

FEMSPECTIVES

DREAMING WHILE BLACK

Sunday, 25 April 2021, 4.30 pm

Zoom Discussion

This programme was curated by Tanatsei Gambura.

This program consists of a week-long screening of selected films, accompanied by a discussion-based event encouraging a participatory rather than passive viewing experience. It is diverse, subversive, experimental, imaginative, and historical in nature. It speaks to critical issues about the Black experience, pivoting around the notion that the future can only be dreamt into existence.

Through these films, the modes, frameworks, and possibilities of literal and figurative dreaming while Black will be explored. They collectively beg the questions: how do geopolitics influence different experiences of Blackness? Where and how is Blackness gendered? Can Blackness imagine communal spaces that transcend the violence produced by Western epistemologies? Should Blackness collaborate with, or resist institutions? What is the role of technology and new media in harnessing, erasing, fostering and dividing the collective Black experience?

WHAT DID YOU DREAM

Karabo Lediga | South Africa 2019 | Tswana with English captions | 20'

Set in a township in South Africa, What Did You Dream considers youth, hope, and the surreal power of dreaming. Touching on themes of indigenous knowledge, illness, and family, it follows the ambition of a young girl who dreams of winning the lottery.

ÉMERGENCE

Clarissa Rebouças, Julie Bernier | Canada / Haiti 2018 | 7'

Watching like a ritual performance, Émergence offers an intimate glimpse into the personal story of a Haitian woman. It explores the possibilities of self-reclamation and healing after trauma whilst challenging the 'American Dream'.

Content warnings: Contains a discussion of sexual violence that some viewers may be sensitive to.

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WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO BE A BLACK MAN

Jyoti Mistry | South Africa 2018 | English with captions | 6'

Quintessential to Mistry's experimental film style, *When I Grow Up I Want to be a Black Man* interrogates the real and imagined experience of Black manhood in the wake of racism, slavery, and colonial violence. Weaved with archival footage, spoken word, and animation, the film creates a tapestry of striking visuals whilst speaking to hard-hitting political, social, and psychological realities.

Content warnings: Contains racial slurs that some viewers may find disturbing.

BLACK LADY GODDESS

Chelsea Odofu | USA 2020 | English with captions | 15'

Human barcodes, data storage, and state surveillance are amongst the contemporary and future issues that Chelsea Odofu magnifies in *Black Lady Goddess*. Making part of a series, this colourful, satirical film suggests the struggles for Black freedom that will go on into the future. Essentially, it asks the viewer "is this what America in the year 2040 will like?"

Content warnings: Depicts scenes of a sexual nature and may not be appropriate for younger audiences. Parental guidance is advised.

About the curator:

Tanatsei Gambura (she/they) is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural practitioner working transnationally. Her interests lie in creating socially-engaged creative experiences that centre justice, joy, care, and community. With indigeneity and anti-coloniality at the centre of her work, she draws from personal experience, exploring methods of post-independence culture-making.

Currently, Tanatsei is a member of the Edinburgh International Film Festival Youth Board. In the past, she was selected for Film Hub Scotland's New Promoter Scheme, working to co-produce Take One Action Film Festival's program. Africa in Motion Film Festival and the Fruitmarket Gallery are amongst the organisations she's worked with.