



# The Southern Africa Media Center

A Project of  
California Newsreel  
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# The Southern Africa Media Center

The Southern Africa Media Center brings together media specialists, educators, religious leaders, and concerned citizens to improve the effectiveness of film in church, community, and academic education and action programs around Southern Africa. In the five years since its founding, the Media Center has emerged as the country's most widely used source of films on this embattled part of the world.

## New Releases: Focus on Women

This year's featured new releases—*You've Struck a Rock!* and *South Africa Belongs to Us*—draw attention to apartheid's unique impact

upon women, and the role they in turn have played in the freedom movement. One inspirational and the other analytical, the two films complement each other well and together make for a provocative program to introduce those concerned with the status of women and the destruction of family life to the tragedy of apartheid.

In addition, we are releasing two other films. *Abaphuciwé—The Dispossessed* provides the most detailed look yet at how apartheid functions to control and exploit black labor, while *Portrait of Nelson Mandela* is a sketch of the life of the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress.

## Consulting Services

Films are an effective means for introducing the issue of apartheid to churches, schools and civic organizations—for raising awareness and encouraging citizens to play a more assertive role in shaping government and corporate policies toward South Africa.

The Southern Africa Media Center has established a Consulting Service which can give you practical help in how to turn your film screening into part of a community-wide information campaign and grassroots debate on current U.S. foreign policy issues around apartheid. Call us for programming suggestions and follow-up activities, for free background materials and hand-outs, and for tips on how to publicize your event.

- The Media Center can show you how you can make your screening an occasion for placing articles about South Africa in the local press and in newsletters and publications of groups of which you are a member.
- Your screening can directly counter the multi-million dollar lobbying and public relations campaign of the South African Information Service. The Media Center can suggest ways to attract local press, teachers, church, civic leaders, and other "opinion makers" to your event and encourage them to take a stand.
- The Media Center can provide you with a copy of our handbook, *Using Films on South Africa*, which suggests activities for organizations considering the socially responsible use of their pension funds, bank accounts, and other investment dollars. (45 pages, \$3.50 prepaid; free with any film rental.)
- The Media Center can help you convince your local college or public library to acquire a film on South Africa so that a print can be easily and inexpensively accessible to your community.

The Southern Africa Media Center believes that a film screening need not be an isolated event. Rather it can be part of the on-going process of generating a "people's foreign policy" reflecting the concerns and sympathies of the American people.



# A Message From Representative Howard Wolpe

Chairman of the House  
Subcommittee on Africa

**T**oday, some members of our government are considering a radical change in direction of our country's policies towards the repressive apartheid regime of South Africa, a shift which would result in closer diplomatic, economic, and military ties. The leaders of the independent black African nations have warned Washington against turning a deaf ear to the demands for self-determination of the black majority in South Africa. Will the United States once again find itself on the wrong side, supporting an illegitimate, authoritarian regime against the wishes of its people?

Only an informed and concerned public can stop those who want to force upon this nation a policy which betrays its most cherished democratic ideals. I urge you to join with me to involve our fellow citizens in a serious and committed grass-roots discussion of apartheid worthy of the struggle now being waged by

black South Africans to win rights we Americans take for granted.

You will find the films of California Newsreel's Southern Africa Media Center to be effective, easy-to-use tools which can educate Americans about the reality of life under apartheid and allow them to hear for the first time the voices silenced in South Africa and too often ignored here. The Media Center also provides practical resource materials and consulting services which can integrate the films into a citizens' debate over the future direction of our foreign policy towards South Africa.

It is imperative that the decent sentiments of the American people be no longer ignored by those who will decide whether the U.S. encourages or impedes the inexorable movement towards freedom, justice, and human dignity in South Africa.

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Director, African Studies, Michigan State University

\*Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

# Focus On Women

Three Films On  
Women And  
Apartheid



Suzette Abbott

**Y**ou Have Struck a Rock! is that rare film about South Africa, not only informative but inspiring and infectious as well.

Though black South African women suffer the triple oppression of race, class, and sex, they have not been silent. During the 1950's women took the lead in mobilizing mass opposition to apartheid. **You Have Struck A Rock!** is the story of the women who not only lived that history, but are still making it today.

When the apartheid regime attempted to extend the hated pass system to women in 1952, opposition erupted thunderously across the land. Utilizing techniques of civil disobedience familiar to our own Civil Rights movement, women refused to accept their passes or gathered and burnt them publicly. The government responded with increased violence, new laws, and imprisonment. It was only after a decade of resistance culminating with the Sharpeville Massacre, the banning of political organizations, and the imprisonment of the leaders, that the regime finally succeeded in imposing the passes.

The participants—Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Josephs, Dora Tomana, Francis Baard and others—tell their stories, illustrated with



UMCOUTJUN

historical footage and punctuated by South African music. They have been imprisoned and banned, but are undaunted. With a grace, good humor, and a strength summed up by the slogan of the time, "You have touched a woman, you have struck a rock," they continue the fight for freedom and dignity. Their lives—and this film—are a tribute to the remarkable spirit and perseverance of black South African women.

## You Have Struck a Rock!

28 minutes, 16mm color  
Produced and directed by:  
Deborah May, 1981  
Narrated by: Letta Mbulu  
Rental: \$50  
Sale: \$450

**"A triumph! Captures with honesty and artistry the vision and vitality of those women who have devoted their lives to the fight for freedom and equality."**

**—Gwendolen Carter**  
Professor of African Studies,  
Indiana University

**New Release!**

# South Africa Belongs To Us

16mm color, 35 minutes

Produced by:

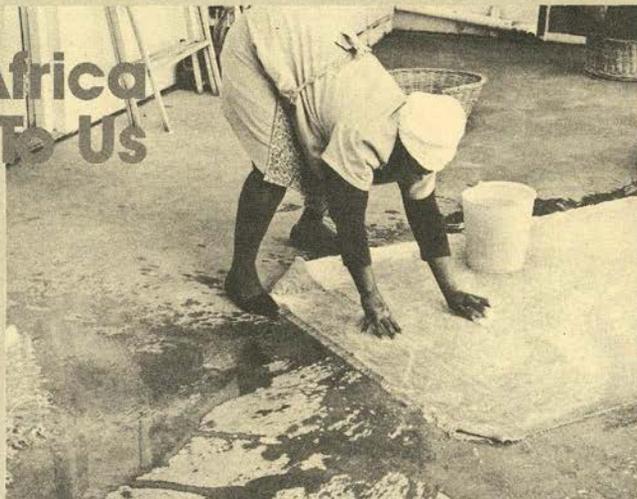
Gerhard Schmidt, 1980

Directed by: Chris Austin

Rental: \$75 Sale: \$700

Long Version: 60 minutes

Rental: \$50 Sale: \$450



Suzette Abbott

It is accepted all over the world that husbands and their wives be allowed to live with each other and bring up their children together. But that basic principle does not apply if you happen to be black and living in South Africa.

An intimate portrait of the lives of five typical women, **South Africa Belongs to Us** provides the first in-depth look at the singular economic and emotional burden borne by black women in South Africa.

- Martha lives on an arid "reserve" caring for 13 children with the meager earn-

ings sent home by her husband who must work 300 miles away. She has seen him 20 times in 20 years.

- Carol, a hospital cleaner, shows us the prison-like barracks where she is housed with 4,000 other women.
- Winnie is a public health nurse. She earns less than half the money of her white equivalent.
- Joyce is a live-in maid who tends to the needs of a white child while her own four children must be boarded with relatives.

- Muriel illegally left the reserve to live defiantly with her husband at the squatters' community of Crossroads.

The first filmed interview with Winnie Mandela in 20 years—shot clandestinely—helps set a context for understanding the role of women within the unfolding struggle for black consciousness and liberation.

**Program Suggestions:** **South Africa Belongs to Us** together with **You've Struck a Rock!** provide an excellent hour-long program highlighting the impact of apartheid on women and family life, particularly useful in women's groups, churches and community centers, and in women in development programs.

**"Five brave black women face the cameras illegally to talk of their fear and frustration under apartheid... All are eloquent."**

—The Daily Mail

**"Chris Austin's remarkable film is a modern saga of human misery. He allows the facts—and the women—to speak for themselves."**

—Daily Express

Every day throughout South Africa in communities like Crossroads—an illegal squatters' town—a tense drama unfolds as blacks confront the labor controls and forced re-settlement programs of apartheid which often split workers from their families who have been forcibly relocated to the remote bantustans.

The families of Crossroads, however, have refused to be separated. Instead, they built this squatters' community of 20,000 complete with their own schools, active community organizations, and a sense of pride, community, and common purpose. In South Africa, this constituted an illegal act of brazen defiance of the apartheid regime which attempted to bulldoze the shanty town.

Three women emerge as the leading figures in Crossroads' confrontation with the authorities. They are angry but surprisingly confident with an almost palpable belief in the ultimate victory of both their community and the black majority.

**Program Suggestions:** Because it reveals how even the daily effort to support and maintain a family can become an act of rebellion, *Crossroads* is effective for introducing audiences to the ordinary people of South Africa and their extraordinary struggle.



Jonathan Wacks

**"Gripping and harrowing... documents great courage and desire for self-determination in the face of the inequities of apartheid."**

—The Los Angeles Times

**"Enlightening and compelling... a moving tribute to self-determination to be used in public and college libraries and community group programs."**

—Booklist

## Crossroads / South Africa

16mm color, 50 minutes  
Produced and directed by:  
Jonathan Wacks  
Rental: \$70  
Sale: \$685

**"A powerful case study that provides a new and refreshing perspective by highlighting the role of women... highly recommended."**

—Dr. Marylee Wiley,  
Michigan State University

# Generations of Resistance

16mm color, 52 minutes  
Produced and  
directed by: Peter Davis, 1980  
Rental: \$70  
Sale: \$675



**G**enerations of Resistance traces for the first time the tradition of black resistance to white rule which has been passed on from old to young despite the determination of the South African government to suppress it.

**Generations of Resistance** combines the testimony of survivors of earlier battles with rare and illuminating archival footage to follow the long and arduous path travelled by Africans in their fight for freedom and human dignity, from Bombata's rebellion in 1906, through the founding of the African National Congress, dispossession of African lands, the imposition of the pass laws, the consolidation of apartheid, the Women's Campaigns of the '50s, and Sharpeville, to Soweto and the Black Consciousness Movement.

Increasing government repression has left the black majority with no choice but to escalate the struggle. Those who fled into exile after Soweto are returning today as freedom fighters.

**Program Suggestions:** The definitive historical treatment which should be included in all film libraries, **Generations of Resistance** provides the framework necessary for understanding apartheid

and the momentous events exploding in South Africa today. It provides a detailed examination of the evolution of a social movement. In so doing, it represents an important achievement in recovering the suppressed history of colonized peoples.

**"The best available film on South Africa for classrooms, community organizations, and general use."**

—The Black Scholar

**"An exemplary educational film that should be shown in every school in America."**

—The Soho News

**"Measured, informative, and revealing... a detailed chronicle of black opposition to apartheid."**

—The New York Times



Suzette Abbott

# Six Days In Soweto

16mm color, 55 minutes  
Produced by: Anthony Thomas, 1978  
Rental only: \$75



Camera Press

**T**he Soweto rebellion of June 1976 marked a turning point in South African history. This remarkable, award-winning film is the only in-depth study of the uprisings. What conditions led unarmed youths into confrontation with the guns, dogs, and tanks of the South African government?

The Soweto uprisings were a rebellion against the conditions of slave-like labor and marginalism that black youths have seen imposed on their parents, and which it is the function of the school system to reproduce. The riots were sparked by the students' refusal to accept continued instruction only in menial tasks such as mending and doing laundry and classes taught exclusively in Afrikaans.

The filmmakers spoke with many of the original participants in the uprisings. Through their stories—intercut with news footage and scenes from life in Soweto—their angry and eloquent voices still speak to us.

**Program Suggestions:** *Six Days in Soweto* is a cinematically stunning and emotionally powerful film—not merely a record of rebellion against the violence of apartheid, but an insight into the daily

lives, consciousness, and family life of the people of Soweto, and the hypocrisy of white South Africa. It is a moving and effective introduction to the moral conflict in South Africa.

**"Anthony Thomas' intensely moving film... will, I think, I pray, effect such a catharsis in this country that it will reverberate all the way to Johannesburg."**

—The Observer

**"The most powerful film in current distribution on South Africa."**

—Guide to Africa-  
Related Audio  
Visuals

**"The film allowed Soweto, cradle and battleground for the savage riots, to speak for itself... enormously effective."**

—The Daily Mail

**T**his classic documentary remains the best introduction to the devastating human costs of the apartheid system. So powerful is its indictment of a society where the white population has the highest standard of living in the world while that of the blacks is among the lowest, that the South African government produced a film specifically to counter its effects.

The South African Minister of Labor says in the film, "The black man is in this country only to sell his labor." Black workers are restricted by law to the lowest paying menial jobs. After work they return to squalid barracks in the townships, their families often hundreds of miles away in desolate bantustans. 80% of the country's population is being assigned to these "homelands," only 13% of the land. Already in towns like Dimbaza, the graves of children who have died from malnutrition outnumber the living.

"A powerful film which details the systematic attempts to wipe out black family life, retaining only those essential for a cheap labor force. Cheap is the wrong word. It is a slave labor force."

—San Francisco Chronicle

**Program Suggestions:** Despite recent cosmetic changes in apartheid, *Last Grave at Dimbaza* remains the most effective introduction for those who have no understanding of South Africa. It is often useful, though, to follow with a film that portrays blacks playing a more assertive and positive role such as *Generations of Resistance* or *You've Struck a Rock!*

**"Recommended to all youth and adult groups for its excellence of presentation and for its substance."**

—Film News

## Last Grave At Dimbaza

16mm color, 55 minutes

Produced by: Nana Mahomo, 1974

Rental only: \$50



Camera Press

# Abaphuciwe

## —The Dispossessed

16mm color, 40 minutes  
Produced and directed by:  
Gavin Younge, 1980  
Rental: \$60  
Sale: \$600

**A**baphuciwe is a Zulu word meaning "those who have had everything taken by force." They are the dispossessed—the millions of black South Africans who have been driven from their homes and forced into "homelands" they have never seen.

**Abaphuciwe** provides the most detailed look yet at apartheid's means of labor exploitation. While superficial changes in petty apartheid have received much publicity, hidden from the eyes of the world the grand apartheid strategy is being ruthlessly enforced. Millions of black people are being herded onto the bantustans, hopelessly overcrowded rural ghettos which have become the labor reservoirs for South Africa's expanding



Suzette Abbott

farming, mining, and manufacturing industries.

But the film's conclusion implies that this strategy will fail. The film shows the waves of industrial strikes in Port Elizabeth, the bus boycotts in Natal, the housing struggles at Crossroads, and the government's desperate para-military attempts to check the rising tide of black resistance.

**Program Suggestions:** Provides a wealth of first-hand information for those studying the political economy of South Africa.

"I can think of no better analysis of how apartheid functions to produce and maintain a cheap, controlled labor force. Its theoretical level will guarantee this film a place in African studies programs for many years to come.."

—Michael Watts, director,  
African Studies Center,  
University of California, Berkeley

"The talk of change in South Africa has been a bluff. In this film black South Africans speak out... and challenge us to support them in their fight."

—Franklin H. Williams, President  
Phelps Stokes Foundation

**New Release!**

# Controlling Interest:

## The World of the Multinational Corporation

16mm color, 45 minutes  
Produced by: California Newsreel, 1978  
Rental: \$60  
Sale: \$575

**W**hile *Controlling Interest* does not deal directly with Southern Africa, this internationally recognized prize-winning film is a vital resource for all those concerned with the forces of development in the Third World and the dynamics which underlie U.S. foreign policy and the expansion of corporate power. Central to the film are unique and revealing interviews with major corporate figures.

**"An outstanding, revealing film."**

—Educational Film Library  
Association's Evaluations

16mm color, 17 minutes  
Produced by: Frank Diamand  
for Dutch television, 1980  
Rental: \$30  
Sale: \$290

# Portrait of Nelson Mandela

**T**his biographical sketch describes the forces which shaped Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned head of the African National Congress, and how he in turn helped shape the freedom movement. A lawyer and one of the bright young minds of the African National Congress Youth League, Mandela first rose to international prominence through his leadership of the massive campaigns of civil disobedience of the 1950's. But as each peaceful protest was met with increased repression, Mandela came to the reluctant conclusion that the freedom movement would have to go underground and form its own armed wing. Four years later, in 1964, Mandela was sentenced for treason to life imprisonment on the infamous Robben Island. There he remains, despite an international campaign for his release.

**"With its broad range of uses, its piercing analysis, and its engaging presentation, this film should be seen by anyone interested in multinational corporations, and the role of U.S. government and business in the international economy."**

—Janice Love,  
Teaching Political Science

# Free Namibia!

16mm color, 27 minutes  
Produced by: The United Nations, 1978  
Narrated by: Ossie Davis  
Rental only: \$40



International Defense and Aid Fund

**F**ree Namibia! provides an overview of the impact of South Africa's illegal rule of Namibia.

According to a Namibian saying, "Water is white man's land." Average life expectancy for blacks is 31 years and more than half of all black children die before the age of five.

The film captures the rituals and myths of the affluent white settler society, some frighteningly reminiscent of those of the Nazis. At the economic base of the coun-

try are the multinational corporations extracting Namibia's strategic reserves of copper, diamonds and uranium. "Everyone invests here," an executive confides, "but it is not opportune now to mention names."

White intransigence has led to widespread support for SWAPO, the South West Africa People's Organization. A woman explains, "We cannot be intimidated any longer; we have decided that we are fighting for our freedom."

# Namibia:

## A Case Study In Colonialism

Produced by: Ramakantha Sarma  
for the United Nations, 1975  
16mm color, 20 minutes  
Rental only: \$25

In our opinion, this film is the best brief account of the origins and changing face of European colonial domination in Africa and the methods employed to insure continued subjugation of the native peoples.

The film begins with the German settlement and the rebellion of the Namibian nations—and their eventual almost total annihilation by the guns of Krupp. It goes on to trace how German occupation was replaced by British and ultimately South African rule, the concurrent penetration of mining and agricultural operations by foreign capital, and the development of a contemporary Namibian resistance under the leadership of SWAPO.

# How To Rent Films

## Rental policy

Film bookings are accepted by letter or telephone with subsequent written confirmation. Try to reserve the films at least four weeks in advance of your screening date. Film rentals are for one day only unless special arrangements are made with the Media Center.

The Southern African Media Center wants everyone to be able to use its films. Needy groups can book films on a "what you can afford" basis, but must call to discuss terms. Secondary schools may request a 50% discount.

We encourage bookers to ask our advice on the appropriateness of titles and the programming of series.

## Shipping and Returning Films

Films are shipped pre-paid with charges added to the invoice. Subsequent users

depend upon your returning films promptly. Films must be returned, prepaid and insured, on the day following the screening by the carrier specified by us. Under no circumstances are films to be returned via special fourth class mail or library rate.

## Sales

Previews are available only to organizations with established film libraries and a demonstrable intent to purchase a film on South Africa. If a film is purchased within 60 days of being rented, we will deduct the rental cost from the purchase price.

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California Newsreel**  
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Resolution/California Newsreel  
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Peter Magubane

# Focus On Women

Two New Films On Apartheid

