

RACE IN NC documentary film forum

Presented by ChathamArts March 21-22 2009

A 100 Mile: Sustainable Cinema Series special event

Featuring Panel Discussion with filmmakers and African-American community leaders, post-screening Q&A's with the producers and directors, live music, local art and more!

Saturday March 21 • 50 West Salisbury Street • Downtown Pittsboro (2:30 – 9:00 PM)

Change Comes Knocking - The Story of the NC Fund (1 hr) by Rebecca Cerese and Dr. Steven Channing. From the producing team of the acclaimed PBS documentary *February One* comes the story of The North Carolina Fund, a groundbreaking anti-poverty initiative launched in 1963 by Governor Terry Sanford. Through interviews and archival materials, this vibrant documentary traces the story of NC Fund: from its innovative start as a public-private partnership, its daring use of integrated teams of college students to assist and strengthen poor communities, to the tension that developed between the traditional top-down approach to poverty relief and the growth of grassroots political advocacy. Greeted with hostility and opposition in its short, five-year existence, the NC Fund was a transformative and influential program that left a legacy that continues today.

FBI-KKK (82 minutes) by Michael Frierson. *FBI KKK* is the story of the filmmaker's father, Dargan Frierson, an FBI agent in Greensboro, NC during the 1960s, and the intersection of his life with George Dorsett, the Imperial Kludd, or chaplain, of the United Klans of America. With the sit-ins of the 1960s, his father came to understand that his job in the FBI--enforcing Federal law--would be a central force for racial justice. And he came to believe that he could tailor his own style of counterintelligence--one that didn't use the illegal tactics J. Edgar Hoover was pushing --to maintain order. Justice might be the ultimate goal, but the first order of business for Dargan Frierson was to keep a lid on violence. A fascinating insider's account of the Klan in North Carolina.

“Frierson's film served as a recurring point of reference and discussion throughout the conference as the embodiment of both the difficulties and promise of addressing race at the crossroads of personal and public history.”

--Professor George Dimock, *Art History, UNC Greensboro* referring to ***FBI-KKK*** as part of the Center for Critical Inquiry's Symposium entitled *Race, Personal History and Public History* held 09/19/08

Family Name (90 minutes) by Macky Alston (partially filmed in Chatham county) As a young child growing up in North Carolina, Macky Alston thought that it was unusual that many of his African American elementary school classmates shared his last name. For years, questions put to his family on the topic remained unanswered, until his father, a civil rights leader and minister, gave Alston a book about the history of their family. The book gave details about the Alstons as one of the largest slave-owning families in antebellum North Carolina. Alston's Sundance award-winning film, chronicles the surprising twists and turns of his search for the descendants of the slaves and slave owners who lived on the plantations once owned by his family.

Sunday March 22 • 50 West Salisbury Street & General Store Café • Downtown Pittsboro

We Shall Not Be Moved (47 minutes) by Gary Grant, Chris Potter and Charles Thompson. *We Shall Not Be Moved* is their song, and it means they “ain't going nowhere!” That's the spirit of the Tillery, North Carolina resettlement, product of a New Deal program offering landless sharecroppers a chance to buy their own farms. Roanoke Farms was one of only a handful of resettlement projects for African Americans. Its families overcame the legacies of slavery and Jim Crow to earn their part of the American Dream. They and their successors continue to battle racism, assaults on their environment, farm foreclosures, and natural disasters. Through archival film and video footage, numerous historical photographs, and the vibrant narratives of Tillery's elders, *We Shall Not Be Moved* shows how seeds of independence planted in the pre-Civil Rights era took root in movements for racial justice in the 1960s and grew into a strong force battling present-day environmental racism and economic marginalization.

For schedule and more information: www.chathamarts.org or call (919) 542-0394