

ANGOLA 3 LONDON AND FREE ZULU NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2008

Exclusive artwork, two documentaries, and an unprecedented meeting of Panthers – read all about the past four months' exciting activities of the Angola 3 London & Free Zulu committee!

Black Panther History Comes to the UK

With Black Panther artist Emory Douglas and Billy X in the UK for the premiere of Douglas's exhibition *Black Panther: The Art of Revolution* at the Urbis centre in Manchester, A3 London/Free Zulu used the momentum to spread the word about the campaigns.

A3 London/Free Zulu teamed up with the Black Panther Commemoration Committee (BPCC) England to help host the pair who had a series of engagements that included a talk at Parliament with George Galloway MP; a presentation to former members of the British Black Panther Party; and a visit to Derry, Northern Ireland, organised by journalist and activist Eamonn McCann and colleagues, to meet members of political party Sinn Féin and Ógra Shinn Féin (Belfast youth wing of the party).

The BPCC magazine published that week, and sold at events attended by leading Black activists and performers in the UK, included a feature on the A3 and Zulu.

For details go to <http://blackpanther1966.blogspot.com/>

Raised Fists Raising Money

The Treatment Rooms in collaboration with Headpress hosted a momentous event on November 8 to help raise funds for Zulu's legal defence and to produce artwork for Herman's House.

Emory Douglas and Billy X (who runs website It's About Time to maintain the legacy of the Party) joined musician and White Panther Party founder, John Sinclair, for the first time to have their arms and fists cast by celebrated British artists Nick Reynolds and John Schoonraad.



Casting at the Treatment Rooms; left-right: Billy X, Emory Douglas and John Sinclair

Limited-edition ceramic versions of the casts will be available for sale in the coming months at the Black Sheep Curiosity Emporium, an art shop and gallery in west London set up by Carrie, A3 London spokesperson, and run by The Treatment Rooms collective. A special bronze version of each will make their way to Herman's House in New Orleans.

The sculptures are the latest in a series by Reynolds and Schoonraad; in June of this year in London, the pair also cast the head, upper torso and raised fist of Robert King.

All the castings have been filmed with the intention that the footage be used to produce a powerful artistic documentary next year.



John, Billy and Emory outside The Treatment Rooms

Fashionable Awareness

The London committee's specially designed Zulu T-shirt, using an image donated by artist Shepard Fairey (of the Obama 'Hope' poster fame), will grace the backs of several former Panthers, from David Hilliard to Tommie Smith, Emory Douglas to Billy X and John Sinclair; all who have visited London in recent months and have received T-shirts from A3 London/Free Zulu.

British musicians have been wearing the T-shirt on stage, including Rob Love and Nick Reynolds of Alabama 3, and Jeremy Cunningham of punk-pop band The Levellers, who have also indicated their interest in hosting a benefit gig for Zulu.

Reel News

The reach of A3 London/Free Zulu is spreading wide: the chapter has teamed up with activist video collective Reel News, which publicises inspirational campaigns and struggles around the world. One of the London committee members joined them voluntarily on their UK tour in October to raise awareness about A3 London's activities. Reel News has been kindly filming A3 London activities free of charge; they're currently producing a short film about Zulu to go on to their monthly DVD and on YouTube.

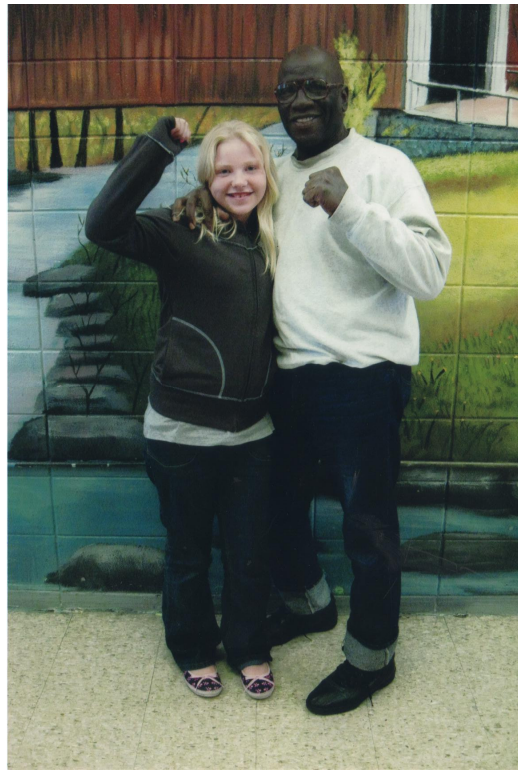
Surprise Visit to Angola

The youngest member of the London committee, 11-year-old Poppy, surprised several at Angola prison in August when she paid a visit to Herman and Albert, chowing down with them on fried chicken and ice-cream. The story went out across the Indy Media sites and featured on radio. To read all about it go to

<http://pittsburgh.indymedia.org/news/2008/08/29876.php>



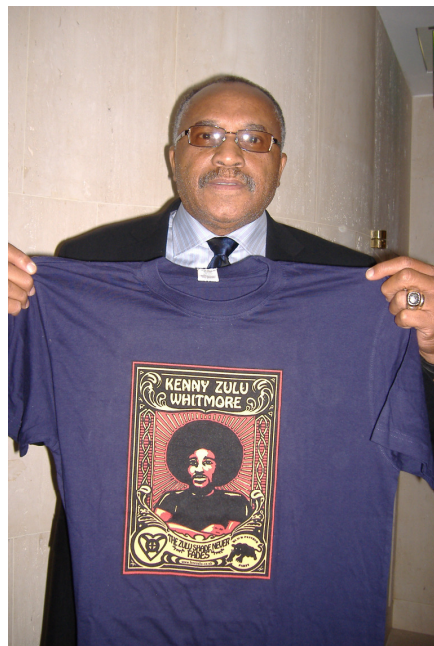
Albert Woodfox and Poppy Richards



Herman Wallace and Poppy Richards

Saluting Tommie Smith

At an event hosted by Camden Council and featuring Chicago-born playwright and critic Bonnie Greer, A3 London/Free Zulu members told guest speaker Tommie Smith about the campaigns and handed out Zulu fliers and A3 postcards to the packed auditorium.



Tommie Smith holding his new Zulu T-shirt

Special Offerings at the Tabernacle

The London committee were out again on November 8, with a stall distributing fliers and selling Zulu T-shirts at Tabernacle Arts Centre in west London.

The centre hosted an evening event of performance and discussion, with contributions from Emory Douglas, Billy X, playwright Vanessa Walters and MC Bashy, to raise money for Panther Alumni projects in the US.



Panel at the Tabernacle event; left-right: Emory Douglas, Massoud Shadrajeh from the Islamic Human Rights Commission, Sukant Chandan (chair) and Billy X

Shopping for Change

London has a fantastic new outlet for raising awareness of the A3 and Zulu and raising money for their causes thanks to The Treatment Rooms, which has launched its new venture, the Black Sheep Curiosity Emporium, in west London. Opened by Emory Douglas on November 1, the Black Sheep is an alternative shop and gallery selling the thought-provoking artwork of The Treatment Rooms collective, founded by A3 London spokesperson Carrie. Curious visitors to the shop, which has been featuring in local media, can buy specially-designed Zulu and A3 ceramic tiles, spray cans, pins, T-shirts and other art and memorabilia. They can also view some of the work created by The Treatment Rooms and other artists around issues such as the Death Penalty. The collective hope the Black Sheep will become a focal point for social activism in the community.



Carrie Reichardt and Emory Douglas at the opening of the Black Sheep Curiosity Emporium of Acton

Anarchist Book Fair

The A3/Zulu stall was out at this annual, high-profile event on October 18 that gathers grassroots movements and activists from around the UK. The group rang up sales of badges, T-shirts and other artwork to raise funds while making useful contacts.

On Air

Carrie and Kev have been hitting the airwaves, both appearing on the Foundry live radio show, which broadcasts to all London and globally online. Kev followed this up by featuring on a two-hour Dissident Island Radio Show answering questions and later guesting as DJ, where he played an hour of straight up funky Panther soul tunes. Right On!

The Big Screen

Two artistic documentaries from London instigated by A3 spokesperson, Carrie, have been doing the rounds of film festivals, helping to raise the international profile of A3 London's work. Experimental art documentary *Tales from the Treatment Rooms: The Luis Ramirez Story* screened at the Critical Resistance CR: 10 Film Festival in Oakland, California in September. The film, featuring an original punk-rock and electronic soundtrack, follows the production of a 22ft-by-6ft mosaic and ceramic wall by The Treatment Rooms. The wall is dedicated to Luis, a death-row inmate and penpal of Carrie's who was executed by the State of Texas in October 2005. *Tales* interviews Luis' family and Carrie as she constructs and installs the mosaic. Through Erin and Billy X, we managed to distribute hundreds of Zulu fliers to festival attendees. More about Luis' story at <http://www.luisramirezstory.net>

The 2008 AV documentary '402', about the execution of John Joe 'Ash' Amador, won the Audience Award at the 2008 Portobello Film Festival in London on September 10. The documentary follows Carrie on her journey to Texas to witness Ash's execution in August 2007 and afterwards capture Alabama 3 musician Nick Reynolds making a death mask of Ash, with permission and blessing from Ash and his family. To see the film trailer, visit <http://punkvert.tv/about/film.htm>

Sign Up for Zulu

A new Zulu MySpace page has just gone live thanks to Anja in the Netherlands: www.myspace.com/freezulu. Make yourself a friend or buy an exclusive, limited-edition Shepard Fairey-authorized Zulu design T-shirt! The MySpace page complements the existing www.freezulu.co.uk website, where all Zulu memorabilia is on sale, and additional details about Zulu's case are posted.

Coming Up

Sunday lunch: Committee members are coordinating a lunch at social centre the Cowley Club in Brighton on November 23 to raise funds. The centre hosts regular Sunday lunches combined with film screenings to help groups make money for causes.

More Black Panther visits: Future joint activities with the Black Panther Commemoration Committee, a newly-formed group that aims to maintain the BPP legacy and support those imprisoned who are affiliated with the BPP, are planned, including a return visit by Billy X. The group is actively trying to organise an event that will bring Panthers together; it is hoped a return trip by Robert King can be facilitated for such an occasion.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE