

OTHER SCREENINGS

Saturday 5 December, 5pm (after the 'Documenting Migration' event from 2-5pm)

Signs of Empire (1984), dir. Black Audio Film Collective, 44 min.

Signs of Empire comprises "an investigation into colonial fantasy" as well as into the historical conditions that informed contemporary racial, economic, and diasporic life in Britain. A montage of texts and images is employed to deconstruct official historical narratives and archival photographs, while the soundtrack combines musique concrete with tape loops of political speech.

Thursday 10 December, 4pm - Double Bill

Grove Roots (2009), dir. Rae Evelyn, Kaye-Ann Adjei, Dontony Gill-Nasady, Moktar Alatas, Zakiya Amlak, Clinton Plummer-Nelson, Bankole Adegbulugbe, Jodechi Cumberbatch, 45 min.

The film unearths the pivotal history of Ladbroke Grove, from the 1958 race riots, to its recent gentrification. Featuring the voices of renowned screenwriters, local musicians, artists and community workers, the film was researched, directed and produced as a collaboration between the eight young filmmakers.

Sam the Wheels (2008) dir. Clovis Salmon, various durations

A selection of digitalised clips from unique film shot between the 1960's and 1980's by Clovis Salmon, a first generation Jamaican migrant who arrived in London in the 1950's. Clovis is an 80 year old ex-Pentecostal minister, locally known as "Sam The Wheels", due to his work building wheels at Holdsworth Cycles, and the repair service he operates from his home in Railton Road. The digitalisation of the footage was part of a participatory arts, video and web project by Mutiny Arts and 198 Gallery exploring the heritage of Brixton.

Thursday 7 January, 4pm - Repeat screening

Pray the Devil Back to Hell (2008), dir. Gini Ritcker, 72 min.

FILMS ON DEMAND

If you want to come in individually or as a group and watch films outside of screening times, you can organise your own screening at Gasworks with the view-on-demand film library. A member of staff will provide you with technical support and access to a list of films including Pray the Devil Back to Hell, Dread, Beat an' Blood, Blood Ah Goh Run, From You Were Black, You Were Out, Sam the Wheels, We are born to Survive and Grove Roots, as well a selection of YouTube clips.

For more information and to arrange a suitable time if you are coming with a group, please contact: info@gasworks.org.uk Tel: 020 7582 6848

Acknowledgements

The film programme has been researched and organised by Marianna Liosi.

Many thanks to those who have contributed ideas and time, and donated films for screening: Celluloid Liberation Front, Cinenova, Colin Prescod (Institute of Race Relations), Concord Media, David Lawson (Smoking Dogs Films), Julia Morandeira, Menelik Shabazz, Mutiny Arts, Paul Okojie and Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre (Manchester), Sukant Chandan.

GASWORKS

with the support of the project DE.MO./MovinUp 2009

by

Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri - Dipartimento della Gioventù,
Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali,
GAI - Associazione per il Circuito dei Giovani Artisti Italiani

Do You Remember Olive Morris?

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2009 – SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2010

exhibition's film programme

Gasworks
155 Vauxhall Street
London SE11 5RH

Film programme

Sunday 22 November, 4pm

Gasworks
155 Vauxhall Street
London SE11 5RH

www.gasworks.org.uk

Tel: 020 7582 6848

Tube stops:
Oval, Vauxhall

**Gasworks has full
wheelchair access.**

Pressure (1975), dir. Horace Ové, 120 min.

Pressure explores the assimilation of Caribbean people into British society and the tensions between the first and second generation of immigrants. Through the story of a London teenager who joins the Black Power movement in the 1970s, Pressure addresses police brutality and highlights the differences that existed inside the movement.

Sunday 29 November, 4pm

Babylon (1980), dir. Franco Rosso, 91 min.

Babylon tells the story of a young Rastafarian toaster (rapper) who hopes to rise above daily-life struggles and to succeed in a Sound System competition. Set in Lewisham during the Thatcher era, the film presents a portrait of inner-city Black youth and their dreams and fears.

Sunday 6 December, 4pm - Double Bill

Baldwin's Nigger (1969), dir. Horace Ové, 48 min.

Baldwin's Nigger is a striking portrait of James Baldwin, one of America's most powerful novelists and spokesman for a generation. The film records a meeting between Baldwin - who is accompanied by comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory - and a radical group of West Indian students in London in late 1969. Baldwin and his audience compare the black experience in America and Britain, dissect the role of the white liberal, and look to the explosions in their own communities for the answers.

Dread, Beat an' Blood (1979), dir. Franco Rosso, 45 min.

A portrait of Jamaican-born poet, writer and musician Linton Kwesi Johnson, and of the Brixton community where he has lived and worked. The film intercuts poetry readings, recordings and interviews, as well as footage of street riots and demonstrations, including one in Bradford where the crowd chant some of Johnson's verses.

Sunday 13 December, 4pm

Born in Flames (1983), dir. Lizzie Borden, 90 min.

A documentary style, feminist science fiction film exploring racism, sexism, classism and heterosexism in the USA. The film follows two feminist groups - one led by an outspoken white lesbian and the other by a soft-spoken African American - which begin to organise a women's revolution through the airwaves of their pirate radios in New York City.

Sunday 10 January, 4pm - Double Bill

From You Were Black, You Were Out (2008), dir. Colin Prescod, 38 min.

Set in Notting Hill in the 1950s, from the emergence of local Black Power groups to the arrival of the area's carnival, the film is a fitting testament to the tenacity and strength of a community. The 'founders' of the Ladbroke Grove community describe their experience of life at that time. With decaying housing, slum landlords and brutal racism, the local community were forced to defend themselves; something that developed into a more general community resistance.

Blood Ah Goh Run (1980), dir. Imruh Caesar and Menelik Shabbazz, 20 min.

Short 'newsfilm' looking back at the tumultuous events of 1981, beginning with the death of 13 Black youths in New Cross, London. The film goes on to show the anger this aroused in the Black community and the march organised for The Black People's Day of Action.

Sunday 17 January, 4pm

Pray the Devil Back to Hell (2008), dir. Gini Ritcker, 72 min.

Combining contemporary interviews, archival images and scenes of present-day Liberia, the film recounts the experiences and memories of the women who stood up to their country's tyrannical leader and brutal warlords, in order to bring peace to their country. Pray the Devil Back to Hell is the gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for a nation torn to shreds by a decade old civil war.

Sunday 23 January, 4pm - Triple Bill

On Becoming An Activist (1999), Angela Davis, 3:36 min (audio)

The opening track in Angela Davis' little known record The Industrial Prison Complex, edited from a recorded lecture given at Colorado Springs in 1997, in which she traces her own path to activism, from the campaign in Birmingham in her youth after the church bombing which killed 4 of her girlfriends, through her prosecution and incarceration for political work around George Jackson & the Panthers, to her anti-prison work today.

David Gilbert: A Lifetime of Struggle
(2002), dir. Claude Marks and Lisa Rudman, 30 min.

A rare opportunity to go behind prison walls for a discussion with David Gilbert, a lifelong anti-imperialist activist and former member of the Weather Underground organisation. Gilbert is serving a life sentence in prison for activities in support of the Black Liberation Movement. He explains why he joined the movement, what led him to go underground, and discusses frankly the strengths and errors of the 1970s struggle.

We Were Born to Survive (1995), dir. Paul Okojie, 29 min.

A political biography of the activist Kath Locke from Manchester, based on an interview conducted shortly before her death in 1992, aged 64. A close friend of Olive Morris, Kath was highly active in campaigning for women's rights as well as in the promotion of many different educational and cultural activities in Moss Side, including the formation of Manchester Black Women Mutual Aid and Abasindi Cooperative.

Do you remember Olive Morris? Exhibition

Gasworks, 21 November 2009 – Sunday 24 January 2010

Developed by artist Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre, the exhibition maps out a three-year long artist and community-led research process conceived to uncover the largely untold history of Brixton-based activist Olive Morris (1952-1979). In her short life, Morris co-founded the Brixton Black Women's Group and the Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD), and was part of the British Black Panther Movement. She campaigned for access to education, decent living conditions and against state and police repression.

The exhibition at Gasworks retraces the different phases and multiple collaborations the project has entailed: starting with the artist's encounter with a photograph of Olive Morris by British Black Panthers' photographer Neil Kenlock; leading on to meeting with community activist Liz Obi, a friend and colleague of Olive Morris and long-term collaborator on this project; and more recently with the formation of the women's group Remembering Olive Collective. The exhibition brings together art works, films, historical photographs and archival material from the newly-created Olive Morris Collection.

Education Projects

Families will be invited to explore the *Do you remember Olive Morris?* exhibition as part of Gasworks' Even Better Together programme, more details will follow on: www.gasworks.org.uk

If you are from a school and would like to book a trip to Gasworks to view the *Do you remember Olive Morris?* exhibition, please contact Katie Orr on 020 7587 5202 or email katie@gasworks.org.uk for further information.

Acknowledgements

All events have been programmed by members of the Remembering Olive Collective. Many thanks to all contributors and speakers who are donating their time, skills and expertise to make this happen. Special thanks to the Morris family, Liz Obi and Mike McColgan for their ongoing support.

Project partners: Gasworks, Lambeth Archives, Brixton Library, Lambeth Women's Project and Black Cultural Archives.

For further information about Olive Morris and ROC, please visit: www.rememberolivemorris.wordpress.com

For further information about the exhibition and the public programme, please contact: Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall Street, London SE11 5RH. Tel: 020 7582 6848 | www.gasworks.org.uk



GASWORKS

Design: Neil McIvor

Do You Remember Olive Morris?



SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2009 – SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2010

A community history project celebrating the figure of Brixton activist Olive Morris (1952-1979)

Calendar of events organised by the **Remembering Olive Collective** in the context of an exhibition at Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall Street, London SE11 5RH

Calendar of Events

Location: all events are held at Gasworks unless otherwise stated.

Entry fee: £1 minimum donation with a free Olive Morris badge.

All donations go to ROC

Gasworks has full wheelchair access.

Children are welcome. Suitable activities for ages 5-11 will be provided during Saturday events. For more information email us on: olivemorrishq@gmail.com

MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 7-8.30PM

The Empty Gallery Interviews

A live conversation piece in which art writers Claire Nichols and Altair Roelants talk to artist Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre and other ROC members about the upcoming exhibition *Do you remember Olive Morris?*

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 2-5PM

Opening of the exhibition *Do you remember Olive Morris?*

With a performance by Alexander D. Great, a contemporary troubadour renowned for his unique blend of Calypso and Soca Blues commenting on the social and political issues of our times.

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 7-9PM

Artist Talk

Sonia Boyce talks about her project *Devotional* - a celebration of Black female singers in British entertainment - and her involvement in the Remembering Olive Collective.

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER, 2-5PM

Documenting Migration

A workshop looking at the ways in which records and documents of migration are kept and used by official bodies and by migrants themselves, and their importance in framing public opinion and policy.

Screening of *Signs of Empire*, 5PM

(1984), dir. Black Audio Film Collective, 44 min.

Signs of Empire comprises "an investigation into colonial fantasy" as well as into the historical conditions that informed contemporary racial, economic, and diasporic life in Britain. A montage of texts and images is employed to deconstruct official historical narratives and archival photographs, while the soundtrack combines musique concrete with tape loops of political speech.

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER

Remembering Olive Bicycle Tour, 12PM

Meeting at 11:45am in front of Olive Morris House, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RL

Visiting some of the places where Olive did things, and learning more about her, and Brixton's history. The bike tour will end at Gasworks in time for the 2pm event. If you would like to do the bike tour but don't know if you are confident enough to ride a bike, get in touch. There is some free cycling training available. Bookings and other info, phone Carolyn on 07912 210 056

Housing Matters, 2-5PM

Olive Morris's squatting years signalled her life-long commitment to campaigning on housing issues. This event investigates how housing has changed since her times, and what forms of struggle have been adopted. We will hear from some of the people who have been involved in those struggles, with a Q&A session with groups who provide advice to tenants, squatters and the homeless, including the Latin American Housing Coop and the Squatters Advisory Service.

SATURDAY 9 JANUARY, 2-5PM

Self-Education: On Alternative Strategies of Education

In Olive Morris' Brixton, self-education initiatives challenged the failings of standard comprehensive education for Black children. Members of ROC will be joined by a diverse group of educators to explore and exchange different approaches towards learning, across sectors and communities. This open, round table discussion will be initiated by a film screening.

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY, 7-9PM

The Heart of the Race: Oral Histories of the Black Women's Movement

The Heart of the Race's author Stella Dadzie with Kelly Foster and Mia Morris from the Black Cultural Archives introduce this year-long oral history project documenting the activism of Black women in the UK. Signed copies of out-of-print *The Heart of the Race* will be on sale.

SATURDAY 16 JANUARY, 2-5PM

Financing the Revolution

How does one fund work of a radical nature? What happens to community initiatives when public and charitable funding dries up, or imposes their own agenda? How can we disentangle ourselves from economic exploitation? With Onyekachi Wambu (AFFORD) on fundraising to support indigenous economic development in Africa, consultant Sandra Hurst on financial literacy for Black liberation, and and Carolyn on low-budget/zero-budget organising.

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY, 2-5PM

Closing event of the exhibition and launch of the publication *Do you remember Olive Morris?*

Your last chance to visit the exhibition, buy a copy of the publication and enjoy an afternoon of music and spoken word, including a poetry slam for young people and the not-so-young.



Do you remember Olive Morris?

Opening: Saturday 21 November, 12-7pm
With performance by Calypso troubadour Alexander D. Great

Exhibition Dates: 21 November 2009 - 24 January 2010

Events: For a comprehensive guide to related events, please check the website

***Do you remember Olive Morris?* uncovers the largely untold history of Brixton-based activist Olive Morris (1952-1979). Developed by artist Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre, this exhibition is a culmination of three years of artist and community-led research inspired by this remarkable figure in South London's recent history.**

In her short life, Olive Morris co-founded the Brixton Black Women's Group and the Organisation of Women of Asian and African Descent (OWAAD) and was part of the British Black Panther Movement. She campaigned for access to education, decent living conditions for Black communities and fought against state and police repression. Despite her young age, she empowered the people who lived and worked around her.

The project on which this exhibition is based was triggered by Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre's encounter with a powerful photograph of Olive Morris taken by the British Black Panthers' photographer Neil Kenlock in 1969. This led to a meeting with community activist Liz Obi, a friend and colleague of Olive Morris, who has since become a collaborator on this project. More recently, the growing interest in Olive Morris led to the formation of the women's group Remembering Olive Collective (ROC). After receiving a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, ROC undertook training in archiving, cataloging and in oral history. Subsequently, these skills were used to form the Olive Morris Collection, which is now publicly accessible at Lambeth Archives and brings together photographs, writings by Olive Morris, letters and ephemera.

Through a combination of art works, films, historical photographs and material from the newly-created archive Olive Morris Collection, the exhibition *Do you remember Olive Morris?* traces the successive phases and multiple collaborations of the project. It also provides a contextual backdrop for a weekly programme of events devised by ROC, bringing to the fore contemporary issues relating to community activism, housing, self-education and migration.

ROC's series of events include *Housing Matters* (Sat 12 Dec, 2-5pm) which addresses the current state of social housing and campaigns for decent homes; *Self Education: On Alternative Strategies of Education* (Sat 9 Jan, 2-5pm) and *The Heart of the Race: Oral Histories of the Black Womens Movement* (Thurs 14 Jan, 7-9pm) a presentation by Kelly Foster and Mia Morris of the Black Cultural Archive's project, documenting the activism of Black women in the UK, with the special participation of Stella Dadzie, one of the authors of the seminal book *The Heart of the Race: Black Women's Lives in Britain*, written in 1985.



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Lambeth



NOTES TO EDITORS

- **Gasworks**

Founded in 1994, Gasworks is an art organisation based in South London, housing twelve artists' studios and proposing a programme of exhibitions and events, artists' residencies, international fellowships and educational projects. Gasworks focuses on visual arts practice in its broadest sense, working discursively with UK-based and international artists to facilitate the development of their work. Gasworks' programme is committed to providing a responsive context, and to disseminating critical practices to a wider audience. Gasworks is part of the Triangle Arts Trust, an international network of artists and organisations.

- **Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre**

Ana Laura Lopez de la Torre (b. 1969, Uruguay) has lived and worked in Brixton since 1995. Using the overlooked and the underrated as a starting point, her work creates visible and unexpected connections between things, people and places. Her practice is collaborative, often acting as a catalyst and involving disparate constituencies with common interests but diverse agendas. Lopez de la Torre's practice is rooted in an engagement with local context, particularly focusing on the life of South London inner city communities. Her commissions include projects for the ICA, the Whitechapel Gallery, La Casa Encendida (Madrid), Tate Modern and South London Gallery. More recently she has completed the 2008-9 Acme Southwark Studio Residency, with the launch of the artist book *Night Time*. She is currently undertaking a PhD at Chelsea College of Art and Design and is working on the inaugural commission for Peckham Space in 2010.

- **Olive Morris (1952 -1979)**

Olive Morris was born in Jamaica in 1952 and moved to the UK in 1961. She studied at Manchester University, gaining a degree in Social Sciences in 1977.

She co-founded the Brixton Black Women's Group and the Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent (OWAAD), and was part of British Black Panther Movement and the Manchester Black Women's Co-operative, amongst other groups. Morris worked at the Brixton Law Centre, campaigned for access to education, decent living conditions for Black communities and fought against state and police repression. She died from cancer at the age of 27.

- **Remembering Olive Collective (ROC)**

The Remembering Olive Collective (ROC) is a group of women composed of over thirty members including artists, activists, academics, archivists, curators, cultural theorists and community workers of varied generations and cultural backgrounds. ROC has undertaken an extensive oral history and cataloguing project leading to the creation of the Olive Morris Collection, which is available to the public from Thursday 22 October 2009 at Lambeth Archives, 52 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY. ROC meets once a month in Brixton, organises regular presentations and runs fundraising activities at cultural and political events, festivals and fairs. For more information, visit: rememberolivemorris.wordpress.com

