenhower sent the army to protect them. Footage from those days is still shocking, revealing as it does a level of racism, bigotry and hatred that is unfathomable.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7-30dDOIHc>

Soundtrack for a Revolution (Documentary)
Written & directed by Bill Guttentag & Dan Sturman
2009; Running Time: 1Hr 23m

Taking a fresh approach to the story of the American Civil Rights Movement, Soundtrack for a Revolution features the powerful music from the movement. Focusing on the freedom songs sung by protesters on picket lines, in mass meetings, in paddy wagons and in jail cells, this film celebrates the vitality of the music and the infectious energy that it provided.

Freedom songs evolved from slave chants, the labor movement, and from the Black church, and were a vital tool as protestors stood up against adversity. They energized and empowered them, enabled them to sing the things they couldn't say, and allowed them to meet aggression with dignity and non-violence. Written and directed by Bill Guttentag and Dan Sturman, this 2009 documentary brings songs of the movement back to life again through new performances by top artists, including John Legend, Joss Stone, Wyclef Jean, and The Roots.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free
<https://vimeo.com/87053287>

Sam Cooke Life (Documentary)
Produced by Mary Wharton
Written by Peter Guralnick
2003; Running Time: 1Hr 6min

From Wikipedia

Samuel Cook (January 22, 1931 – December 11, 1964), known professionally as Sam Cooke, was an American singer and songwriter. Considered to be a pioneer and one of the most influential soul artists of all time, Cooke is commonly referred to as the "King of Soul" for his distinctive vocals, notable contributions to the genre and significance in popular music.

Cooke was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and later relocated to Chicago with his family at a young age, where he began singing as a child and joined the Soul Stirrers as lead singer in the 1950s. Going solo in 1957, Cooke released a string of hit songs, including "You Send Me", "A Change Is Gonna Come", "Cupid", "Wonderful World", "Chain Gang", "Twistin' the Night Away", "Bring It On Home to Me", and "Good Times". During his eight-year career, Cooke released 29 singles that charted in the Top 40 of the Billboard Pop Singles chart, as well as 20 singles in the Top Ten of Billboard's Black Singles chart.

In 1964, Cooke was shot and killed by the manager of a motel in Los Angeles. After an inquest and investigation, the courts ruled Cooke's death to be a justifiable homicide. His family has since questioned the circumstances of his death.

Cooke's pioneering contributions to soul music contributed to the rise of Aretha Franklin, Bobby Womack, Al Green, Curtis Mayfield, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and Billy Preston, and popularized the work of Otis Redding and James Brown. AllMusic biographer Bruce Eder wrote that Cooke was "the inventor of soul music", and possessed "an incredible natural singing voice and a smooth, effortless delivery that has never been surpassed".

Cooke was also a central part of the civil rights movement, using his influence and popularity with the White and Black populations to fight for the cause. He was friends with boxer Muhammad Ali, activist Malcolm X and football player Jim Brown, who together campaigned for racial equality.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSHUajv92JU>

Pride and Perseverance: The Story of the Negro Leagues (Documentary)
Produced by Major League Baseball Productions
Narrated by Dave Winfield
2009; Running Time: 49min

From the JustWatch website:

The history of the Negro Leagues is often a forgotten part of baseball history. Despite its popularity and wealth of talent, the era was not well documented. *Pride and Perseverance* sheds light on this period and shows how it laid the groundwork for today's African-American players in Major League Baseball. With rarely seen footage from the 1920s through 1950s, these extraordinary stories illustrate the birth of the Negro Leagues and depict both the struggles endured and milestones achieved by its players. The film also highlights Negro League innovations that helped shape modern day baseball, such as the Leagues' usage of portable light towers to enable games to be played after dusk for the first time ever

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvRQnTC_7CU

Oscar Peterson-In the Key of Oscar (Documentary)

National Film Board of Canada

Produced by Sylvia Sweeney & Michael Allder

1992; Running Time: 1Hr 31min

The legacy of jazz pianist and composer Oscar Peterson is chronicled in this riveting documentary spanning five decades of Peterson's unforgettable music. Considered to have been one of the world's greatest jazz pianists, Peterson released more than 200 recordings and won eight Grammy Awards. Music In the Key of Oscar traces the history of Peterson's roots from his early days as Montreal's teenage boogie-woogie sensation through his meteoric rise to international celebrity. In-depth interviews with jazz greats like Ella Fitzgerald, Quincy Jones and Dizzy Gillespie are paired with must-see concert footage featuring Nat King Cole with Jazz at the Philharmonic and the Oscar Peterson Trio Wall reunion. Jazz fans won't want to miss this music-filled doc celebrating one of Canada's most prominent musicians.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRJYcLWNXfc>

A Duke Named Ellington (Documentary)
American Masters Production
Produced & Directed by Terry Carter
1988; Running Time: 1Hr 50min

From American Archive of Public Broadcasting:

A musical portrait featuring 'the Duke' himself, reminiscing about his career and performing with his orchestra. The program features rare archival footage of his seldom-heard works as well as unusual renditions of Ellington classics. The anecdotes and recollections of Willie 'the Lion' Smith, Teddy Wilson, Ben Webster, Charlie Mingus, Cootie Williams, Alvin Ailey, Herbie Hancock and others provide the audience with unique insights into the Ellington phenomenon. 'A Duke Named Ellington' is a musical retrospective of Ellington's half-century career, capturing his genius and charisma, and focusing on his accomplishments as a protagonist in the development of modern music.' A masterly portrait of a master.' (Politiken, Denmark). 'In a class by itself' -- a triumph of film and tape research -- what can you say but that it is achingly good' (Los Angeles Times). 'Can't be beat - a superb two-parter - the perfect example of just how an in-depth profile of an artist should be done' (New York Daily News). 'Much more than a documentary about the Duke - an essential testimony about the music of our century.' (Jazz Magazine, France). --1989 Peabody Awards entry form.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YHOQZuGvXc> (Part 1 & Part 2)

Carry On: The Life and Legacy of Maggie Lena Walker (Documentary)
Written & Directed by Ethan P. Bullard, Museum Curator, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
2017; Running Time: 20min

From YouTube

This orientation film from the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site traces the trials and triumphs of Richmond's pioneering banker and civil rights activist. Combining the latest scholarship with rarely seen archival images, this narrated documentary chronicles Walker's unique leadership and her enduring influence on the struggle for social justice. Narrated by Zeke Alton with Daphne Maxwell Reid as the voice of Maggie L. Walker.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QR3CexPZXEk>

Journey to Justice (Documentary)

Directed by Roger McTair; Produced by Karen King-Chigbo

2000 | 47 min

From the National Film Board website:

This documentary pays tribute to a group of Canadians who took racism to court. They are Canada's unsung heroes in the fight for Black civil rights. Focusing on the 1930s to the 1950s, this film documents the struggle of 6 people who refused to accept inequality. Featured here, among others, are Viola Desmond, a woman who insisted on keeping her seat at the Roseland movie theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia in 1946 rather than moving to the section normally reserved for the city's Black population, and Fred Christie, who took his case to the Supreme Court after being denied service at a Montreal tavern in 1936. These brave pioneers helped secure justice for all Canadians. Their stories deserve to be told.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free at the National Film Board website:

https://www.nfb.ca/film/journey_to_justice/

Nat King Cole: The World of Nat King Cole (Documentary)
PBS American Masters Production
2006; Running Time: 56min

From PBS

Nat King Cole crowns a very short list of the most identifiable and memorable voices in American music. This ground breaking American icon's impact continues to cross the world's cultural and political boundaries. The story of his life is a study in success in the face of adversity and the triumph of talent over the ignorance of prejudice.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdsKiSlivJs>

Mahalia Jackson: The Power and the Glory (Documentary)
Director by Jeff Scheftel; Written by Michael Singh
1997; Running Time: 1Hr 25min

From IMDB

Documentary narrated by Paul Winfield, this documentary follows the course of Mahalia Jackson's extraordinary life - from her humble beginnings as a sickly child singing in New Orleans churches to her breakthrough with Columbia Records and her ascendancy to Carnegie Hall and Europe's great stages. Her story's told through archival footage and interviews with those who knew her best.

Initial release: 1997

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0tKEpJFYI>

Legends of Opera-Jessye Norman (Documentary)
Produced & Directed by Lyndy Saville
2018; Running Time 44min

From Wikipedia:

Jessye Mae Norman (September 15, 1945 – September 30, 2019) was an American opera singer and recitalist. She was able to perform dramatic soprano roles, but refused to be limited to that voice type. A commanding presence on operatic, concert and recital stages, Norman was associated with roles including Beethoven's Leonore, Wagner's Sieglinde and Kundry, Cassandre and Didon by Berlioz and Bartók's Judith. The New York Times music critic Edward Rothstein described her voice as a "grand mansion of sound", and wrote that "it has enormous dimensions, reaching backward and upward. It opens onto unexpected vistas. It contains sunlit rooms, narrow passageways, cavernous halls."

She sang at the second inauguration of Ronald Reagan, at Queen Elizabeth II's 60th birthday celebration in 1986, and performed the La Marseillaise to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution on July 14, 1989. She sang at the 1996 Summer Olympics opening ceremony in Atlanta and for the second inauguration of Bill Clinton in 1997.

Norman sang and recorded recitals of music by Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss, Gustav Mahler, Ernest Chausson and Francis Poulenc, among others. In 1984, she won the Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Solo, the first of five Grammy Awards that she would collect during her career. Apart from several honorary doctorates and other awards, she received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Medal of Arts, the Légion d'honneur, and was named a member of the British Royal Academy of Music. In 1990, UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar named her Honorary Ambassador to the United Nations.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCwZLMD_WFA

Sidney Poitier-Biography (Documentary)
Produced by Morgan Neville, Peter Jones, Peter Rainer
Written by Peter Rainer
Narrated by Peter Graves
1996; Running Time: 43min

From Wikipedia:

Sidney Poitier KBE (February 20, 1927 – January 6, 2022) was a Bahamian and American actor, film director, and diplomat. In 1964, he was the first black actor and first Bahamian to win the Academy Award for Best Actor. He received two competitive Golden Globe Awards, a competitive British Academy of Film and Television Arts award (BAFTA), and a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album. Poitier was one of the last major stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood cinema.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsH5f4FCBRg>

Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise (Documentary)
American Masters Production
Directed by: Rita Coburn Whack & Bob Hercules
Produced by: Rita Coburn Whack, Bob Hercules, Jay Alix
2016; Running Time: 1Hr 32min

From YouTube

Documentary portrait of the trail-blazing activist, poet and writer Maya Angelou. Born in 1928, she enthused generations with her bold and inspirational championing of the African-American experience that pushed boundaries and redefined the way people think about race and culture.

Maya Angelou was captured on film just before she died in 2014, and this documentary celebrates her life and work, weaving her words with rare and intimate archival photographs and videos. It reveals hidden episodes of her exuberant life during some of America's defining moments, from her upbringing in the Depression-era south to her work with Malcolm X in Ghana and her inaugural speech for President Bill Clinton, the film takes us on an incredible journey through the life of a true American icon.

Contributors include Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Quincy Jones, Hillary Clinton and Maya Angelou's son Guy Johnson.

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVadwe7utuA>

Hughes' Dream Harlem (Documentary)
Produced & Directed by Jamal Joseph
Narrated by Ossie Davis & Jad Joseph
2002; Running Time 1Hr

From Films Media Group

Known as “Harlem’s poet laureate,” Langston Hughes was one of the most prominent figures of the Harlem Renaissance. This lyrical program celebrates Hughes’ life and work, offering a vision of the esteemed poet in present-day Harlem and making a case for his impact on hip-hop music and the contemporary spoken-word community. Narrated by Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, the multilayered presentation includes roundtable discussions of Hughes’ contributions with poet Sonia Sanchez, music producer Damon Dash, and others, and a tour of his New York City haunts.

This film is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxMr46IUIDk>

Black Lives and Stories—Books

His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope (Book)

By Jon Meacham

ISBN-10: 1984855026;

ISBN-13: 978-1984855022

From Amazon:

“John Lewis, who at age twenty-five marched in Selma, Alabama, and was beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, was a visionary and a man of faith. Drawing on decades of wide-ranging interviews with Lewis, Jon Meacham writes of how this great-grandson of a slave and son of an Alabama tenant farmer was inspired by the Bible and his teachers in nonviolence, Reverend James Lawson and Martin Luther King, Jr., to put his life on the line in the service of what Abraham Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature.” From an early age, Lewis learned that nonviolence was not only a tactic but a philosophy, a biblical imperative, and a transforming reality. At the age of four, Lewis, ambitious to become a minister, practiced by preaching to his family’s chickens. When his mother cooked one of the chickens, the boy refused to eat it—his first act, he wryly recalled, of nonviolent protest. Integral to Lewis’s commitment to bettering the nation was his faith in humanity and in God—and an unshakable belief in the power of hope.

Meacham calls Lewis “as important to the founding of a modern and multiethnic twentieth- and twenty-first-century America as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and Samuel Adams were to the initial creation of the Republic itself in the eighteenth century.” A believer in the injunction that one should love one’s neighbor as oneself, Lewis was arguably a saint in our time, risking limb and life to bear witness for the powerless in the face of the powerful. In many ways he brought a still-evolving nation closer to realizing its ideals, and his story offers inspiration and illumination for Americans today who are working for social and political change.”

Viola Desmond's Canada (Book)
A History of Blacks and Racial Segregation in the Promised Land
By Graham Reynolds
Foreword by George Elliott Clarke With Wanda Robson

From the publisher's website:

"Winner of the 2017 Robbie Robertson Dartmouth Book Award for Non-Fiction! The Miramichi Reader's best non-fiction book of 2016

In 1946, Viola Desmond was wrongfully arrested for sitting in a whites-only section of a movie theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. In 2010, the Nova Scotia Government recognized this gross miscarriage of justice and posthumously granted her a free pardon.

Most Canadians are aware of Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her seat on a racially segregated bus in Alabama, but Viola Desmond's act of resistance occurred nine years earlier. However, many Canadians are still unaware of Desmond's story or that racial segregation existed throughout many parts of Canada during most of the twentieth century. On the subject of race, Canadians seem to exhibit a form of collective amnesia. Viola Desmond's Canada is a ground-breaking book that provides a concise overview of the narrative of the Black experience in Canada. Reynolds traces this narrative from slavery under French and British rule in the eighteenth century to the practice of racial segregation and the fight for racial equality in the twentieth century. Included are personal recollections by Wanda Robson, Viola Desmond's youngest sister, together with important but previously unpublished documents and other primary sources in the history of Blacks in Canada."

<https://fernwoodpublishing.ca/book/viola-desmonds-canada>

The Skin We're In (Book)
A Year of Black Resistance and Power
By Desmond Cole

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

WINNER OF THE 2020 TORONTO BOOK AWARD

From Penguin Random House:

"A bracing, provocative, and perspective-shifting book from one of Canada's most celebrated and uncompromising writers, Desmond Cole. 'The Skin We're In' will spark a national conversation, influence policy, and inspire activists.

In his 2015 cover story for Toronto Life magazine, Desmond Cole exposed the racist actions of the Toronto police force, detailing the dozens of times he had been stopped and interrogated under the controversial practice of carding. The story quickly came to national prominence, shaking the country to its core and catapulting its author into the public sphere. Cole used his newfound profile to draw insistent, unyielding attention to the injustices faced by Black Canadians on a daily basis.

Both Cole's activism and journalism find vibrant expression in his first book, 'The Skin We're In'. Puncturing the bubble of Canadian smugness and naive assumptions of a post-racial nation, Cole chronicles just one year—2017—in the struggle against racism in this country. It was a year that saw calls for tighter borders when Black refugees braved frigid temperatures to cross into Manitoba from the States, Indigenous land and water protectors resisting the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday, police across the country rallying around an officer accused of murder, and more.

The year also witnessed the profound personal and professional ramifications of Desmond Cole's unwavering determination to combat injustice. In April, Cole disrupted a Toronto police board meeting by calling for the destruction of all data collected through carding. Following the protest, Cole, a columnist with the Toronto Star, was summoned to a meeting with the paper's opinions editor and informed that his activism violated company policy. Rather than limit his efforts defending Black lives, Cole chose to sever his relationship with the publication. Then in July, at another police board meeting, Cole challenged the board to respond to accusations of a police cover-up in the brutal beating of Dafonte Miller by an off-duty police officer and his brother. When Cole refused to leave the meeting until the question was publicly addressed, he was arrested. The image of Cole walking out of the meeting, handcuffed and flanked by officers, fortified the distrust between the city's Black community and its police force.

Month-by-month, Cole creates a comprehensive picture of entrenched, systemic inequality. Urgent, controversial, and unsparingly honest, *The Skin We're In* is destined to become a vital text for anti-racist and social justice movements in Canada, as well as a potent antidote to the all-too-present complacency of many white Canadians."

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/536075/the-skin-were-in-by-desmond-cole/9780385686341>

I'm Still Here-Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness (Book)
by Austin Channing Brown

From the Goodreads website:

'From a powerful new voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female in middle-class white America.

Austin Channing Brown's first encounter with a racialized America came at age 7, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. Growing up in majority-white schools, organizations, and churches, Austin writes, "I had to learn what it means to love blackness," a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America's racial divide as a writer, speaker and expert who helps organizations practice genuine inclusion.

In a time when nearly all institutions (schools, churches, universities, businesses) claim to value "diversity" in their mission statements, 'I'm Still Here' is a powerful account of how and why our actions so often fall short of our words. Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice, in stories that bear witness to the complexity of America's social fabric--from Black Cleveland neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations.

For readers who have engaged with America's legacy on race through the writing of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Michael Eric Dyson, 'I'm Still Here' is an illuminating look at how white, middle-class, Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the reader to confront apathy, recognize God's ongoing work in the world, and discover how blackness--if we let it--can save us all."

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/35883430-i-m-still-here>

White Fragility (Book)
Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism
By Dr. Robin DiAngelo
Foreword by Michael Eric Dyson

From the Goodreads website:

"About White Fragility

The New York Times best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

In this "vital, necessary, and beautiful book" (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and "allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to 'bad people' (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively."

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/566247/white-fragility-by-dr-robin-diangelo/>

Hidden Figures (Book)
by Margot Lee Shetterly

From the Goodreads website:

'The #1 New York Times Bestseller. Set amid the civil rights movement, the never-before-told true story of NASA's African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program. Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of bright, talented African-American women. Segregated from their white counterparts, these 'coloured computers' used pencil and paper to write the equations that would launch rockets and astronauts, into space. Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War and the women's rights movement, 'Hidden Figures' interweaves a rich history of mankind's greatest adventure with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.'

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25953369-hidden-figures>

***Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime that Changed America (Book)*
by Mamie Till-Mobley and Christopher Benson -2004**

From the Goodreads website:

“There are many heroes of the civil rights movement—men and women we can look to for inspiration. Each has a unique story, a path that led to a role as leader or activist. *Death of Innocence* is the heartbreaking and ultimately inspiring story of one such hero: Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till—an innocent fourteen-year-old African-American boy who was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and who paid for it with his life. His outraged mother’s actions galvanized the civil rights movement, leaving an indelible mark on American racial consciousness.

Mamie Carthan was an ordinary African-American woman growing up in 1930s Chicago, living under the strong, steady influence of her mother’s care. She fell in love with and married Louis Till, and while the marriage didn’t last, they did have a beautiful baby boy, Emmett.

In August 1955, Emmett was visiting family in Mississippi when he was kidnapped from his bed in the middle of the night by two white men and brutally murdered. His crime: allegedly whistling at a white woman in a convenience store. His mother began her career of activism when she insisted on an open-casket viewing of her son’s gruesomely disfigured body. More than a hundred thousand people attended the service. The trial of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, accused of kidnapping and murdering Emmett (the two were eventually acquitted of the crime), was considered the first full-scale media event of the civil rights movement.

What followed altered the course of this country’s history, and it was all set in motion by the sheer will, determination, and courage of Mamie Till-Mobley—a woman who would pull herself back from the brink of suicide to become a teacher and inspire hundreds of black children throughout the country.

Mamie Till-Mobley, who died in 2003 just as she completed this memoir, has honored us with her full testimony: “I focused on my son while I considered this book. . . . The result is in your hands. . . . I am experienced, but not cynical. . . . I am hopeful that we all can be better than we are. I’ve been brokenhearted, but I still maintain an oversized capacity for love.” *Death of Innocence* is an essential document in the annals of American civil rights history, and a painful yet beautiful account of a mother’s ability to transform tragedy into boundless courage and hope.”

https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/208405.Death_of_Innocence

Willie: The Game-Changing Story of the NHL's First Black Player (Book)
by Willie O'Ree, Michael McKinley

From the Goodreads website:

"An inspiring memoir that shows that anyone can achieve their dreams if they are willing to fight for them.

In 1958, Willie O'Ree was a lot like any other player toiling in the minors. He was good. Good enough to have been signed by the Boston Bruins. Just not quite good enough to play in the NHL.

Until January 18 of that year. O'Ree was finally called up, and when he stepped out onto the ice against the Montreal Canadiens, not only did he fulfil the childhood dream he shared with so many other Canadian kids, he did something that had never been done before.

He broke hockey's colour barrier. Just as his hero, Jackie Robinson, had done for baseball.

In that pioneering first NHL game, O'Ree proved that no one could stop him from being a hockey player. But he soon learned that he could never be just a hockey player. He would always be a black player, with all that entails. There were ugly name-calling and stick-swinging incidents, and nights when the Bruins had to be escorted to their bus by the police.

But O'Ree never backed down. When he retired in 1979, he had played hundreds of games as a pro, and scored hundreds of goals, his boyhood dreams more than accomplished.

In 2018, O'Ree was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in recognition not only of that legacy, but of the way he has built on it in the decades since. He has been, for twenty years now, an NHL Executive and has helped the NHL Diversity program expose more than 40,000 boys and girls of diverse backgrounds to unique hockey experiences.

Inspiring, frank, and shot through with the kind of understated courage and decency required to change the world, Willie is a story for anyone willing to persevere for a dream."

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/54227862-willie?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=umUk2D4xgR&rank=4

How to Be An Antiracist (Book)
by Ibram X. Kendi

From the Goodreads website:

"Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it.

In this book, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with an engaging personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism. *How to Be an Antiracist* is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society."

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40265832-how-to-be-an-antiracist?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=97KZm9gPwI&rank=1

In the Black: My Life (Book)
by B. Denham Jolly

From the Goodreads website:

"In the Black traces B. Denham Jolly's personal and professional struggle for a place in a country where Black Canadians have faced systematic discrimination. He arrived from Jamaica to attend university in the mid-1950s and worked as a high school teacher before going into the nursing and retirement home business. Though he was ultimately successful in his business ventures, Jolly faced both overt and covert discrimination, which led him into social activism. The need for a stronger voice for the Black community fueled Jolly's 12-year battle to get a licence for a Black-owned radio station in Toronto. At its launch in 2001, Flow 93.5 became the model for urban music stations across the country, helping to launch the careers of artists like Drake.

Jolly chronicles not only his own journey: he tells the story of a generation of activists who worked to reshape the country into a more open and just society. While celebrating these successes, In the Black also measures the distance Canada still has to travel before we reach our stated ideals of equality."

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/31213686-in-the-black?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=qBJgNYcDMi&rank=1

They Call Me George (Book)
(The Untold Story of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada)
By Cecil Foster, 2019

From the CBC website:

“At the beginning of the 20th century, being a train porter in Canada was a job reserved for black men only. Cecil Foster documents this underreported piece of Canadian history in the nonfiction book *They Call Me George*. The tiring, thankless and low-paying job — that consisted of hauling luggage, folding down beds, shining shoes and serving passengers— forced these men to be separated from their families as they travelled the country. *They Call Me George* documents how one man, Stanley Grizzle, went from being a porter to leading a movement and eventually receiving the Order of Canada.”

From Biblioasis:

“A historical work of non-fiction that chronicles the little-known stories of black railway porters — the so-called "Pullmen" of the Canadian rail lines. The actions and spirit of these men helped define Canada as a nation in surprising ways; effecting race relations, human rights, North American multiculturalism, community building, the shape and structure of unions, and the nature of travel and business across the U.S. and Canada.”

Drawing on the stories and legends of several of these influential early black Canadians, this book narrates the history of a very visible, but rarely considered, aspect of black life in railway-age Canada. These porters, who fought against the idea of Canada as White Man's Country, open only to immigrants from Europe, fought for opportunities and rights and won.”

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption (Book)
by Bryan Stevenson
(This book is now also a motion picture and is available on DVD)

From the Goodreads website:

An unforgettable true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to end mass incarceration in America — from one of the most inspiring lawyers of our time.

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit law office in Montgomery, Alabama, dedicated to defending the poor, the incarcerated, and the wrongly condemned.

Just Mercy tells the story of EJI, from the early days with a small staff facing the nation's highest death sentencing and execution rates, through a successful campaign to challenge the cruel practice of sentencing children to die in prison, to revolutionary projects designed to confront Americans with our history of racial injustice.

One of EJI's first clients was Walter McMillian, a young Black man who was sentenced to die for the murder of a young white woman that he didn't commit. The case exemplifies how the death penalty in America is a direct descendant of lynching — a system that treats the rich and guilty better than the poor and innocent.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20342617-just-mercy?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=cuAJpy3cHo&rank=1

Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement (Book)
By John Lewis

From Amazon:

“The award-winning national bestseller, ‘Walking with the Wind’, is one of our most important records of the American civil rights movement. Told by John Lewis, who Cornel West calls a “national treasure,” this is a gripping first-hand account of the fight for civil rights and the courage it takes to change a nation.

In 1957, a teenaged boy named John Lewis left a cotton farm in Alabama for Nashville, the epicenter of the struggle for civil rights in America. Lewis’s adherence to nonviolence guided that critical time and established him as one of the movement’s most charismatic and courageous leaders. Lewis’s leadership in the Nashville Movement—a student-led effort to desegregate the city of Nashville using sit-in techniques based on the teachings of Gandhi—set the tone for major civil rights campaigns of the 1960s. Lewis traces his role in the pivotal Selma marches, Bloody Sunday, and the Freedom Rides. Inspired by his mentor, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Lewis’s vision and perseverance altered history. In 1986, he ran and won a congressional seat in Georgia, and remains in office to this day, continuing to enact change.

The late Edward M. Kennedy said of Lewis, “John tells it like it was...Lewis spent most of his life walking against the wind of the times, but he was surely walking with the wind of history.””

https://www.amazon.ca/gp/product/1476797714/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i8

When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir (Book)
by Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Asha Bandele

From the Goodreads website:

“A poetic and powerful memoir about what it means to be a Black woman in America—and the co-founding of a movement that demands justice for all in the land of the free.

Raised by a single mother in an impoverished neighborhood in Los Angeles, Patrisse Khan-Cullors experienced firsthand the prejudice and persecution Black Americans endure at the hands of law enforcement. For Patrisse, the most vulnerable people in the country are Black people. Deliberately and ruthlessly targeted by a criminal justice system serving a white privilege agenda, Black people are subjected to unjustifiable racial profiling and police brutality. In 2013, when Trayvon Martin’s killer went free, Patrisse’s outrage led her to co-found Black Lives Matter with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi.

Condemned as terrorists and as a threat to America, these loving women founded a hashtag that birthed the movement to demand accountability from the authorities who continually turn a blind eye to the injustices inflicted upon people of Black and Brown skin.

Championing human rights in the face of violent racism, Patrisse is a survivor. She transformed her personal pain into political power, giving voice to a people suffering in equality and a movement fueled by her strength and love to tell the country—and the world—that Black Lives Matter.

When They Call You a Terrorist is Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele’s reflection on humanity. It is an empowering account of survival, strength and resilience and a call to action to change the culture that declares innocent Black life expendable.”

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34964998-when-they-call-you-a-terrorist?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=Lf5LZRfnW9&rank=1

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US (Book)
by Lenny Duncan

From the Goodreads website:

"Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work--drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers.

Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone--leaders and laity alike--to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.

It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus."

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/43602206-dear-church?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=fNWmCon3Bf&rank=1

Between the World and Me (Book)
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

From the Goodreads website:

“This is your country, this is your world, this is your body, and you must find some way to live within the all of it.”

“In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of “race,” a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?”

Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children’s lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bracingly confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.”

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25489625-between-the-world-and-me?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=7zZ7F5oXTz&rank=1

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (Book)
by Michelle Alexander

From the Goodreads website:

"Jarvious Cotton's great-great-grandfather could not vote as a slave. His great-grandfather was beaten to death by the Klu Klux Klan for attempting to vote. His grandfather was prevented from voting by Klan intimidation; his father was barred by poll taxes and literacy tests. Today, Cotton cannot vote because he, like many black men in the United States, has been labeled a felon and is currently on parole."

"As the United States celebrates the nation's "triumph over race" with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of young black men in major American cities are locked behind bars or have been labeled felons for life. Although Jim Crow laws have been wiped off the books, an astounding percentage of the African American community remains trapped in a subordinate status--much like their grandparents before them.

In this incisive critique, former litigator-turned-legal-scholar Michelle Alexander provocatively argues that we have not ended racial caste in America: we have simply redesigned it. Alexander shows that, by targeting black men and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of color blindness. The New Jim Crow challenges the civil rights community--and all of us--to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America."

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6792458-the-new-jim-crow?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=7lQLs13Yfo&rank=1

Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own (Book)
by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

From the Goodreads website:

"We live, according to Eddie S. Glaude Jr., in a moment when the struggles of Black Lives Matter and the attempt to achieve a new America have been challenged by the election of Donald Trump, a president whose victory represents yet another failure of America to face the lies it tells itself about race. From Charlottesville to the policies of child separation at the border, his administration turned its back on the promise of Obama's presidency and refused to embrace a vision of the country shorn of the insidious belief that white people matter more than others.

We have been here before: For James Baldwin, these after times came in the wake of the civil rights movement, when a similar attempt to compel a national confrontation with the truth was answered with the murders of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. In these years, spanning from the publication of *The Fire Next Time* in 1963 to that of *No Name in the Street* in 1972, Baldwin transformed into a more overtly political writer, a change that came at great professional and personal cost. But from that journey, Baldwin emerged with a sense of renewed purpose about the necessity of pushing forward in the face of disillusionment and despair.

In the story of Baldwin's crucible, Glaude suggests, we can find hope and guidance through our own after times, this Trumpian era of shattered promises and white retrenchment. Mixing biography--drawn partially from newly uncovered interviews--with history, memoir, and trenchant analysis of our current moment, *Begin Again* is Glaude's endeavor, following Baldwin, to bear witness to the difficult truth of race in America today. It is at once a searing exploration that lays bare the tangled web of race, trauma, and memory, and a powerful interrogation of what we all must ask of ourselves in order to call forth a new America."

This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us
By Cole Arthur Riley

"From the womb, we must repeat with regularity that to love ourselves is to survive. I believe that is what my father wanted for me and knew I would so desperately need: a tool for survival, the truth of my dignity named like a mercy new each morning."

So writes Cole Arthur Riley in her unforgettable book of stories and reflections on discovering the sacred in her skin. In these deeply transporting pages, Arthur Riley reflects on the stories of her grandmother and father, and how they revealed to her an embodied, dignity-affirming spirituality, not only in what they believed but in the act of living itself. Writing memorably of her own childhood and coming to self, Arthur Riley boldly explores some of the most urgent questions of life and faith: How can spirituality not silence the body, but instead allow it to come alive? How do we honor, lament, and heal from the stories we inherit? How can we find peace in a world overtaken with dislocation, noise, and unrest? In this indelible work of contemplative storytelling, Arthur Riley invites us to descend into our own stories, examine our capacity to rest, wonder, joy, rage, and repair, and find that our humanity is not an enemy to faith but evidence of it.

At once a compelling spiritual meditation, a powerful intergenerational account, and a tender coming-of-age narrative, *This Here Flesh* speaks potently to anyone who suspects that our stories might have something to say to us.

--<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/58214330-this-here-flesh>

Black Lives and Stories-TV Movies and Feature Films

These films are available on DVD and may be available on some streaming platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney, YouTube, etc.

Ghosts of Mississippi (Feature Film)

Starring: Alec Baldwin, Whoopi Goldberg, James Woods

1995, Directed by Rob Reiner, Running Time 2hr 10min

A film about the conviction of the murderer of Medgar Evers in 1963.

Medgar Evers was an American civil rights activist and the NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi who was assassinated by a white supremacist.

A Description of the film from Google:

In this film based on actual events, black activist Medgar Evers (James Pickens Jr.) is murdered in 1963, and much of the evidence points toward white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith (James Woods). However, after two trials, De La Beckwith is acquitted twice by a jury of whites. Now, decades later in 1989, Evers' widow, Myrlie (Whoopi Goldberg), thinks she has evidence to finally convict him. But no lawyer will touch the case except the young and brash Bobby DeLaughter (Alec Baldwin).

This film is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcGd4vH8Vlg>

Separate But Equal (1991 Miniseries)

Running Time 3hr 10min (Parts 1&2 run about 1hr 35min each, but are presented together via the link shown)

Directed by George Stevens, Jr.

From YouTube

'The outstanding 1991 miniseries, "Separate But Equal," tells the story of the landmark case of "Brown v. Board of Education" from start to finish. All the important players are featured here: the schoolchildren forced to attend substandard, segregated schools; Thurgood Marshall (Sidney Poitier) and the other attorneys in the civil rights movement; and Chief Justice Earl Warren (Richard Kiley) and the other Supreme Court justices who decided the case. This miniseries is largely based on Richard Kluger's non-fiction book, "Simple Justice," and it takes pains to be historically accurate. Winner of the 1991 Emmy for Best miniseries, this is a must-see for any student of the Supreme Court and/or civil rights in America.'

This documentary is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD8XMtj2Mog>

Do the Right Thing
Spike Lee, writer, producer, director
2 hrs

From Wikipedia

Do the Right Thing is a 1989 American comedy-drama film produced, written, and directed by Spike Lee. It stars Lee, Danny Aiello, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Richard Edson, Giancarlo Esposito, Bill Nunn, John Turturro, and Samuel L. Jackson, and is the feature film debut of Martin Lawrence and Rosie Perez. The story explores a Brooklyn neighborhood's simmering racial tension between its African-American residents and the Italian-American owners of a local pizzeria, culminating in tragedy and violence on a hot summer day.

The film was a critical and commercial success and received numerous accolades, including Academy Award nominations for Best Original Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor for Aiello's portrayal of Sal the pizzeria owner. It is often listed among the greatest films of all time. In 1999, the film was deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the Library of Congress, and was selected for preservation in the National Film Registry.

Malcolm X
3hr 21 min
Directed by Spike Lee
Screenplay by Arnold Perl & Spike Lee

From Wikipedia

Malcolm X (sometimes stylized as X) is a 1992 American epic biographical drama film about the African-American activist Malcolm X. Directed and co-written by Spike Lee, the film stars Denzel Washington in the title role, as well as Angela Bassett, Albert Hall, Al Freeman Jr., and Delroy Lindo. Lee has a supporting role, while Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale, the Rev. Al Sharpton, and future South African president Nelson Mandela make cameo appearances. It is the second of four film collaborations between Washington and Lee.

Malcolm X's screenplay, co-credited to Lee and Arnold Perl, is based largely on Alex Haley's 1965 book, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Haley collaborated with Malcolm X on the book beginning in 1963 and completed it after Malcolm X's death. The film dramatizes key events in Malcolm X's life: his criminal career, his incarceration, his conversion to Islam, his ministry as a member of the Nation of Islam and his later falling out with the organization, his marriage to Betty X, his pilgrimage to Mecca and reevaluation of his views concerning whites, and his assassination on February 21, 1965. Defining childhood incidents, including his father's death, his mother's mental illness, and his experiences with racism are dramatized in flashbacks.

Malcolm X was distributed by Warner Bros. and released on November 18, 1992. Denzel Washington won the New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Actor and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor. In 2010, the film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

Selma
2hr 8 min
Directed by Ava DuVernay
Written by Paul Webb

From Wikipedia

Selma is a 2014 historical drama film directed by Ava DuVernay and written by Paul Webb. It is based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches initiated and directed by James Bevel and led by Martin Luther King Jr., Hosea Williams, and John Lewis. The film stars actors David Oyelowo as King, Tom Wilkinson as President Lyndon B. Johnson, Tim Roth as George Wallace, Carmen Ejogo as Coretta Scott King, and Common as Bevel.

Selma premiered at the American Film Institute Festival on November 11, 2014, began a limited US release on December 25, and expanded into wide theatrical release on January 9, 2015, two months before the 50th anniversary of the march. The film was re-released on March 20, 2015 in honor of the 50th anniversary of the historical march.

The film was nominated for Best Picture and won Best Original Song at the 87th Academy Awards. It also received four Golden Globe Award nominations, including Best Motion Picture – Drama, Best Director and Best Actor, and won for Best Original Song.

Fruitvale Station

85 min

Directed & Directed by Ryan Coogler

From Wikipedia

Fruitvale Station is a 2013 American biographical drama film written and directed by Ryan Coogler. It is Coogler's feature directorial debut and is based on the events leading to the death of Oscar Grant, a young man killed in 2009 by BART police officer Johannes Mehserle at the Fruitvale district station of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system in Oakland.

The film stars Michael B. Jordan as Grant, with Kevin Durand and Chad Michael Murray playing the two BART police officers involved in Grant's death, although their names were changed for the film. Melonie Diaz, Ahna O'Reilly and Octavia Spencer also star.

12 Years a Slave
2hr 14 min
Directed by Steve McQueen
Screenplay by John Ridley
Based on the book *Twelve Years a Slave*, by Solomon Northup

From Wikipedia

12 Years a Slave is a 2013 biographical period-drama film directed by Steve McQueen from a screenplay by John Ridley, based on the 1853 slave memoir *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup, about a New York State-born free African-American man who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C. by two conmen in 1841 and sold into slavery. Northup was put to work on plantations in the state of Louisiana for 12 years before being released. The first scholarly edition of Northup's memoir, co-edited in 1968 by Sue Eakin and Joseph Logsdon, carefully retraced and validated the account and concluded it to be accurate.

Chiwetel Ejiofor stars as Solomon Northup. Michael Fassbender, Benedict Cumberbatch, Paul Dano, Garret Dillahunt, Paul Giamatti, Scoot McNairy, Lupita Nyong'o, Adepero Oduye, Sarah Paulson, Brad Pitt, Michael Kenneth Williams, and Alfre Woodard feature in supporting roles.

The Book of Negroes
Mini-series, Six episodes

Based on The Book of Negroes, by Lawrence Hill
Screenplay by Clement Virgo & Lawrence Hill
Directed by Clement Virgo

From Wikipedia

The Book of Negroes is a 2015 television miniseries based on the 2007 novel of the same name by Canadian writer Lawrence Hill. The book was inspired by the British freeing and evacuation of former slaves, known as Black Loyalists, who had left rebel masters during the American Revolutionary War. The British transported some 3,000 Black Loyalists to Nova Scotia for resettlement, documenting their names in what was called the Book of Negroes.

The novel explores the life of a fictional woman included in this resettlement. She had been taken captive as a girl in West Africa and sold into slavery, held first in South Carolina. She escaped to British lines in New York City, where she was freed and ultimately evacuated to Nova Scotia.

Murder in Mississippi (Television movie)
1990, Directed by Roger Young
Running Time 1Hr, 35min

From YouTube

Murder in Mississippi is a 1990 television film which dramatized the last weeks of civil rights activists Michael "Mickey" Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney, and the events leading up to their disappearance and subsequent murder in the summer of 1964. It starred Tom Hulce as Schwerner, Jennifer Grey as his wife Rita, Blair Underwood as Chaney, and Josh Charles as Goodman. Hulce received a nomination for Best Actor in a TV Miniseries at the 1990 Golden Globes.

As a historical docudrama, Murder in Mississippi precedes the storylines of both 1975's Attack on Terror: The FBI vs. the Ku Klux Klan and 1988's Mississippi Burning.

'Murder in Mississippi is the title of a Norman Rockwell 1964 painting, depicting the same events. The painting is also known as: "Southern Justice."

This film is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-k5YTDlh7Wo>

The Long Walk Home (Feature Film)

***Starring: Whoopi Goldberg, Sissy Spacek, Dwight Schultz, Ving Rhames
1990; Directed by Richard Pearce; Running Time: 1Hr 35m***

From Google:

The Long Walk Home is a 1990 American historical drama. Set in Alabama, it is based on a screenplay about the Montgomery bus boycott (1955–1956) by John Cork and a short film by the same name, produced by students at the University of Southern California (USC) in 1988.

While USC selected Cork's script for production, the department assigned Beverly E. Fray, another student, to direct it. The scenario on which the film is based, actually happened to Cork and his maid, Elizabeth Gregory Taylor, in his hometown of Montgomery, Alabama. The short film won several awards, including first place at the Black American Cinema Society. Cork, however, was unhappy with the finished project and unsuccessfully tried to block screenings of the short film.

The film was expanded as a feature. Set in Montgomery, Alabama, during the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott, it follows Odessa Cotter (Whoopi Goldberg), an African-American woman who works as a maid/nanny for Miriam Thompson (Sissy Spacek). Odessa and her family confront typical issues faced by African Americans in the South at the time: poverty, racism, segregation, and violence. The black community has begun a widespread boycott of the city-owned buses to end segregation; Odessa is forced to take long walks both ways to work.

This film is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FJSosGKclM>

A Woman Called Moses (TV Mini-Series)

Starring: Cicely Tyson, Will Geer, Robert Hooks; Narrated by Orson Welles

1978; Directed by Paul Wendkos;

Running Time:

Part 1-1Hr 38m

Part 2-1Hr 38m

From Wikipedia:

A Woman Called Moses is a 1978 American television miniseries based on the life of Harriet Tubman, the escaped African American slave who helped to organize the Underground Railroad, and who led dozens of African Americans from enslavement in the Southern United States to freedom in the Northern states and Canada. Narrated by Orson Welles, the production was broadcast on the NBC television network on December 11 and 12, 1978. Tubman was portrayed by Cicely Tyson.

This film is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gul2G0zoi2A>

Part 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCrbnpmZHR8>

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (TV Movie)

Directed by John Korty

Starring: Cicely Tyson, Barbara Cheney, Richard Dysart, Katherine Helmond, Michael Murphy, Odetta, Thalmus Rasulala

1974; Running Time: 1Hr 50min

From Wikipedia:

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman is an American television film based on the novel of the same name by Ernest J. Gaines. The film was broadcast on CBS on Thursday, January 31, 1974.

Directed by John Korty, the screenplay was written by Tracy Keenan Wynn and executive produced by Roger Gimbel. It stars Cicely Tyson in the lead role, as well as Michael Murphy, Richard Dysart, Katherine Helmond, and Odetta. The film was shot in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was notable for its use of very realistic special effects makeup by Stan Winston and Rick Baker for the lead character, who is shown from ages 23 to 110.

The time is the early 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Jane, a former slave, is celebrating her 110th birthday. Two men tell her that a little girl is going to a segregated water fountain; she gets arrested because she is black. The next day Jane is interviewed by a journalist and she tells the story of her life. The climax of the story shows Jane going to the water fountain to desegregate it; her lifespan has bridged the time of slavery and the Civil Rights Movement.

This movie is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpmTZ5NyBw0>

Souder (Feature Film)

Director: Martin Ritt

Writers: Lonne Elder III, William H. Armstrong

Starring: Cicely Tyson, Paul Winfield, Kevin Hooks

1972; 1Hr 45min

From YouTube:

Four Oscar nominations went to this moving drama about a family of Louisiana sharecroppers facing hardships during the Depression. The story concerns Nathan Lee Morgan (Paul Winfield), a black man sent to a prison camp for committing a petty crime. When his wife Rebecca (Cicely Tyson) sends their young son (Kevin Hooks) to visit him, the boy's journey becomes a life changing rite of passage. Critic Roger Ebert praised Souder, calling it "a film for the family to see."

This film is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMD5Pg-lrTk>

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (TV Movie)

Director: Fielder Cook

Producer: George W. Perkins

Music composed by: Peter Matz

Screenplay: Maya Angelou, Leonora Thuna

Top Cast: Diahann Carroll, Constance Good, Esther Rolle, Ruby Dee, Roger E. Mosley

1979; Running Time: 1Hr 35min

From YouTube

This film adaptation of Maya Angelou's autobiography focuses on the author's extremely difficult youth. Young Maya (Constance Good) lives at her grandmother's in Arkansas. Life is hard for the little girl, but a truly dark turning point comes when she is raped by her mother's boyfriend (Paul Benjamin). After she identifies her rapist, her uncles murder him. Overwhelmed with guilt and confusion, Maya becomes mute for years, struggling all the while to come to terms with her trauma.

This film is available for you to watch for free on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnpGaragYyo>