



**HERRLANDER PICTURES
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
OPEN DOOR CO. PRESENTS**

BLACK NATION

A THEATRICAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

**A FILM BY MATS HJELM
BLACK NATION
90 MIN, 35 MM AND
60 MIN, HD**

www.blacknationthefilm.com

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Black men being warehoused in jail – one out of three tied up in the penal system, twenty percent cannot vote due to felony records

Black on black violence at all time high

Fifty percent of young black men in America are unemployed

Big three automakers face bankruptcy

Obama wins ... gives hope to millions of African Americans ... can he deliver?

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THE STARK REALITY AND CONTRAST OF THESE HEADLINES points out the dichotomy of post election '08 America. A black man has attained the highest office in the world, while according to the New York Times black men are “sleeping through the holocaust”. One only has to look to the City of Detroit, once a model of upward mobility for blacks in America. It now sits as a mere shell of its former self – vultures literally picking at the bones of its once great buildings – stripping them of everything from wire to copper pipes. Its economy already in tatters, it awaits the imminent collapse of the auto industry. How is it even possible for the African American men of this once proud City to conceive of a way out of the double jeopardy of crime and unemployment – let alone take positive steps toward the future?

BLACK NATION IS A DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM that takes a hard, uncompromising look at the state of Black men in America today through the prism of the streets of Detroit and the City's controversial Church Shrine of the Black Madonna. The Church's focus on delivering pragmatic programs centered around economic self sufficiency, is a model for Obama's America, as it searches for solutions to seemingly impossible problems. Set within the framework of a Father's day service, the film tracks the despair of its



congregation while at the same time showing the way forward with the great hope and dignity embodied in Obama's words - "yes we can"! The Church strives to promote and develop community led programs and institutions that restore pride and dignity to its congregation and in particular, black men. They are leading by example.

SWEDISH DIRECTOR AND INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED VIDEO ARTIST, MATS HJELM, has a deep personal connection to the City and the Church, which begins with his filmmaker father's documentation of the 1967 Detroit rebellion, the Church's part in this seminal event and Stokely Carmichael's 1968 fundraising tour of Europe. Segments of this historic footage are included in the film. His connection was further deepened through his formal education at Michigan's Cranbrook Academy of Art. Wonderfully shot in HD and presented in 35mm, the result is a beautiful film unlike any other that will deeply affect your view of America today.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have a deep connection with the City and people of Detroit. In 1967, my filmmaker father landed in the City with his camera on the very day when the worst race rebellion in American history up to that time erupted. He captured five days of incredible significance in African American culture. Black Nation is a film about the search for Black Manhood as seen through the prism of the streets of Detroit and it's controversial Church Shrine of the Black Madonna. The Church strives to promote and develop community led programs and institutions that restore pride and dignity to its congregation and in particular, black men.



MAIN CHARACTERS

JARAMOGI MENELIK KIMATHI

Bishop of the Shrine of the Black Madonna
of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church.

Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi is the central character of the film. He is the inspirational leader of his congregation and the force behind their drive toward self sufficiency. The framework of the film is structured around his provocative father's day service.

He is a native of Detroit, and received his BA in Theology/Philosophy from the University of St. Thomas. He attended Yale Divinity School where he earned his Master of Divinity Degree while serving as the president of the Yale Black Seminarians and the pastor of the Black Church at Yale.

He is a highly regarded authority on African and African American History which he has taught for more than twenty years. He is the recipient of a NAACP Unity Award.

ORLANDO RICKETT

Orlando, 23, grew up without his father on Detroit's East Side in a very unstable environment. When he was sixteen he was thrown out of his apartment and his street education began. Shuffling from shelter to shelter Orlando had a crash course in hustling. A street kid with ego and smarts, he has little hope of "pulling out" and views as a gift his ability to "hustle". Orlando's connection to "The Shrine of the Black Madonna" is tenuous, but it grows as the "message" starts to sink in.

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CAZEMBE TERHUNE

Cazembe, 23, was born and raised on the East Side of Detroit and now lives in Atlanta where he has left the streets behind for an education and a productive life. While he lived in Detroit he saw many friends being shot in the streets. His father was shot in cold blood in front of the whole family. Now he is a member of the Church.

THE MOTHERS

We will meet two mothers, Cardinal Hanifa (Linda Curvey-Brown) and Sister Oyin (Denise Mason), both middle aged parishioner's of the church with horrific tales of losing sons to the street. Told with dignity and conviction it will offer a heart breaking point of view of the male "genocide" going on in Black America from a mother's perspective.

CARDINAL MBIYU CHUI

Cardinal Mbiyu is a Pastor of the Church and as a great story teller provides an important narrative about the History of Detroit and the slave trade. He also plays an important role in the church as mentor to young men.

THE CHURCH

The Shrine of the Black Madonna in 2008 Detroit is one of the last remnants of the strong civil rights movement of the sixties. It combines the inheritance of the civil rights struggle with a contemporary understanding of politics and strategy. The members of the Church consider that white America has turned its back on them, so they are turning their backs on white institutions, while building new ones, based on principles of communalism and collective power. They are building a Black Nation. The Shrine of the Black Madonna puts Jesus forward as an example of a black revolutionary leader.



ABOUT THE FILM MAKERS

DIRECTOR/ FILMMAKER - MATS HJELM

An accomplished, internationally recognized visual artist, Mats has developed aesthetically and technically advanced video installations around the world, always with a subliminal political context. His work has been highly recognized and can be seen at www.matshjelm.info. Black Nation is his first feature documentary film, though by no means is he without great experience as a filmmaker. Since 1993 he has had film installation and shows in several European countries, the US, Russia, Canada and Japan.

He has a strong and personal attachment to Detroit. After having studied there at the prestigious Cranbrook Academy of Art, he has done several video installations with themes from Detroit (see White Flight 1997 on his website).

PRODUCER - CLAES HERRLANDER, HERRLANDER PICTURES

Claes is the principal and founder of Stockholm based Herrlander Pictures. Launched in 1995, the company has produced nine documentary films during the last ten years. These films were shot all over the world, including several in developing countries. The films have been produced for European TV broadcasters, as well as organizations like Workers' Educational Association, UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children. The company is a regular contributor to the Swedish Public Broadcast Network.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - TOM POWERS, OPEN DOOR CO.

Tom is a principal in **Open Door Co.**, a Toronto based producer of award winning documentaries, specializing in "**Content that Matters**". Launched in 2005, the company has produced two critically acclaimed award winning feature documentaries, "**Cracked Not Broken**" (HBO) and "**Independent America - The Two Lane Search for Mom & Pop**" (Sundance Channel).

A graduate of Queen's University School of Law, he is a former M&A lawyer with over 10 years of experience in sophisticated multinational corporate transactions with a specialty in knowledge based industries. He has produced 7 prime time series and 5 feature documentaries for clients including HBO, Sundance Channel, NHK, CTV, Discovery Networks, The Documentary Channel, CanWest and SBS, among others.



BLACK NATION

CREDITS

Main Characters in order of appearance:

Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi
Bishop of the Shrine of the Black Madonna
of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church

Sister Kuthala Allen

Organist: Sister Abeni (Ida Johnson)

Orlando Rickett

Mark Cocroft

Singer: Sister Oyin (Denise Mason)

Cardinal Mbiyu Chui (Rev. William Moore)

Major Kokayi (Carl Ware)

Major Sundiata (Ronald Lane)

Singer Lukata (Patrick Kirby)

Sala Dayo

Mother Isoke (Pheobe Reynolds)

Archive: Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr.
Founder and first Bishop of the Shrine
of the Black Madonna of the
Pan African Orthodox Christian Church

Cardinal Karamo (Ron Hewitt)

Cazembe (Antoine Terhune)

Omoredede Booth

Interns at The Maxey Juvenile Center

Cardinal Hanifah (Linda Curvey-Brown)

Cardinal Kenyatta (Paul Holmes)

Singer: Nynye Coston

Major Makini (Brenda Coston)

Ricky Williams (Beulah Land)

Cardinal Muthamaki (Gary Bennett)

Archive: Stokely Carmichael

General Karega (Marvin Roby)

Randy Walker

Members of Shrine Warriors, basket team

Bishop Kehinde Briggs

Steve Shields a.k.a. King Vino

Singer: Daraka (Quenton Manley)

Major Hamani a.k.a. Holy Flame (Willie Johnson)

Ashaki Zeigler

Ayo (D'yal McAllister)

Paul Lee

The choir of the Shrine of the Black Madonna:
The Nationnaires

Musicians from the Shrine of the Black Madonna

Members of the congregation of the Shrine of the
Black Madonna



CREW

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Mats Hjelm

CINEMATOGRAPHY

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Michal Leszcylowski

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Mario Adamson

SOUND MIX

Owe Svensson

MASTERING

Anders Degerberg

COLOR GRADING

Mats Hjelm

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Minja Smajic

David Falk

Johan Gramén

MUSIC CLEARANCES

Tom Powers

Rebecca Case, Octobertunes

BLACK NATION

IMAGES



BlackNation1.jpg

Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi
Bishop of the Shrine of the Black Madonna
of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church.



BlackNation2.jpg

Shrine of the Black Madonna, Detroit,
Michigan



BlackNation3.jpg

The choir of the Shrine of the Black
Madonna: The Nationnaires, with
solo singer Sister Oyin (Denise Mason).



BlackNation4.jpg

The choir of the Shrine of the Black
Madonna: The Nationnaires.



BlackNation5.jpg

Cardinal Mbiyu Chui.



BlackNation6.jpg

Orlando Rickett.



BlackNation8.jpg

Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi
Bishop of the Shrine of the Black Madonna
of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church.



MatsHjelm1.jpg

Director Mats Hjelm.



MatsHjelm2.jpg

Director Mats Hjelm.