Hip-Hop Media Collection
African Diaspora Music
Latin American Music
Caribbean Music
Asian Diaspora Music

MUSIC DOCUMENTARIES
THIRD WORLD NEWSREEL
MORE THAN 45 YEARS OF PROGRESSIVE MEDIA
ARCTIC HIP HOP

Randy Kelly, 2007, 44 min, Canada
Capitalizing on the popularity of Hip-Hop, social worker and longtime B-boy Stephen Leafloor has been bringing positive Hip-Hop workshops to Northern Canada. In 2007, Leafloor and his crew of Hip-Hop instructors flew to Cambridge Bay for a five-day intensive workshop to teach breakin’, beatboxing, and graffiti to over 100 Inuit teenagers. The results were a mesmerizing mix of throat singing with beatbox and Inuit symbolism and dancing with Hip-Hop moves. $275

BLAZE: THE TRUTH THROUGH HIP HOP

Maurice Lynch, 2006, 90 min, US
The Hip-Hop Christian movement has been uplifting youth by delivering positive religious messages that are not about drugs, sex, or hate but of hope and peace. $275

GRAFFITI VERITE’ SERIES

Bob Bryan, 2005-2010, 11 DVDs, US
This documentary series features the work of independent Hip-Hop artists in the US, including DJs, breakdancers, rappers, beat-boxers, spoken word poets, and graffiti artists. DVD Series: $1,500

SCENE NOT HEARD

Maori Karmael Holmes, 2005, 45 min, US
Shot in Philadelphia, this documentary features the work of female Hip-Hop artists Lady B, Schoolly D, Rennie Harris, Bahamadia, and Ursula Rucker. $175

LA BRUJA: A WITCH FROM THE BRONX

Felix Rodriguez, 2005, 50 min, US
Art, labor, and family blend in this intimate film about Latina performance artist Caridad De La Luz, better known as ‘La Bruja’. $225

SHE RHYMES LIKE A GIRL

J.T. Takagi, 2005, 7 min
Toni Blackman and the Freestyle Union are challenging the male-dominated world of Hip-Hop and empowering women to speak their minds in freestyle workshops. $25

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

Brett Mazurek, 2009, 53 min, US/Uganda
From the ashes of four decades of war, AIDS and corruption in Uganda, The Bataka Squad artists, Babaluku and Saba Saba, rise to forge a revolutionary path using music. $275, with soundtrack $375

DEMOCRACY IN DAKAR

Ben Herson, Magee McIlvaine & Chris Moore, 2007, 66 min, US/Senegal
This film explores the transformative role of Hip-Hop in politics in Senegal during the 2007 presidential election campaign. $275, with soundtrack $375

LIVING THE HIP LIFE

Shot in Accra, Ghana, this documentary follows the birth of Hiplife music, a mix of various African musical forms and American Hip-Hop. $225

MR. DEVIOUS

John Fredericks, 2006, 73 min, South Africa
This documentary on South African Hip-Hop artist Mr. Devious presents his hardcore style of rapping about ghetto life in Cape Flats, his experiences of being signed to a major record label, his mentoring of youth in and outside of prison, and his untimely murder. $275

MASIZAKHE: BUILDING EACH OTHER

Angelica & Scott Macklin, 2008, 90 min, US/South Africa
This documentary explores the role of art, social activism and Hip-Hop in South Africa’s education system after the end of Apartheid. $275

I LOVE HIP HOP IN MOROCCO

Joshua Asen & Jennifer Needleman, 2007, 80 min, US/Morocco
This film documents the creation of Morocco’s first-ever Hip-Hop festival and the work of DJ Key, female rapper Fati, and rap group H-Kayne. $250

H2ONewsreel

Hip-Hop Media, Education & Culture

HIPHOPISTAN

Çiğdem Akbay, 2007, 25 min, US/Turkey
Young Turkish rappers, DJs, break-dancers, and graffiti artists creatively blend foreign cultural influences with their local cultural values and traditions. $150

FOLLOW YOUR HEART

Duncan Jepson, 2007, 89 min, China
Independent Hip-Hop artists from large and small cities talk about their creative work and their increasingly widening influence in Chinese society. $300

FREKUENSA KOLOMBIANA

Vanessa Gocksch, 2006, 58 min, Colombia
Grassroots Colombian Hip-Hop is shaped by Colombian folk music as well as the suppressed voices of the Colombian masses. DVD with soundtrack $375

INVENTOS: HIP HOP CUBANO

Ell Jacobs-Fantauzzi, 2005, 50 min, US/Cuba
A look at the work of Cuban Hip-Hop artists, this documentary includes footage of their daily lives, performances at the Cuban Hip-Hop festival, and for many, their first time abroad to perform and record in New York. $275 with soundtrack $375

FAVELA RISING

Jeff Zimbalist & Matt Mochary, 2005, 82 min, Brazil
Through Hip-Hop music and Afro-Brazilian dance, musician Anderson Sá rallies his community to counteract the violent oppression enforced by teenage drug armies and sustained by corrupt police. $440

The H2ONewsreel collection is curated by NYU Hip-Hop Education Center’s Founding Director Martha Diaz.

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African Diaspora Music

GERSHWIN & BESS
Nicole Franklin, 2010, 36 min, US
In 2004, at her home in Oslo, Norway, soprano Anne Wiggins Brown sat down with tenor Dr. William A. Brown of the Center for Black Music Research for an on-the-record conversation about originating the iconic role of “Bess” in the opera Porgy and Bess with famed composer George Gershwin. Revealed are little known facts about what is arguably the most popular American opera touring to date.

This video provides a detailed account of her work with George Gershwin and the cast; timeless anecdotes on the role singers play in creative collaborations; an accurate account of the events surrounding a proposed boycott by the Porgy and Bess cast during its run at The National Theatre; a revealing narrative that addresses her decision to direct European productions of Porgy and Bess in “blackface”; and a reflection on the painful decision to end her singing career. This lively and engaging conversation covers musicianship, self-reliance, race and beauty. $175

AFRO-PUNK
James Spooner, 2003, 66 min, US
This documentary explores race identity within the punk scene. This film tackles hard questions, such as issues of loneliness, exile, inter-racial dating and Black Power. Afro-Punk features performances by Bad Brains, Tamar Kali, Cipher, and Ten Grand. It also contains exclusive interviews by members of Fishbone, 247-spyz, Dead Kennedys, Candiria, Orange 9mm, and TV on the Radio, to name a few. $275

INSIDE OUT IN THE OPEN
Alan Roth, 2001, 60 min, US
This documentary focuses on the revolutionary, avant-garde developments in jazz that evolved in the early 1960’s, expanding the boundaries in rhythm, sound, harmonics, and collective improvisation with an expansive openness and deep emotion. It features performances and interviews with Reggie Workman, Roswell Rudd, John Tchical, and Baikida Carroll, plus many other notable Jazz performers. $225

THE WORLD SAXOPHONE QUARTET
Barbara McCullough, 5 min, US
A glance at an innovative quartet of jazz saxophonists, Hamiet Bluiet, Oliver Lake, Julius Hemphill, and David Murray, both in concert and conversation. $125

DEFT CHANGES: AN IMPROVISED EXPERIENCE
Alonzo Speight, 1991, 10 min, US
Through short improvised sketches, this video explores the generational conflicts between a father and son who are both musicians. It features performances by guitarist Mark Whitfield, and the late master drummer, Frederick Waits. $125

Latin American & Caribbean Music

EL CHARANGO
Jim Virga & Tula Goenka, 2006, 22 min, Bolivia
During the Spanish conquest of Bolivia, Spanish music spread into the miner town of Potosí, and the local indigenous people became aware of something they had never seen or heard before: a stringed instrument. Forbidden from ever playing the Spanish guitar, the indigenous miners copied it and created the charango. The story of the charango symbolizes the larger struggle for human rights and a quest to keep traditional culture alive among indigenous people. $175

RITUAL RHYTHMS: CANDOMBE
Mabel Maio, 1999, 48 min, Uruguay
Moving from riveting musical performances to detailed discussions of the history of slavery and the historical development of candombe, Ritual Rhythms is an informative introduction to candombe, the music of Afro-Uruguay. $175

FRONTIER LIFE
Hans Fjellestad, 2003, 92 min, Mexico
This feature documentary film explores electronic music in Tijuana, Mexico. $225

BLOOD
Judy Singh, 2005, 40 min, Cuba
Shot in Havana, this music documentary features popular Canadian-Jamaican dub poet d’bi. young, with performances by the Cuban female Hip-Hop group Las Krudas. $225

MÚSICA
Gustavo Paredes, 1985, 59 min, US/Cuba
This film about Afro-Cuban music in the United States offers a rich overview of a wide number of musical styles from “cubop” to salsa, big band to jazz, and of musicians from Chano Ponzo to Tito Puente and Desi Arnez to Johnny Colon. $225

PERCUSSION, IMPRESSIONS AND REALITY
Alain Siegel, 1978, 30 min, US/Puerto Rico
Puerto Rican musicians living in New York reveal how Puerto Rican folk music is used as a source of resistance against cultural assimilation. A co-production of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies and Third World Newsreel. $175
A SONG FOR OURSELVES
Tadashi Nakamura, 2009, 35 min, US
This award-winning documentary is an intimate journey into the life and music of Asian American Movement troubadour Chris Iijima. During the 1970s, when Asians in America were still considered “Orientals,” Iijima’s music and passion for social justice inspired an entire generation of Asian Americans in their search for their own identity. A Song for Ourselves pays tribute to Chris Iijima through animated photographs, intimate home movies, archival footage of Chris’ introduction to nationwide television by John Lennon and Iijima’s own songs. Recommended by Video Librarian, Educational Media Reviews Online and Anthropology Review Database $150

AMAUROSIS
Tran T. Kim-Trang, 2002, 28 min, US
This experimental documentary about Nguyen Duc Dat, a blind, orphaned, American Asian guitarist living in Little Saigon, California, celebrates the guitarist’s rich contributions to the Vietnamese American community. $125

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WATER
THE JOURNEY OF A HAITIAN RARA BAND IN BROOKLYN
Jeremy Robins and Magali Damas, 2010, 52 min, Haiti
Part carnival, part vodou ceremony, and part grassroots protest, Haitian “rara” is one of the most contested forms of music in the Americas. The Other Side of the Water follows a group of young Haitian immigrants who take this ancient music from the hills of Haiti and reinvent it on the streets of Brooklyn. The documentary tells the story of an unlikely band that comes to speak for a larger community, and a music that manages to create a new meaning of home in the diaspora. Highly Recommended by Educational Media Reviews Online $225

COME WITH IT, BLACK MAN
Tamara Tam-Cruickshank, 2012, 103 min, Trinidad & Tobago
This documentary features music and performances of legendary calypsonian Dr. Leroy Calliste, better known as Black Stalin. $300

DESI REMIX CHICAGO STYLE
Balvinder Dhenjan, 1996, 46 min, US
Shot in Chicago and London this energetic documentary follows three very different Punjabi bands and their attempts to use their music as a bridge between the competing cultural influences of India and America. $225

CALYPSO DREAMS
Geoffrey Dunn and Michael Horne, 2004, 85 min, Trinidad & Tobago
Shot over three years in Port of Spain, Trinidad, Calypso Dreams features such legendary calypsonians as Lord Pretender, Lord Kitchener, the Mighty Bomber, Relator, Lord Superior, Brigo, Mystic Prowler, Calypso Rose, the Mighty Sparrow, Terror, Valentino, Lord Blakie, David Rudder, Regeneration Now, the Mighty Duke, Conqueror, and many others. $300

CRUISIN’ J-TOWN
Duane Kubo, 1974, 30 min, US
This is the story of the formation of the popular jazz fusion band, Hiroshima. The musicians reflect on their culture, musical influences, and the political movements of the 1960’s out of which Asian American music emerged. $125

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MUSIC DOCUMENTARIES
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Our mission is to foster the creation, appreciation and dissemination of social issue media made by or about people of color.

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