

INDIECOLLECT



HFFPA Makes New Grants to IndieCollect!

Treasures of African American Cinema and Women Auteurs Get Star Treatment



The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has made two grants to IndieCollect totaling close to \$80,000.

Treasures of African American Cinema

The first grant, for \$50,000, will partially underwrite restoration of outstanding films by directors William Greaves [1926-2014], William Miles [1931-2013], and Melvin Van Peebles [b.1932].

Nationtime, Gary by William Greaves (1972, 87 min)

The only film made about the 1st National Black Political Convention in 1972, it is narrated by Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte, and features Jesse Jackson, Dick Gregory, Coretta Scott King, Richard Hatcher, Amiri Baraka, Congressman Charles Diggs, and many other leaders, artists and activists who represent a broad spectrum of political thought.

The original film negative was processed by the WRS lab in Pittsburgh and thought to be lost or destroyed after WRS declared bankruptcy in 2001. In 2018, with the help of Carnegie Mellon archivist Emily Davis, the IndieCollect team located the negative in a Pittsburgh warehouse. Only a 58-minute TV cut has been available in the intervening years.



Pittsburgh warehouse where the *Nationtime* negative was found.

Thanks to the HFFPA grant and a \$10,000 matching gift from Jane Fonda, we were able to start the restoration immediately. Soon audiences will be able to see the full-length version of this historic film for the first time in nearly 50 years in a new 4K restoration.



Colorist Dave Pultz and Louise Greaves (widow of William Greaves) review first version of the *Nationtime, Gary* restoration, August 16, 2019.

I Remember Harlem by William Miles (1981, 4 x 60 min)

William Miles's work as Harlem's visual historian was cited in the Congressional Record and received accolades around the world. He lovingly renders the community's 350-year history as the cultural hub of African American life, starting in the 1600s. The 4-part series charts socio-economic and cultural shifts, high points of the Civil Rights activism, and the legacy of the Harlem Renaissance.



I Remember Harlem was shot on 16mm film and processed at the DuArt film laboratory. After the death of Bill Miles, the four negatives remained unclaimed in the DuArt vault, where they were discovered by the IndieCollect team and archived at Washington University in St. Louis. Funding from the HFFPA will permit a new 4K restoration of "Part One, The Early Years, 1600-1930" while IndieCollect seeks funding to restore the other three films in the series.

The Story of a Three-Day Pass by Melvin Van Peebles (1967, 86 min)

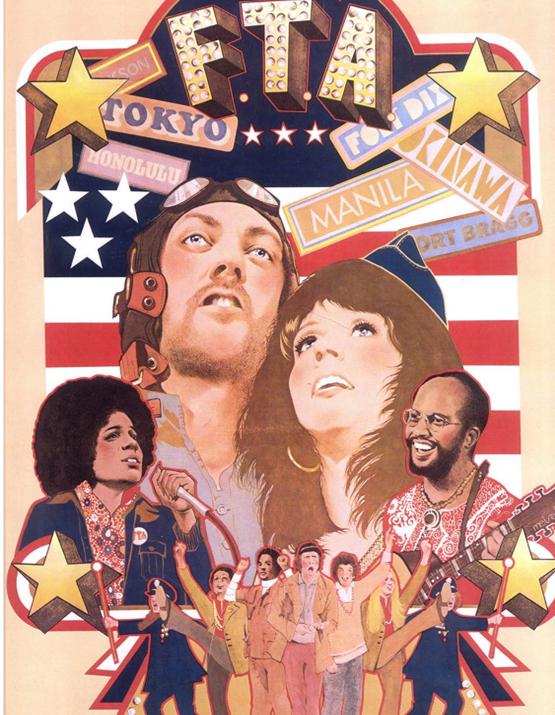
Melvin Van Peebles exiled himself to Paris because he could not get financing in America; but he found racism in France as well. This movie — his first feature — echoes the French New Wave but brims with inspired flourishes that are unique to Van Peebles. It's the story of a black American soldier in Paris (Harry Baird) who wins a promotion and a 3-day leave. His idyllic weekend with the lovely Nicole Berger (star of *Shoot the Piano Player*) is brutally interrupted by a racially-motivated confrontation. When Van Peebles eventually returned to the U.S., he made *Sweet Sweetback's Badaass Song*, launching a new era in black independent cinema.



In 2018, IndieCollect was asked to inventory film and sound elements held by Melvin Van Peebles in two storage units and his New York City apartment where master picture and sound masters were found for this movie.

Hiding in Plain Sight: Reviving the Work of Women Auteurs

IndieCollect is engaged in a major initiative to revive important films by women directors. The HFFPA's second grant, in the amount of \$27,900, enables IndieCollect to restore *F.T.A.* by Francine Parker.



F.T.A. by Francine Parker (1972, 86 min)

Francine Parker follows Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland as they perform their "Free The Army" satirical revue for 60,000 troops during the Vietnam War. They were joined on stage by performers Holly Near, Michael Alaimo, Rita Martinson, Len Chandler, Paul Mooney, and Yale Zimmerman. Dalton Trumbo contributed to the script. Besides documenting the tour, the film captures stirring interviews with servicemen who were questioning their deployment. The film offers eerie echos to the discussions Americans are having today about longterm deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

By the end of 2019, IndieCollect will have restored 45 films — 25 of them by women directors!

Stay tuned for news of our fall fundraiser at which we hope to generate \$250,000 for restoration of at least 10 more films by women directors.

About IndieCollect's Restorations

All films are scanned using a 5K Kinetta Archival Scanner with color correction and digital restoration done in-house on Dell workstations outfitted with Nvidia graphics cards, and using Blackmagic Design's DaVinci Resolve software.

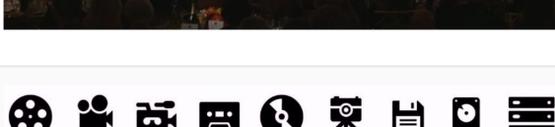
Our restoration initiative has received support from the Ford Foundation, Weissman Family Foundation, Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust, Frances & Benjamin Benenson Foundation, George A. Romero Foundation, Amazon Studios and from Donor Circle benefactors Lyda Kuth, Gerald Herman, Michael Hausman, Ira Resnick, Whitney Green, Beverly Grossman, Sybil Robson Orr, Adam Stern, Jon Kamen, Stanley Buchthal, Catherine Wyler, Ann Hu, and Jane Maurer.

We send special thanks to the officers and executive staff of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association: Lorenzo Soria, Meher Tatna, Silvia Bizio, Luca Celada and Sandra Cuneo.

And a very special thanks to Jane Fonda!

Sandra Schulberg and the IndieCollect Team

PS: Watch Jon Favreau announce the HFFPA grants to IndieCollect below, at the end of which Jane Fonda urges that more funds be invested in film restoration.



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