

The Watts Towers 50 Years Inspiring Art FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 7, 2009 11a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Free

at the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum
4130 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230
(South of Culver Blvd.)

11:00 **The Heart of Art**

The Towers Possibly the first film documentation of Simon Rodia's unique building process. A film by William Hale 1954 12 min.

Clips from the first WTAC video classes created by filmmaker Ben Caldwell. 1984

Watts Towers Improvisational Theatre Workshop In 1965, a white drama student, Steven Kyle Kent, initiated the first drama workshop at WTAC. Dir.: Les Blanc. Prod: Gordon Hoban 1965 28 min.

12:00 **Jazz and Djimbe**

The World Is A Drum Claymation (animated) film on the African-American drumming community. A film by Carlos Spivey 2001 5 min.

Clips from early *Day of the Drum* and *Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festivals*

21st Annual Day of the Drum Performances represent 7 ethnic cultures, including Pete Escovedo's Latin Jazz Orchestra, the Hikari Taiko Drummers, and Leon Mobley's tribute to Babatunde Olatunji. Dir.: Paul Sabu Rogers Prod: Rosie Lee Hooks 2002 30 min.

All That Jazz/ The Jazz Mentorship Program Master musicians communicate with young people through music. Clips from JMP concerts 1992-94 feature Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chancler, Buddy Collette, Bobby Rodriguez, Nedra Wheeler and others. Dir: Gail Choice. Producer: Rosie Lee Hooks. 1995 28 min.

1:45 **I Build The Tower**

I Build The Tower The true story, and most complete visual account, of the life and work of Sam Rodia, the Italian immigrant who built the Watts Towers by hand in South Central Los Angeles. A film by Edward Landler and Brad Byer. 2006 87 min.

3:30 **Bridging Generations**

Clips from CAP, 1992-1996

Teens on the Watts News Documentary Team interview prominent Black

photographers. Filmmaker Ben Caldwell opens his KAOS doors for youth to create art in Leimert Park. Footage by Diane Hall, Ben Caldwell and others.

Spirits of the Ancestors 13 prominent artists are asked to use a shovel as their canvas, in conjunction with the ground breaking for the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center. Dir.: S. Pearl Sharp Prod: Rosie Lee Hooks 2003 18 min.

Colors of Watts Animation shorts by Erick Estrada, Patrick Taylor and other students in the WTAC/ Sony Pictures Media Arts Program. 2008 5 min.

4:30 Small Truths, Tall Stories

A Mask for Me, A Mask For You A lonely boy in Watts discovers the Watts Towers Arts Center, where he learns to make masks and friends. A film by Gabriella Samper and Ray Witlin 1969 16 min.

Fertile Ground: Stories From The Watts Towers Arts Center The first visual documentation of the Watts Towers Arts Center (adjacent to Simon Rodia's Watts Towers). A former owner of the Towers, 5 former Directors of the Center, artists and community members set the record straight about the origin of the Center and reveal its dynamic 40+ year history. Hosted by Cong. Maxine Waters. A film by Rosie Lee Hooks and S. Pearl Sharp. 2005 60 min.

Some filmmakers and featured artists will be present for post-screening dialog.

S. Pearl Sharp, Curator Rosie Lee Hooks, Director, Watts Towers Arts Center

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