**LWV ABC Film Club Selections**

*These films, chosen to expand our knowledge and provoke thoughtful discussion of racism and diversity, were part of LWV ABC’s film club discussions held from August 2020 to November 2022.*

***13th* (2016)**

Director Ava DuVernay’s acclaimed documentary argues that the 13th amendment provided a loop hole for the continuation of slavery, converting slavery from a legal business model to an equally legal method of punishment for criminals resulting in mass incarceration.

***Before Stonewall* (1984)**

This documentary tells the dramatic story of the sometimes horrifying public and private existences experienced by gay and lesbian Americans since the 1920s.

***Black Panther* (2018)**

An American superhero film based on a Marvel Comics character, this film imagines an African country that developed free from colonialism.

***Blinded by the Light* (2019)**

In 1987 Luton, England, a British teenager of Pakistani descent writes as a means to escape the intolerance of his hometown and the inflexibility of his traditional father.

***Chicano* (1996)**

Land, labor, educational reform, and political empowerment are the four themes of this PBS documentary series about the Mexican American civil rights movement from 1965 to 1975.

***Downing of a Flag* (2021)**

Through firsthand interviews of people with various perspectives and a wealth of historical footage, Downing of a Flag examines the Confederate Battle flag’s history, meaning and impact in South Carolina.

***Fruitvale Station* (2013)**

Director Ryan Coogler presents the story of Oscar Grant III, a 22-year-old Bay Area resident, who crosses paths with friends, enemies, family, and strangers on the last day of 2008.

***Get Out* (2017)**

In this comedy horror film, African American Chris experiences a series of increasingly disturbing discoveries when he accompanies his White girlfriend Rose to a weekend visit to meet her parents.

***The Hate U Give* (2018)**

Based on a young adult novel, this film follows Starr as she faces pressure from all sides of the community after witnessing the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer.

***The Help* (2011)**

This film explores the complex relationships between Black and White women in the segregated south, including how social pressure helped maintain the system of segregation.

***Hidden Figures* (2016)**

This biographical drama film tells the story of African American female mathematicians who worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during the Space Race - Katherine Johnson, a mathematician who calculated flight trajectories for Project Mercury and other missions, NASA supervisor and mathematician Dorothy Vaughan and NASA engineer Mary Jackson.

***I am Not Your Negro* (2016)**

This documentary film explores the history of racism in the United States through James Baldwin's reminiscences of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr., as well as his personal observations of American history.

***Jim Crow of the North*** **(2018)**

Jim Crow of the North, produced by Twin Cities Public Television, delves into the complex history of racial covenants in Minneapolis and systematic racism that has lasting repercussions on housing inequities today.

***Just Mercy* (2019)**

Based on the true story of Bryan Stevenson’s quest for justice for Walter McMillian who was convicted of the 1986 murder of a white women by an Alabama jury of 11 White men and one Black man, despite having 17 witnesses vouching for his whereabouts at the time of the murder.

***Kumu Hina* (2014)**

Kumu Hina tells the inspiring story of Hina Wong-Kalu, a transgender native Hawaiian teacher, or Kumu, who brings to life Hawaii's traditional embrace of Mahu - those who embody both male and female spirit, and were traditionally respected as caretakers, healers, and keepers of ancient traditions.

***Luce* (2019)**

Model student Luce, a former Eritrean boy solder adopted by a well-of white couple at age seven, comes under suspicion after writing an essay about Pan-Africanist writer Frantz Fanon, who advocated violence to defeat colonization.

***Made in LA* (2007)**

Made in L.A. follows the remarkable story of three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles garment sweatshops as they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from trendy clothing retailer Fovever 21.

***Malcolm X* (1992)**

Spike Lee's biographical epic of the controversial and influential Black Nationalist leader, from his early life and career as a small-time gangster to his ministry as a member of the Nation of Islam.

***Mankiller* (2017)**

Based in part on Wilma Mankiller’s autobiography Mankiller: A Chief and Her People, this documentary by Valerie Red-Horse Mohl provides an in-depth look at the life and work of Wilma Mankiller, the first female Principle Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

***Neither Wolf nor Dog* (2016)**

Adapted from the 1996 Minnesota Book Award winning novel, this touching drama follows the relationship between Dan, a Lakota elder at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and a white author who has road-tripped from Minnesota to the rez to deal with the old man’s request to write his story.

**Our Spirits Don't Speak English: Indian Boarding Schools (2008)**

Told from a Native American perspective, this documentary uncovers the dark history of U.S. Government policy which took Indian children from their homes, forced them into boarding schools and enacted a policy of educating them in the ways of Western Society.

***Pushout* (2019)**

This documentary explores how our educational system and those who interact with Black girls can provide a positive rather than punitive response to the often misunderstood or misrepresented behaviors of African American girls that are disproportionately criminalized at every education level.

**Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian (2009)**

Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond takes a look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through a century of cinema.

***Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World* (2017)**

This revelatory documentary brings to light the profound and overlooked influence of Indigenous people on popular music in North America.

***Selma* (2015)**

A chronicle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.

***Slavery by Another Name* (2012)**

This documentary tells the story of forced labor which lasted well into the 20th century, challenging one of Americans' most cherished assumptions: the belief that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation.

***Standing on my Sisters’ Shoulders* (2002)**

In a seamless blend of archival footage, still shots, and contemporary interviews, this documentary reveals the small group of dedicated, strong, Black women who were the backbone of the Mississippi Civil Rights movement.

***White Like Me* (2013)**

Tim Wise, explores race and racism in the US through the lens of whiteness and white privilege, offering a look back at the race-based white entitlement programs that built the American middle class, and argues that our failure as a society to come to terms with this legacy of white privilege continues to perpetuate racial inequality and race-driven political resentments today.