

fire burn babylon

a rasta journey

"An amazing film" Jonathan Demme, Aruba Film Festival 2011

"Fire Burn Babylon shows that Babylon can be a confused state of mind rather than a physical location. It highlights the importance of taking responsibility for your actions as opposed to casting inappropriate blame" lldstore.com

"Fire Burn Babylon" breaks new ground in documentary history by covering a subject matter that is rarely revealed." Commfest 2010

Winner

Bronze Palm award,
Mexico International
Film Festival

Winner

Honorable mention
MADA AWARDS,
COMMFEST
Toronto

www.fireburnbabylon.com

Official Selection

Portobello Film Festival,
London

Official Selection

San Diego Black
Film Festival

Official Selection

WorldFilm Festival
of Visual Culture
Tartu, Estonia

Official Selection

Finalist
Africa World Documentary
Film Festival
St Louis, USA

Official Selection

Aspekty Film Festival
Poland

Alchemy Films in association with Planispheres present FIRE BURN BABYLON Produced, Written and Directed by SARITA SIEGEL
Co-produced by CHARLOTTE WILCOX and WANDA GURZYNSKA Executive Producer MALCOLM MOORE Edited by SARITA SIEGEL
Supervising Editor WANDA GURZYNSKA Stills Photography STEPHEN HATHAWAY

Featuring 'Who Is Laughing' by SIZZLA, music by DUBWISE, OG and ESKIMO SQUAD and MYSTIC REVELATION OF RASTAFARI

Reviews for Fire Burn Babylon

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<http://www.ildstore.com/2009/04/29/film-review-fire-burn-babylon/index.html>.

Film Review – Fire Burn Babylon

Posted by **ILD 2009** on April 29, 2009

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Fire Burn Babylon

If it's one thing I must say, is that this film is a must see for Rases living not just in the UK, but for all that still dwell in the western world. If anything, this documentary portrays if not fully explains the specific reason why Rases have and continue to relentlessly chant not "Repatriation is an option," or "Repatriation is a possibility", but "Repatriation is a MUST".

If ever again possible, I highly recommend you go to a live screening, where you might have the chance of a Q&A session with the director and cast.

The film engages the idea that Babylon can be a confused state of mind rather than, or including a physical location. It also highlights the importance of identifying the point where you take responsibility for your actions as opposed to casting inappropriate blame.

The idea that Zion, which among Rastafari represents the land of our fore-parents, which is Africa, is a place that will automatically bring forth your righteous spirit, and that bad living (succession of bad habits) is justified whilst living in "Babylon" as this is the "land of confusion" is also challenged by this film. It brings forth the thought that righteousness should be practiced wherever a Ras might dwell, so that when the decision has been made to repatriate, the Ras will be an expert in righteousness, having perfected it whilst in exile.

The sobering moment when a so-called Rastafari man, who is a son of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie the First, a representative of the Almighty on earth, has the mother of his child say to him that she does not want their child to be like him, because of his bad habits, is evidence to the the fact that the full manifestation of the power and specific duty of Rastafari, has not yet materialised for many, many Rases still living in the West.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2010 · COMMENTS (0)

5th Annual Community Film Festival

If TIFF has left a hole in your filmgoing schedule, you'll be pleased to hear that the 5th annual COMMFEST (that's the Community Film Festival) is set to hit Toronto this week at the Rainbow Cinema. COMMFEST is a festival ...

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<http://www.commfest.com/>

I personally really enjoyed your film, and recommended it for an award. It spoke to me in a very direct way, because I am a white Rastafarian woman, who has been involved with the reggae music and Rasta community in Toronto for many years. I also have a son who has just recently turned 26, who is of mixed Jamaican/Canadian heritage.

Your film really impressed me, because the relationships between Rastafarian men and white women have never been documented before to my knowledge, and I found it interesting on that level as well as the wider issue of the displaced Rastafarians from the Caribbean trying to fit in to our often brutal Babylonian culture. "Fire Burn Babylon" served to break new ground in documentary history by covering a subject matter that is rarely revealed.

I look forward to seeing more of your films as you document your son's growth within the Rasta/European community. Rastafari is a growing way of life around the world, and has become an international subject that could be documented in your future filmmaking.

Iyanna Lee - COMMFEST judge



extracted from <http://www.worldfilm.ee/blog/article-15>

Fire, people and life April 03, 2011

Write first comment

Mele Pesti reflecting over "Fire Burn Babylon", "Holy Fire", and "Reborn in Westphalia"

In the film "Fire Burn Babylon", Sarita Siegel tells a personal story that would probably make all the professors of nationalism faint: Sarita, a blond Western woman living in London, falls in love with a Rastafarian who was evacuated to London due to a natural disaster on his home island in the Carribean sea. Sarita has a baby with him, and eventually they split up, but in this very frank she relates the life of her man, and of his Rastafarian friends, thus leading us into the Rastafari culture. It is one thing to read about relationships for the Rastafarians and listen to their macho mentality in reggae-song lyrics, but completely another to see how a woman slowly discovers cultural differences and learns to live with them. In this complicated personal story, Sarita manages to understand, explain and mediate Rastafarian culture. She makes a great effort to give her son every possibility to participate in his father's world, as much as this blond-curly-haired dark-skinned boy ever wishes to.



Rastafarians in London

Yet more interesting aspect of the film was a glimpse into Rastafarian philosophy, which becomes certainly more clear thanks to the link between the two environments: the greenness of the Carribean island and the concrete jungle of London. No one has the money to send them back to their mythical homeland in Ethiopia, and so they stay in this cold country of Elizabeth. City life presents a great challenge to the peace and love vibes of Rastafarians, and quite a few of them go astray. Nonetheless, they do manage to find a bright side in this new life, and so the rasta parties and reggae music become their sunny weapon to fight against this cold Babylon. It is true that there are now a few more bad boys in London, but there are also more colours and more joy in the city, because, surprisingly, differences are enriching indeed. One of the best films in the festival, surely, that touched a multilayered world so different from ours in Estonia.

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More reasons to love Jonathan Demme

14 June, 2011 | By Wendy Mitchell

The director once again proves his great interview skills in Aruba.

My professional crush on Jonathan Demme just keeps growing. Not only are his films brilliant, but the guy gives great interviews.

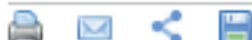
I first chatted with Demme two years ago for *Rachel Getting Married*, and despite the fact that we only did a phone interview I felt so connected to him and energised by his approach to filmmaking that I thought about quitting journalism and begging him for a job instead.

Here at the Aruba International Film Festival this weekend, he was amazingly gracious, passionate and yet seemingly egoless when he gave a public chat about his work. He talked about Haitian politics (following a screening of *The Agronomist*), working with Roger Corman and how he got Bruce Springsteen on board to write that amazing song for *Philadelphia*.

He's a great storyteller — and seeing him speak reminds me a bit of seeing Martin Scorsese talk about film, but just from a different perspective.

Here in Aruba, Demme brought his son along and they'd been watching films all day and planned to watch more all night (keep in mind that's instead of hitting Aruba's famous beaches like the rest of us layabouts).

He had huge praise for Sarita Siegel's documentary *Fire Burn Babylon*, about Rastafarians who had to move from Montserrat to London. And Demme, who once aspired to be a veterinarian, also recommended another film in Aruba's new Caribbean Spotlight Series — Juan Agustin Marquez's *100,000*, about Puerto Rico's problems with abandoned dogs.



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