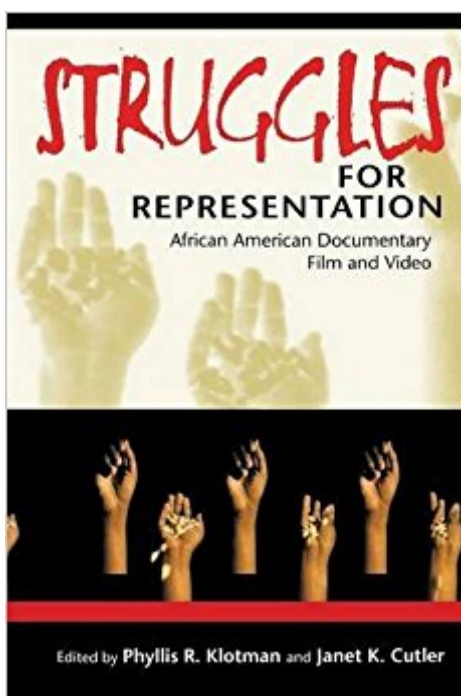


The book was found

# Struggles For Representation: African American Documentary Film And Video



## Synopsis

*Struggles for Representation* examines over 300 non-fiction films by more than 150 African American film/videomakers and includes an extensive filmography, bibliography, and excerpts from interviews with film/videomakers. In eleven original essays, contributors explore the extraordinary scope of these aesthetic and social documents and chart a previously undiscovered territory: documentaries that examine the aesthetic, economic, historical, political, and social forces that shape the lives of black Americans, as seen from their perspectives. Until now, scholars and critics have concentrated on black fiction film and on mainstream non-fiction films, neglecting the groundbreaking body of black non-fiction productions that offer privileged views of American life. Yet, these rich and varied works in film, video, and new electronic media, convey vast stores of knowledge and experience. Although most documentary cannot hope to match fiction film's mass appeal, it is unrivaled in its ability to portray searing, indelible impressions of black life, including concrete views of significant events and moving portraits of charismatic individuals. Documentary footage brings audiences the moments when civil rights protestors were attacked by state troopers; it provides the sights and sounds of Malcolm X delivering an electrifying speech, Betty Carter performing a heart-wrenching song, and Langston Hughes strolling on a beach. Uniting all of this work is the "struggle for representation" that characterizes each film's keen urgent desire to convey black life in ways that counter the uninformed and often distorted representations of mass media film and television productions. African American documentaries have long been associated with struggles for social and political empowerment; for many film/videomakers, documentary is a compelling mode with which to present an alternative, more authentic narrative of black experiences and an effective critique of mainstream discourse. Thus, many socially and politically committed film/videomakers view documentary as a tool with which to interrogate and reinvent history; their works fill gaps, correct errors, and expose distortions in order to provide counter-narratives of African American experience. Contributors include Paul Arthur, Houston A. Baker, Jr., Mark F. Baker, Pearl Bowser, Janet K. Cutler Manthia Diawara, Elizabeth Amelia Hadley, Phyllis R. Klotman, Tommy Lee Lott, Erika Muhammad, Valerie Smith, and Clyde Taylor.

## Book Information

Paperback: 520 pages

Publisher: Indiana University Press (January 22, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0253213479

ISBN-13: 978-0253213471

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #506,749 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Documentaries](#) #1654 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > History & Criticism](#) #2352 in [Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Criticism](#)

## Customer Reviews

Klotman (Afro-American studies and founder of the Black Film Center/Archive, Indiana Univ.) and Cutler (English and film studies, Montclair State Univ.) have an extensive background in black film, which bears fruit in this excellent collection of 11 essays covering over 300 nonfiction films by more than 150 African American filmmakers, terrain rarely visited in other books on documentary or black film. Readers should especially note Manthia Diawara's examination of black diaspora documentary, Klotman's study of documenting the African American military experience, and Pearl Bowser's fascinating essay on the pioneers of this genre. An extensive filmography and interview excerpts crown this collection, which perfectly complements Diawara's *Black American Cinema* (Routledge, 1993) and *Between the Sheets, in the Streets* (LJ 4/1/97), edited by Chris Holmlund and Cynthia Fuchs. Highly recommended for all film and black studies collections.-Anthony J. Adam, Prairie View A&M Univ. Lib., TX Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Phyllis R. Klotman is Professor of Afro-American Studies and Founder/Director of the Black Film Center/Archive at Indiana University. Her publications include *Screenplays of the African American Experience*, *Frame by Frame: A Black Filmography*, and with Gloria J. Gibson, *Frame by Frame II: A Filmography of the African American Image*, and over 30 articles/essays on African American film and literature. Janet K. Cutler is Professor of English and Coordinator of the interdisciplinary film program at Montclair State University, where she has taught film studies for twenty years. Her published work on film and video has appeared in such journals as *Black Film Review*, *Cineaste*, *Film Quarterly*, and *Persistence of Vision*.

A good overview on Black Documentary films, mostly from PBS and its early history with the TV series at WNET, *BLACK JOURNAL*, and the legacy of Henry Hampton with his *Blackside in Boston*

(Eyes on the Prize). The book also covers the early little known history of the documentary film and its pioneer, William Alexander.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Struggles for Representation: African American Documentary Film and Video African: African Recipes - The Very Best African Cookbook (African recipes, African cookbook, African cook book, African recipe, African recipe book) Documenting the Documentary: Close Readings of Documentary Film and Video, New and Expanded Edition (Contemporary Approaches to Film and Media Series) Documenting the Documentary: Close Readings of Documentary Film and Video Film on the Left: American Documentary Film from 1931 to 1942 Documentary Film Classics (Cambridge Studies in Film) Paradoxes of Desegregation: African American Struggles for Educational Equity in Charleston, South Carolina, 1926-1972 Vaccination and Its Critics: A Documentary and Reference Guide (Documentary and Reference Guides) Water Rights and the Environment in the United States: A Documentary and Reference Guide (Documentary and Reference Guides) Reality Radio: Telling True Stories in Sound (Documentary Arts and Culture, Published in association with the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University) Reality Radio, Second Edition: Telling True Stories in Sound (Documentary Arts and Culture, Published in association with the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University) The Film Encyclopedia 7th Edition: The Complete Guide to Film and the Film Industry Funky Nassau: Roots, Routes, and Representation in Bahamian Popular Music (Music of the African Diaspora) Disney Nature: African Cats: The Story Behind the Film (Disney Editions Deluxe (Film)) African American Religious History: A Documentary Witness (The C. Eric Lincoln Series on the Black Experience) African Rhythm and African Sensibility: Aesthetics and Social Action in African Musical Idioms AFRICAN Cooking: The Most Delicious African Food Recipes with Simple and Easiest Directions and Mouth Watering Taste - Best African cookbook Africa: African History: From Ancient Egypt to Modern South Africa - Stories, People and Events That Shaped The History of Africa (African Folktales, African ... Africa, Somalia, Nelson Mandela Book 3) African Masks Coloring Book: A Coloring Book Featuring Over 30 Images Inspired By Traditional African Masks,Cultural History,Folk Art Coloring Book,African Art Decor A Kitchen in Tunisia: Tunisian Recipes from North Africa (Tunisian Recipes,Tunisian Cookbook, Tunisian Cooking, Tunisian Food, African Recipes, African Cookbook, African Cooking Book 1)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help