Reynolds Media Center Resources
Black History Month 2022

Theatrical Films (highlights)

“42” (2013)
In 1947, amidst considerable racism, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play in Major League Baseball when he was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers.

“Get Out!” (2017)
A young black man meets his white girlfriend’s family estate, only to find out that the situation is much more sinister than it appears.

“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?” (1967)
When the daughter of well-to-do liberal parents plans to marry a black doctor, both families meet and examine each other’s level of intolerance.

“Harriet” (2020)
The incredible true story of Harriet Tubman, who led hundreds of slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

“The Learning Tree” (1969)
Based on Parks’s own semi-autobiographical novel, this film follows Newt Winger, a teen descendant of Exodusters in rural, often racist Kansas in the 1920s.

“Race” (2016)
Jesse Owen’s story overcoming racism at home and abroad, culminating in his triumphant track-and-field performance at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

“A Raisin in the Sun” (1961)
Sidney Poitier stars in the story of an African American family in Chicago who are struggling with mixed aspirations, not enough money, conflicts over religion, and institutional racism.

“She’s Gotta Have It” (1986)
Spike Lee’s first film shows a young, bright African American woman (Tracy Camila Johns as Nola Darling), as she is courted by three hopeful, hopeless suitors.

“To Sleep with Anger” (1999)
Vagabond Harry (Danny Glover) pays an unexpected visit to his old chum Gideon (Paul Butler), who accepts him into his already crowded home.
**Documentary Films (highlights)**

**“A Ballerina’s Tale” (2016) 792.8028**
Profile of Misty Copeland, the first African American woman to become principal dancer of the American Ballet Theater and one of the most iconic dancers of her time.

**“Freedom Riders” (2011) 323.1196**
This inspirational documentary is about a band of courageous civil rights activists calling themselves the Freedom Riders, who gaining impressive access to influential figures on both sides of the issue.

**“4 Little Girls” (1997) 323.1196**
Spike Lee’s documentary covers the 1963 Ku Klux Klan bombing of a church in Birmingham, Alabama which killed four young girls 11 – 14 years old.

**“Hoop Dreams” (1994) 796.323**
The story of African American high school students William Gates and Arthur Agee and their dream of becoming pro basketball players.

**“I Am Not Your Negro” (2017) 323.1196**
In his final years, Baldwin envisioned a book about his three assassinated friends, Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King. Filmmaker Raoul Peck brilliantly imagines the book that Baldwin never wrote, in a blazing examination of the tragic history of race in America.

**“The Interrupters” (2012) 303.969**
Members of the activist group CeaseFire work to curb violence in their Chicago neighborhoods by intervening in street fights and showing youths a better way to resolve conflicts.

**“John Lewis: Good Trouble” (2020) 328.7309**
Director Dawn Porter’s documentary uses rare archival footage and current interviews to explore the life and legacy of John Lewis, a longtime U.S. Representative for Georgia’s 5th congressional district and veteran civil rights leader.

**“The Loving Story” (2013) 343.7301**
In 1958, Richard and Mildred Loving are arrested for violating Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws, eventually leading to a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision on interracial marriage.

**“Paris Is Burning” (1991) 306.766**
This film reveals the community of New York’s minority drag queens, gay black and Latino men who cross dress as women and invent the dance style of “voguing,” imitating fashion poses on the covers of the magazine Vogue.

**“Slavery By Another Name” (2012) 305.896**
Challenging America’s assumption that slavery in the U.S. ended with Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, this film tells the harrowing story of how, in the South, a new system of involuntary servitude took its place.

**“The Trials of Muhammad Ali” (2014) 796.8309**
This powerful documentary examines the life of Muhammad Ali beyond the boxing ring, including his conversion to Islam, resistance to the Vietnam War draft, and humanitarian work.

**“Whose Streets?” (2017) 305.896**
A documentary about how the Black Lives Matter civil-rights movement grew in the wake of the riots in Ferguson, MO, over the police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown Jr. and exploring the stark contrast between the street protests and the media’s coverage of the events.