



## Tulane University LARC Resources about Carnival in the Americas

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## FILMS

### ARGENTINA

#### ***An Argentine Journey: Songs of the Poor***

In the impoverished mountain villages of northern Argentina the music reflects the harsh living conditions of the inhabitants where the people stage dramatic celebrations that culminate in the joy of carnival creating a sound both solemn and jubilant. Part of the Argentine Journey Series which features the musical and cultural heritage of three regions in central and northern Argentina from the gauchos to the Zamba. BBC. ©1998. English. 60 minutes.

### BRAZIL

#### ***Black in Latin America***

Black in Latin America, a new four-part series about the African influence on Latin America, is the latest production from renowned Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The Series examines how Africa and Europe came together to create the rich cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean. Latin America is often associated with music, monuments, and the sun, but each of the six countries featured in Black in Latin America---Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru---has a secret history. On his journey, Professor Gates discovers, behind a shared legacy of colonialism and slavery, vivid stories and people marked by African roots. Latin America and the Caribbean have the largest concentration of people with African ancestry outside of Africa---up to 70 percent of the population in some countries. The region imported more than ten times as many slaves as the United States, and kept them in bondage far longer. As Professor Gates travels to these countries, he celebrates the massive influence millions of people of African descent had on the history and culture of Latin America and the Caribbean, and considers how their contribution is often forgotten or ignored. Part 1 \_Haiti & the Dominican Republic: An Island Divided\_: In the Dominican Republic, Professor Gates explores how race has been socially constructed in a society whose people reflect centuries of inter-marriage, and how the country's troubled history with Haiti informs notions about racial classification. In Haiti, Professor Gates tells the story of the birth of the first-ever black republic, and finds out how the slaves' hard fought liberation over Napoleon Bonaparte's French Empire became a double-edged sword. Part 2, \_Cuba: The Next Revolution\_: In Cuba Professor Gates finds out how the culture, religion, politics and music of this island are inextricably linked to the huge amount of slave labor imported to produce its enormously profitable 19th century sugar industry, and how race and racism have fared since Fidel Castro's Communist revolution in 1959. Part 3, \_Brazil: A Racial Paradise?\_: In Brazil, Professor Gates delves behind the façade of Carnival to discover

how this 'rainbow nation' is waking up to its legacy as the world's largest slave economy. Part 4, *\_Mexico & Peru: The Black Grandma in the Closet\_*: In Mexico and Peru Professor Gates explores the almost unknown history of the significant numbers of black people—the two countries together received far more slaves than did the United States —brought to these countries as early as the 16th and 17th centuries, and the worlds of culture that their descendants have created in Vera Cruz on the Gulf of Mexico, the Costa Chica region on the Pacific, and in and around Lima, Peru. Each part is approximately an hour long. ©2011. Spanish and English with English subtitles. Approximately 240 minutes (4 episodes of approximately 60 minutes per episode).

### ***Black Orpheus***

Inspired by the play "Orfeo da conceicao" by Vinicius de Moraes. The mythic tale of Orpheus the music-maker and his haunted lover Eurydice is retold, with samba guitar replacing the lute and Rio's Carnival celebration serving as Hades. Directed by Marcel Camus. Starring Breno Melo, Marquessa D. Lourdes de Oliveira. ©1959. Portuguese with English subtitles. 103 minutes.

### ***Brazilian Carnival 1985***

Music, dancing, and costumes of annual Samba School Competitors in Rio de Janeiro for the year of 1985. TV Globo. ©1985. English. 90 minutes.

### ***Carnival en Bahia: Os Melhores Momentos 1991***

An overview of the best moments of Carnival in Salvador, Bahia in 1991. TRVQ cinefilm. ©1991. Portuguese. 50 minutes. NOTE: Brief nudity.

### ***King for a Day: Rio de Janeiro (South American Journey G)***

Shows favelas (slums) and the colorful participation of the favelados in the enormous, elaborate celebration known as Carnival. Notes how whites are taking over the traditionally black festival, replacing escapism with commercialism. Footage of Carnival parades. Nudity. Australian Public Television. (©1987. English. 60 minutes.

### ***The Midnight Man (O) Homem da Meia Noite (Port.)***

Olinda, one of the best-preserved colonial cities in Brazil, is the protagonist of this short documentary. Its contrasting vitality is revealed in the elegant movements of the Frevo dancers, as in the piles of trash gathered in the streets during sunset, in the children playing bare foot in front of churches as in the *cahotic ladeiras* full of people or in the colourful *blocos* and *bonecos*. The sequences edited on a soundtrack deeply linked to the music of this corner of the world try to unravel, in different moments, the contrasts the vitality that the ancient capital express in the carnival. Directed and produced by Paolo Santagostino. Filmed in Brazil. This project contains no dialogue. Submitted in the "short film" category to the 2009 Latin American Environmental Media Festival. Completed in February 2007. 14 minutes.

### ***The Spirit of Samba: Black Music of Brazil***

The music and dance of samba has gained international predominance in a little more than a century. The spirit of samba can be traced to the state of Bahia on the eastern coast of Brazil. The word itself means "party" and found life when ex-slaves of Bahia moved to the cities, bringing their style of music and dance. This one-hour documentary takes a comprehensive and thorough look at samba, from its origins to its international acclaim and its influence on other styles of music. This video is a celebrated tour of Brazil -- its people, its culture, and the schools of samba in preparation for Carnivale. This documentary includes some wonderful colorful and vibrant footage of the samba and Carnivale, as well as interviews with some of Brazil's shining samba stars. Includes meetings with Gilberto Gil, Milton Nascimento and Chico Buarque. Shanachi (Beats of the Heart series). ©2001. English. 50 minutes.

### ***Wildes Rio (Wild Rio)***

Rio de Janeiro, "the marvelous city", is well known for its glamorous life, the extraordinary carnival, beaches, and beach beauties. But few people know that the wildlife of the city is equally flamboyant. The city crowned by the spectacular Christ statue is indeed the greenest metropolis in the world, for in it live an enormous number of wild animals. Tijuca National Park is the wild heart of Rio de Janeiro. This mystic rainforest lies on steep hills in the middle of the city, surrounded by a sea of stone. As part of the Atlantic rainforest it is a hot spot of biodiversity. Here the rare Blue Manakin dancer bird performs its spectacular dance, army ants swarm out for a hunt and large groups of coatis enjoy their life as the main predator - the jaguar - became extinct decades ago. Due to Rio's unique neighborhood of rainforest and city, encounters between people and wild animals are common. Capuchin monkeys often enter houses and create a mess and sometimes caimans end up in peoples' swimming pools. The close proximity of nature in Rio de Janeiro inspires also the makers of Carnival. While the preparations for the city's biggest annual event are going on, the film shows intimate moments in the life of Rios wild inhabitants, revealing many interesting facts of their biology. ©2004. German with English subtitles. 50 minutes.

## **PERU**

### ***Carnival in Q'eros***

This groundbreaking documentary shows the remarkable Carnival celebrations -- never before seen by outsiders -- of a remote community of Indians high in the Peruvian Andes. Their culture offers important clues into the Inca past and the roots of Andean cultures. The Q'eros play flutes and sing to their alpacas in a ritual to promote the animals' fertility. The film shows how the music evolves from individual, to family, to ayllu, to community, a structure of spiritual activity distinct from the structure of kinship. The Q'eros sing and play separately from each other, producing a heterophonic sound without rhythmic beat, harmony, or counterpoint -- a "chaotic" sound texture that exemplifies a key connection between the culture of the Andes and that of the Amazon jungle. The film also focuses on the protracted negotiations by which the Indians were compensated for their participation in the project. ©1992. English. 28 minutes.

## **MEXICO**

### ***Sacred Games: Ritual Warfare in a Mayan Village***

Documents the week-long Carnival celebration of the Chamula in Chiapas (southern Mexico). The pageant is rich in both pre-Columbian imagery and references to numerous military invasions over the past 500 years. University of California Extension Center for Media and Independent learning. ©1988. English. 59 minutes

## **UNITED STATES**

### ***All on a Mardi Gras Day***

Indians! Zulus! Baby Dolls! Skeletons! The story of New Orleans' black carnival. This documentary contains extended interview with Big Chief Tootie Montana, Post Katrina Carnival and Interview with the filmmaker Royce Osborn. <<http://www.spyboypics.com>> ©2003. English. 60 minutes.

# SLIDE PACKETS

***Brazil: Carnival***

Published in conjunction with the Museum of Modern Art in Latin America. Guide included. English. 10 slides.

***Carnival in Veracruz***

The Mexican port city of Veracruz is the site of Mexico's largest and most spectacular celebration of Carnival. This packet highlights the history and traditions of the renowned festival. Includes suggestions for classroom activities. Guide included. English. 20 slides.

***Haiti: Mardi Gras***

From the Art Museum of the Americas, formerly the Museum of Modern Art of Latin America, Cabinet Collection No. 143. Guide included. 10 slides.