

# The DEFA Film Library Presents

## GSA ARTS NIGHT SCREENING

Sept. 29 through Oct. 11, 2020

**Link:** <https://vimeo.com/458196470>

**Password:** DEFA@GSA2020



### **I'm a Negro, I'm an American: Paul Robeson**

(GDR/FRG, 1989, dir. Kurt Tetzlaff, 86 min., b&w, EN ST, doc.)

Biographical notes on the American singer, actor and civil rights activist Paul Robeson (1898-1976). At the height of his fame and skill, Robeson's career was cut short by Cold War anti-Communist hysteria. This documentary includes rarely shown historic footage of the US civil rights movement; clips of Robeson's speeches, performances and visits to the GDR and Soviet Union; and interviews with his son, Paul Robeson Jr., and the musicians and activists Harry Belafonte, Pete Seeger and Earl Robinson. Co-produced by the DEFA Studio for Documentary Film and the West Berlin film production company Chronos, with scenes shot in the U.S.

In the GDR, the American civil rights movement and Black activists—especially those on the left—were important to socialist solidarity in the international struggle for racial, gender and economic equality. The name of Paul Robeson, doubly admired because of his virtuosity as a singer and actor, was known to every East German. In recounting Robeson's story, this documentary expresses admiration for the man and artist, while also making use of—and at times questioning—his role as a symbol.

*This event is the official US premiere of the film with English subtitles.  
It is offered in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement.*

*We are very pleased to announce that the DEFA Foundation in Berlin will restore and digitize this documentary next year, in preparation for our release of the film on DVD and streaming in 2021-22.*

I'm a Negro  
I'm an AMERICAN

Eine Gemeinschaftsproduktion  
des DEFA-Studios für Dokumentarfilme  
Gruppe „Kontakt“, mit Chronos-Film Berlin (West)

**Buch:**  
Jochen Niebelschütz,  
Kurt Tetzlaff

**Regie:** Kurt Tetzlaff

**Kamera:** Andreas Bergmann, Claus Mühle

**Dramaturgie:** Jochen Niebelschütz

**Produktionsleitung:** Ulrich Kling

**Musik:** Traditional

# PAUL ROBESON



„Ich bin ein Neger.  
Das Haus, in dem ich  
wohne, steht in Harlem  
– einer Stadt innerhalb  
einer Stadt, der Negermetropole  
von Amerika.“ Diese Worte des  
weltberühmten Sängers Paul Robeson  
inspirierten Regisseur Kurt Tetzlaff  
zu dem Titel seines Films.  
Entstanden ist das Porträt  
eines vielumjubelten Stars,  
der allen Diskriminierungen zum Trotz  
sein Lied als Waffe gebrauchte.

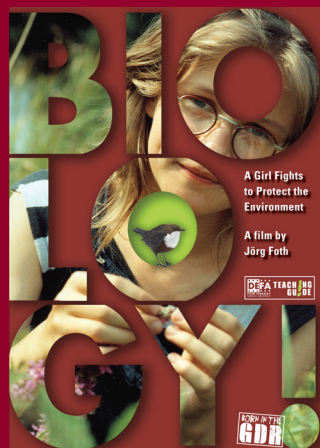
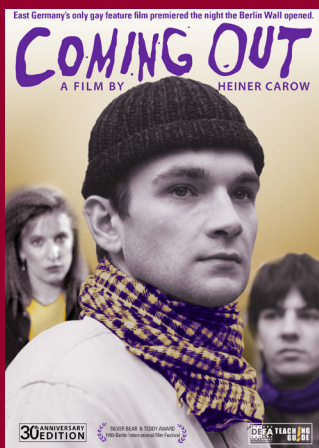
## CALL TO PARTICIPATE

We are always eager to develop interesting bonus materials for our DVD and streaming productions. DEFA Film Library bonuses present scholarly readings of the films, as well as interesting background information—for example, about the political and social context in which a film was made, its production history, related newsreels and interviews, etc.

We are currently gathering ideas for important and relevant bonus features for *I'm a Negro, I'm an American: Paul Robeson* and invite you to participate! Among other bonus features, we would like to include a Teaching Guide for this documentary. If you are interested, please get in touch with Hiltrud Schulz [video@german.umass.edu]



We have just launched a DEFA Film Library Teaching Guide Series that, with the help of outside scholars and teachers, will provide **Teaching Guides** for selected film productions. Upcoming releases that will include a Teaching Guide are *Coming Out*, *Biology!* and *Our Children*. If there is another DEFA film for which you would like to create a Teaching Guide, please contact Mariana Ivanova [mzivanova@umass.edu]



**Our first DVD releases with TEACHING GUIDES**  
You will find them on the DVD, our website and Kanopy  
as soon the films are released



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