

Shipham Community Cinema

presents

I Am Not Your Negro - Cert 12

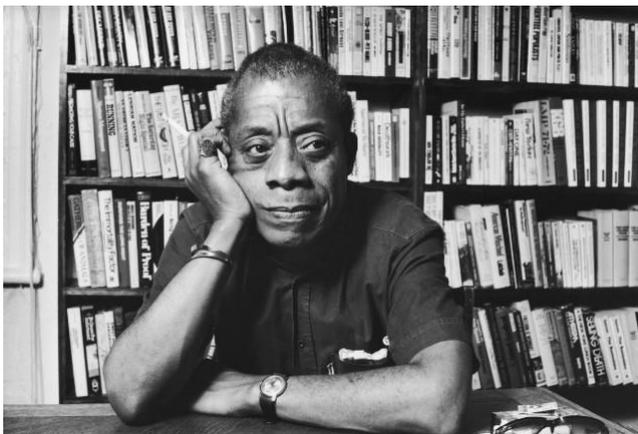
Director: Raoul Peck.

In 1979 James Baldwin the writer and intellectual sent a letter to his literary agent outlining a proposal for a book project entitled '*Remember the House*'. In it he said he wanted to examine the civil rights movement and the USA itself through the murders of three of his friends; Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. When Baldwin died 8 years later he had completed just 30 pages of his manuscript. In this documentary film '*I Am Not Your Negro*', Director Raoul Peck imagines what that book might have turned out to be and incorporating the manuscript itself and letters from Baldwin's agent, he uses archival footage of Baldwin appearing on talk shows, delivering speeches and lecturing at universities. Peck also adopts footage of modern race-related events and issues such as the 2014 Ferguson disturbances, the 'Black Lives Matter' movement and the murders of Rodney King and Trayvon Martin to reinforce the notion that the more things change the more they stay the same when it comes to civil rights in the USA - witness the very recent Charlottesville disturbances.



Raoul Peck

Our film begins with a 1968 interview of Baldwin's on the Dick Cavett Show. In it he expresses all the rage, the double standards and the daily difficulties of being 'the negro' in America. He was neither a militant like Malcolm X nor as peaceful as King or Evers. But in serving as an amalgam of all three in the documentary he distinguishes himself by remarking on his place as the 'witness' as opposed to the 'actor'.



James Baldwin

He saw it as his duty as a writer to work for change based on observation of the hard truth of life for the black American. Narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, the voice and persona of Baldwin shines through every photograph and segment of archival footage allowing Peck to create a focused, hard-hitting and forensic account of the state of race relations in America both currently and in Baldwin's lifetime.

Also detectable is a level of weariness both in Baldwin's own archival footage and in Jackson's

narration. This speaks volumes to the pain of having to justify oneself constantly as a black person in the world. This does not stop Baldwin from exploding grenades of truth in his work and establishing a withering assessment of America's problematic racial culture. Both Baldwin and Director Peck never talk down to their audience. They have crafted a cinematic essay that is both thought provoking and engaging from beginning to end. He shows how racist fear and hate have made Americans captive in their own minds. Their film is quite masterful in making viewers reconsider everything they think they may know about racism.

During his lifetime James Baldwin argued that 'the story of the Negro in America is the story of America'. He died in 1987 and his work has long fallen from the public eye. Raoul Peck's provocative and timely documentary '*I Am Not Your Negro*' will help to introduce this great novelist, poet, polemical commentator and social critic to a whole new audience. Our 2017 Oscar nominated film is highly recommended.

Doors at 7.15pm, programme commencing 7.45pm.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME:

Announcements

Trailers for:

'Summer In The Forest' - a special show on 3rd November

'Hidden Figures' - our main show on 10th November

'Their Finest' - our main show on 8th December

A Short film 'Envelope' starring Kevin Spacey

Main feature (95 mins) with a break after 45 mins

We welcome your feedback. Tell us what you thought of the show on our Facebook page, by email to cinema@shiphamhall.co.uk or by filling out a feedback form, (hand it to any committee member).

Our usual many thanks to our sponsors:

