

The Time Is Now?

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

Sat 25 Feb 2017

Nottingham Contemporary



Candy Pop & Juicy Lucy (2007) dir. Chila Burman

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.

During this event we will screen six short films made by women filmmakers, followed by a Q&A with Bonnie Greer, screenplay writer of *White Men Are Cracking Up*, chaired by artist Suman Bhuchar.

Programme

2.00pm – Introduction

2.10pm – Films:

Emergence (1986) dir. Pratibha Parmar (20')

A Place of Rage (1991) dir. Pratibha Parmar (52')

3.25pm – Break (10')

3.35pm – Films:

Mama Lou (1994) dir. Maybelle Peters (6')

Candy Pop & Juicy Lucy (2007) dir. Chila Burman (7')

Kamla (1995) dir. Chila Burman (13')

White Men are Cracking Up (1994) dir. Ngozi Onwurah (19')

4.25pm – Q&A/Discussion

About the films

***Emergence* (1986) dir. Pratibha Parmar**

This documentary celebrating African American women and their achievements features interviews with Angela Davis, June Jordan and Alice Walker. Within the context of the civil rights, Black Power and feminist movements, the trio reassess how women such as Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer revolutionised American society.

A Place of Rage (1991) dir. Pratibha Parmar (Film Maker, Artist and Professor)

Documentary celebrating and assessing the role of women in civil rights, black power and gay movements. Four Black and Third World women artists, among them African American feminist poet Audre Lorde and Palestinian performance artist Mona Hatoum, speak forcefully through their art and writing.

Mama Lou (1994) dir. Maybelle Peters

Model animation around a blues singer entering her dressing room between acts in her performance. She is visited by the ghost of her grandmother, Mama Lou, who reminds her of the history of women blues singers.

Candy Pop & Juicy Lucy dir. Chila Burman

The video wonderfully cherishes Chila's childhood memories of helping her Dad sell ice-cream after school around the back streets of Bootle and Seaforth, Liverpool. Chila's work explores not only her immediate family but the problematic representations of South Asian women and their histories in the UK.

Kamla dir. Chila Burman

This film is a tribute to women in South Asia. Chila Burman made this film as a protest about the lack of presence of Asian women in the media. Kamla is a woman's name, the name of Chila's mother.

White Men are Cracking Up (1994) dir. Ngozi Onwurah

Through the blurred lines of perception and reality, the myth of the black feminine mystique is explored under the guise of a murder mystery. Written by playwright Bonnie Greer, the film explores the fetishisation of Black women as a manifestation of white male insecurity.

Speaker Biographies

Bonnie Greer, OBE, is an American-British playwright, novelist and critic. She wrote the screenplay for *White Men Are Cracking Up*. Bonnie initially set out on a legal career, the career of choice for a black girl coming of age in the Civil Rights movement, but she decided to move on to study playwriting in Chicago and New York. Bonnie's plays have been produced on BBC Radio 3 & 4; BBC 2; and in the West End. She has won the Verity Bargate Award for best New Play and has been shortlisted for the John Whiting Award. In 2010 Bonnie was named by the Observer as one of the 300 Public Intellectuals in the UK – the only female playwright – and was also awarded an OBE. She has been Deputy Chair of the British Museum, and has served on the boards of RADA, London Film School and Theatre Royal, Stratford East. Bonnie is currently Chancellor of Kingston University.

Suman Bhuchar is an arts producer, film-maker, writer and press and marketing consultant. Her work in the arts has contributed to changing the arts and cultural landscape of Britain. Recently she worked on R&D presentations for two theatre shows *Child of the Divide* (about identity, loss and belonging centred around the Indian Partition) & *Golden Hearts* (an arts and health piece about heart disease amongst the Asian community) for Bhuchar Boulevard.

She is a speaker / curator of seminars on arts and cinema, and is a regular contributor to www.theatrevoice.com an audio forum for discussing theatre.

Bhuchar is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and writes for www.asianculturevulture.com

Forthcoming Screenings at Nottingham Contemporary

Migrant Media Film Night

Tue 28 Feb, 6.30-8.30pm

Screenings of *Who Polices The Police?* (2012) and *Britain's Black Legacy* (1991). Followed by a panel discussion with Ken Fero, Marica Rigg (sister of Sean Rigg, United Families & Friends Campaign), Lisa Robinson (Bright Ideas Nottingham) and Rob Graham (Nottingham City Monitor).

The Time is Now? Screening 3

Sat 25 March, 2-5pm

UK Preview screening of *Rham* (2016) dir. Ahmed Jamal and screening of *Utterance* (1990) dir. Pervaiz Khan. With Q&A chaired by June Givanni.