

DAUGHTERS OF IGBO WOMAN (36 mins) 2017 U.K

Producer/ Director Ros Martin

Intro, film screening & Q & A with Producer & project director, Ros Martin

St John's College UBC Social Lounge, 2111 Lower Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4

Light Refreshments 4.30 pm.

5.00pm-6.15 Wednesday 2nd May 2018

RSVP stacy.barber@ubc.ca by 1st May 2018.

Shot in landscapes of Eastern Nigeria, St Kitts & Nevis and Bristol UK, this transnational trilogy of digital shorts, is a lyrical, poetic memorial tribute, using archives to creatively honour our African ancestors. Three African women writers, on three continents, are rendered visible and give voice to three generations of 18th century African women, from one family. Fanny Coker, maidservant of the Georgian House, Bristol, (UK) her mother Adaeze on Mountravers sugar plantation, (St Kitts & Nevis) and grandmother Ojiugo from a village in Igboland (Eastern Nigeria) all three, permanently separated by the inhumanity of kidnapping & human trafficking into slavery.

Igbo Woman (11mins)

Writer: Akachi Ezeigbo; filmmaker, Onyeka Osajie.

Actress Chinyelu Anyaegbunam

Language Igbo with English subtitles

Location: former Igboland, Eastern Nigeria (2017 & 1765).

Igbo Woman begins with the writer, Akachi Ezeigbo, performing a traditional Igbo dirge (a specially created poem that is sung) in Eastern Nigeria's rural landscape. The dirge celebrates the essence of an important person who has died. Fanny (Fumnanya) Coker and her maternal lineage is thus being honoured in 2017 marking 250 years of Fanny's birth into slavery, on Mountravers sugar plantation in Nevis owned by John Pretor Pinney of the Georgian House, Bristol now a museum. This first film takes us back to 1765 in Uga, Igboland, where we witness the fate a young girl Adaeze, (Fanny's mother) when she is sent by her own mother, Ojiugo, (Igbo woman) to the Agwazi river to fetch water

Black Polly (11mins)

Writer & film maker Vida Rawlins

Location: St Kitts & Nevis (1820).

Fanny has asked Adaeze, (Black Polly) her mother, about how she came to be in Nevis. Adaeze has previously put her off, for in resurrecting memories do really wants to know the truth of those times? Is it not better to forget?

Adaeze realises the importance of providing this information for her daughter Fanny. She sits down to write her a letter from the Nevis sugar plantation, where Adaeze is enslaved. Fanny has been in the UK a long time, arriving with the Pinney family as maidservant to Mrs Pinney in 1783. In flashbacks, Adaeze recounts her story of that fateful day back home by the river Agwazi in Igboland, the unimaginable middle passage to the West Indies. We learn how Adaeze adapts, survives for she is a resourceful daughter of Igbo woman. We also learn of the co dependent relationship, she has with her owner, the plantation owner John Pinney.....

Fanny Coker (11mins)

Writer / director / Ros Martin

Location: Greenbank cemetery, Bristol UK 1798/2017

Bridging the past into landscapes of the present, writer, Ros Martin in 2016, makes her way to Fanny Coker's final resting place, a generic Baptist memorial stone in Greenbank cemetery, Bristol. The writer gives voice to a distressed Fanny Coker, 'mulatto' maidservant to Mistress Pinney of 7 Great George Street, Bristol (where Fanny lives and works) .

Following the funeral of enslaved African valet, Uncle Pero (William) Jones in 1798, Fanny is in her mistress' bedroom where she is visited by her 'chi', an ancestral spirit from the Old plantation world....

In Igbo culture, one's chi is one's guardian spirit, from birth to death

Fanny Coker film is on You tube Being Rendered Visible by Ros Martin and originated from Literary Archaeology project University of Bristol
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/research/literary-archaeology/>

Links and further Reading

Mountravers Plantation's community enslaved population owned by the Pinney's where Adaeze, (Black Polly) lived and worked and where Fanny Coker was born, Eickelmann

<https://seis.bristol.ac.uk/~emceee/mountraversplantationcommunity.html>

Recommended Reading

Igbo women in fiction during colonisation of Nigeria, novels by Nigerian women writers

Last of the Strong Ones by Akachi Ezeigbo

The Joys of Motherhood by Buchi Emechta

Ffi about the Project:

www.Daughtersofigbowoman.wordpress.com Do like Daughters of Igbo woman on facebook Ros' website www.olawalearts.org.uk