

Long road to...

DEMOCRACY

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Promotions and Publications

A decade of true democracy is quite an achievement on the African continent. In 2004 the Republic of South Africa celebrates ten years under a democratic government chosen in free and fair elections by the whole nation that serves as an example to the rest of the world. The road to true democracy was not an easy one. Many South Africans contributed to the establishment of a new democracy, unfailingly devoting their lives to this cause. They came from all walks of life: lawyers, clergymen, student activists - sharing the vision of a true democratic country in which all would be equal.

During 2004 librarians may receive requests for material about this topical issue and therefore a selection of videos from the Central Video Collection is highlighted here. This selection includes various titles featuring the most famous South African of all times, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and a host of other famous political role players

and activists such as Steve Biko, Chris Hani and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Nelson Mandela

A day with the President / producer, Harriet Gavshon; director, Nicolaas Hofmeyr.

Made by the team responsible for the *Ordinary people* series, this unique programme spends a working day with President Mandela. Starting at four o'clock in the morning at Qunu in the Transkei, where he was on holiday with his family, it accompanies him on his flight to Pretoria and then to his office at the Union Buildings, where he is seen at a meeting with Minister Jay Naidoo, giving an interview to journalists of **City Press** and taking a telephone call from PW Botha, before going on to his official residence, Mahlabandlovu, for lunch with Minister Sidney Mufamadi and the swearing in ceremony of Deputy Minister Brigitte Mabandla.

Later that day he flies to Cape Town to accept a cheque on behalf of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund in Stellenbosch

and finally, at eleven o'clock at night he is back at his home in Johannesburg. Also included are glimpses of the daily routines of members of his staff, amongst them his housekeeper, his private secretary and the administrative secretary at the President's Office.

Mandela / producers, Jonathan Demme, Edward Saxon and Jo Menell; directors, Jo Menell and Angus Gibson.

This biography takes the story from his youth in the Transkei to his incarceration on Robben Island through to his release from prison and his inauguration as president after the first democratic election in South Africa. It received an Academic Award Nomination in 1996 for Best Documentary Feature.

Other titles

The first accused: an intimate portrait of Mandela

Mandela: the man and his country

Nelson Mandela and the rise of the ANC

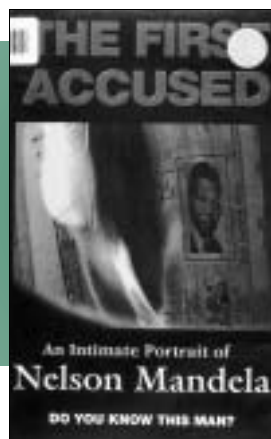
Nelson Mandela: the struggle is my life.

Steve Biko

Steve Biko: journey of the spirit /

producer, Peter Trehaeven; director, Matsemela Manaka.

Made to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Steve Biko's death, this programme is not so much a biography as a tribute to the black consciousness leader's social, cultural and political legacy. It is structured around interviews with a number of people who knew him personally, as well as with individuals who were influenced by his writings. Amongst them are poet Don Mattera, Mpumalanga



premier Mathew Posa, Biko's BPC colleagues Strini Moodley, Ben Khoapa and Saths Cooper, AZAPO's Lybon Mabaso, filmmaker Glen Ujebe Masokoane, **The Sowetan** editor Aggrey Klaaste, artist Charles Nkosi and Biko's eldest son, Nkosinathi. Most of them refer to his emphasis on the need of black South Africans to develop a sense of self-esteem and self-reliance, and point out that his once revolutionary ideas are now generally accepted. There are also musical inserts from the likes of Bheki Khoza, Phillip Tabane and Mara Louw.

Other titles

Bantu Steve Biko: beacon of hope

Biko: the spirit lives

The death of Steve Biko

The life and death of Steve Biko.

Chris Hani

The life & times of Chris Hani / producers, Shareef Cullis and Junaid Ahmed; director, Ken Kaplan.

Chris Hani (1942-1993) had been elected General Secretary of the South African Communist Party when, in April 1993, he was assassinated. This programme presents a portrait of the man and pays tribute to his memory. It starts with his childhood in the rural Transkei and his student years at Lovedale College and Fort Hare University, before following his political career through the ranks of the SACP and the ANC - including his activities as a combatant - leading up to his appointment as Chief of Staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe. Members of his family, including his father and his wife, recall him as a person, as do several of his

former comrades in arms. Comments from prominent individuals like Jeremy Cronin, Raymond Mhlaba, Joe Slovo, Govan Mbeki, Thabo Mbeki, Joe Modise, Tokyo Sexwale and Essop Pahad are intercut with archival footage, as well as with extracts from earlier recorded interviews with Hani himself.

Another title

Martin Thembisile Chris Hani 1942-1993.

Desmond Tutu

Man without fear: Desmond Mpilo Tutu / producer and director, Hennie Serfontein.

In June 1996, Desmond Tutu retired as Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, and accepted a new role as chairperson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. While a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and an internationally recognised figure, he remains a humble, deeply spiritual person with an intense love for his fellow human beings and a wonderful sense of humour. This programme presents a portrait of Desmond Tutu, charting the highlights of his ecclesiastical career, while at the same time discussing his confrontations with the apartheid state. Structured around extracts from a lengthy interview - during which he talks about his family background, his entry into the priesthood, the meaning of prayer in his life, et cetera - it incorporates film footage shot over a number of years and in various countries. In addition there are comments from his wife Leah, his daughter Naomi, Dr Nthato Motlana, Peter Magubane, Reverend Frank Chikane and a number of close friends and associates.

Another title

Bishop Desmond Tutu: apartheid in South Africa.

Other famous South Africans

Albie Sachs / director, Nicola de Chaud.

In 1990, after 22 years in exile in England and Mozambique, lawyer, writer and ANC activist Albie Sachs returned to South Africa and, more especially, to his home city of Cape Town. In this programme he talks about various things: the Maputo car bomb of 7 April 1988 that claimed his right arm, his time of recovery in England, his commitment to the freedom struggle, his years in Mozambique and his love of Cape Town. He also discusses his writing, especially **The jail diary of Albie Sachs** and **The soft vengeance of a freedom fighter**, and expresses his hope for a democratic South Africa in which everyone will be able to embrace the culture of their choice while being open to that of others.

Beyers Naudé: pilgrimage of an Afrikaner prophet / director, Hennie Serfontein.

A biography of the Reverend Beyers Naudé, tracing his life and ministry from an unquestioning acceptance of the political heritage of having been born an Afrikaner, through his growing conviction that the government's apartheid was morally wrong, to his final commitment to the freedom struggle. Based very largely on an extensive interview with him and his wife, Ilse, and supplemented with extracts from earlier interviews shot at various stages of his life, it touches upon a great many issues.



It starts with his family background, the influence of his father on his thinking, his years as a theology student at the University of Stellenbosch and his membership of the Afrikaner Broederbond. After that it traces his increasingly strained relationship with the Dutch Reformed Church following the Cottesloe Conference and his appointment as director of the Christian Institute. Finally Dr Naudé talks about the years of official harassment, of being ostracised by most of his fellow Afrikaners and his decision to join the ANC. Additional comments come from Prof Charles Villa-Vicencio, Prof Willie Esterhuyzen, Carl Niehaus, Sidney Mufamadi and President Nelson Mandela.

Bram Fischer / producers, Jill Engelbrecht and Maryanne de Villiers.

Made to coincide with the 20th anniversary of his death in 1975, this presents a biography of Bram Fischer (1908-1975), the scion of a distinguished Afrikaans family, who became one of the most prominent members of the South African Communist Party and defended both the Treason and the Rivonia trialists before being jailed in 1966 for his anti-government activities. The programme makes use of archival film footage and photographic stills, but consists primarily of interviews with people who knew him, amongst them Adv George Bizos, Ahmed Kathrada, Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu, Hugh Lewin and Mary Benson, as well as his daughters, Ruth Rice and Ilse Wilson, and his cousin Mr Justice MT Steyn. They comment on his Afrikaner background, his marriage to Molly Krige, his political convictions, his legal career, his

underground work for the SACP, his life in prison and, finally, his death of cancer.

Heart and stone / producer and director, Bridget Thompson.

Born into a Transkei peasant family in 1910, Govan Mbeki has been a stalwart of the African National Congress for many years and, in 1956, was elected the organisation's National Chairman. This film presents an overview of his life, starting with his reminiscences of an idyllic rural childhood, the struggle for higher education and an awakening political consciousness. He confesses to having enjoyed doing underground work for the ANC and also talks about his family, his early career as a teacher and his experiences running a cooperative store, a project in which his wife is still involved. His conversations with the filmmaker are intercut with two cross-cutting narratives, the first a return visit to Robben Island, where he was imprisoned for over two decades, and the second a return to his rural origins whilst campaigning for the ANC prior to the General Election of April 1994. Throughout, there are references to the history of the Xhosa people.

Thabo Mbeki: renaissance man / producer and director, Dali Tambo.

Originally transmitted to coincide with Thabo Mbeki becoming the second democratically-elected president of South Africa, this two-part programme presents an overview of his life and his thinking on a variety of subjects. He was born in 1942 to Epainette and Govan Mbeki, and the film starts by sketching his family background against the history of the anti-apartheid struggle. It discusses his childhood years and education, and follows him to Great Britain, where he studied at Sussex University. He received military training in the Soviet Union and was involved in setting up Radio Freedom in Lusaka. It also traces his rise in the leadership of the ANC and his

return to South Africa after 28 years in exile. This is followed by the story of his involvement in the CODESA talks, his appointment as first deputy president and his election to the presidency of the ANC. The programme makes use of limited re-enactments, archival footage and interviews with a number of people who know him, including his parents, Simon Makana, Barney Pityana, Ronnie Kasrils, Essop Pahad and Adelaide Tambo, as well as political scientist Tom Lodge and journalist Mark Gevisser. It also incorporates extracts from some of Mbeki's public speeches, amongst them the famous *I am an African* address to parliament, as well as an interview conducted specifically for this programme.

Other titles

Mayibuye Afrika Chief Albert Luthuli - his story

OR Tambo 1917-1993

Winnie the politics of violence.

Related titles

The comrade king

Countdown to freedom: 10 days that changed South Africa

A journey back

Soweto - the passion...the pain

Two decades still.

Hours of fascinating viewing material are available to library users and you can bring it to their attention with displays (see our ten years of democracy display on p. 47), notices or even a photocopy of this article. Librarians could also screen these videos in their libraries to celebrate appropriate national days. Be proudly South African in 2004!

Note: Reviews by Freddy Ogterop, Film/Video/DVD Selector of the Western Cape Provincial Library Service.

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