Chisholm ‘72: Unbought & Unbossed
Recalling a watershed event in US politics, this Peabody Award-winning documentary takes an in-depth look at the 1972 presidential campaign of Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and the first to seek nomination for the highest office in the land. Shunned by the political establishment and the media, this longtime champion of marginalized Americans asked for support from people of color, women, gays, and young people newly empowered to vote at the age of 18. Chisholm's bid for an equal place on the presidential dais generated strong, even racist opposition. Yet her challenge to the status quo and her message about exercising the right to vote struck many as progressive and positive.
kanopy.com/video/crisholm-72

Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise
Distinctly referred to as “a redwood tree, with deep roots in American culture,” Dr. Maya Angelou led a prolific life. As a singer, dancer, activist, poet and writer, she inspired generations with lyrical modern African-American thought that pushed boundaries. Best known for her autobiography I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, she gave people the freedom to think about their history in a way they never had before.
kanopy.com/video/maya-angelou-and-still-i-rise

Jackie Robinson
Jack Roosevelt Robinson rose from humble origins to cross baseball’s color line and become one of the most beloved men in America. A fierce integrationist, Robinson used his immense fame to speak out against the discrimination he saw on and off the field, angering fans, the press, and even teammates who had once celebrated him for “turning the other cheek.” After baseball, he was a widely-read newspaper columnist, divisive political activist and tireless advocate for civil rights, who later struggled to remain relevant as diabetes crippled his body and a new generation of leaders set a more militant course for the civil rights movement.
kanopy.com/video/ken-burns-jackie-robinson-part-1

I Am Not Your Negro
An Oscar-nominated documentary narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO explores the continued peril America faces from institutionalized racism. In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project, Remember This House. The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and successive assassinations of three of his close friends—Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. At the time of Baldwin’s death in 1987, he left behind only thirty completed pages of his manuscript.
kanopy.com/video/i-am-not-your-negro

Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child
In his short career, Jean-Michel Basquiat was a phenomenon. He became notorious for his graffiti art under the moniker Samo in the late 1970s on the Lower East Side scene, sold his first painting to Deborah Harry for $200 and became best friends with Andy Warhol. Appreciated by both the art cognoscenti and the public, Basquiat was launched into international stardom. However, soon his cult status began to override the art that had made him famous in the first place.
kanopy.com/video/jean-michel-basquiat-radiant-child
Programming Guide:

Black History Month 2020

Pioneering Black Filmmakers

The Watermelon Woman

Cheryl Dunye plays a version of herself in this witty, nimble landmark of New Queer Cinema. A video store clerk and fledging filmmaker, Cheryl becomes obsessed with the “most beautiful mammy,” a character she sees in a 1930s movie. Determined to find out who the actress she knows only as the “Watermelon Woman” was and make her the subject of a documentary, she starts researching and is bowled over to discover that not only was Fae Richards a fellow Philadelphian but also a lesbian.

kanopy.com/video/watermelon-woman

Moonlight

Oscar-winner for Best Picture, MOONLIGHT is a moving and transcendent look at three defining chapters in the life of Chiron, a young man growing up in Miami. His epic journey to adulthood, as a shy outsider dealing with difficult circumstances, is guided by support, empathy and love from the most unexpected places. Winner of multiple Oscars including Best Picture, Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role and Best Adapted Screenplay.

kanopy.com/video/moonlight

Sidewalk Stories

A young artist living in New York, on the fringes of the financial district and its rushing crowds, tries to make a living sketching passers-by on the street. He survives on his meager means and has found refuge in an abandoned building. One night, on the corner of a back alley, he finds a little girl whose father has just been murdered. While struggling to take care of her, he meets a young rich woman who immediately falls in love with this awkward couple.

kanopy.com/video/sidewalk-stories

Daughters of the Dust

At the dawn of the 20th century, a multi-generational family in the Gullah community on the Sea Islands off of South Carolina - former West African slaves who adopted many of their ancestors' Yoruba traditions - struggle to maintain their cultural heritage and folklore while contemplating a migration to the mainland, even further from their roots. The first wide release by a black female filmmaker, DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST was met with wild critical acclaim and rapturous audience response when it initially opened in 1991. Casting a long legacy, DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST still resonates today, most recently as a major influence on Beyonce's video album Lemonade.

kanopy.com/video/daughters-dust

Da Sweet Blood of Jesus

Spike Lee's stylized thriller DA SWEET BLOOD OF JESUS is a new kind of love story. Dr. Hess Green becomes cursed by a mysterious ancient African artifact and is overwhelmed with a newfound thirst for blood. He, however, is not a vampire. Soon after his transformation he enters into a dangerous romance with Ganja Hightower that questions the very nature of love, addiction, sex, and status in our seemingly sophisticated society.

kanopy.com/video/da-sweet-blood-jesus
Mavis!

An award-winning documentary on gospel/soul music legend and civil rights icon Mavis Staples and her family group, The Staple Singers. From the freedom songs of the ’60s and hits like “I’ll Take You There” in the ’70s, to funked-up collaborations with Prince and her recent albums with Wilco’s Jeff Tweedy, Mavis has stayed true to her roots, kept her family close, and inspired millions along the way.

kanopy.com/video/mavis-0

Strange Fruit: The Biography of a Song

STRANGE FRUIT is the first documentary exploring the history and legacy of the Billie Holiday classic. The song’s evolution tells a dramatic story of America’s radical past using one of the most influential protest songs ever written as its epicenter. The saga brings viewers face-to-face with the terror of lynching even as it spotlights the courage and heroism of those who fought for racial justice when to do so was to risk ostracism and livelihood if white - and death if Black. It examines the history of lynching, and the interplay of race, labor and the left, and popular culture as forces that would give rise to the Civil Rights Movement.

kanopy.com/video/strange-fruit-biography-song

Sidemen: Long Road to Glory The Lives of Three Chicago Blues Musicians

An intimate look into the incredible lives and influence of three of the Chicago Blues sidemen - Pinetop Perkins, Willie “Big Eyes” Smith and Hubert Sumlin. Haunting imagery of the Mississippi Delta region and these legendary musicians, punctuates this powerful piece of history that is nothing short of our last links to the origins of rock’n’roll music. Narrated by Marc Maron. Interviews with members of The Doors, The Allman Brothers, The Paul Butterfield Blues Band, Aerosmith, The Dave Matthews Band and more.

kanopy.com/video/sidemen

Nas: Time is Illmatic

The story behind Nas’s groundbreaking 1994 debut album ‘Illmatic,’ and the early life of one of the most talented rappers of all time. Featuring interviews with Pharrell Williams, Alicia Keys, Q-Tip, and Busta Rhymes.

kanopy.com/video/nas-time-illmatic-giant

Grace Jones: Blood Light and Bam

This electrifying journey through the public and private worlds of pop culture mega-icon Grace Jones contrasts musical sequences with intimate personal footage, all the while brimming with Jones bold aesthetic. A larger-than-life entertainer, an androgynous glam-pop diva, an unpredictable media presence Grace Jones is all these things and more. Sophie Fiennes documentary goes beyond the traditional music biography, offering a portrait as stylish and unconventional as its subject.

kanopy.com/video/kanopy.com/video/grace-jones

Public Screening Rights Included
Programming Guide:

Black History Month 2020

Black History in the US

An Outrage: The History and Legacy of Lynching in the South
An award-winning documentary film about lynching in the American South. Filmed on-location at lynching sites in six states and bolstered by the memories and perspectives of descendants, community activists, and scholars, this unusual historical documentary seeks to educate even as it serves as a hub for action to remember and reflect upon a long-hidden past.

kanopy.com/video/outrage-0

The Black Panthers
In the turbulent 1960s, a new revolutionary culture was emerging and it sought to drastically transform the system. The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense would, for a short time, put itself at the vanguard of that change. The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution is the first feature-length documentary to explore the Black Panther Party, its significance to the broader American culture, its cultural and political awakening for black people, and the painful lessons wrought when a movement derails. Master documentarian Stanley Nelson goes straight to the source, weaving a treasure trove of rare archival footage with the diverse group of voices of the people who were there.

kanopy.com/video/black-panthers-0

Long Time Coming: A 1955 Baseball Story
Sixty years after integrating Little League baseball in the South, the pioneering players embark on a personal journey and question the ballgame’s historic significance while trying to navigate America’s lingering racial divisions. Nominated for an award at the Cleveland International Film Festival.


Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise
This series looks at the last five decades of African American history through the eyes of Henry Louis Gates, Jr., exploring the tremendous gains and persistent challenges of these years. Drawing on eyewitness accounts, scholarly analysis and rare archival footage, the series illuminates our recent past, while raising urgent questions about the future of the African American community, and our nation as a whole.

kanopy.com/video/black-america-mlk-and-still-i-rise

Negroes With Guns
Robert F. Williams was the forefather of the Black Power movement and broke dramatic new ground by internationalizing the African American struggle. NEGROES WITH GUNS is not only an electrifying look at an historically erased leader, but also provides a thought-provoking examination of Black radicalism and resistance and serves as a launching pad for the study of Black liberation philosophies. Insightful interviews with historian Clayborne Carson, biographer Timothy Tyson, Julian Bond, and a first-person account by Mabel Williams, Robert’s wife, bring the story to life.

kanopy.com/video/negroes-guns
I am Not a Witch

In her BAFTA award-winning debut feature, Rungano Nyoni crafts a satiric feminist fairy-tale set in present-day Zambia. When 9-year old orphan Shula is accused of witchcraft, she is exiled to a witch camp run by Mr. Banda, a corrupt and inept government official. As the only child witch, Shula quickly becomes a local star and the adults around her exploit her supposed powers for financial gain. Soon she is forced to make a difficult decision - whether to resign herself to life on the camp, or take a risk for freedom.

kanopy.com/video/i-am-not-witch-0

Mother of George

Adam, a 60-something former swimming champion, is a pool attendant at a hotel in Chad. When the hotel gets taken over by new Chinese owners, he is forced to give up his job to his son, Abdel, leaving Adam humiliated and resentful. Meanwhile the country is in the throes of civil war. Rebel forces attack the government while the authorities demand the population to contribute to the “war effort,” with money or volunteers old enough to fight. The District Chief constantly harasses Adam for his contribution. But Adam is penniless; he only has his son. In a moment of weakness, Adam makes a decision that he will forever regret. Winner of the Jury Prize - Cannes Film Festival 2010.

kanopy.com/video/mother-george

Rafiki

Despite a political rivalry between their families, Kena and Ziki resist and remain close friends, supporting each other to pursue their dreams in a conservative society. When love blossoms between them, the two girls will be forced to choose between happiness and safety. Nominated for two prizes at Cannes Film Festival.

kanopy.com/video/rafiki

A Screaming Man

Adam, a 60-something former swimming champion, is a pool attendant at a hotel in Chad. When the hotel gets taken over by new Chinese owners, he is forced to give up his job to his son, Abdel, leaving Adam humiliated and resentful. Meanwhile the country is in the throes of civil war. Rebel forces attack the government while the authorities demand the population to contribute to the “war effort,” with money or volunteers old enough to fight. The District Chief constantly harasses Adam for his contribution. But Adam is penniless; he only has his son. In a moment of weakness, Adam makes a decision that he will forever regret. Winner of the Jury Prize - Cannes Film Festival 2010.

kanopy.com/video/screaming-man

FAAT Kine

In FAAT KINE, Ousmane Sembene, the unquestioned father of African cinema, calls his fellow Africans to a reckoning of the post-independence era at the beginning of a new century. At 77, he sums up 40 years of path-breaking filmmaking with a penetrating analysis of the interplay of gender, economics and power in today’s Africa. Sembene accomplishes all this through the deceptively light domestic drama of Faat Kine, a gas station operator born, significantly, the same year as Senegalese independence, 1960. FAAT KINE is, from its first shot to its surprising last, Sembene’s tribute to what he calls the “everyday heroism of African women.”

kanopy.com/video/faat-kine-1