ROD PATRICK RISBROOK
Presents

THE REEL BLACK SAME GENDER LOVING
FILMOGRAPHY RESOURCE
VERSION 6.0

No copyright infringement of the words and pictures used in this compilation of work are intended. It is the sole purpose of the author of this reference and resource compilation to enlighten, educate and make exciting FUN for the public the body of film and television work out there depicting the lives of Same Gender Loving (SGL) people of African descent.

SGL is a culturally affirming and coined term that emerged in the early 1990s to offer Black women who love women and Black men who love men (and other people of color) a way of identifying that resonated with the uniqueness of Black life and culture. SGL was created to affirm, embrace, reference and lovingly umbrella homosexual, bisexual and transgender people of African descent.

Please reference and print out this document if you wish, and go happy DVD (and some VHS) shopping. A few reputable e-commerce web links have been provided (see last page) for your shopping convenience!

This compilation is meant to ACKNOWLEDGE, APPRECIATE, AFFIRM, ACCEPT & ACHÉ all same gender loving people of the African Diaspora! WE LOVE YOU!

SPREAD THE ENLIGHTENMENT BY FORWARDING/CIRCULATING THIS COMPILATION TO OTHERS!

You can contact me (ROD) to suggest a film I missed, ask a question or send me comments to: BIG.RODO2@GMAIL.COM

118 FILMS LISTED!!!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO
DAMON J. MURPHY
WHO BECAME THE SPARK, THE LIGHT AND THE INSPIRATION FOR ME TO BEGIN THIS PROJECT

FOUNDED BY DAMON J. MURPHY AND ROD PATRICK RISBROOK

PRESS THE LEFT OR RIGHT ARROW KEYS TO ADVANCE BACKWARD OR FORWARD AT ANYTIME

PRESS THE ESCAPE BUTTON [“ESC”] TO EXIT THE SLIDESHOW AT ANYTIME
ROD PATRICK RISBROOK (aka “BIG ROD”) is a CADD [Computer-Aided Drafting and Design] professional who designs/drafts architectural and engineering drawings by day and spends the rest of his other time as a socio-political activist for the Black [same gender loving] community. As part of his socio-political agenda, ROD lent his humanitarian energies for 3+ years to the Black Men’s Xchange-New York [BMX-NY] which is a cultural affirmation and leadership empowerment collective for same gender loving men of African descent. He served in the capacity of a Developmental Committee member which is the leadership engine of BMX-NY. Creatively, ROD captures still moments in time as a photographer, doing graphic design work, and is a producer at Brooklyn Cable Access Television [BCAT] working on a select number of progressive television shows. ROD also relentlessly networks with other brothers and sisters via the Internet and at multiple venues sharing positive information for dissemination. His future goals include someday self-publishing some fictional novels that reflect Africentric people in the mystery, drama and science-fiction genres. ROD is currently transitioning from CADD to filmmaker by pursuing a path as a cinematographer/filmmaker in order to bring to life what he calls “our stories” that need to be told. ROD is currently a student at New York University studying Cinematography and resides in Brooklyn, New York. You may e-mail him at big.rod02@gmail.com.
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Throughout this REEL Black Same Gender Loving Filmography Resource, there is a DVD logo next to certain movie titles which means those titles are available for sale on the DVD format.

Please be advised that any title on the market may have a tendency to become DISCONTINUED by the home video publisher at any time. Since the SGL (Same Gender Loving) Africentric experience is unique and a sub-genre/sub-culture within the larger African Diaspora, and not always fiscally supported by the larger movie viewing population due to lack of interest, demand or marginalization, I suggest that you buy an SGL title that you come across and want as soon as possible to insure you have it in your collection.

I have a few SGL titles such as Dakan, Woubi Cheri and Blind Faith on VHS Tape that are DISCONTINUED and are no longer available and were never published on DVD (yet!). Hopefully they will!

You will have to do further research to see if a title is available on the new high definition Blu-ray Disc or HD-DVD formats.

As you navigate the Internet and do your own detective work regarding SGL DVD titles, some DVD titles are available (from) outside or imported into the United States but may have been encoded with a different REGION CODE and may NOT be playable on your DVD player or DVD-ROM/RW computer player.

Each DVD-Video disc contains one or more region codes, denoting the area(s) of the world in which distribution and playback are intended (see below). The commercial DVD player specification dictates that a player must only play discs that contain its region code. In theory, this allows the motion picture studios to control the various aspects of a release (including content, date and price) region-by-region. In practice, many DVD players allow playback of any disc, or can be modified to do so. Entirely independent of encryption, region coding pertains to regional lockout, which originated in the video game industry.

Check and verify the DVD REGION CODE before you buy from non-familiar independent merchant sources!

Region 0: Informal term meaning "playable in all regions" - aka "region free"

Region 1: Bermuda, Canada, the Cayman Islands, United States and U.S. territories

Region 2: The UK, Middle East, Iceland, Western Europe, Central Europe, Egypt, French overseas territories, Greenland, Japan, Lesotho, South Africa, and Swaziland

Region 3: Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea, and Taiwan

Region 4: Australia, New Zealand, Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Oceania, and South America (except French Guyana)

Region 5: The rest of Africa, Former Soviet Union, the Indian subcontinent, Mongolia, and North Korea

Region 6: Mainland China

Region 7: Reserved for future use (found in use on protected screener copies of MPAA-related DVDs, and "media-copies" of pre-releases in Asia)

Region 8: International venues such as aircraft, cruise ships, etc.

BE QOOL, Y’ALL!

BIG ROD
ROD PATRICK RISBROOK presents
REEL Black Same Gender Loving Movies (77)
[NOTE: These productions specifically focus on the Black SGL experience whether real or fictitious]

1. B.D. Women (1994) <20 minutes>... This is a wonderful celebration of the history and culture of Black same gender loving sistahs. Lively interviews feature Black women talking candidly about their sexual and racial identities. These contemporary views are cleverly interwoven with a dramatized love story, set in the 1920s, in which a sultry romance develops between a gorgeous jazz singer and her stylish butch lover. B.D. WOMEN rewrites the vanished history of Black SGL women’s lives in an eloquent and entertaining way. Produced in England. Documentary/Romance.

2. Batty Man (2006) <48 minutes>... With “civil partnerships” for homosexual people an acceptable part of the wider domestic and cultural landscape in England (for 40 years now), popular comedian (and recently admitted homosexual) Stephen K. Amos explores a very serious and life threatening look at whether young people in the Black community are finally ready to accept that it's okay to be Black and homosexual. Batty Man is an observational documentary following Amos as he embarks on a journey through the UK and the Caribbean island of Jamaica to confront and cajole his community into accepting that enmity, shaming, inciting violence and murder will not make Black homosexuals disappear. Produced in the United Kingdom. Documentary.

3. Beneath The Surface (2004?) <9 minutes>... Written, produced and directed by Kirk Shannon-Butts. Words are not necessary to express desire and attraction when a basketball toting B-Boy unveils beauty onto the world. “Beneath the Surface” is a modern day fantasy infused with the Greek myth of Narcissus. As suitors vie for Beauty’s attention, he is only affected with the magnificence of the rose. Barking off the Homo Thug, an older handsome man is able to sway Beauty’s attention, if only for a while. Short Film/silent.

4. Billy Turner's Secret (1990) <27 minutes> - (from the film anthology Boys’ Shorts)... Written and directed by Michael Mayson. Billy and Rufus live together and share everything, except Billy's secret—he's homosexual. This hip urban comedy takes a advertent look at the connection between misogyny and homophobia, and among the first African-American films to deal with these subjects. Drama/Comedy.

5. Black Aura On An Angel (2004) <64 minutes>... Written, produced and directed by Faith Trimel. A psychological thriller that depicts the devastating effects of a woman’s mental illness on a blossoming love affair. When Angel meets Phaedra, she is instantly captivated with such a beautiful, mysterious woman. The two embark on a torrid affair, and soon fall passionately in love. Shortly after, Phaedra begins having jealous rages over Angel’s imagined infidelities. Angel’s cannot, warns her to get out, but she is in too deep. An exploration of of sensuality, insanity, and salvation and asks the question, “If you try to save someone, can you love yourself”. Thriller/Drama

DVD Purchase: http://www.customflix.com/206843
6. Black Beulahs (2006) <52 minutes>… Directed by Fanney Tsimong. Black Beulahs whose title refers to the Soweto slang terminology for "fabulous and ravishing" SGL men, shadows a trio of such subjects (an entertainer, a choreographer and a bodybuilder) who grapple with the daily challenges of being successful homosexual public figures in a conservative South African borough that, despite its vibrancy and diversity, is still peppered with hostile attitudes and stereotypical notions of the SGL community. Their separate stories join to form an insightful and inspirational glimpse into achieving success in the face of a sometimes hostile culture. Produced in South Africa. Documentary.


9. Blind Faith (1998) <122 minutes>… Directed by Ernest Dickerson; with Charles Dutton, Kadeem Hardison, Lonette McKee, and Garland Whitt. This story deals with the life of a same gender loving teenager in 1957 in a homophobic and racist Bronx, New York environment in which he is accused of strangling a white boy. Drama.


11. Blueprint (2007) <75 minutes>… Directed by Kirk Shannon-Butts. Blueprint eschews traditional narrative for a fresh and intriguing approach to storytelling marked by a special attention to place and mood. Two attractive young African-American college students are drawn to one another despite essentially opposite personalities. Reserved Keith’s time in New York City is nearing its end, but when free-spirit Nathan suddenly appears, he finds himself slowly opening up to new possibilities. Drama.
12. **Brooklyn’s Bridge To Jordan (2005)** <20 minutes>… Written and directed by Tina Mabry. After losing her life partner in a car accident, a woman with a buried secret must not only fight to keep the couples’ estranged teenage son from her partner’s intolerant brother, but rebuild her and the son’s troubled relationship. *Drama/Short Film.*


16. **Christopher Street TV (2007)** < minutes>…
17. Closet, The (2004) <minutes varies per episode>... Created by Maurice Townes & Kevin F. Allen of Senwot Nella Productions. This is a series which reflects the stories of diverse men (Emory Lawsen, Zachary Sledge, Isaiah Edwards, Nathaniel C. Bullock, Brice Henney and Ricardo Iglesia) living their lives to the beat of a different drum within the heterosexual society of Baltimore. Drama. 4 episodes were completed to this series) DVD Purchase: http://www.thecloset.tv/thecloset_purchase.html

18. Dakan {Destiny} (1997) <87 minutes>... Filmed in Guinea, West Africa. Directed by Mohamed Camara. This film is about 2 African males’ relationship with each other in a traditional African society where homosexuality is not approved of. Subtitled in English. French and Malinke spoken. Drama.

19. Dani & Alice (2005) <minutes n/a>... Written and directed by Roberta Marie Munroe. This film deals with woman-to-woman partner abuse. Dani is angry after a night out with Alice, and fuelled by insecurity and acting on impulse, attacks Alice in an unthinkable scene of harrowing physical violence. This sensitive subject is conveyed with deep insight, and acknowledges Alice’s poignant dilemma of dealing with the shock of being hurt, alongside a profound loyalty to protect her ‘black, butch’ lover from the police. Both Lisa Branch (Dani), and Yolanda Ross (Alice) are stunning to watch in this fleeting film that leaves you shaken up and sore. Even so, Dani & Alice addresses an important theme that is not to be ignored. Drama.

20. Darker Side of Black, The (1993) <55 minutes>... Directed by Isaac Julien. Gangsta chic, violence and nihilism, the hard edge of Rap and Reggae increasingly dominates the image of black popular culture. This is an intelligent and provocative investigation of the complex issues raised by the genre, such as ritualized machismo, misogyny, homophobia, and gun glorification. Noted experts on black history, such as Cornel West of Princeton University, and Michael Manly, former prime minister of Jamaica, analyze the phenomenon and give insights into its development and meaning. Filmed in dance halls, hip hop clubs, and using interviews and music video clips from London, Jamaica and the USA. Includes interviews with Buju Banton, Shabba Ranks, and Britain's Moni Love. Documentary.

21. Desperate For Love (2005) <22 minutes>... Written, produced and directed by Angel L. Brown. A Black SGL sistah who's been out of the dating scene for quite some time; desperate for love, goes through all the drama that comes along with finding true love in all the wrong places only to realize she need to love herself first. Drama/Comedy/Short Film. http://www.desperateforlovethemovie.com/
22. Did I Just Look At Her (2004) <14 minutes>… Written, produced & directed by Coquie Hughes. Invited to her SGL cousin’s birthday dinner, Melanie finds that dinner isn’t the only thing on her mind. Comedy film about a heterosexual girl fantasizing about her experience with being with a SGL sistah. Comedy.


24. Dirty Laundry (2008?) <minutes n/a>… Rockmond Dunbar (Soul Food), Loretta Devine (Crash, Waiting to Exhale, Dreamgirls), Sommore (The Queens of Comedy), Terri J. Vaughn (The Steve Harvey Show) and Sheryl Lee Ralph (Moesha, Sister Act 2, The Flinstones, Dreamgirls). A prodigal son story with a twist, Dirty Laundry follows Patrick, a Black same gender loving man who has made the perfect life for himself as a successful magazine writer in New York. He has the perfect turns his world upside down! Comedy/Drama.

25. DL Chronicles, The (2005-2007) <30 minutes>… Written, produced & directed by Quincy Lenear and Deondray Gossett. Narrated by aspiring journalist Chadwick Williams, The DL Chronicles tells the episodic stories of men of color who by consequence or by choice, live a sexually ambivalent and duplicitous lifestyle. As Chadwick pursues research for an Ambitious anthology about the unspoken and uncounted voices of MSM [Men who Sleep with Men], we enter into their provocative and intriguing world of sexual and discovery, denial, betrayal, love and loss. Drama.
26. **Everything Must Come To Light (2002/2003)** <25 minutes>… Spirituality and sexuality intertwine in focusing on the lives of three dynamic same gender loving women who are Sangomas (traditional healers) living in Soweto, South Africa. They are articulate, sympathetic women who are willing to share their stories. This is an unusual story in a realm that is often shrouded in silence and secrecy. After leaving their husbands, two of the women were able to explore their sexuality in relation to other women as a result of their dominant male ancestors instructing them to take wives. The relationship with their ancestors and the roles that they play in their healing powers and their sexuality are focal points in this documentary. Acting as both personal confidant and documentarian, Mpumi Njinge captures the unique stories of these powerful and revered women. **Documentary.**

27. **Fluidity (2006)** <45 minutes?> Directed by LaJon Daniels. A documentary asking various pertinent questions around a range of topics to various individuals and accounting for the lives of the Black same gender loving community. **Documentary.**

28. **Four Rent Boys and a Sangoma (2004)** <60 minutes>… charts the secret lives of five men in Johannesburg. It is a story of transactional sex, intimate exchanges, lost dreams, and doing whatever it takes to get by. Unabashedly honest interviews detail the lives of these survivors. Living within the AIDS pandemic is a daily reality for all, but some are altogether ignorant of HIV/AIDS education. Between the possibility of violence, danger, and disease, hustling these streets is indeed a risky business. **Documentary**

29. **Holiday Heart (2000/tv movie)** <100 minutes>…Starring Ving Rhames, Alfre Woodard and Mykelti Williamson. A drag queen takes in a drug addict and her daughter and helps raise the daughter. **Drama/Comedy.**

30. **Homoteens (1993)** <60 minutes>…Joan Jubela's film, in which I (Damon) was in the anonymous teen. 4 New York City teens (2 Black, 2 Hispanic, 1 White; 2 of them female, 3 males) makes a 20-minute film each about their lives being homosexual.

*** “I WAS ONE OF THEM…. Yours truly, DJ Murphy!!” *** **Documentary.**

31. **How Do I Look? (2005)** <70 minutes>…Willie Ninja, Pepper Labeija, Jose Xtravaganza. Captures for the past 10 years the natural artistic vogueing and fashion progression of the 30-year old Harlem tradition and show casing their talents on the runway. This is a loose sequel of sorts to Paris Is Burning. **Documentary.**

32. **If I Wuz Yo Gyrl ( 2001)** <75 minutes>… Written, produced and directed by Coquie Hughes. Pressure cooker drama about domestic violence between two interrelated SGL couples. **Work In Progress. Drama.**

33. **Immaculate (2004?)** <10 minutes>… Written, produced and directed by Kirk Shannon-Butts. The story of a Black same gender loving brother (Boi) trying to come to terms with his soul as it relates to Jesus Christ while helping another brother in need. Ultimately after some reconciliation Boi gives birth to a baby. **Short Film.**
34. Invisible (2007?) <minutes n/a>… Directed by Bill Duke (“Predator”, “Hoodlum”, “A Rage In Harlem”, “X-Men 3”). This full-length Indy feature film follows "Dutch" a handsome, young family man and professional doctor who becomes involved with a male partner. That one night of passion leads to a possible lifetime of suffering after Dutch’s male partner is diagnosed with HIV. Dutch is consumed with rage because he learns that he may have contracted the virus and passed it on to his wife. Once his wife learns of his male affair Dutch’s family life starts crashing around him. Drama.

35. It’s Me, It’s Me (2005) <8 minutes>… Directed by Martha Qumba. A South African SGL sistah talks about the Rape Crisis and Sexual Defense Act, getting married in her rural community, and becoming a part of one's community. In English / Xhosa with English subtitles. Short.


37. Just Between Us (2006?) <minutes n/a>… Directed by Ken Jackson. A candid look at sex and sexuality within the Black same gender loving community. The documentary starts out with short biographies of past SGL leaders in African American cultural and Politics; we are given Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Thurston, Wallace Thurman, Bayard Rustin, Audre Lorde and James Baldwin. This sets up a mandatory history lesson so that audiences will better appreciate what Jackson’s contemporaries have to say today. The contemporaries are a mix of writers, scholars, activists, etc. Documentary.


39. Kevin’s Room I (2001) <60 minutes>

40. Kevin’s Room II: Trust (2004) <58 minutes>… Produced by the Chicago Health Department and ADODI Chicago. A movie about a young counselor trying to deter the spread of HIV/AIDS. Drama/Educational/PSA.

38. Kevin’s Room III will begin filming April 2007


DVD Purchase: http://www.blackcatfilm.net/
42. Life on Christopher Street (2002) <28 minutes>… A documentary film that takes a look at the lives of Black SGL teens on Christopher Street in New York City. Documentary.

DVD Purchase: http://www.ubo.com/view_product.cfm?content_id=113
NOTE: This above link is broken and does not work. I’m just adding this link as a reference to the last known place where it was available to buy. Someone or a business may have some copies laying around somewhere.

43. Litany For Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde, A (1995) <80 minutes>… Producer/Director: Ada Gay Griffin; Director: Michelle Parkerson. Poet, lover, mother, warrior - Audre Lorde is a fiercely passionate American visionary. Her poetry and prose speak to her deepest convictions - love and anger, civil rights and sexuality, family politics and the glories of nature. She gave voice to a political generation and became a role model not only for Black women but for everyone who believes, as she did, that "liberation is not the private province of any one particular group." In 1992 Lorde lost her battle with breast cancer but she leaves behind a rich and vital legacy. A LITANY FOR SURVIVAL, a powerful profile of African American poet Audre Lorde. Documentary.

"The work of the poet within each one of us is to envision what has not yet been and to work with every fiber of who we are to make the reality pursuit of those visions irresistible" - AUDRE LORDE

Video Purchase: http://www.thirdworldnewsreel.org/record.cgi?recno=218

44. Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100 (1999) <60 minutes>… Directed by Yvonne Welbon. Born July 23, 1899 in Springfield, Illinois, Ruth Ellis was thought to be the oldest living African American same gender loving woman. In addition to exploring her rich past, the film offers a rare opportunity to experience a century of our history as lived by one inspiring woman. By example, Ruth Ellis shows us what is possible and what can be realized, if one not only lives long and ages well but also lives with pride. Ms. Ellis passed away October 5, 2000 at the age of 101. Documentary.

VHS Purchase: http://www.Amazon.com (key word search: “Ruth Ellis”)

46. Luv Tale, A (1999) <45 minutes>… An overworked, under appreciated magazine editor finds herself love-struck by a sexy female photographer. The new romance is soon plagued with tribulations when they meet their friend's eccentric reactions to the shocking relationship. Drama.

47. Madame Satã (2002) <100 minutes>… A story inspired by the life of one of the most remarkable figures in Brazilian popular culture, João Francisco dos Santos (1900-1976). In turn, bandit, transvestite, street fighter, brothel cook, convict and father to seven adopted children, dos Santos—better known as Madame Satã—was also a notorious homosexual performer who pushed social boundaries in a volatile time. The story begins in 1932, in Rio de Janeiro's bohemian Lapa district, when João Francisco is about to achieve his dream: becoming a stage star. In the sordid yet lively world of Lapa—populated by pimps, prostitutes and other denizens of Rio's underworld—João battles the streets and presides over a surrogate family that includes the charming prostitute Laurita, and her baby daughter whom everyone dotes on; the flamboyant hustler Taboo; João's teenage lover, Renatinho; and Amador, the owner of the Blue Danube club which is their second home. It is at the Blue Danube that street tough João begins to sing, and the mythic drag artiste Madame Satã is born. Spoken in Portuguese with English subtitles. Drama.

48. Make A Move (2006) <5 minutes> Directed by Hanifah Walidah; Cinematography by Olive Demetrius; featuring Deepa Soul, Zina Camblin, Gloria Bigelow, Zina Camblin and Tika Milan One spring weekend, in a brownstone in Brooklyn, she staged something that has never been seen before. This video would be a first of its kind in that it depicts SGL women of color in a celebratory, complex and witty manner. The video opens with 8mm footage of a woman’s party, in the mid-50’s, at a house in Bed-Stuy Brooklyn. Fast forward 50 years... we find ourselves at that same house and the party continues... but with different women. The video shoot featured an all SGL, predominantly women and transgendered cast and crew and includes performances by underground and chart topping SGL women artists of color; some of which include house music recording artist (#3 on the Billboard dance charts) Deepa Soul, Comedian Gloria Bigelow, Tika Milan who will be featured on MTV’s upcoming reality series focusing on entertainment journalists, and Zina Camblin, Broadway bound playwright and prodigy of Whoopli Goldberg. Music Video. Below are viewing web links: You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHlma3kO7GQ My Space: http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&videoID=1408931639

50. Night (2005) <30 minutes>… Directed by Detroit-based filmmaker Marlon Reid. Omar, a successful man who is HIV-positive and engaged to a woman is sleeping with men on the side. One night, however, he has a crisis of conscience. [QUICK NOTE: This short film was written by Haran Robinson who passed away before filming began. His good friend and film school buddy Marlon Reid, who is heterosexual kept his promise to direct this body of work for Haran who the film is dedicated to in his memory.] Drama/Short Film.

51. Noah's Arc (2005 - 2006) <25 minutes per episode>… Noah's Arc tells the story of the daily life of Noah, Alex, Ricky, and Chance, four African-American SGL men in Los Angeles, through their relationships with their friends and lovers. This show premiered on the Logo Channel. Season 1: contains 9 episodes (and is released on DVD as a box set). Season 2: contains 8 episodes (and is released on DVD as a box set). Comedy/Drama.

52. A Normal Daughter: The Life and Times of Kewpie of District 6 (1998) <52 minutes>… Filmmaker Jack Smith takes a documentary gaze back at legendary District Six. The story of Capetown's District Six tells the opposite tale as its highly visible same gender loving life was nearly erased by South Africa's apartheid government of the 1970s. Kewpie Fritz, who is transgendered, organized the local SGL community out of his hairdressing salon and served as a virtual mayor putting on everything from drag balls to cabarets. Those events are remembered here in the first person as well as through a wealth of archival material. The treasures of buried SGL history are told through Kewpie as she tends to her clients' hair at her salon. Documentary.

53. Norman...Is That You? (1976) <91 minutes>… Starring Redd Foxx, Michael Warren (“Hill Street Blues”), & Pearl Bailey. After wife Beatrice runs off to Mexico, a despondent Ben Chambers travels to California to visit his son, Norman (Michael Warren). To Ben's dismay, Norman admits that he's homosexual -- and that his lover is a white man. Comedy/Drama.

VHS Purchase: http://www.Amazon.com (key word search: “Norman Is That You?”)
54. On The Downlow (2006) <54 minutes>… Directed by Abigail Child. In recent years, there has been much discussion and debate about the phenomenon of African-American men “on the downlow,” or seemingly heterosexual men who sleep with other men in private. Abigail Child’s documentary focuses on four such men in Cleveland, revealing the complex web of racial, societal, and familial forces that inform their behavior and identity. Documentary.

55. On The Low (2005) <25 minutes>… Written and directed by Luther Mace. This short film explores the emotional consequences of a hush-hush intimate relationship between two African-American high school boys. It tells the story of a young man, Ty Evans, coming to terms with his sexuality and the inner conflict he experiences. The true extent of Ty’s relationship with his classmate, Kevin Banks, begins to trouble him when the boys get into a schoolyard shoving match. As the tension between them escalates, Ty realizes what began as innocent curiosity and experimentation has blossomed into something deeper. Drama/Short Film.
56. **Paris is Burning** (1990) <71 minutes>… Documentary about the Harlem drag balls thrown by predominantly inner city Black and Latino SGL people in the mid-1980s. The film features footage of the actual "drag" pageants, as well as interviews with ball participants, who describe their backgrounds and dreams, and the intricacies of their rich and detailed dialect. A fascinating look at the complexities of this elaborate subculture. Featuring Pepper Labeija, Willi Ninja, Andre Christian, Dorian Corey, Paris Dupree, Bianca Xtravaganza, and many, many more contributors. *Documentary.*

![Image of Paris is Burning poster]

57. **Portrait of Jason** (1967) <105 minutes>… Directed by Shirley Clarke. A cinematic conversation with Jason Holliday (aka Aaron Payne) house boy and self proclaimed hustler and prostitute who sought refuge as a performer in the cabaret scene. Jason is obtusely frank, articulate, witty and self-aware. He is willing to admit publicly everything which has been considered desirable to keep secret by others. Told mainly through mesmerizing anecdotes and first-person testimonials from Holliday, this film is a triumph of portraiture and of his resilience against numerous forms of bigotry while being Black and same gender loving in the 1960s in America. *Documentary.*

![Image of Portrait of Jason poster]

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**A TRIBUTE TO WILLI NINJA: 1961—2006**

http://www.willininja.org/
58. Punks (2000) <104 minutes>… Written and directed by Patrick-Ian Polk. Starring Seth Gilliam (“Oz” and “The Wire”), Rockman Dunbar (“Noah’s Arc”, “Prison Break” and “Dirty Laundry”) and Loretta Devine (“Waiting To Exhale”). The life and times of a group of twenty-something Black homosexual men living in West Hollywood. The group is led by Marcus, a successful photographer who doesn't really date -- that is until drop-dead-gorgeous Darby moves in next door. Marcus rushes over to lend a helping hand to his new neighbor and finds, much to his chagrin, that Darby is straight. Marcus heads off to drown his sorrows at Miss Smokies, a favorite bar where he catches up with some friends: Hill, who moves in with Marcus after he catches his boyfriend cheating on him; Dante, a young, hell-bent party guy who leans heavily on drugs and alcohol; and Chris, a fabulous diva drag queen who adds just the right amount of flair into their already dramatic lives. Drama/Comedy.

59. Rag Tag (2006) <98 minutes>… Directed by Adaora Nwandu. Starring Danny Parson (as Raymond/Rag) and Adedamola Adejala (as Tagbo/Tag); produced, written and directed by Adaora Nwandu. Despite their radically different backgrounds, young Black British boys Rag and Tag share a close bond - perhaps too close. Rag is from a single-parent West Indian home and Tag is the pride of middle-class Nigerian parents. The two are inseparable until Social Services discovers Rag's mother isn't around and he's taken far from his London home to Birmingham. 10 years later Tag is finishing law school and despite incredible grades, can't find a firm willing to hire him. Meanwhile, Rag returns to London and finds his old friend. They discover later as young men that their once innocent desires have definitively shifted into an urgent need to be together. A trip to Tag's native Nigeria liberates them, and they share their first physical encounter while also learning some surprising family secrets. After returning to London, the couple must reconcile their newfound love with pressures from family, friends, finances, and bigotry. Propelled by a fantastic hip-hop score, Rag Tag is an intricate, lyrical film about love and friendship set against a cultural backdrop that has never before been seen in a same gender loving film. Filmed in the United Kingdom and Nigeria. Drama/Romance. http://www.ragtagmovie.com/
60. Reception, The (2005) <80 minutes>… Far away from the complexities of modern life, in a large farmhouse in upstate New York, Jeanette buries her sorrows and regrets in alcohol and daily confrontations. Her husband, Martin, is a quiet, introspective artist who spends his time painting in his private studio and cleaning up after his wife's destructive habits. When Jeanette's estranged daughter Sierra returns with her new husband Andrew, their fragile existence is uprooted. As Jeanette plans an extravagant reception for her daughter, Andrew becomes increasingly drawn to Martin. Over the course of a week, the two men become sexually embroiled, and Jeanette's world is shattered. Drama/Romance.

61. Rude (1995) <89 minutes>… Starring Clark Johnson (“Homicide: Life On The Street”); written and directed by Clement Virgo. The tale of a boxer who must face the truth about himself and his own sexuality after participating in a homosexual bashing. [QUICK NOTE: This story is one of a trio of tales told in this anthology.] Drama/Anthology (3 stories).

62. Sarang Song (2006) <23 minutes>… Written and directed by Tamika Miller. A love story of two African-American sistahs set amidst the politically and socially turbulent times of the early 1970s. The couple's love is tested when one is thrust into the student protest movement and is forced to make a choice — will she choose her love or the movement? Drama/Romance.

63. She Hate Me (2004) <138 minutes>… Directed by Spike Lee. Harvard-educated biotech executive John Henry Jack Armstrong gets fired when he informs on his bosses, launching an investigation into their business dealings by the Securities & Exchange Commission. Branded a whistle-blower and therefore unemployable, Jack desperately needs to make a living. When his former girlfriend Fatima, a high powered businesswoman -- and now a lesbian -- offers him cash to impregnate her and her new girlfriend Alex, Jack is persuaded by the chance to make easy money. Word spreads and soon Jack is in the baby-making business at $10,000 a try. Comedy/Drama.
64. Ski Trip, The (2004) <90 minutes>… Written and directed by Maurice Jamal. Corey Brown (Maurice Jamal) is a young Black SGL man living in New York City who wakes up on his 30th birthday and realizes his life is not what he expected it to be. Corey's friends suggest they venture from their city dwellings on a weekend getaway for a ski trip to raise his spirits, but in some ways they appear to be just as lost as he is. Romance/Comedy.

http://jahloveboyproductions.com/jahloveboy.htm

65. Songs of Freedom (2002) <75 minutes>… Produced and directed by Philip Pike. This documentary depicts the hardships and brutality of SGL life in Jamaica. Documentary.

66. Storme: The Lady of the Jewel Box (1987) <21 minutes>… Directed by Michelle Parkerson. “It ain’t easy…being green” is the favorite expression of Storme DeLaVerie, a woman whose life flouted prescriptions of gender and race. During the 1950’s and 60’s she toured the black theater circuit as a mistress of ceremonies and the sole male impersonator of the legendary Jewel Box Revue, America’s first integrated female impersonation show and forerunner of La Cage aux Folles. The multiracial revue was a favorite act of the Black theater circuit and attracted mixed mainstream audiences from the 1940s through the 1960s, a time marked by the violence of segregation. Directed by Michelle Parkerson finds Storme in New York’s Chelsea neighborhood, now working as a bodyguard at a women’s bar and still singing in her deep silky voice with an “all girl” band. Through archival clips from the past, STORME looks back on the grandeur of the Jewel Box Revue and its celebration of pure entertainment in the face of homophobia and segregation. Storme herself emerges as a remarkable woman, who came up during hard times but always “kept a touch of class.” Documentary.

67. Strange Fruit (2004) <115 minutes>…William Boyals, a successful Black SGL attorney in New York is drawn back to the small, rural Louisiana town he long ago escaped from to investigate the lynching of a Black SGL childhood friend.

68. Sunshine Boutique (2006) <30 minutes>… Directed by Kagendo Murungi. A tribute to the healing journeys of African women artists in their communities around the world. Sunshine Boutique follows the stories of four women in New York, Philadelphia, Amsterdam and Cape Town. Their expressions for social change are accompanied by dance, visual art, original musical arrangements and the voices of poets, activists, singers, and filmmakers. Set in a tapestry of stunning vistas and invocations of hope from histories of struggle, Sunshine Boutique stands against homophobia, xenophobia, sexism and racism, while celebrating beauty, love and life. Documentary.
69. Surrender (2000) <30 minutes>… by Celine Gilbert. Tanzania/Zimbabwe. In the tranquil setting of a small fishing community on the East Coast of Zanzibar, a fire is raging in the hearts of three young individuals and the entire community feels the heat. Surrender is a story about Amri, a man whose love and interests are caught up between the traditional role of the father and husband his father expects him to fulfill, and his personal desires to enjoy his friendship with Mashua, a fisherman. He has to make a choice between his inner needs and the urge to please society. A complicated triangular relationship is formed. Spoken in Swahili. English subtitles. Drama/Short Film.

70. Testify (2006) <12 minutes>… Written and directed by Darius Clark Monroe. Also stars Art Evans (“A Soldier’s Story”, “Die Hard 2”). One should never judge a book by its cover, and before assuming anything, one should always seek out the truth. As a son lays dying, he reveals to his father what his father has refused to believe and acknowledge. Drama/Short Film.

71. Tongues Untied (1990) <55 minutes>… Marlon Riggs, with assistance from other SGL Black men, especially poet Essex Hemphill, celebrates Black men loving Black men as a revolutionary act. The film intercuts footage of Hemphill reciting his poetry, Riggs telling the story of his growing up, scenes of men in social intercourse and dance, and various comic riffs, including a visit to the "Institute of Snapthology," where men take lessons in how to snap their fingers: the sling snap, the point snap, the diva snap. The film closes with obituaries for victims of AIDS and archival footage of the civil rights movement placed next to footage of Black men marching in a SGL pride parade. Documentary.
72. Underneath (2007)  
<107 minutes>… Directed by Cherisse Deaton. Underneath captures one woman's coming-out journey in a predominantly intolerant community. Seductive Taylor Hayes lives a double life, hiding her true self from her boyfriend and straight-laced best friends. What starts out as an innocent and erotic diversion becomes a precarious adventure when Taylor begins sneaking around, answering mysterious phone calls and having promiscuous sex with women. She seems to see the fun as a flirtatious game until she meets Mya, who tosses her into a fervid tailspin. This beautiful woman is intelligent and compassionate but she also has a boyfriend of five years and a family with strong Baptist roots. The two form an inseparable friendship and before long these fiery women fall deeply in love, forcing them to confront the homophobia from their beloved family, friends and ex-lovers. Writer/star Katrina Deaton and her partner, first time director Cherisse Deaton, deliver an important message of taking risks in order to find true happiness. Filled not just with profound insight, Underneath is also chock-full of witty banter (from Taylor's scene-stealing best friend, Kia) and steamy sex scenes, further engrossing us in this powerful urban tale. Drama.


74. Vintage: Families of Value (1995) <72 minutes>… An examination of three Black Families dealing with homosexuality and sibling relationships. Harris confronts feelings by asking his mother to talk about the fact that her two sons are both SGL. The film weaves together stories with impressionistic scenes that express what some are unwilling to say. Documentary.

75. White Shadows (2006) <82 minutes>… Directed by Mialyn Hanna. An inspirational story of survival and transformation, White Shadows profiles Dalee Henderson, a famed celebrity hairstylist who is diagnosed with AIDS and must reconcile himself to the changes the disease affects upon his body and mind. An SGL African-American man raised in the rural, segregated South of the 1950s, Dalee escaped to the West Coast to live life openly and proudly, arriving in Los Angeles in the late '70s, where he achieved great professional and personal success, amassing a wealth of friends by virtue of his gregarious nature. His life changed when he learned of his HIV status, but his spirit and hope remain despite the deterioration of his body. Documentary.

77. Young Soul Rebels (1991) <105 minutes>… Starring Valentine Nonyela (Chris); Mo Sesay (Caz) with Eamonn Walker (from HBO’s “Oz”). Directed by Isaac Julien. In the summer of 1977 during the week of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Chris and Caz, close friends since childhood, are disc jockeys on a Black pirate radio station called “Soul Patrol”, which broadcasts its 'funk' message from an East End garage. They are shocked by the death of their friend TJ, who has been murdered while cruising the park by night, and Chris realizes that a ghetto blaster (boom box radio) found in the park by his little sister contains a recording of the killer's voice. Drama.
REEL Productions Featuring Black & Latino SGL Persons or Characters (14)

[NOTE: The non-fictional SGL people or fictional SGL characters and/or their sexuality depicted in these particular productions are not the primary focus]

1. Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin (2003) <83 minutes> … Bayard Rustin was a Civil Rights leader who was the architect of the 1963 March on Washington. He was also marginalized by other Black civil rights leaders because of his homosexuality, and asked to take a back seat on the very march he was asked to put together. Documentary.

2. Car Wash (1976) <97 minutes> … Richard Pryor, Antonio Fargas (Starsky and Hutch), Bill Duke (Predator) and George Carlin. Written by Joel Schumacher. A hilarious day-in-the-life tale set in modern day Los Angeles. At Sully Boyar's car wash, a juvenile, motley crew of city dwellers "work their fingers to the bone" waiting on the eccentric and sometimes haughty clientele. Throughout the day, the young men find time to indulge in personal pursuits: one fellow fantasizes about the pretty waitress working at a local restaurant, a militant preaches politics, while more disgruntled workers find a way to justify their laziness. As the day wears on, the many levels of oppression that control each individual's lives gradually become apparent. Comedy.


4. James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket (1990) <35 minutes> … Directed by Karen L. Thorson. A biographical video of writer James Baldwin, covering his entire life history. Opening and closing scenes are of his funeral, and there are numerous flashbacks (both in color and black-and-white) of his homes, his friends, and his family. The intent of the production is to reveal to the viewer the hardships imposed on Baldwin and others of his race during his lifetime. Baldwin never tried to hide the facts that he was black, impoverished, or homosexual, and many of his books are written about these very personal subjects. A serious documentary about the lifetime of this author, lecturer, and teacher. Documentary.

5. Maestro (2004) <77 minutes> … Maestro is a feature length documentary on the origins of the New York City dance music underground. Maestro takes you deep into the world of Larry Levan's Paradise Garage and David Mancuso's Loft as they became the center of underground culture, which evolved into the dance music of today. Through rare footage and interviews, Maestro brings out a true, candid understanding of the lifestyle and the music that went on to influence future generations. This documentary features appearances by Larry Levan, David Mancuso, Frankie Knuckles, Nicky Sciano, Francois K, Francis Grasso, Jellybean Benitez, Danny Tenaglia, Tony Humphries, Tee Scott, Dimitri From Paris, Danny Krivit, Pete Tong, Joe Clussell, Little Louie Vega, Keith Haring, and many of the original Loft and Garage club members. NOTE: The DVD is a 2-disc set; the 2nd disc has 146 minutes of additional supplemental material. Documentary.

7. Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story (2005) <87 minutes>… Emile Griffith as himself. A story of violence, love, sex, politics and media centered around the life of Griffith, a six-time world welterweight champion. Within this documentary, Emile’s sexuality is called into question. Documentary.

8. Ritual (2000) <78 minutes>... Directed by Stanley Bennett Clay. This psychological domestic drama tells the story of the Becker family, a seemingly shining example of the American dream. Leon Becker is a wealthy attorney at the head of his flawless household: beautiful wife, doting daughter, and son in attendance at an ivy league college. But while he views his achievement as an example that success is possible for all in the black diaspora, he is becoming increasingly alienated from that community. All is not so well at home, either, as his wife descends into an alcoholism he refuses to recognize, and his daughter's affections seem less innocent than they should be. When Leon's SGL son Mason drops out of college to come home in an attempt to redeem his family, he is forced to confront the issues head-on. Drama.

9. Six Degrees of Separation (1993) <112 minutes>… Will Smith. Fifth Avenue socialite Ouisa Kittredge (Stockard Channing) and her purveyor of high-art husband Flan (Donald Sutherland), are pedigree parents of "two at Harvard and one at Groton." But the privileged insular world inhabited by the Kittredge family, as well as their public status as distinguished arbiters of culture, makes them easy prey for a consummate con-artist like Paul (Will Smith). One night, he mysteriously shows up at their front door injured and bleeding claiming to be Sidney Poitier's son and a close college crony of the Kittredges' Ivy League progeny. Impress Ouisa and Flan with his articulate literary expositions, Paul proves to be a sharp-witted, learned young man with epicurean taste and surprising culinary skill. His highbrow facade is so charmingly persuasive, Paul soon has the Kittredges loaning him money, putting him up for the night and taking satisfaction in his appraisal of their posh lifestyle. Paul’s world begins to unravel in one instance where he is caught in bed with another man in the Kittredge’s guest bedroom. Drama/Mystery/Comedy.

10. Star Maps (1997) <86 minutes>… Written and directed by Miguel Arteta. Starring Doug Spain. After spending two years with relatives in Mexico, a young man with grand visions of stardom returns to Hollywood, only to have his sadistic, world-weary father force him into the family business: he becomes a male prostitute posing as a vendor of maps to the stars' homes. While resignedly turning tricks (both male and female), he never loses sight of his dream despite the turmoil surrounding him. Drama.

11. Stranger Inside (2001/tv movie) <97 minutes>…Written and directed by Cheryl Dunye. Treasure Lee has been serving time for her crimes since her teenage years. Reaching adulthood she is now being transferred to an adult maximum security prison. Here she is taken in by Brownie, a woman who has been hardened by a life behind bars. Treasure joins Brownie and a sisterhood of female inmates who protect one another from the harsh realities on the inside. Entering this world, Treasure is about to discover that being in a protected family can also bring an individual closer to danger. Drama.

12. Trois (2000) <93 minutes>… A man convinces his wife to have sex with a bisexual woman, which leads to disaster in their relationship. Drama.
13. Wire, The (2002 — 2007/Original HBO TV Series) <63 episodes total @ 60 minutes per episode — 5 seasons total>… Created by writer/producer and former police reporter David Simon (“Homicide: Life On The Street”). One of the most critically acclaimed programs on air, the Peabody Award-winning drama series ‘The Wire’ continues to challenge viewers with a “cop show” unlike anything on television. Set in Baltimore, this show centers around the city's inner-city drug scene. The show depicts the lives of every part of the drug "food chain", from junkies to dealers, and from cops to politicians. Drama.

ROD’s Note: Normally I don’t comment on any entries in this SGL Filmography, but in this case I wanted to say the writing on this show is incredible despite the bleak look into the lives of African-Americans in Baltimore. Omar (Michael Kenneth Williams) is a Black SGL character who I admire a lot because of his “Robin Hood” moralistic qualities and because he depicts a MASCULINE SGL character rarely seen in television & film media as opposed to the default effeminate males commonly written. Also, Detective Shakima “Kima” Greggs (Sonja Sohn) & her girlfriend/lover Cheryl are very strong SGL sistahs in a committed relationship that is so affirming to see.

14. Women of Brewster Place, The (1989/tv movie) <200 minutes>… Oprah Winfrey, Mary Alice, Robin Givens, Moses Gunn, Jackee Harry, Leon, Lonette McKee, Paul Winfield, Cicely Tyson. Based on the novel by Gloria Naylor, in which a group of strong-willed women who live in the same rundown housing project located on Brewster Place, and tells about their lives as they struggle against racism, poverty and troublesome men through three decades. Two of the women who are same gender loving struggle to maintain their relationship in their environment. Drama.
ROD PATRICK RISBROOK presents
REEL Asian, Indian and Latino Same Gender Loving Movies (27)
[NOTE: These productions specifically focus on the SGL people of color experience whether real or fictitious]

1. **Beautiful Boxer (2003) <118 minutes>**… This acclaimed debut of Thai director Ekachai Uekrongtham brilliantly captures the intensity of an underdog sports saga and weaves it with the poignant, impassioned drama of finding one's identity in the telling true-life story of Parinya Charoenphol, a transgendered kick boxer whose winnings from fighting in the ring funded his sex-change operation. The film tracks Charoenphol, affectionately known as Nong Toom, from his childhood, where he first discovered his feminine side, to his youth in a monastery to an arduous training program and eventually his championship bouts, where he would don makeup and drag. Spectacularly choreographed kickboxing scenes are interspersed with the sometimes funny and always touching story of Toom in his quest to realize his dream of sexual reassignment. **Action/Drama.**

2. **Before Night Falls (2000) <133 minutes>**… A look at the life of Cuban poet and novelist, Reinaldo Arenas (1943-1990), from his childhood in the Oriente province of Cuba to his death in New York City. **Drama.**

3. **Broken Sky (2006) <140 minutes>**… Directed by Julián Hernández. Two university students, Gerardo and Jonás, meet on campus and fall passionately in love. They enjoy a blissful romance until Jonás becomes obsessed with another boy and drives Gerardo into the arms of Sérgio. The young men become entangled in a hypnotic dance of love, longing, rejection, validation, and sexual expression. Spoken in Spanish with English subtitles. **Drama/Art House Film.**

4. **Burnt Money (aka Plata quemada) (2000) <125 minutes>**… Nene & Angel and their accomplice Cuervo participate in a botched bank robbery in 1965 Buenos Aires, then hide out from the police in Uruguay while the gang breaks down. **Drama.**
5. De Colores (2001) <28 minutes>… A bilingual documentary about how Latino families are replacing the deep roots of homophobia with the even deeper roots of love and tolerance. Through moving personal stories we learn about how families are breaking cultural barriers and how love always prevails. Documentary.

6. East Palace, West Palace (1996) <94 minutes>... Directed by Yuan Zhang. East Palace, West Palace is Chinese slang for the bathrooms located on the edge of Tiannamen Square, favorite spots of Beijing homosexuals. A young homosexual writer, A-Lan, drifts in and out of China's hidden homosexual haunts, where he is beaten, humiliated and harassed along with other homosexuals. When a handsome policeman busts him for "cruising" the grounds of the Forbidden Palace, A-lan starts to see his behavior as a dangerous obsession. When he is caught by the officer a second time, A-lan undergoes a loaded overnight interrogation laced with barely sublimated erotic tension in which he talks about his life as a homosexual to the enraptured officer. As A-lan describes the sometimes tortuous conditions of being a homosexual in China, which he proudly proclaims "make life worth living," the master and servant relationship slowly evolves into one of curious attraction and fear. Zhang slyly uses the chamber drama taking place between A-lan and the officer to create a stunning metaphor for the sado-masochistic relation that Chinese people have with their own authority figures. As the drama is played out, Alan's dreamlike, tragedy-laced past mingles with symbolic images from Chinese opera. Each of A-lan's stories deftly seduces the officer and further illuminates A-lan's complex hidden courage. Spoken in Mandarin with English subtitles. Drama.

7. Fire (1996) <108 minutes>… Written and directed by Deepa Mehta. In New Delhi Sita, a beautiful and intelligent young woman embarks on an arranged, loveless marriage to a Faithless husband, Jatin. However, Jita and Radha (the two women) develop a physical relationship which is far more emotionally sustaining than they have found with their husbands. India. English and Hindi spoken. Drama.

8. Fleeing By Night (2000) <119 minutes>… Set in China in the 1930s, the film is about the unsettling relationship between three characters. Ing'er, the daughter of a theatre-owner, welcomes the return of Shao-dung, her fiancée and a fine cellist from America. Shao-dung soon finds himself captivated by the opera "Fleeing By Night" and its celebrated actor, Lin Chung, whose voice seems to articulate something within himself. While Shao-dung attempts to blend eastern and western music, Ing'er becomes torn between her affection for both men, and an awareness of the growing intimacy between them. Spoken in Mandarin with English subtitles.
9. Happy Hookers (2006) <54 minutes>... Directed by Ashish Sawhny. Happy Hookers follows three male sex workers in India as they negotiate their public and private lives. Though homosexual behavior is still illegal, these three men defy antiquated laws and social customs to express their sexualities or to simply make a living. Produced in India. Spoken in Hindi with English subtitles. Documentary.


11. Harsh Beauty (2006) <53 minutes>... Directed by Alessandra Zeka. Explore the secretive world of India’s hijras, eunuchs who are considered to be a third gender, neither male nor female - many willingly choosing castration. The three subjects, followed for three years, support themselves by performing religious rituals, dispensing blessings to the superstitious, and engaging in prostitution. In a changing society, the hijras challenge Western perceptions of gender identity. Produced in India. Spoken in Hindi & Tamil with English subtitles. Documentary.

12. Journey, The {Sancharram} (2004) <107 minutes>... Written and directed by Ligy J. Pullappally. Kiran, a reserved intellectual child, moves from Delhi with her parents to the big ancestral house. She becomes fast friends with the playful, mischievous Delilah and Rajan, a neighborhood boy. As their friendship grows into adulthood, Kiran comes to terms with her changing feelings for Delilah. Uncomfortable with her physical desires, she agrees to help Rajan woo Delilah by sending passionate letters. Delilah, unconvinced by Rajan's efforts, discovers Kiran's true feelings for her and what follows is a romance that liberates both woman. When the relationship is uncovered, it sends Delilah's family into panic mode, as they quickly plan for an arranged marriage. Spoken in Malayalam with English subtitles. Drama.

13. Lan Yu (2001) <86 minutes>... Directed by Stanley Kwan. Wealthy entrepreneur Handong runs a trading company in Beijing. His loyal lieutenant introduces him one night to Lan Yu, a penniless architecture student. Handong enjoys the sexual encounters with Lan Yu, but doesn't think of them an on-going relationship. Spoken in Mandarin with English subtitles. Drama.

15. Masseur, The {Masahista} (2005) <80 minutes>… Directed by Brillante Mendoza. Iliac spends his days pleasing men at a Manila homosexual massage parlor. Like most of his co-workers, he hails from the Filipino countryside. After finishing one particular night shift, Iliac ventures back to his family’s home for a somber occasion: his father’s funeral. But there are complex, unhappy emotions at work here between Iliac and his family — emotions he must confront. Produced in the Philippines. Spoken in Tagalog and Pampango with English subtitles. Drama.

16. My Beautiful Laundrette (1985) <97 minutes>… A highly innovative and fantastical exploration of marginalized cultures in Thatcher-era London. Set in the Pakistani community of South London in the 1980s, the film focuses on two youths, friends from schooldays. Johnny (Daniel Day-Lewis) is a working-class white whose friends belong to the National Front, a fascist group whose members extol “white power” and bash immigrants. Omar (Gordon Warnecke), a homosexual Pakistani, lives with his leftist father who spends most of his time in bed drinking. Omar's wealthy uncle, Nasser (Saeed Jaffrey), is determined to give one of the family a (small) step up, and at first gives him a lowly garage job, and then hands Omar a rundown launderette (laundry mat). Omar and Johnny become lovers and decide to convert the launderette into "a Ritz among laundrettes," a gaudy, neon-lit storefront called "Powders" complete with aquarium, video games, potted plants and piped classical muzak. Johnny looks upon the launderette as a lifeline on which to salvage his self-respect, while Omar sees it as just the beginning step on the long road torches. A thoughtful and innovative portrait of modern contrasts in class, race, and sex, this film defined a generation of Londoners. Drama.
17. My Brother...Nikhil (2005) <118 minutes>… Written and directed by Onir. This film is set in Goa, a small coastal state in India between 1989 and 1994. Nikhil Kapoor is the state all round Swimming champion. His father Navin Kapoor has raised his son to be a sports man... a dream that he never achieved for himself. His elder sister Anamika teaches in a primary school and loves him dearly. His mother Anita Rosario Kapoor adores him and from her he inherited his artistic side to his personality. One fine day he is arrested. The reason being...that he is HIV positive. He is kept in forced isolation by law. The Goa public health act allowed the government to isolate HIV positive people. His parents desert him and his friends move away. The only two people who stand by him are his sister Anamika and boyfriend Nigel. This film would probably be the first mainstream Indian film where the main protagonist is homosexual. This film deals with the trauma of this man and his fight for dignity; a film about how a closely knit family falls apart when faced with a crisis; about a sisters unconditional love for her brother; about a love that withstood social disapproval; a film about a man's desire to achieve something in life and finally it's a film about acceptance. Spoken in Hindi. Drama.

DVD Purchase: http://www.Amazon.com
(DVD key word search: “My Brother Nikhil”)
DVD Rental: http://www.netflix.com

18. No Regret (2006) <114 minutes>… Directed by Leesong Hee-il. When Su-min, an orphan from the country, comes to Seoul to further his studies, he has no idea that he will have to work as a prostitute in a homosexual bar to support himself. When he attracts the attention of an upper-class man, Jae-min, initial resistance gives way to genuine feelings. Can these two men, from vastly different socio-economic backgrounds, find love together? When familial obligations rear their ugly head, is tragedy and heartache far behind? No Regret is a sensitively handled story of unexpected love that crosses social class and gender. Produced in South Korea. Spoken in Korean with English subtitles. Drama.

DVD Purchase: http://www.Amazon.com
(DVD key word search: “No Regret”)

19. On The Downlow (2004) <90 minutes>… Written by Roger B. Domian and Tadeo Garcia; directed by Tadeo Garcia. Set along Chicago’s Little Village neighborhood, On The Downlow is the explosive story of the relationship between Isaac (Tony Sancho) and Angel (Michael Cortez), two young Latinos involved in a South-side Chicago gang. The decisions these men make and the paths they each take create a trap for them in a community where rules can't be broken and secrets are forbidden and won't be tolerated. Drama.

20. Our Lady Of The Assassins (2001) <98 minutes>… The tempestuous love story between Fernando, an older man who has recently returned to his crime-ridden drug capitol hometown of Medellin, Colombia and the gun-happy16 year old assassin Alexis, who murders all too easily. When Alexis himself is fatally gunned down, grief-stricken Fernando hunts for his young lover's killer in the Medellin slums, but instead encounters Wilmar, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Alexis. Spoken in Spanish. English subtitles. Drama/Romance.

22. Right By Me (2005) <100 minutes>… Directed By: Thanyatorn Siwanukrow. Three college students in Thailand navigate coming out and first love. Handsome, bookish Tat attends coming out support meetings with his out and proud friend Nat. The two boys are surprised when Tat’s crush, the hunky athlete Ek, shows up to a meeting. Questioning his sexuality, Ek turns to Tat for advice, and a sweet romance gradually develops, creating an awkward situation between Tat and Nat. In contrast to typical stereotypical depictions of gays in Thai films as clownish, Right By Me features well-rounded, realistic portrayals of young gay Thai men. Sadly, because of this positive representation, local censors banned the film for being “against Thai cultural values.”

23. Summer Heat (2006) <97 minutes>… Directed by Brillante Mendoza. In this sensitively directed family drama, three sisters care for their widowed father in a small Filipino town while dealing with their own personal issues. The youngest, Grace, is a newlywed, but already disenchanted with the realities of married life. Middle child Lourdes is cheating on her husband. And then there’s Jess, the oldest, a quiet but powerful SGL women who wears male clothes to religious ceremonies and moves her girlfriend into the family home. The heart of the story, Jess shepherds the family through the trials and tribulations of one long summer. Produced in the Philippines. Spoken in Tagalog with English subtitles. Drama.

24. Taboo (1999) <100 minutes>… Set during Japan’s Shogun era, this film looks at life in a Samurai compound where young warriors are trained in sword fighting. A number of interpersonal conflicts are brewing in the training room, all centering around a handsome young samurai named Sozaburo Kano. The school’s stern master can choose to intervene, or to let Kano decide his own path. Spoken in Japanese with English subtitles. Drama.

25. Thousand Clouds of Peace, A (2003) <80 minutes>… Directed by Julián Hernández. Gerardo, a homosexual teenager, roams the streets of Mexico City in search of someone able to reveal the secret hidden between the lines of a goodbye letter from his ex-lover. In his journey through barren alleys and roadways, he is haunted by images: each masculine body he sees reminds him of his lover. Spoken in Spanish with English subtitles. Drama/Art House Film.

26. To Be Happy In Chile (2006) <49 minutes>… Directed by Heidi Lloyd. Though she loves her homeland, Veronica leaves Chile's repression to explore her sexuality in the US. She returns with a girlfriend who finds it hard to fit in even as Veronica sees new possibilities of living a full and happy life - witnessing the gradual opening up of public acceptance of homosexuality. Produced in Chile. Spoken in Spanish with English subtitles. Drama.
27. Way We Write, The (2006) <79 minutes> Directed by Amy S Y Wen. Retired newspaper editor and part-time calligraphy instructor Liu invites his young student Zhen-Zhen and her mother to become his tenants. He doesn’t suspect the little girl will be the catalyst to reunite him with his estranged homosexual son, Zhi-Zhi, who left Taiwan for China after Liu rejected him. The Way We Write is a touching film about family relationships that was sponsored and broadcast on Taiwanese public television. Produced in Taiwan. Spoken in Taiwanese with English subtitles. Drama.

A FEW LINKS FOR PURCHASING SOME OF THESE MOVIE TITLES ON DVD (AND MAYBE VHS)

Deep Discount: http://www.deepdiscount.com
DVD Planet: http://www.dvdplanet.com
DVD Empire: http://www.dvdempire.com
Amazon.com: http://www.amazon.com
TLA Video: http://www.tlavideo.com
CD Universe: http://www.cduniverse.com
Rare Black Video and DVD Fair: http://www.charityadvantage.com/aboutharlemarts/fair.asp

Sisters in Cinema: African American SGL Women Produced Film, Video, and Multimedia
http://www.sistersincinema.com/forum/lesbianfilms.html

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RUTH C. ELLIS
SUNRISE (July 23, 1899) TO SUNSET (October 5, 2000)
The Oldest Believed African-American Same Gender Loving Woman to Live (101 Years Old)