

Queer People of Color Documentaries

Title	Filmmaker	Brief Description	Website/Phone#	Cost
African / African Descent / African American / Black				
A Litany of Struggle: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde	Ada Griffin and Michelle Parkerson	Audre Lorde has been a pioneer in making available her voice as a teacher, a survivor, an activist, and a crusader against bigotry," says filmmaker Ada Gay Griffin, who made A LITANY FOR SURVIVAL with co-director Michelle Parkerson. The two spent eight years collaborating with Lorde, weaving together a richly textured portrait of a gifted, strong-willed woman who embraced life's moments and focused her energies to fight for civil justice, women's equality and lesbian and gay rights.	www.twn.org/	Video Sale \$225 Video Rental \$75
Among Good Christian Peoples	Jacqueline Woodson and Catherine Gund	Based on a poignant and often humorous autobiographical essay by award-winning author, Jacqueline Woodson, this video adaptation illustrates the pull between desire for religious community and personal freedom. Woodson looks at where she finds community growing up and grown: being in one of only two black families on the block, being the only writer in a family of Jehovah's Witnesses, being the only lesbian in her sorority (and having a white lover at that).	www.frameline.org	Video Sale \$125 Video Rental \$50
B.D. Women	Inge Blackman	B.D. Women ² is a wonderful celebration of the history and culture of Black lesbians. Lively interviews feature Black women talking candidly about their sexual and racial identities.	www.wmm.com	Video Sale \$225 Video Rental \$60
Black Is...Black Ain't	Marlon Riggs	An up-front examination of racism, sexism, and homophobia within the black community itself. Bringing together personal stories, interviews, music, history, and performance, BLACK IS...BLACK AIN'T asks African Americans: What <i>is</i> black, black enough, or too black?	www.newsreel.org/	\$195
The Body of a Poet: A Tribute to Audre Lorde	Sonali Fernando	An imaginary biopic, ³ The Body of a Poet ² centers on the efforts of a group of young lesbians of color to devise a fitting tribute to one of this century's great visionaries. It's a genre-bending celebration of the life and work of Audre Lorde, black lesbian poet and political activist.	www.wmm.com	Video Sale \$25 Video Rental \$60
Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin	Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer	He was there at most of the important events of the Civil Rights Movement -- but always in the background. Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin asks "Why?" It presents a vivid drama, intermingling the personal and the political, about one of the most enigmatic figures in 20th -century American history. One of the first "freedom riders," an adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and A. Philip Randolph, organizer of the march on Washington, intelligent, gregarious and charismatic, Bayard Rustin was denied his place in the limelight for one reason -- he was also gay.	http://www.newsreel.org	\$195

Brother to Brother	Rodney Evans	Critically acclaimed drama that invokes the glory days of the Harlem Renaissance. As an elderly man, poet Bruce Nugent meets a young black gay artist struggling to find his voice and together they embark on a surreal narrative journey through his inspiring past.	http://www.wolfevideo.com/	\$22
Chocolate Babies	Stephen Winter	An underground band of HIV-positive, queer, urban,transvestite, activists of color is making headlines in New York. In an effort to expose political corruption surrounding the AIDS epidemic, these urban guerrillas stage a series of surprise attacks against conservative politicians whom they believe are collecting secret lists of HIV-positive individuals.	www.frameline.org	Video Sale \$300 Video Rental \$150
Forbidden Fruit	Sue Maluwa Bruce	Zimbabwean filmmaker, Sue Maluwa Bruce, breaks long held taboos about sexual identity and lesbian love in African society in her groundbreaking video, "Forbidden Fruit".	www.wmm.com	Video Sale \$195 Video Rental \$65
I Shall Not Be Removed: The Life of Marlon Riggs	Karen Everett	This loving film biography provides a fitting memorial to Marlon Riggs, the gifted, gay, black filmmaker who died from AIDS in 1994. Clips from all eight of Marlon's films show how he evolved a unique experimental documentary style, mixing poetry and criticism, the personal and the political.	www.newsreel.org	\$195
James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket	Karen Thorsen	"James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket? captures on film the passionate intellect and courageous writing of a man who was born black, impoverished, gay and gifted."	www.newsreel.org	\$195
Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis at 100	Yvonne Welbon	Ruth Ellis discovered her Lesbian self in 1919, at the age of twenty. By the time she retired from owning her own print shop, she was 65 and the civil rights movement was just getting started. Now, at 100, she's an inspirational figure in the Detroit women's movement, and this film explains why: Learn about Lesbian and black life in the '40s and '50s, what it's like to have a one night stand at the age of 95, and the desires of the modern feminist and Lesbian community for role models and leaders.	www.amazon.com	\$30
Out in South Africa	Barbara Hammer	In 1994, Barbara Hammer was invited to South Africa to present a retrospective of her 77 films and videos at "Out in Africa", the first gay and lesbian film festival on the African continent."Out In South Africa" is the result of Barbara Hammer's journey and those interviews; a profoundly moving portrait of lesbian and gay life in a country juggling its spirit of optimism with the legacy of apartheid—both sexual and racial.	www.wmm.com	Video Sale \$195 Video Rental \$90
Tongues Untied	Marlon Riggs	By Emmy Award-winning director Marlon Riggs, this is a tribute to the joy and complexity of black gay life. Using poetry, personal testimony, rap and performance, TONGUES UNTIED describes the homophobia and racism that confront black gay men.	www.strandreleasing.com/	\$29.99

Asian / Pacific Islander / South Asian				
Barefeet	Sonali Gulati	An Indian woman attempts to reveal a secret to her family, exploring the meaning of "home" from a transnational perspective, identity, sexuality, and secrecy.	sonalifilm@yahoo.com	N/A
China Dolls	Tony Ayres for Film Australia	The journey towards self acceptance for gays and lesbians is difficult in any culture, but for those in a racial minority it becomes even more so. This stylish and moving portrayal of gays of Asian descent in Australia explores the relationship between race and sexuality. China Dolls probes the uncomfortable reality of racial stereotyping and discrimination in the gay world through interviews with Asian men who talk frankly, and often humorously, of their experiences living within a double minority.	www.filmakers.com	\$295
Colonel Jin Xing	Sylvie Levey, Pascal Vasselin and Arnaud Hamelin	This is a richly cinematic film, combining the colorful imagery of Shanghai's dance world, the panoply of the Chinese People's Army, and the heart-felt expressiveness of the young Colonel who turned his longing to be a woman into a reality.	www.filmakers.com	\$350
Coming Out, Coming Home	API Family Pride	Asian & Pacific Islander Family Stories, a 44-minute color video (DVD) featuring interviews of one Filipino and three Chinese families and a dialogue among parents of these gay children. Speaking in English, the families talk about shame, grief, love, growth, the importance of family and how they handled their conflicts around homosexuality.	www.apifamilypride.org/resources.html	\$15 Donation
For Straights Only	Vismita Gupta-Smith	Tells the story of an almost invisible minority, South Asian gays and lesbians. Told from the perspective of a straight sister about her gay brother, this film explores the prejudices faced by the gay South Asian community (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal). Through the film, the director points out the irony of the dismissal of gays and lesbians, as she explains that one of this culture's most treasured ancient texts, the Kamasutra, actually celebrates homosexuality.	www.geocities.com/navarun1967/home.html	Email for booking and ordering.
Gulabi Aaina (The Pink Mirror)	Solaris Pictures	A colorful funny look into the Indian homosexual closet. It pits two Indian drag queens against a westernized gay teenager in a battle to woo a handsome hunk.	www.solarispictures.com/ga.htm	N/A
Khush	Pratibha Parmar	"Khush" means ecstatic pleasure in Urdu. For South Asian lesbians and gay men in Britain, North America, and India (where homosexuality is still illegal) the term captures the blissful intricacies of being queer and of color. Inspiring testimonies bridge geographical differences to locate shared experiences of isolation and exoticization but also the unremitting joys and solidarity of being "khush".	www.wmm.com	Video Sale \$250 Video Rental \$75
Ladyboys	Jeremy Marres	This film offers an intimate portrait of teenage boys who leave their impoverished homes in the countryside of north Thailand to find fame and fortune as transvestite performers in the glamorous cabarets of the south.	www.buyindies.com/listings/2/6/FCTS-26634.html	\$39.95
My Brother Nikhil	Four Front Films, Onir	Based on a true story. Famous swimmer Nikhil Kapoor deals with the repercussions of announcing the fact that he has HIV/AIDS.	www.mybrothernikhil.com	\$15

Paradise Bent	Heather Croall	One of the first explorations of the Samoan <i>fa'afafines</i> , boys who are raised as girls, fulfilling a traditional role in Samoan culture. The film shows how in the large Samoan family there may be one or two <i>fa'afafines</i> who are not only accepted but appreciated.	www.filmakers.com	\$350
Rewriting the Script	SOY, Collective in Toronto, CA	Featuring frank discussions with parents, siblings and extended family members of South Asian gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people. Sharing coming out experiences and the transformation of families and the larger South Asian community.	www.soytoronto.org/current/savp.html www.womensbookstore.com/cgi-bin/store/twb_01.cgi 416 324 5077	\$19.95
Shinjuku Boys	Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams	From the makers of Dream Girls, Shinjuku Boys introduces three onnabes who work as hosts at the New Marilyn Club in Tokyo. Annabes are women who live as men and have girlfriends, although they don't usually identify as lesbians. As the film follows them at home and on the job, all three talk frankly to the camera about their gender-bending lives, revealing their views about women, sex, transvestitism and lesbianism.	www.wmm.com	Video Sale \$175 Rental \$90
Summer in My Veins	Nish Saran	A gay Indian filmmaker travels across America with his family visiting from India, as he struggles to come out to them.	www.frameline.org	\$165. Video Sale
Sum Total	Sonali Gulati	Using photography, poetry, and music, an Indian woman "recomputes" her cultural identity to "account" for her lesbian identity.	sonalifilm@yahoo.com	N/A
There is No Name For This: Chinese in America Discuss Sexual Diversity	API Family Pride	Exploring the lives of Chinese and Chinese American lesbians, gays, and bisexuals and their experiences coming out across cultural and language barriers. The first video to examine the impact of the lack on vocabulary to explain issues of identity in Chinese languages, <i>No Name</i> introduces the family and community relationships of 21 people in different stages of coming out.	www.apifamilypride.org/resources.html	\$15
Latino / Latina				
And the March Continues!	Guadalupe Olvera San Miguel	A history of the lesbian movement in Mexico from its origins to the present. Testimonies from Mexican lesbians and movement leaders. A dramatized encounter between Frida Kahlo, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz and Adelita, is a humorous but poignant acknowledgement of the historical and cultural impact made by these and other Mexican lesbians.	www.frameline.org	Video Sale \$250 Video Rental \$75
De Colores	Peter Barbosa	Coming out in Hispanic families is explored from the points of view of those coming out as well as from the points of view of their fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers.	www.customflix.com/207168	\$189
Gay Cuba	Sonja de Vries	The 1959 revolution which gave Cuba its independence ushered in a new era of equality, blind to race and to gender -- but not to sexual orientation. Gay Cuba documents the promising changes which are beginning to take hold.	www.frameline.org	Video Sale \$250 Video Rental \$75

Juchitan, Queer Paradise	Patricio Enriquez	This is fascinating portrait of Juchitan, a small Mexican city near the Guatemalan border. Here homosexuality is fully accepted; gays are simply a third gender. If a boy shows a predisposition to homosexuality his family will rejoice and be thankful for receiving what is considered a blessing.	www.filmakers.com 212-808-4980	\$295
Looking for a Space	Kelly Anderson	One of the ironies of the Cuban Revolution was that, from the beginning, it persecuted many of its loyal supporters because of their sexual orientation. <i>Looking for A Space</i> examines the cultural, political and historical reasons behind the persecution of lesbians and gay men during the early years of the Revolution, and takes a fresh look at this issue from the perspectives of Cubans who are living on the island today.	www.filmakers.com 212-808-4980	\$225
Salt Mines	Carlos Aparicio / Susan Aikin	Explores the lives of three Latino transvestites who for years have lived on the streets of Manhattan supporting their drug addictions through prostitution. They made their temporary home inside broken garbage trucks that the Sanitation Department keeps next to the salt deposits used in the winter to melt the snow. They talk about their sexual identity, their past and their dreams. We follow their daily lives day and night until the place is closed and sealed by the city, forcing everyone to disperse.	www.frameline.org	\$200
Transformation (Sequel to Salt Mines)	Carlos Aparicio / Susan Aikin	The Transformation is a video documentary that explores the changes that Ricardo (Sara in The Salt Mines), former homeless prostitute transvestite, undergoes after discovering that he is HIV+ and deciding that he is not going to die on the streets. In order to move out of his street life he accepts help from a group of Born Again Christians who in exchange demand his complete transformation: that of homosexual to heterosexual. Ricardo is taken to Dallas where he tries very hard to transform himself: inside and out. During this process he becomes a Christian and ends up marrying Betty, a woman he meets through the church. Together they try to start a new life away from his past.	www.frameline.org	\$250
Middle Eastern				
I Exist	Arab Film Distribution	Gay people exist in Armenia, Syria, Iran, Egypt and Sudan too. They are Christians, Muslims and Jews, belonging to and rejected by their own cultures. In this series of interview we learn a bit about their lives and hear a few critiques of western media and its oversimplified, often negative depictions of these peoples and cultures	www.amazon.com www.eyebite.com/	\$28
In the Name of Allah	Parvez Sharma	Seeks to answer this profound question through the stories of lesbian and gay Muslims who are struggling to be true to their sexuality and their faith. His provocative film challenges not just the views of the orthodox Muslim majority but also the prejudices of many in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community as well.	parvezsharma@hotmail.com 202 486-5779	N/A
Mother / Country	Tina Gharavi	During the cultural revolution, six-year-old Gharavi was sent from Iran to live with her father in the West, remaining separated from her mother into adulthood. This intense personal documentary follows Gharavi's return to Iran in an attempt to understand her mother's decision and to reconnect to her lost past.	www.frameline.org	Video Sale \$225 Video Rent \$90

Queer Documentary in Wartime	Ellen Flanders	ZERO DEGREES is a documentary film about queer Palestinians and Israelis and their unique relationship to the current conflict in the region. Selim and Ezra, an Israeli and Palestinian gay couple, who are trying to win the right to live together in Jerusalem, are the focus.	www.frameline.org	N/A
Native American				
Honored by the Moon	Mona Smith	In this upbeat and empowering videotape, Native American lesbians and gay men speak of their unique historical and spiritual role. Within the Native American community, homosexuality was traditionally associated with the power to bridge worlds.	www.wmm.com	Video Sale \$150 Video Rental \$50
Long Eyes of Earth	Lawrence Brose	The berdache, a shaman or tribal priest, is a figure found in many boriginal cultures and considered to be a vessel of both male and female spirits, especially blessed by the gods. Moreover, the berdache is often a crossdressing, homosexual male. Long Eyes of Earth explores the link between sexual identity, spirituality and creativity through an examination of the Papago Indians and their berdache.	www.frameline.org	Video Sale \$50 Video Rental \$40
Two-Spirit People	Michel Beauchemin, Lori Levy, Gretchen Vogel	An overview of Native American concepts of gender, sexuality and sexual orientation. This documentary explores the berdache tradition in Native American culture, in which individuals who embody feminine and masculine qualities act as a conduit between the physical and spiritual world, and because of this are placed in positions of power within the community.	www.frameline.org	Video Sale \$125 Video Rental \$50
MISC / Multicultural				
Because This is About Love: A Portrait of Gay and Lesbian Marriage	Shulee Ong	This is a touching profile of five lesbian and gay couples from multicultural backgrounds who have made a life long commitment to each other by going through a marriage ceremony. Each couple tells their own story of how they met, why they decided to marry and how their family and friends responded.	www.filmakers.com	\$295
Homoteens	Joan Jubela	Five young gays and lesbians in New York City have produced their own vivid autobiographical portraits with the help of videomaker Joan Jubela.	www.frameline.org	Video Sale \$250 Video Rental \$75
How Do I Look?	Wolfgang Busch, Robert Urban	The long-awaited documentary celebrating the 35-year-old Harlem "Ball" culture, makes its debut this month—and proves itself worth the wait. In addition to educating viewers on this predominantly gay tradition, the film also enlightens them on inner-city performing arts, HIV outreach and prevention, "house" family values, gay heritage and issues of gender identity. By capturing our LGBT artistic and social history, it provides us all with the opportunity to promote and celebrate our heritage, culture and arts.	www.howdoilooknyc.org/	\$35

Paris is Burning	Jennie Livingston	This is a documentary of 'drag nights' among New York's underclass. Queens are interviewed and observed preparing for and competing in many 'balls'. The people, the clothes, and the whole environment are outlandish.	www.amazon.com	\$25
Staceyann Chin – A Poetry Slam	Ulrik Wivel and Mette-Ann Schepelern for Barok Film	Staceyann is a talented, fascinating, creative artist. Her poems are very personal reflecting her turbulent childhood, her mixed race background, and her realization that she is a lesbian. Abandoned by her Jamaican mother and her Chinese father, she was raised and educated in Jamaica by her maternal grandmother. With only \$200 in her pocket she moved to America where she discovered the world of poetry slam.	www.filmakers.com 212-808-4980	\$250
Transgeneration	Jeremy Simmons	Capturing the struggles of 4 students embracing their unique identities as undergraduates and pushing their universities to change the way they deal with gender, discrimination, and policy. TRANSGENERATION dramatically unfolds as these four students balance the challenges of academia, campus life, and family with their commitment to gender reassignment.	www.frameline.org	N/A
Venus Boyz	Gabriel Baur	A film journey through a universe of female masculinity. The drag kings of New York meet in clubs and change lustfully into their male alter egos, parodying them and exploring male eroticism and power strategies. In London we see women experiment with hormones to become new men and 'cyborgs'. Masculinity and transformation as performance, subversion or existential necessity.	www.venusboyz.com www.firstrunfeatures.com	N/A
XY: Drag	Robin E. Deisher	A sexy, provocative, and insightful glimpse of a world that turns heteronormativity and gender binaries on their heads. This documentary film delves into the world of drag kings and their burgeoning subculture. The film raises important questions about the nature of gender, sex, sexuality, and desire by approaching drag king performances as acts that are inherently political.	www.geocities.com/reelkeenfilm	Email for booking and ordering.

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