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The University of
Montana

UC MultiCultural Alliance
University Center Room 104
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-0062
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January 24, 2006

Dear Professor:

We wanted to inform you of the Multicultural Film Series showing Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the University Center Theater starting February 1st. There is no admission charge, and it is a great opportunity for your students to broaden their perspectives, and possibly earn extra credit for attending. We'd appreciate your help and support in announcing the films to your classes. Many of the films will include a dialogue or presentation component as well. A list and brief description of the films follows:

Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action (2005, 88 minutes). *Wednesday, February 1st, 7:00 pm.* In one of the least known but most important human rights stories today, nearly all 317 Native American reservations in the US face grave environmental threats—toxic waste, strip mining, oil drilling and nuclear contamination. In the face of such a widespread crisis, can one person make a difference? For the extraordinary subjects of *Homeland*, the answer is yes. Filmed against some of America's most spectacular backdrops, from Alaska to Maine and Montana to New Mexico, this award-winning film profiles Native American activists who are fighting to protect Indian lands, preserve their sovereignty and ensure the cultural survival of their peoples. A moving tribute to the power of grassroots organizing, *Homeland* is also a call-to-action against the current dismantling of thirty years of environmental laws.

Black is . . . Black Ain't (1995, 87 minutes). *Wednesday February 8th, 7:00 pm.* The culmination of Emmy-winning filmmaker Marlon T. Riggs' work on Black identity and representation, this film is framed by the parallel between his own search for meaning and self-affirmation in the face of his impending death from AIDS and African Americans' historical need to construct an identity, to invent a self and community in the face of racism. Riggs uses his grandmother's gumbo as a metaphor for the rich diversity of Black identities. His camera traverses the country, bringing us face to face with Black folks young and old, rich and poor, rural and urban, gay and straight, grappling with the paradox of numerous, often contested definitions of Blackness. Riggs mixes performances by choreographer Bill T. Jones and poet Essex Hemphill with commentary by noted cultural critics Angela Davis, Bell Hooks, Cornel West, Michele Wallace, Barbara Smith and Maulana Karenga to create a flavorful stew of personal testimony, music, and history.

The Motorcycle Diaries (2004, 128 minutes). *Wednesday, February 15th, 7:00 pm.* "The Motorcycle Diaries" is based on the journals of Che Guevara, leader of the Cuban Revolution. In his memoirs, Guevara recounts adventures he, and best friend Alberto Granado, had while crossing South America by motorcycle in the early 1950s

Daddy and Papa (2002, 68 minutes). *Wednesday, March 1st, 7:00 pm.* *Daddy & Papa* is a documentary exploring the personal, cultural, and political impact of gay men who are making a decision that is at once traditional and revolutionary: to raise children themselves. Taking us inside four gay male families, *Daddy & Papa* traces the day-to-day challenges and the larger, critical issues that inevitably intersect their private lives—the ambiguous place of interracial families in America, the wonder and precariousness of surrogacy and adoption, the complexities of marriage and divorce within the gay community, and the legality of their own parenthood.

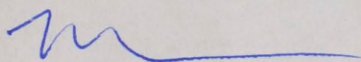
Kandahar (2001, 85 minutes). *Wednesday, March 8th (International Women's Day), 7:00 pm.* Shot on the border of Iran and Afghanistan, *Kandahar* is a politically urgent story of a young female journalist named Nafas who escaped Afghanistan with her family but must return and race against time in an attempt to rescue her sister. The sister, maimed by an exploded landmine and distraught over the constant persecution simply for being a woman, has written to Nafas vowing that she will commit suicide by the next solar eclipse. Nafas must disguise herself as an Afghan wife by wearing the traditional head-to-toe covering of the burka in order to find her sister in the Taliban-controlled city of Kandahar.

Becoming American (1983, 59 minutes). *Wednesday, March 15th, 7:00 pm.* Hang Sou and his family, preliterate tribal farmers, await resettlement in a refugee camp in Thailand after fleeing their war-consumed native Laos. *Becoming American* records their odyssey as they travel to and resettle in the United States. As they face nine months of intense culture shock, prejudice, and gradual adaptation to their new home in Seattle, the family provides a rare insight into refugee resettlement and cultural diversity issues.

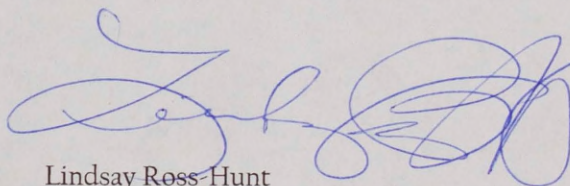
Living Room: Space and Place in Infoshop Culture (2005, 67 minutes). *Wednesday, March 22nd, 7:00 pm.* We live in a society where public places that people feel like they are an active part of and can use for non-economic purposes are increasingly rare. Public spaces where people can go in order to feel like a part of a community and to participate in creating a transformational culture of resistance to the dominant society are even more rare. One exception to this general scarcity of alternative public spaces is the emergence of Info-shops in urban centers across the United States - and indeed around the world. Info-shops are community spaces that facilitate access to traditionally marginalized information while providing a physical space for people to build creative projects of resistance to current forms of destruction and domination. *The filmmakers will be on hand both before and after the showing for questions.*

If you'd like more information or have questions about future films, please call us at 243-5776.

Sincerely,



Michael Parrish
UC MultiCultural Alliance Co-Coordinator



Lindsay Ross-Hunt
UC MultiCultural Alliance International Co-Coordinator