

SCREENING AT THE
2012 TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

A man wearing a black cap and a t-shirt with 'MARKSMEN' on it is playing an acoustic guitar in a recording studio. He has his eyes closed and is looking down at the instrument. The studio is filled with equipment like microphones, stands, and a drum set in the background. A sign on the wall says 'THEY C SELVES PA'.

LET FURY HAVE THE HOUR

A FILM BY ANTONINO D'AMBROSIO

STUDY GUIDE

TRIBECA
YOUTH
SCREENING
SERIES



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ABOUT THE FILM

In his feature directorial debut, author and visual artist Antonino D'Ambrosio spins a lively social history that chronicles how a generation of artists, thinkers and activists channeled their creativity into an organized response and resistance to the reactionary politics that increasingly defined American culture in the 1980s. This idea of art as political statement came to be known as 'creative response' and, through insightful and energetic interviews with more than 50 influential creative voices, D'Ambrosio traces the movement from its earliest inklings in the Reagan-Thatcher era through three decades of social and political change.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER



ANTONINO D'AMBROSIO, DIRECTOR

Antonino D'Ambrosio is an author, filmmaker and visual artist. He has written books on Johnny Cash, Joe Strummer and the punk movement, as well as Mayday with Shepard Fairey. He is the founder of the social media and production nonprofit La Lutta NMC and the writer/director of the short *No Free Lunch*.

THINKING AHEAD

Q: What are some of the social movements that have shaped world history in the last 50 years?

Q: What is the role of art in social and political movements? How has art been used to support and foster movements like the Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-War Movement and the current Arab Spring?

Q: Can you name any musical artists or bands whose work contains a strong social or political message?

THE FILM IN CONTEXT

Let Fury Have the Hour brings some of today's foremost artistic voices and intellectual minds from music, poetry, theater, science and politics to recount the history of critical response and consider how art has shaped and spoken to the most pressing social issues impacting the world. The documentary tackles themes which include: the role an engaged individual plays in society, the importance of art in strengthening social movements and how music has been used as a tool of protest from the Civil Rights Movement to the Arab Spring. The film examines the ability of music to act as a political tool across languages and physical barriers.

Discussion Questions:

- Name an influential historical figure, such as a politician, activist or artist who fought, or continues to fight, for human rights. How has this individual impacted society through his or her actions? How have they impacted you personally?
- *Let Fury Have the Hour* addresses several social movements that have helped shape modern US society. Are there any social or political movements, past or present, which have influenced or touched you and your community? Explain.
- The film promotes the involvement of individuals in shaping society and politics, either through their engagement in political causes or their involvement in music, art and other important socially engaged movements. In your opinion, what is the role of art and the artist in challenging the current state of society?
- What role does music play in your life? Why do you think that music in particular is better equipped than all other art forms in bringing people together?
- What are some social or political causes that you are interested or personally involved in? Why?
- If you could create a work of art either individually or with your friends that addresses a particular cause or social issue, what would you create and what issue would you choose to tackle?



CRITICAL RESPONSE

SONGS OF PROTEST

Let Fury Have the Hour focuses on countless artists and musical bands which were/are responsible for producing music that was/is socially and politically engaged with historical developments. From the Civil Rights Movement to the Anti-Vietnam War Movement to the present Arab Spring, artists have written songs that capture the mood of the times. Some of these songs strengthened the movement and the resolve of the people in achieving justice and equality.

- **What is a protest song? Can you name any examples?**
- **Why are protest songs usually written?**
- **Can you name any social or political movements that were strengthened by protest music?**
- **How did the music respond to the social and political conditions of the time?**

Below is a list of protest songs written and performed by some of the most renowned artists of the last 50 years:

Strange Fruit, Billie Holiday and Abel Meeropol
Eyes on the Prize and **We Shall Overcome**, Civil Rights Movement
Get Up, Stand Up and **Redemption Song**, Bob Marley
Blowin' in the Wind, Bob Dylan
What's Going On, Marvin Gaye
A Change is Gonna Come, Sam Cooke
Clampdown and **Know Your Rights**, The Clash
Fight the Power, Public Enemy
American Idiot, Green Day

These songs are widely available online. In listening to the songs, here are some questions to consider:

- **What is the message of the song?**
- **When was it written? Why do you think the song was written?**
- **What sets this song apart from other types of music?**

After listening to the songs, consider researching their history online or at the library in order to better understand what inspired them. In your research you may also come across ways in which each song has been used by the social movement from which they came, and how protest music has impacted society as well as the art form. If you feel inspired, choose an issue you are passionate about or an issue currently impacting you and your community and write a protest song about it. You can also enlist the help of your peers in writing your song. After you are finished writing, consider sharing your song with your friends, family and community.

CRITICAL RESPONSE

PRESENT DAY MOVEMENTS: OCCUPY WALL STREET (OWS)

The Occupy Movement is an international protest movement directed towards social and economic inequality, its primary goal being to make the economic structure and power relations in society fairer. Among the prime concerns of the movement is the claim that big corporations and the global financial system control the world in an unstable way that disproportionately benefits a minority and is undermining democracy. The Occupy Movement reflects many of the socio-political movements mentioned in the film.

In thinking about OWS, consider starting a dialogue about present-day social movements with your friends or classmates. Here are some questions to start the conversation:

- **What do you know about the Occupy Movement? Did you participate in the movement? If so, why? If not, why not?**
- **Did you go down to Zuccotti Park where the movement was based? What was your experience?**
- **If you were to join OWS, what would some of your demands as a New York City high school student be?**
- **Why do you think that the media was at first reluctant to report on the movement? How are such movements affected by the way they are portrayed in the media?**
- **Why is it important for young people to get involved in social movements? What can young people do to get more involved in the social issues impacting them and their communities?**
- **What are some of the social issues you are most concerned about?**
- **Do you think that today's leaders and politicians properly represent the youth voice? Explain.**

After the conversation, you may want to watch some of the documentary films that were inspired by the movement in order to gain a better understanding of how it brought people from different age groups and backgrounds together. Here are some links you can check out:

Right Here All Over: occupywallst.org/article/right-here-all-over

Nobody Can Predict the Moment of Revolution: vimeo.com/29513113

Consensus: vimeo.com/30513599

CRITICAL RESPONSE

CREATIVE RESPONSE

In the tradition of artists like Joe Strummer, Bob Marley, Joan Baez, Mos Def, Pete Seeger and countless others who have put pen to paper to address issues impacting human rights and freedoms while urging the listener to raise their social and political consciousness, pick an issue you are passionate about and want to provide a critical artistic response for. Choose an issue that impacts you as an individual or impacts your community. Your artistic response can take any form. It can be expressed in a song or spoken word poem, as demonstrated in the film, it can be an essay, an open letter, a poster, a film, a dance, etc.

In creating your artistic response, think back to the lessons learned from *Let Fury Have the Hour*, as well as what you learned about protest music through your research. You can also invite your friends or classmates to create their own responses which you can then share with each other.

Here are some important points to consider as you create your response:

- **What is your message?**
- **What is the impact you want your critical response to achieve?**
- **Who is your audience?**
- **How will you share your artistic response with others?**

Creative response requires us to become active participants in the society and the world around us. Music is one form of creative response. But other forms of creative response include painting, novels, photographs and film. Some examples of artists who use creative response as a way to examine their society include Pablo Picasso's paintings and the street art of Jean Michel Basquiat. Thinking about what forms of art speak to you personally, answer the following questions:

- **How does poetry, painting or other forms of art help you connect with the world?**
- **What kinds of art speak to you? Can you see connections between the messages and goals of different art forms?**
- **How does the art that you create help you build community? How does it reflect the world around you from your perspective?**

RESOURCE GUIDE

FURTHER READING IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT SOME OF THE ISSUES PRESENTED IN THE FILM, CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS.

A Heartbeat and a Guitar

By Antonino D'Ambrosio

This book presents an intimate look at Johnny Cash by illuminating the music legend's collaboration with folk artist Peter La Farge. It also tells of the personal, political and cultural struggles that informed this album—especially the fight for Native people's rights—one that has influenced scores of musicians and activists from Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan to American Indian Movement co-founder Dennis Banks and Native activist-artist John Trudell.

The Art of Protest: Culture and Activism from the Civil Rights Movement to the Streets of Seattle

By T.V. Reed

In comparative accounts of movements beginning with the African American civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s and running through the internet-driven movement for global justice in the 21st century, T.V. Reed enriches our understanding of protest and cultural expression.

33 Revolutions per Minute: A History of Protest Songs, from Billie Holiday to Green Day

By Dorian Lynskey

The protest songs of such great artists as Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, U2, Public Enemy, Fela Kuti, R.E.M., Rage Against the Machine and the Clash represent pop music at its most charged and relevant, informing and providing the soundtrack for social change since the 1930s.

A People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present

By Howard Zinn

The only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles—the fights for a fair wage, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights and racial equality—were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance.

FURTHER WATCHING IF YOU LIKED THIS FILM, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE SOME OF THESE OTHER FILMS.



Let Freedom Sing: How Music Inspired the Civil Rights Movement

A film by Jon Goodman

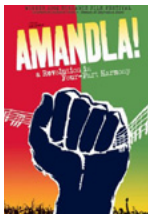
Across one of the most turbulent periods in American history—from the early Civil Rights Era to Watergate—a few daring musicians brought music and message together as never before, composing a soundtrack perfectly tuned to the pulse of its time.



Harlan County, USA

A film by Barbara Kopple

Oscar-winning 1976 documentary film covering the 'Brookside Strike', an effort of 180 coal miners and their wives against the Eastover Coal Company's Brookside Mine and Prep Plant in Harlan County, Kentucky in 1973.



Amandla!: A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony

A film by Lee Hirsch

A documentary that tells the story of black South African freedom music and the role it played against apartheid. The first film to specifically consider the music that galvanized black South Africans for more than 40 years, *Amandla!* focuses on the struggle's spiritual dimension, as articulated in song.



If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front

A film by Marshall Curry

Remarkable story of the group's rise and fall, told through the radicalization of one of its members, Daniel McGowan. Using never-before-seen archival footage and intimate interviews, *If a Tree Falls* asks hard questions about environmentalism, activism and the way we define terrorism.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Let Fury Have the Hour

letfuryhavethehour.com

The website of the film contains links to articles, videos and art produced by the artists and activists who appear in the film.

Human Rights Watch

hrw.org

One of the world's leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights.

Artists For Human Rights

artistsforhumanrights.org

A non-profit organization with the purpose of promoting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Amnesty International

amnestyusa.org

A 50 year-old non-profit organization working to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

GET INVOLVED

Speak out: Start a dialogue in your school, inviting your teachers and peers to participate, in which you discuss the role that art has played in different social movements.

Donate: Organize a donation campaign in your school and your local community to collect funds for Amnesty International's many human rights campaigns.

Organize: Participate in the ongoing Occupy Movement by connecting with members via occupywallst.org and visiting Zuccotti Park, the main site of the protests.

TRIBECA YOUTH SCREENING SERIES STAFF

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ABOUT TRIBECA YOUTH SCREENING SERIES

This program provides NYC public school students and teachers with access to free, educationally-relevant and challenging films. Each screening is followed by a Q&A, study guides and supplemental educator materials are provided, and teachers are strongly encouraged to utilize films as part of their curriculum. This monthly-series strives to expose New York City students to independent films and help educators and students incorporate film-viewing into their classroom work. For more information about TFI's youth programs, please visit www.tribecafilminstitute.org/youth or email youth@tribecafilminstitute.org

Additional program support provided by:



Honorable Margaret S. Chin,
New York City Council

Honorable Scott M. Stringer,
Manhattan Borough President

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



The Tribeca Film Institute (TFI) is a year-round nonprofit arts organization that empowers working filmmakers through grants, professional development and resources, while also helping New York City students discover independent film and filmmaking.