



FESTIVALS:

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Sundance Film Festival, World Documentary Editing Award

To attend 2011:

BERLINALE

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SAN FRANCISCO FILM FESTIVAL

TRUE/FALSE FILM FEST

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AMBULANTE

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A Story AB, Louverture Films and Sveriges Television co-production

www.blackpowermixtape.com

The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975

A film by Göran Hugo Olsson

Including appearances by:

Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture)
 Eldridge Cleaver
 Kathleen Cleaver
 Bobby Seale
 Huey P. Newton
 Emile de Antonio
 William Kunstler
 Angela Davis

Including audio commentary by:

Erykah Badu
 Harry Belafonte
 Kathleen Cleaver
 Angela Davis
 John Forté
 Robin Kelley
 Talib Kweli
 Abiodun Oyewole
 Melvin Van Peebles
 Sonia Sanchez
 Bobby Seale
 Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson

Credits:

Director:	Göran Hugo Olsson
Producer:	Annika Rogell / Story AB
Co-Producer:	Joslyn Barnes, Danny Glover / Louverture Films
Co-Producer:	Sveriges Television AB
Executive Producer:	Tobias Janson
Music Producer:	Corey Smyth / Blacksmith Corp.
Editors:	Hanna Lejonqvist SFK Göran Hugo Olsson
Art Director:	Stefania Malmsten
Soundmix:	Anders Nyström

Original Music by: Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson & Om’Mas Keith

The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975

A film by Göran Hugo Olsson

ABOUT THE FILM

Logline

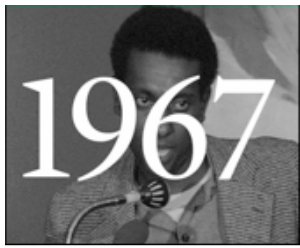
The Black Power Mixtape examines the evolution of the Black Power Movement in the black community and Diaspora from 1967 to 1975. The film combines music, startling 16mm footage (lying undiscovered in the cellar of Swedish Television for 30 years), and contemporary audio interviews from leading African-American artists, activists, musicians and scholars.

Synopsis

The Black Power Mixtape is an archive- and music- driven documentary that examines the evolution of the Black Power Movement in the African-American community and Diaspora from 1967 to 1975. Combining startlingly fresh and meaningful 16mm footage that had been lying undiscovered in the cellar of Swedish Television for the past 30 years, with contemporary audio interviews from leading African-American artists, activists, musicians and scholars, Mixtape looks at the people, society, culture and style that fuelled a change. Utilizing an innovative format that riffs on the popular 70s mixtape format, the Black Power Mixtape is a cinematic and musical journey into the ghettos of America.

At the end of the Sixties and into the early Seventies, Swedish interest in the US Civil Rights Movement and the US anti-war movement peaked. With a combination of commitment and naiveté, Swedish filmmakers traveled across the Atlantic to explore the Black Power Movement, which was being alternately ignored or portrayed in the US media as a violent, nascent terrorist movement. Despite the obstacles they were confronted with, both from the conservative white American power establishment and from radicalized Movement members themselves, the Swedish filmmakers did not cease their investigation and ultimately formed bonds with key figures in the BPM, based on their common objective of realizing equal rights for all.

Filmmaker Göran Hugo Olsson brings this newly discovered footage to light and introduces it to a new generation across the world in a penetrating examination – through the lens of Swedish filmmakers – of the Black Power Movement from 1967-1975, and its worldwide resonance.



About the Story and Production

At the end of the Sixties and into the early Seventies, European interest in the US Civil Rights Movement and the US anti-war movement peaked. With a combination of commitment and naiveté, Swedish filmmakers traveled across the Atlantic to explore the Black Power Movement, which was being alternately ignored or portrayed in the US media as a violent, nascent terrorist movement. Despite the obstacles they were confronted with, both from the conservative white American power establishment and from radicalized Movement members themselves, the Swedish filmmakers did not cease their investigation and ultimately formed bonds with key figures in the Movement, based on their common objective of realizing equal rights for all.

In the Black Power Mixtape filmmaker Göran Olsson brings this newly discovered footage to light and introduces it to a new generation across the world in a penetrating examination – through the lens of Swedish filmmakers – of the Black Power Movement from 1967-75, and its worldwide resonance.

That the film is told from the Swedish perspective lends it a unique advantage – it establishes the era, place and its perspective cleanly and clearly, and without bringing the kind of loaded assumptions or baggage to the subject matter that have long kept the story of the Movement from mainstream discussion. Where the earlier US Civil Rights Movement has been recognized if somewhat sanitized, the Black Power Movement has been historically vilified on the one hand and fetishized on the other. Its legacy has not been properly contextualized, and its influence on other liberation struggles and political movements has been virtually erased. The film emphasizes intimate and reflective moments with the intention of situating the Movement both in its domestic and international context, while at the same time introducing contemporary perspectives on its successes and failures, its resonance and importance today.

Filed interviews include such figures as Stokely Carmichael, Eldridge Cleaver, Bobby Seale, and Angela Davis when she was in prison, as well as footage from Lars Ulvestam's televised film *Harlem: Voices, Faces*. (When that film aired in Sweden, the embarrassed US Ambassador to Sweden demanded and was granted airtime on Swedish Television to explain away the film's "many flaws".)

Audio interviews with key contemporary figures complement the archival and create a formal mosaic that is uplifting and moving in its impact, introducing a new generation to a dynamic progressive movement for change. Utilizing an innovative format that riffs on the popular 70s 'mixtape', the Black Power Mixtape film is a cinematic and musical journey into the ghettos of America that features some of the country's most innovative recording artists.

At its heart, The Black Power Mixtape is a story about empowerment. It's a moving and inspirational vehicle that takes the audience on a journey through the specific time period of 1967-1975 and the pressing issues of concern then (the Vietnam war, failing public schools, drug addiction, record levels of incarceration, extreme poverty, lack of government accountability and the pervasiveness of structural racism) while at the same time organically provoking deep questions about where Americans find themselves and the country today.

With the clear objective of introducing a new generation to the Black Power Movement, the filmmaker worked with some of today's most talented artists (including Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, Om'Mas Keith, and The Roots) to create a soundtrack that complements and enhances the form and content of the film.

As the Movement went far beyond the purely political, the film also takes us on a cinematic journey into the styles, culture, fashion and more deeply – questions of identity that were critical to the empowerment and education of subsequent generations.

Featuring appearances by:

Stokely Carmichael (later Kwame Ture)(1941-1998): Leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), later “Honorary Prime Minister” of the Black Panther Party

Eldridge Cleaver (1935-1998): Minister of Information of the Black Panther Party

Huey P. Newton (1942-1989): Co-founder and leader of the Black Panther Party

Emile de Antonio (1919-1989): Director and Producer of documentary films, detailing political or social events

Featuring appearances and audio commentary by:

Harry Belafonte: singer, recording artist, actor and activist

Kathleen Cleaver: Communications Secretary, Black Panther Party, professor

Bobby Seale: Co-founder of the Black Panther Party

Angela Davis: political activist, professor and author

Featuring contemporary audio commentary by:

Erykah Badu: recording artist

Robin Kelley: professor, author

Talib Kweli: hip-hop recording artist

Melvin Van Peebles: actor, director

Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson: music producer, DJ, drummer for The Roots

Sonia Sanchez: poet, professor, associated with the Black Arts Movement

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

There was a rumor around for years among filmmakers that Sweden had more archive material on the Black Panthers than the entire USA. A couple of years ago, I was working on a film on Philly Soul and was browsing the archives at the Swedish Television and found out that it was true. Maybe not exactly, but the stuff on the Black Power movement was amazing and rich. I immediately knew this was golden. Absolutely crisp footage with amazing personalities, shown only once a long time ago, in Sweden. The moment we saw the archive footage that makes up the film, we knew we were going to do *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-75*, one way or another. We didn't sit and wait for approval from anyone; we started doing what we believed in, and found the funds along the way. I also saw it as my duty to take these fantastic images from the cellar and make them accessible to an audience.

My interest and dedication to this project has its roots in the 1970s when, as a student, my school years were infused with a sense of solidarity with liberation movements. Many of my classmates were children of Holocaust survivors or expelled Jews from the 1968 pogroms in Poland, others were part of the Allende-Chilean exile community living in Sweden. We raised monies for the ANC after the Soweto uprising in South Africa, and in 1980-81 all of us were engaged in support work for the Solidarity strikes in Poland. My own consciousness was deeply affected by these struggles.

The film is a Mixtape, not a remix. I wanted to keep the feeling of the material, not cut it into pieces. My respect for not only the personalities in the images, but also for the filmmakers, is total. The people in the film changed the world for the better. Not only for black people in America, or any marginalized group, but for all people. They showed that you couldn't sit around and wait for someone to give you your rights; you have to take a stand and realize them. And this goes for every individual, even if you are a white middle-class male living in Sweden. It's about self-empowerment as well as empowering others.

I decided to riff on the popular '70s 'mixtape' format, which I feel will appeal aesthetically and formally to younger generations, and to include audio interviews with key contemporary figures to complement the unusual beauty of 16mm archival, putting the images in context and creating a formal mosaic that is uplifting and moving in impact.

To me the biggest surprise in making *THE BLACK POWER MIXTAPE 1967-1975* was meeting one of my subjects - Angela Davis. I had admired her for so many years from seeing her on TV and her biography. The footage that we assembled in the film is something that no one outside of Swedish television had seen before. While watching those segments from years ago, I was moved by her interviews and the way she spoke so directly and with knowledge and a subtlety that was so powerful. Then, when I actually met her, I was blown away completely. I felt kind of chastened presuming she was this solely this ultra-serious scholar, only to find out she was a humorous, witty and very warm person. It was great.

Further, this same feeling of surprise resonated with all the other persons I had interviewed for the film. As a documentary filmmaker, you aren't quite sure how your subjects and interviewees are going to respond especially on a film that covers many sensitive issues. But everyone involved with *THE BLACK POWER MIXTAPE 1967-1975* that we approached for interviews and participation has been so generous and giving including: Erykah Badu, Talib Kweli, Harry Belafonte, Kathleen Cleaver, Sonia Sanchez, Bobby Seale and Questlove who also provided the film with best imaginable music.

The hardest part of doing *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-75* was to leave out wonderful stuff that didn't fit into the storyline. For example, we had some awesome footage about the Shirley

Chisholm campaign in 1972, and I still have sleepless nights for cutting it out. But we just could not make room for it.

My desire is to create a film that illuminates the remarkable people, society, activism, culture and styles that fuelled a change.

Göran Hugo Olsson - Filmmaker

CO-PRODUCERS NOTE

I will never forget the day this tall, lanky Swede, Göran Olsson, walked into my office at Louverture Films and announced he wanted to make a film about the Black Power movement. Once I got over the initial surprise, and Göran started to roll the footage, I had a different kind of surprise. I rang up my producing partner Danny Glover immediately and said, "There's something extraordinary you've got to see."

At Louverture we were tremendously excited to participate in producing a film that presents the Black Power movement and the people who shaped it in a compelling and fresh way, other than the one we as Americans have been historically conditioned to accept with all its stereotypes and clichés. (And I refer to those of us who actually know about the Black Power movement, because Black Power has to a large extent been deliberately erased.) The Swedish angle is tremendously helpful as while it comes with its own assumptions and presumptions, these are far less loaded with baggage than American interviews from the same time period.

In *The Black Power Mixtape*, we finally see the intelligence, analysis, humanism and humour - the genuinely committed response to the unjust conditions of the time, many of which persist or are even worse today. From Malcolm X, to the split in SNCC in the direction of Stokely Carmichael, to the Black Panther Party's attempt to model an alternative way of living in response to state sponsored violence, to the attempted legal lynching of Angela Davis, we see the intellect and courage that fired a movement unsatisfied with the progress and process of the civil rights struggle that preceded it. We also see the state response, COINTELPRO, the roots of the surveillance society we live today in 2011: infiltration, provocateurism, entrapment, renditions, assassinations and the suspension of civil liberties and rights.

The people who emerged as leaders in this time period, whether we agree in retrospect with what they might have said then or not, created an important and lasting legacy. Some of the major gains of the civil rights movement and other progressive movements would not have existed without the committed stand the Black Power movement took. Black studies, Africana studies would likely not exist at all if it had not been for them. And the Black Power movement was one of the first to move beyond single issues and to ultimately reach out to other struggles for social justice like the American Indian Movement (AIM), and the Chicano and feminist movements. In India today, there is a social justice movement by the Dalit (untouchables) caste called the "Dalit Panthers."

We offer this film in the spirit of empowerment. We hope to inspire ourselves and younger generations to continue the work, and to believe in the possibility of positive change in our own time.

Joslyn Barnes, Co-producer
Louverture Films

BIOGRAPHY - GÖRAN HUGO OLSSON

Born 1965 in Lund, Sweden. Olsson was educated at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Stockholm after film studies at Stockholm University. He is a Documentary filmmaker, cinematographer and manufacturer of his own innovation - the A-cam, a Super-16 film camera. He was editor, as well as founder of the short documentary television program "Ikon" (SVT). Prior to that, he worked on another series for SVT. "Elbyl."

Olsson is the Co-founder of the production company Story AB. He served as Commission Consultant at the Swedish Film Institute during 2000-02 and has traveled the world making films, commercials, information films and music videos.

Olsson is a member of the Editorial board of Ikon South Africa - a platform for the creative documentary in South Africa. It is a joint project between Ikon/Sweden and Ikon/South Africa since 1999. The Swedish/South African Culture Partnership Programme, SABC, SFI and DAC support this alliance.

Selected Filmography

Am I Black Enough For You/ 87 / 58min/year 2008 documentary with the support from the Swedish Film Institute, the Danish Film Institute, the Nordic Film & TV Fond, the Finnish Film Foundation, the Arts Grants Committee in co-production with SVT also in collaboration with YLE, DR, NRK and ETV. In collaboration with TVF International and Drakes Avenue Pictures.

Annika Nilsson, Supertintendent/15 min/year 2008 documentary with support from the Swedish Film Institute and co-produced with SVT

Ken Allen/13 min/year 2007 animation by Göran Olsson with support from the Swedish Film Institute, the Danish Film Institute and the Nordic Film- & TV Fond also in collaboration with SVT and DR

Back/28 min/year 2004/Fashion documentary in co-production with SVT/Documentary Department

Fuck you, Fuck you very much/50min/ year 1998/Feature music documentary film with support from the Swedish Film Institute and the Nordic Film- & TV Fond also in collaboration with SVT, YLE and NRK, Theatrical distributor Folkets Bio.

Kaliningrad?/9 min/year 1998, documentary in collaboration with David Aronowitsch for Elbyl the Swedish Television (SVT)

Natalia and the future/11 min, year/year 1997 documentary in collaboration with David Aronowitsch supported by the Swedish Film Institute

Leonie Geisendorf- Architect/10 min/ year1995 documentary in collaboration with David Aronowitsch for the Swedish Television (SVT)

The Night of the Gypsies /58 min/year 1994 documentary in collaboration with David Aronowitsch for the Swedish Television (SVT) screened in SVT 1994 and in cable-television in France, Italy, Poland, Germany etc.

Brålanda-Minsk/29 min/ year 1993 documentary in collaboration with David Aronowitsch for the Swedish Television (SVT)

KEY PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Director, Göran Olsson

Born in Lund. Documentary filmmaker, cinematographer. Co-founder of Story AB. Commission Consultant at the Swedish Film Institute during 2000-02. Has traveled the world making films. Member of the Editorial board of Ikon South Africa - a platform for the creative documentary in South Africa. Documentary film work includes *Fuck You, Fuck You Very Much* (nominated as the second best rock-documentary of all times by legendary Bon Magazine) and the recently completed film on soul artist Billy Paul, *Am I Black Enough for You*.

Producer, Annika Rogell

Born in Stockholm. Educated in the leading Film School in Sweden, Dramatic Institute, Master Film Producer. She has worked with leading Swedish Production Companies as Memphis, Garagefilm International, Fasad and Filmlance. She started working with Story AB in January 2009. She has produced several of prizewinning shorts. Recently completed the film *Yoghurt*, director Sanna Lenken, co-produced with Hobab, the Swedish Film Institute, Film i Väst, and Swedish Television, honorable mention at Gothenburg Film Festival 2010. A part of EAVE 2011.

Co-Producer, Joslyn Barnes

Joslyn Barnes is a writer and Emmy® nominated producer. She is the author or co-author of numerous commissioned screenplays for feature films including the upcoming epic TOUSSAINT, the Indian feature THE COSMIC FOREST, and the award-winning film BATTU, which she associate produced. Among the films Barnes has executive produced or produced since co-founding Louverture Films are: the award-winning features BAMAKO and SALT OF THIS SEA; the broadcast music documentary AFRICA UNITE; Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner, and Oscar® and Emmy® nominated TROUBLE THE WATER; Oscar® shortlisted SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION; and the forthcoming THE BLACK POWER MIXTAPE, DUM MAARO DUM and THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MCKINLEY NOLAN. Barnes also associate produced Elia Suleiman's THE TIME THAT REMAINS, and the 2010 Cannes Palme d'Or winner UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES by Apichatpong Weerasethakul.

Co-Producer, Danny Glover

In addition to being one of the most acclaimed actors of our time, with a career spanning 30 years from *Places in the Heart*, *The Color Purple*, the *Lethal Weapon* series and the award-winning *To Sleep with Anger*, Danny Glover has also produced, executive produced and financed numerous projects for film, television and theatre. Among these are *Good Fences*, *3 AM*, *Freedom Song*, *Get on the Bus*, *Deadly Voyage*, *Buffalo Soldiers*, *The Saint of Fort Washington* and *To Sleep with Anger*, as well as the series *Courage* and *America's Dream*. Since co-founding Louverture Films Glover has executive produced BAMAKO, AFRICA UNITE, TROUBLE THE WATER, SALT OF THIS SEA, SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION, THE TIME THAT REMAINS, UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES, THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MCKINLEY NOLAN, and the forthcoming THE BLACK POWER MIXTAPE, and DUM MAARO DUM.

Music Producer, Corey Smyth

Smyth founded Blacksmith Management in 1991 during his years at Morehouse College. In 1996, he began managing De La Soul and this opportunity led to the management of a young Brooklyn rapper named Mos Def. In 2003, Smyth co-founded Spitkicker, Inc. a social activist and artist collective that has since expanded into a website, newsletter and syndicated radio show on XM Satellite Radio. That same year, he began work as the music director and talent booker for comedian Dave Chappelle's comedy series CHAPPELLE'S SHOW, where he brought in musical artists like Common, John Legend, Kanye West and The Roots. His industry relationships and superb musical direction led him to producing DAVE CHAPPELLE's BLOCK

PARTY released in March 2006. In that same year Smyth and partner Talib Kweli inked a deal with Warner Bros Records to distribute, market and promote for their label Blacksmith Music Group. In 2009, Smyth served as music producer on the forthcoming Louverture Films-produced music documentary SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION for Academy Award® winning filmmakers Bill Guttentag and Dan Sturman.

Executive Producer, Tobias Janson

Born in Gothenburg. Educated at the Nordic Documentary Film School at Biskops-Arnö and Stockholm University, Directing and Film Studies. His first documentary was Nebulosan (2000, for SVT together with Eric M Nilsson), and he has since then been working mostly as editor, producer and film teacher. He has published two books about Swedish Film. He is now CEO of Story AB.

Art Director, Stefania Malmsten

She is an art director and a graphic designer. She was one of the founders of Pop and Bibel magazines in Sweden and is a former art director at Vogue Hommes International in Paris. She received The Berling Prize, Sweden's most prestigious graphic design-prize, in 2006.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANIES:

Story AB

Story produces documentaries for television and cinema. We make international and national productions financed mostly from Film Institutes and Public Service Channels in Europe. Story has a high ambition in producing both personal and inventive films. Our main resources are groundbreaking stories and the talented directors we represent. Story has produced documentaries, both shorts and features, as well as animated documentaries and commercial work with a documentary base. We have also engaged and promoted the work of new and emerging filmmakers by creating a special TV-series for short creative documentary films. The series Ikon was a success and a number of the films produced within the framework have received prizes from around the world, including Best Short at HotDocs in 2004 and Best Short at IDFA in 2008. Story is also part of a network of Nordic film companies in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

Louverture Films

New York based Louverture Films is dedicated to the development and production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value and artistic integrity. Taking its name and inspiration from the great leader of the Haitian Revolution, Toussaint Louverture - famous for creating an "opening" in the face of enormous obstacles - Louverture Films partners with progressive filmmakers and producers around the world and particularly from the global South, and pro-actively supports the employment of cast and crew from communities of color in the United States.



"You're either part of the solution or part of the problem."

Eldridge Cleaver

With support from the Swedish Film Institute, Lars G. Lindström / Nordisk Film & TV Fond / MEDIA Programme of the European Union / the Swedish Arts Grants Committee

Co-produced with ZDF in association with ARTE, commissioning editor Martin Pieper

In association with Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS),
 Irène Challand and Gaspard Lamunière /
 YLE Teema, Ritva Leino /
 Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK), Tore Tomter /
 Greek Radio Television (ERT), Irene Gavala-Chardalia

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