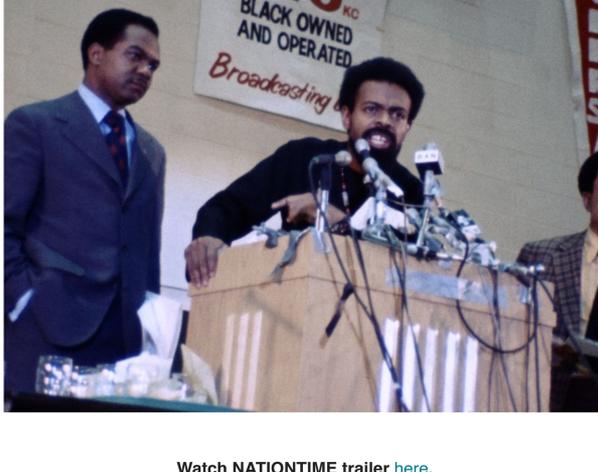


# INDIECOLLECT

Long-Lost **NATIONTIME** by William Greaves  
Premieres at AFI DOCS

Film About 1972 National Black Political Convention Anchors  
AFI's Cinema Legacy Section in a new 4K Restoration by IndieCollect

[Screenings Free — June 18-21](#)



Watch **NATIONTIME** trailer [here](#).

On June 18, AFI DOCS will premiere William Greaves's long-lost documentary, **NATIONTIME – GARY**, about the National Black Political Convention of 1972, with repeat screenings through June 21. This is the director's original 90-minute cut of the film that was never released. It re-emerges at a time when the Black Lives Matter movement is galvanizing support across the nation.

Found in a Pittsburgh warehouse in 2018, the 48-year-old film was painstakingly restored in 4K by IndieCollect under the supervision of Louise Greaves, the director's widow and filmmaking partner. Funding for the restoration was provided by Jane Fonda and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

[Screen Daily](#) highlights the film in its article about the Festival, "Minneapolis Police, Workplace Gender Equality in Spotlight at AFI DOCS."



The newly-restored film carries an on-screen prologue by Louise Greaves that reads: **"The National Black Political Convention of 1972 was a turning point in the struggle for self-determination and equal rights. The Convention adjourned without reaching consensus and some deemed it a failure. But the cry of 'Nationtime' reverberates as America continues to wrestle with its legacy of slavery."**

The National Black Political Convention took place at West Side High School in Gary, Indiana, from March 10-12, 1972. Its organizers intended to forge a unity platform in advance of the Democratic and Republican conventions scheduled for August of that year. The city coped valiantly to accommodate 3,000 official delegates and 7,000 attendees – many more than anticipated.

Despite lighting and audio challenges, William Greaves and his crew (including son David Greaves) captured the excitement and ferment of the Convention – rousing speeches by the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Gary's mayor Richard Hatcher, Amiri Baraka, and Betty Shabazz; breaks for entertainment by comedian-activist Dick Gregory and musician Isaac Hayes; and backstage interviews. The participants included leaders from across the political spectrum and stars of stage and screen: Harry Belafonte, Coretta Scott King, Queen Mother Moore, Richard Roundtree, Bobby Seale, Representatives Charles Diggs and Walter Fauntroy, and many others. The debates centered on issues that are at the center of the national dialogue today: police brutality, economic equity, voting rights, and unequal access to quality education and health care for people of color.



Sandra Schulberg, who headed the IndieCollect restoration team said, "Once again, we are headed into Republican and Democratic conventions in August with a critical presidential election to follow. As our nation reckons with institutionalized racism represented by the recent deaths of George Floyd and so many other African Americans, **NATIONTIME** becomes essential viewing for all who care about ending racist practices in this country, once and for all."

Born in Harlem, William Greaves [1926-2014] was an African American filmmaker who trained at the National Film Board of Canada because he found himself blocked in the U.S. He returned to New York to document the civil rights and black power movements of the 1960s. "I became infuriated by the racially degrading stereotypes that white film producers threw up on American screens. It became clear to me that unless we black people began to produce information for screen and television there would always be a distortion of the 'black image.'"

Greaves went on to serve as co-host and executive producer of "Black Journal," the ground-breaking TV newsmagazine, which won an Emmy Award under his aegis. Over his long career, Greaves produced hundreds of provocative documentaries including *Still A Brother: Inside the Negro Middle Class* (1968), *The Voice of La Raza* (1972), *The Fighters* (aka *The Fight*, 1974), *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice* (1989), *Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey* (2001). He also appeared in the cast of *Lost Boundaries* (1948), a drama about racial discrimination. In 1968, he wrote, directed and produced a movie that defies convention, *Symbiopsychotaxiplasm (Take 1)*. It would not be released until 40 years later, at which point it was acclaimed by film critics and younger movie-makers who formed a cult around Greaves. It was named to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in 2015.

The impact of William Greaves's legacy is just beginning to be properly assessed. A book about his life and work will be published by Columbia University Press in the spring of 2021 and several film retrospectives are in the planning stage. [The Greaves Collection](#) was donated by Louise Greaves to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

At the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, Stanley Nelson, founder of Firelight Media, announced the creation of the [William Greaves Fund](#) to honor his longtime mentor. The Fund will provide grants of \$25,000 and mentorship to documentary filmmakers of color starting this year.



## About the IndieCollect Restoration of **NATIONTIME**

**NATIONTIME** was processed in 1972 by the WRS film laboratory in Pittsburgh, PA. When the lab went bankrupt in 2001, the vault's contents were acquired by collector Jeff Aikman and moved to a nearby warehouse. Carnegie Mellon archivist David Davis identified **NATIONTIME**'s 10 original color reversals A&B rolls in 2018 among an estimated 70,000 picture and sound elements – a needle in a haystack. With the blessing of Mr. Aikman, the IndieCollect team took the reels back to New York.

After hand-cleaning to remove surface dirt and mold, each frame was captured using IndieCollect's 5K Kinetta Archival Scanner. In-house colorist Oskar Miarka worked for several months to color grade and balance the footage revealed in the raw scans. Louise Greaves opted to have IndieCollect create a B&W version of the restoration for the film's first public release at the Museum of Modern Art, while work continues on grading of the color version.

Please join us for the virtual screenings of **NATIONTIME** at AFI DOCS to celebrate the work of William Greaves and his son, David Greaves. You can also tune in to a fascinating Q&A with David, Convention scholar Bryon Lewis (who is featured in the film), Sylvia Lewis, and film scholar Louis Massiah, head of Scribe.

You can also tune into the [Cinema's Legacy panel discussion with Sandra Schulberg](#) speaking about the **NATIONTIME** restoration with moderator and film historian, Dr. Terri Field, along with the directors of Freedom on my Mind (Connie Field) and Sisters of '77 (Cynthia Mondell).

Thank you so much!

Sandra Schulberg and the IndieCollect Team

PS: Connie Field is also the director of *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* which IndieCollect will be restoring later this year.



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