

Fall 2005

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Department of History
Chair, Canadian Studies Initiative
Western Michigan University
Thursday, December 1, 2005
5:00 PM
Room 240
John Hope Franklin Center
Duke University
2204 Erwin Road
Durham, NC

"Going Across the River: Black Canadians and Detroit Before the Great Migration"

In the years before the Civil War, the border between the United States and Canada had tremendous salience for blacks. By crossing this divide they left a nation that upheld chattel slavery for a land where the dread institution had become illegal. Like this ante-bellum saga, the chronicle of the Great Migration—the massive movement of blacks out of the Jim Crow South beginning with World War I—is central to the narrative of African-American history. As portal to Ontario and destination for Southern migrants, Detroit figures prominently in both these freedom stories.

"Going Across the River" focuses on Detroit in the period between the Underground Railroad and the Great Migration, a half century during which African-descended peoples participated in a large-scale circulation of population between Canada and the United States. Drawing primarily on charity case records, the study traces poor blacks' crossings and re-crossings of this "fluid frontier" in the late nineteenth century, when this boundary no longer was intensely politically charged. Examining migrants who experienced the full force of Detroit's racially and gender segregated labor market, the research contributes to an understanding of black life in the transnational Great Lakes Basin.

November 7-11, 2005

Québec Cinema Week at Duke

Six Canadian films were shown at Duke University during the week of Nov. 7-11, as part of Québec Cinema Week.

All films were free and open to the public.

The events were sponsored by the:

Center for Canadian Studies <http://www.jhfc.duke.edu/canadianstudies>
in collaboration with:

Center for French and Francophone Studies, <http://www.duke.edu/web/cffs>,
Department of Romance Studies <http://www.romancestudies.aas.duke.edu/>,
African & African American Studies, <http://www.duke.edu/web/africanameric/>,
Film/Video/Digital Program <http://www.duke.edu/web/film/about/index.html>,
Department of Romance Languages & Literature at UNC-CH
<http://roml.unc.edu/>, and the Canadian and Québec governments.

FILMS:

Monday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. Teer Engineering library:

Jésus de Montréal, 1989.

A group of actors put on an unorthodox, but acclaimed passion play that incites the opposition of the Catholic Church.

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m. Teer Engineering library:

Emporte-moi (Set Me Free), 2000.

Winner of the Grand Prize at The Toronto International Film Festival.

"Set Me Free" is a fresh and insightful coming-of-age story.

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m., Griffith Theater, Bryan Center:

L'ange de goudron (Tar Angel), 2001.

Followed by Q&A including reception with the director Denis Chouinard.

Ahmed Kasmi fled Algeria with his family to settle in Montreal. A few weeks before he is to receive his prized Canadian citizenship, he discovers that his eldest son, Hafid, is involved with a group of political activists. Ahmed tries to save his son -- and their chances of obtaining Canadian citizenship.

8 p.m., Griffith Theater, Bryan Center:

Comment conquérir l'Amérique (How to Conquer America in One Night), 2004.

Followed by Q&A with the director **Dany Laférière**.

Newly arrived in Montreal, and determined to conquer North America by charming blond-haired women, Gégé, a Haitian in his thirties, lands up at Fanfan's -- an unambitious uncle who has given up poetry for a good old taxicab. Over the course of one night filled with humor and friendship, the two fun-loving guys take stock of their lives, memories and fantasies.

Thursday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m., Teer Engineering library:

Elles étaient cinq (The Five of Us), 2004.

Manon Cloutier is a 32-year-old woman who's about to start a new relationship with a co-worker. A dramatic incident forces her to face up to the tragedy that changed her life forever 15 years before.

Friday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m., Teer Engineering library:

La face cachée de la lune (The Far Side of the Moon), 2004.

After the death of his mother, a man tries to discover a meaning to his life, to the universe

and to rebuild a relationship with the only family he has left: his brother. Award-winning director Robert Lepage presents a brilliant adaptation of his marvellous one-man show.

All films in French with English subtitles.

The Center for Canadian Studies was pleased to co-sponsor an opening reception for **Sarah Anne Johnson** of Winnipeg at the John Hope Franklin Center on October 6, 2005 from 5:30-7:30 PM.

Her exhibit "**Tree Planting**" was on display at the Center's Gallery

A noon luncheon and panel discussion was held to talk about various perspectives on the acquisition of art.

Participants:

Kim Rorschach (The Mary D.B.T. and James H. Semans Director, Nasher Museum)

Kathy Goncharov (Adjunct Curator of Contemporary Art, Nasher Museum)

Julie Saul (Julie Saul Gallery, NYC)

Allen Thomas, Jr., Wilson, N.C. (collector)

Sarah's works are on display at the Saul Gallery in NYC. www.saulgallery.com.

Canadian Studies was pleased to co-sponsor the screening of **Shake Hands With The Devil: the Journey of Romeo Dallaire**, documentary film by **Peter Raymond** on Monday, October 17th. at 7:00PM at Reynolds Industries Theater, in the Bryan Center at Duke University.

The searing emotional journey of Canadian Lt. General Romeo Dallaire, who commanded the U.N. peacekeeping mission to Rwanda will give you a better understanding of what happened. 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutus were slaughtered during the Rwandan genocide. This experience led Dallaire's own life tragedies as he dealt with the psychological fallout of witnessing a genocide he was powerless to stop.

Bouna Ndiaye, John Hope Franklin Center Program Coordinator was the moderator of a panel that follows the screening:

Peter Raymond, the documentary filmmaker

Dr. Emmanuel Katonge, Director of the Center for Reconciliation and Justice at Duke University Divinity School

Louis Boisivert, Canadian Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner

Jean-Paul Samputu, Rwandan artist and activist

Joyce Kuipers, graduate student in Music at Duke University

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