

Audre Lorde's Legacy

Film & Cultural Festival

2012 marks the 20-year anniversary of Audre Lorde's passing. She was a highly influential, award-winning African-American, lesbian, poet, author, mother, teacher and activist. In honor of her legacy four films will be brought to universities, libraries, and community venues, accompanied by a reading from the biography of Ika Hügel-Marshall (see below). The films include:

Audre Lorde - The Berlin Years 1984 to 1992 (2012). Dagmar Schultz, 58 minutes



Photo Lausitzerplatz, Berlin © Dagmar Schultz

» **This film introduces American audiences to a little-known chapter of Audre Lorde's prolific life.** From 1984 through her death in 1992, she spent a part of each year in Berlin, Germany, first as a visiting professor, but more significantly, as the mentor and catalyst who almost single-handedly ignited the Afro-German movement. With her active support a whole generation of writers and poets for the first time gave voice to their unique experience as people of color in Germany. Lorde had a decisive impact on white women—challenging them to acknowledge the significance of their white privilege—and to deal with difference in

constructive ways.

- » **The film outlines her contributions to the German discourse** on racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, classism, and homophobia within the Black movement and the Black and White women's movement, a discourse alive and growing today. Present-day interviews explore the lasting influence of Lorde's ideas and the impact of her work and personality.
- » **The film contains never-before seen images** and audio recorded during this period of Lorde's life, showing Lorde on and off stage. Dagmar Schultz, a personal friend and her German publisher, will be present to introduce the film and follow up with Q&A. **web site:** <http://www.audrelorde-theberlinyears.com>

A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde, (1995). Michelle Parkerson and Ada Griffin, 90 minutes

- » **An epic portrait of Audre Lorde**, whose writings—spanning five decades—articulated some of the most important social and political visions of the century. From Lorde's childhood roots in NYC's Harlem to her battle with breast cancer, this moving film explores a life and a body of work that embodied the connections between the Civil Rights movement, the Women's movement, and the struggle for lesbian and gay rights. At the heart of this documentary is Lorde's own challenge to "envision what has not been and work with every fiber of who we are to make the reality and pursuit of that vision irresistible." **web site:** <http://www.twn.org/catalog/pages/cpage.aspx?rec=1126&card=price>



Photo © Third World Newsreel

The Edge of Each Other's Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde (2002). Jennifer Abod, Ph.D., 59 minutes

- » This powerful documentary is a moving tribute to Audre Lorde (1934-1992). One of the most celebrated icons of feminism's second wave, Lorde inspired several generations of activists with her riveting poetry, serving as a catalyst for change and uniting the communities of which she was a part: black arts and black liberation, women's liberation and lesbian and gay liberation.



Photo © Women Make Movies

Nowhere was this more apparent than the groundbreaking *I AM YOUR SISTER CONFERENCE* which brought together 1,200 activists from 23 countries, including thrilling footage of the inimitable Lorde herself, and candid interviews with conference organizers. This film powerfully brings Lorde's legacy of poetry and politics to life and conveys the spirit, passion and intensity that remains her trademark. **web site:** <http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c621.shtml>

Hope in My Heart: The May Ayim Story (1997). Maria Binder, 29 minutes



Photo from *Hope in My Heart*
© Dagmar Schultz

- » **A moving documentary** about the life and untimely death of Ghanaian-German poet, academic and political personality May Ayim.
- » **May Ayim was a personal friend** of Audre Lorde. As to Lorde's influence on her poetic work Ayim said: "One of my models is Audre Lorde, (...) who does stand very much behind what she is doing and expressing it openly, for instance, that she is lesbian, mother, Black, poet, cancer survivor. The way she stood there saying who she was impressed me a lot, because normally people hide behind their words."
- » **Ayim was one of the founders** of the Black German Movement, and her research on the history of Afro-Germans, but also her political poetry, made her known in Germany and other countries. Ayim wrote in the tradition of oral poetry and felt a strong connection to other black poets of the diaspora.
- » **Poetry gave her an opportunity** to confront the white German society with its own prejudices. Interviews and poems reveal the search for identity, how and why the term Afro-German was introduced. An insightful look at how a young black woman experiences the German reunification. (German with English subtitles).

» Dagmar Schultz, co-producer of the film and publisher of *May Ayim*, will be present to introduce the film and to follow up with Q&A. **web site:** <http://www.twn.org/catalog/pages/cpage.aspx?rec=1015&card=price>

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In addition to the films, author Ika Hügel-Marshall, M.A., will appear in person to read from her autobiography, *Invisible Woman: Growing Up Black in Germany* (2001). She was the recipient of the Audre Lorde Literary Award, which enabled her to write this critically-acclaimed work. Hügel-Marshall also appears in the film *Audre Lorde - The Berlin Years*, and was a close personal friend of Lorde. **web site:** <http://www.ika-huegel-marshall.de>



Photo © Ika Hügel-Marshall

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Photo © Dagmar Schultz

Dagmar Schultz, Ph.D., was a co-founder of the **Feminist Women's Health Center** in Berlin in 1974, the first of its kind in Germany. In 1974 she also co-founded **Orlanda Women's Press** (Orlanda Frauenverlag) and was its (co-)publisher until 2001. In addition, Schultz was a professor at Berlin universities. Since 2004, Dagmar Schultz has been involved in writing and in organizing reading tours in the US for her partner Ika Hügel-Marshall (author of *Invisible Woman. Growing up Black in Germany*) as well as other projects. In 2007 she co-produced the film *Hope in My Heart - The May Ayim Story*. Recently she was awarded the **Margherita-von-Brentano-Preis 2011**, by the Free University of Berlin, for work and projects which further the development of equal rights and opportunities for women in academia and the promotion of women's and gender studies and research. She is the producer of the documentary *Audre Lorde - The Berlin Years 1984 to 1992*. **web site:** <http://www.dagmarschultz.com>

This event could be presented as a full day, or cover two evenings. Suggested tour dates with Ika Hügel-Marshall and Dagmar Schultz are February through March (African-American and Women's History Months) and/or September 2012. For information on availability and financial requirements, please contact: press@audrelorde-theberlinyears.com.