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## Anthropology of Performance

### Africa



#### YMAKO

52 minutes, 1998. Filmmakers: Laurent Van Lancker, Robin Shuffield

Ymako Teatri, a theatre company based in Ivory Coast, uses street theatre to question some Contemporary West-African problems, such as the proliferation of AIDS. Their originality consists in using the 'invisible theatre' method in order to surprise the general public, generating awareness and sensitive responses.

### Asia



#### SCENES OF AFGHAN MUSIC

97 minutes, 2007. Filmmaker and Anthropologist: John Baily

*Scenes of Afghan Music* is Part IV of *A Quartet of Afghan Music Films*, made in the author's personal "fieldwork movie" style. It reveals the diversity of music and dance practices in the Afghan transnational community: old and new, male and female, public and private, amateur and professional.



#### AMIR - AN AFGHAN REFUGEE MUSICIAN'S LIFE IN PESHAVAR, PAKISTAN

52 minutes, 1986. Filmmaker and Anthropologist: John Baily, Camera: Wayne Derrick

Amir, an Afghan refugee in Pakistan, tells his life story through music, highlighting his work with other musicians and his precarious existence as a refugee.



#### A KABUL MUSIC DIARY

52 minutes, 2003. Filmmaker /Anthropologist: John Baily

Ethnomusicologist John Baily returns to Kabul to see what is happening in the world of music one year after the defeat of the Taliban. The film documents a variety of musical activities, including performances of *rubab* lute music by Kabul's traditional musicians, songs of Afghan orphans, the Music Department of Kabul university and a student pop group playing electric guitars and keyboard. Implicitly, the film identifies some of the dilemmas facing people seeking to help Afghans rebuild their music culture.



### **Two videos about a charismatic leader in East Java**

67 minutes total. Filmmaker/Anthropologists: Raharjo Suwandi, Patsy Asch and James J. Fox

***In the Play of Life: a wayang performance in East Java*** (1992, 25 minutes)

***Consulting Embah Wali*** (2000, 42 minutes)

These companion films examine the philosophy and ritual practices of the followers of a holy man popularly known as Embah Wali. The movement, centred in Blitar, East Java, regards the wayang performance as a model for living. Their ritual practices involve the performance of a unique form of wayang with human actors.



### **THE DANCER AND THE DANCE**

44 minutes, 1988. Filmmaker and Anthropologist: Felicia Hughes-Freeland

Javanese palace dancing has long attracted outsiders by its exotic costumes and effortless grace of movement. The film introduces the physical and philosophical rigours which are the reality of the tradition through the perspectives of the performer and the connoisseur.



### **DREAM GIRLS**

50 minutes, 1993. Filmmakers: Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams

This film opens a door into the amazing world of the Takarazuka Revue, the all-female theatre troupe in Japan. Thousands of young women aspire to perform in the Revue's glitzy musical spectacles and the millions of women who attend the shows idolise the romantic heroes like pop stars.



### **EAT THE KIMONO**

60 minutes, 1989. Filmmakers: Claire Hunt, Kim Longinotto

This is a compelling biography of Hanayagi Genshu, a dancer who has shocked the traditional elements of Japanese society with her radical politics and avant-garde performances.

## **North America**



### **IN SEARCH OF THE HAMAT'SA: A TALE OF HEADHUNTING**

33 minutes, 2004. Director and Anthropologist: Aaron Glass

The Hamat'sa (or "Cannibal Dance") is the most important - and highly represented ceremony of the Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) people of British Columbia. This film traces the history of anthropological depictions of the dance and, through the return of archival materials to a First Nations community, presents some of the ways in which diverse attitudes toward this history inform current performances of the Hamat'sa.



### **POLKA**

50 minutes, 1986. Filmmaker: Robert Boonzajer-Flaes

The film confronts the accordion music of Chicano immigrants in southern Texas with the traditional music of accordion players in Austria. Without making any final judgements on the 'roots' of 'conjunto' music of the Chicanos, the film is able to reveal the different claims to ethnic identity.



### **MANGROVE MUSIC**

49 minutes, 2006. Filmmaker/Anthropologist: Carlo Cubero (GCVA Student Film)

The Caribbean island of Culebra is located between Spanish speaking Puerto Rico and English speaking Virgin Islands. Musicians from the island are inspired from a variety of regional, national and global influences when composing and producing their distinct island music. This film follows two music groups from the island of Culebra and specifically looks into the processes and relationships that constitute an island musical identity.



### **TEMPORARY SANITY**

32 minutes, 2006. Filmmaker/Anthropologist Dan Brunn (GCVA Student Film)

This film deals with the culture of Jamaican dancehall music as it exists in New York. It follows one young dancehall participant who makes his living performing and promoting dancehall music.

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