



# A Selection of Popular LARC Resources about Haiti

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## Films

### ***20th Century with Mike Wallace: The U.S. in Latin America: Yankee Go Home***

This report turns a critical eye toward three incidents, the invasions of Grenada and Panama and the occupation of Haiti, ordered by Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton respectively. In each case, the actions were justified as protecting American interests but were we ever really threatened, or were these incidents simply an example of America beating up on its neighbors? Extensive footage shows American forces in action, and foreign policy experts examine the stated goals and results of each episode. And hear from Dr. Robert A. Pastor, of Atlanta's Carter Center, who personally negotiated with Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega and Haitian dictator Raoul Cedras. English, 50 minutes.

### ***The Art of Haiti***

An extraordinary documentary which juxtaposes shots of contemporary Haiti with the radiance of Haitian art. The uneasy co-existence of Christian and voodoo belief is explored through interviews with artists and Haitian experts. 1983. English, 26 minutes.

### ***Bitter Cane***

This two part film examines the history of Haiti, from the 1804 revolution to the occupation by U.S. Marines from 1915 to 1934, as well as the repressive Duvalier regimes. Includes interviews with peasants, landowners, merchants, and U.S. businessmen and an examination of the workings of Haiti's economic system. 1983. English, 113 minutes.

### ***Black Dawn***

An animated film that recounts the founding of Haiti, the world's first independent black republic, according to its folklore. A celebration of the strength and artistry of the Haitian people. Elementary through high school. 1979. English, 20 minutes.

### ***Caribbean Music and Dance***

Folk music and dance from Honduras, Grenada, Jamaica and Haiti. Filmed on location. Organization of American States. 1985. English, 25 minutes.

### ***Columbus & the Age of Discovery Part D: Worlds Found and Lost***

This seven-nation co-production chronicles Columbus's journey and its repercussions in commemoration of the quincentennial. A modern sailboat and crew retrace the route of Columbus's first voyage through the Bahamas to Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, searching for the Caribbean Columbus saw, and finding the changes left in his wake. 1991. English, 58 minutes.

### ***Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti***

Maya Deren takes us on a journey into the fascinating world of the Voudoun religion, whose devotees communicate with the cosmic powers through invocation, offerings, song and dance. 1985. English, 52 minutes.

### ***Haitian Song***

Haitian Song is a lyrical portrait of life in a small village in rural Haiti. The film focuses on the "rituals" which compose the texture of everyday life: getting water from the river; making rope by hand from sisal; cooking rice and beans in an outdoor kitchen; planting and harvesting. Through intimate and detailed scenes, the film follows Gustav and Zilmen, a man and a woman, through the cycle of their day and follows the larger community through the cycles of the week: the market on Tuesday; the cockfight on Saturday; the dance on Sunday. Narrated entirely in Creole (with English subtitles) by Haitian peasants and interwoven throughout with haunting songs, the film evokes a mood and feeling of rural village life. It is highly visual, as well as informative and educational. 1982. Haitian Creole with English Subtitles, 52 minutes.

### ***Haiti: Coup de Grace***

This documentary traces President Jean-Bertrand Aristide through exile and his return to power in Haiti. Includes an examination of the U.S. government's intentions and policies. 1995. English, 94 minutes.

### ***Haiti: Killing the Dream***

An overview of Haitian history, this film documents the rise of Jean Bertrand Aristide. Examining events such as the rule of Papa Doc and Baby Doc Duvalier, the election of President Aristide and the military coup which sent him into exile. Some strong language. 1992. English, 58 minutes.

### ***Haiti: Waters of Sorrow***

Jacques Cousteau discusses the links between overfishing, overpopulation, religion, deforestation, food and water scarcity, and a high infant mortality rate. Some nudity. 1985. English, 30 minutes.

### ***Human Rights in Haiti***

In a masterful blend of exclusive historical footage, interviews, and artwork, this film takes viewers through the history of the Haitian people and their struggle for their rights. A slave

revolt in 1791 and a second war against colonial France led to Haiti becoming the first independent Black republic in 1804. After suffering under tyrants for decades, most recently the infamous Duvalier (Papa Doc) and his son, the Haitians finally elected Jean Bertrand Aristide, a reformer. Haiti's troubles continued when the military overthrew Aristide, although he later returned. The film focuses on the victims of the more than 40,000 human rights violations that have taken place in this troubled country. UN observers are instituting new methods such as town meetings, mediation training, and community policemen. 2000. Contains graphic violence that may not be suitable for all audiences. English, 56 minutes.

### ***Madamn Ti Zo (Mrs. Littlebones)***

This is a documentary portrait of a dynamic peasant healer from Jacmel, Haiti. This film tells the story of an extraordinary Haitian elder who runs the equivalent of a rural health clinic from her modest thatched roof hut situated near the Jacmel River. While taking care of numerous relatives and neighbors who depend upon her, Mrs. LittleBones or Mother Bones, as friends know her, simultaneously works as a mid-wife and leaf doctor for an endless stream of men, women and children who find their way to her yard seeking relief from their maladies. As she says in the film, "They call me Never Tired" her energy seems ceaseless. Moving through one delivery or treatment after another, her days and often nights of work are intimately observed in this unique look at one, of Haiti's many, wise elders. Humorous, mysterious, and insightful the film offers a rare glimpse into traditional life of Haitian peasants. 2004. Haitian Creole with English subtitles, 65 minutes

### ***Of Men and Gods***

A frank look at a largely unexplored area, *Of Men and Gods* examines the daily existence of several Haitian men who are openly gay. Prevalent, yet still taboo, homosexuality and gay culture are allowed to flourish within the context of Haiti's Vodou religion. As "children of the Gods" these men find an outlet for theatrical expression through exhilarating performances in which they embody the gods. Meanwhile the AIDS epidemic looms as a continual threat and adds a disquieting degree of nihilism to their relatively optimistic attitudes toward life and happiness in Port-au-Prince. 2002 Haitian Creole with English Subtitles, 52 minutes.

### ***This Other Haiti***

This documentary examines the activities of a nationwide peasant movement for social change in Haiti. Thousands of members of the Peasant Movement of Papay (MPP) have been struggling for over two decades, despite brutal army harassment, to bring about democratic social reform. The film includes interviews with key members of the MPP and highlights their socio-economic successes. 1993. English, 58 minutes.

### ***Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy***

Told through the compelling lives of five courageous Haitian women workers, *Poto Mitan* gives the global economy a human face. Each woman's personal story explains neoliberal globalization, how it is gendered, and how it impacts Haiti. And while *Poto Mitan* offers in-depth understanding of Haiti, its focus on women's subjugation, worker exploitation, poverty, and resistance makes it clear that these are global struggles. 2009. English, 50 minutes.

### ***Rhythms of Haiti***

Cultural, folk-life and tourist aspects of this unique and intriguing Caribbean island. Organization of American States. Ca. 1980. English, 25 minutes.

### ***The Serpent and the Rainbow***

Wes Craven (*Nightmare On Elm Street*) directs this terrifying story of one man's nightmarish journey into the eerie and deadly world of voodoo. Based on the true life experiences of Wade Davis, a Harvard anthropologist is sent to Haiti to retrieve a strange powder that is said to have the power to bring human beings back from the dead. In his quest to find the miracle drug, the cynical scientist enters the rarely seen nether world of walking zombies, blood rites and ancient curses. Universal Studios. 1987. AVAILABLE ONLY ON VHS. English, 98 minutes.

## **Books**

### ***Art on the Road: Painted Vehicles of the Americas***

Decorated vehicles vividly reflect the art traditions and popular culture of the Americas. In this pictorial survey, art historian Moira Harris considers the ox carts of Costa Rica, the buses of Panama, the Tap-Taps of Haiti, the Custom Cars of the U.S., and the chivas of Colombia. 1988. English, 108 pages.

### ***Caribbean Connections: Moving North***

Migration from the Caribbean is reshaping the cultural landscape of many American communities. This book explores this process through fiction, poetry, personal narratives and interviews by women and men of Caribbean background (Puerto Rico, English-speaking West Indies, Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti) living in the U.S. 1998. English, 237 pages.

### ***Walking on Fire***

A lyrical but trenchant foreword by Edwidge Danticat and succinct author introductions by Bell (director of Albuquerque's Center for Economic Justice) provide historical and personal contexts for the narratives, or "istwa" (a Creole word "meaning both story and history"), that follow. Many of the women address the random arrests, sadistic torture, savage beatings and violent sexual abuse inflicted upon them by the state and by a sexist social structure. Taken collectively, the women (interviewed largely between 1991 and 1994, during Haiti's brief period with a popularly elected government) tell the same story "survival, resistance, and occasional triumph by women with little formal power." Individually, each voice is unique. One has been a minister of the Status and Rights of Women; another was given away as a child slave. There's also a market woman, a labor organizer and a nurse; a woman with graduate degrees, women who have lived abroad and women who have never left their villages. They are joined by their resistance to oppression. For some, mere survival is an act of resistance. Others resist through poetry, journalism, dance or painting. Some are even involved in political activism, women's advocacy and reestablishing economic and political structures. This is painful reading; it shows much suffering but also much remarkable transcendence. Bell's book vocalizes this, but its point is not merely archival. English, 258 pages.