

The Time Is Now?

Screenings of Black and Asian films from 1980s-today curated by June Givanni

Sat 4 Feb 2017

Nottingham Contemporary



The Hard Stop (2015) dir. George Amponsah

What is it about the film, arts, cultural practices and products and social debates of the decades of the 80s/90s that make them resonate so closely with contemporary life in the UK today?

The Time Is Now? programme runs together with our exhibition The Place Is Here. The title of the show is borrowed from a line in a poem inscribed onto the surface of Lubaina Himid's work *We Will Be*, as a call to root the powerful set conversations and practices that emerged in 1980s Britain within the context of Nottingham and the UK. The Time is Now? encourages opportunities to experience and to engage with these in relation to the strident voices in film of that time, and of now.

Programme

2.00pm – Introduction

2.10pm – Film: The People's Account (53 min)

3.05pm – Comfort break (10 min)

3.15pm – Film: The Hard Stop (85 min)

4.40pm – Discussion and Q&A

5.00pm – End

About the films

The Hard Stop (2015) dir. George Amponsah. 12A. 85'

The police killing of Mark Duggan in London, 2011, ignited the worst civil unrest in recent British history and made headlines around the globe. *The Hard Stop* is an intimate documentary revealing the story, away from all press coverage, of Mark Duggan's friends and family following his death.

The People's Account (1986) dir. Milton Bryan/Ceddo. 53'

A documentary about the Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham following the death of Cythia Jarrett during a police search. Told from the point of view of the black community which lives there, this is the scene of serious rioting between police and the residents in 1984.

Speaker Biographies

June Givanni is a film curator, archivist and international consultant in African and African diaspora cinema, with Black British Cinema at its core. A leader in this sector for more than 30 years, she has worked at major institutions including the British Film Institute and with the Toronto International Film Festival. June is the director of the Pan African Cinema Archive, a by-product of her decades of film curating an archive collecting based in London. June is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at Birkbeck College of Art.

Patcee Francis is the Managing Director of Syncopate Media, an independent production company. She has over 15 years of experience working in the media, making programmes for TV and Radio. Patcee is the Producer/Director of the documentary Making Waves (2014), a Heritage Lottery funded film that compared the socio-political contexts of two generations of Black, British citizens and asked whether the 1976 Race Relations Act made a difference to their lives. Patcee is currently working on films for BBC Inside Out and CBBC My Life.

George Amponsah is the director of The Hard Stop (2015). A critically-acclaimed producer director who has made numerous documentaries, including features such as The Fighting Spirit (2007), about boxers from Ghana in pursuit of the American dream, and The Importance of Being Elegant (2004), about a bizarre cult of fashion led by the flamboyant Congolese singer Papa Wemba. His work has been featured at numerous international film festivals. Amponsah became an obsessive maker of super 8 movies while at Art College in the early nineties. It was clear to him that he could explore questions about identity through filmmaking.

Dionne Walker is the lead producer of The Hard Stop directed by George Amponsah. She has been curating and producing debate series and independent film projects over the past 18 years. In the past, Dionne worked with directors and producers as one of London location coordinators and facilitated major blockbuster films such as Mummy Returns, V for Vendetta, Eyes Wide Shut, Here After, etc. Dionne is a recent Sundance Institute Creative Producing Summit fellow and she is currently developing the hybrid feature documentary Invisible Woman 2.0.

Marcus Knox Hooke is known for his work on The Hard Stop (2015) and Lawful Killing: Mark Duggan (2016). Marcus was one of Mark Duggan's best friends.

Kurtis Henville is a cast member of The Hard Stop (2015) and was one of Mark Duggan's best friends.

Menelik Shabazz is the producer of The People's Account (1986) directed by Milton Bryan/Ceddo. Menelik is an award-winning film director, producer, writer, and a key pioneer in the development of contemporary black British cinema. Menelik is best known for his acclaimed debut feature Burning An Illusion (1981), which won the Grand Prix at the Amien International Film Festival in 1982. Burning An Illusion was only the second feature film by a black director produced in the UK. The film continues to be shown today on media courses at Universities and Colleges and has become a cult classic.

Forthcoming Screenings at Nottingham Contemporary

The Time is Now? Screening 2
Sat 25 Feb, 2-5pm

The Time is Now? Screening 3
Sat 25 March, 2-5pm