



Mandela at 90 Films

There are a wide range of films available about the current situation in South Africa as well as the campaign against Apartheid. Here's a selection of ACTSAs favourites.

Mapantsula

The first anti-apartheid feature film by, for and about black South Africans, MAPANTSULA follows Panic's transformation from irresponsible and violent loner to someone compelled to take a stand. Shot in and around Soweto, it was originally banned in South Africa.

In English, Zulu, Sotho, Afrikaans with English Subtitles

South Africa, 1988 - 104 mins

Jump the Gun

An ironic look at contemporary South African society, seen through the eyes of a group hanging out in Johannesburg's underbelly.

Drama, South Africa, 1997 - 244 min

Tsotsi

Tsotsi (thug) is the perfect name for this violent, cold-hearted young gang leader whose turf is the townships outside Johannesburg where he leads his friends in vicious robberies and worse. One night, he shoots a young woman and jacks her car. Little does he know that the baby he later discovers in the back seat will change his life forever. Based on Athol Fugard's novel, TSOTSIS is shot with an urgent energy and music soundtrack that recalls films like CITY OF GOD. TSOTSIS has been nominated for Foreign Language Oscar.

In Tsotsitaal, Afrikaans, English with English Subtitles

South Africa, United Kingdom, 2005 - 94 mins

Have you heard from Johannesburg?

Traces the rise of the 1980s anti-apartheid movement. Through fascinating news footage, insightful interviews and an evocative musical score, academy Award-nominated filmmaker Connie Field perfectly captures the look and feel of the times. From its first frame the film dives into the highs and lows of this real-world grassroots drama, as Bishop Desmond Tutu pleads for help, President Ronald Reagan turns the other cheek and a small group of African American politicians use the media to get attention. We watch as Americans cross both party and racial lines to demand US divestment in South Africa, complete with celebrity-fueled demonstrations and the creation of mock shantytowns. An object lesson for our own time, this inspiring work reveals the true power of the people.

South Africa, 2006, 89 minutes

A Dry White Season

A prominent white school teacher living in South Africa and accepting the apartheid system, finds his life shattered when his black gardener is killed after trying to investigate his son's death. He hires a lawyer to help him expose the injustices of the government. Starring Donald Sutherland is based on an anti-apartheid novel by Andre Brink. Academy Award Nominations: Best Supporting Actor--Marlon Brando.

South Africa, 1989, 107 minutes



Cry the beloved country

The third film adaptation of Alan Paton's novel. Father Stephen Kumalo lives in a small South African town, detached from the Apartheid-related hardships of the larger cities. But when he receives a letter indicating that his sister is in trouble, Father Kumalo journeys to Johannesburg. Once there, his eyes are opened to the violence, poverty, and hardships that his fellow countrymen must suffer. After an arduous search, Kumalo finds his sibling and later his estranged son, only to find that both are engaged in illegal activities just to stay alive. Furthermore, Kumalo's son has killed a white man. Father Kumalo realizes that he faces an uphill battle if he is going to keep his reunited family together.

Both Sidney Poitier and Richard Harris versions are recommended

South Africa, 1995, 120 minutes

Cry Freedom

This film describes Donald Woods' extraordinary experiences from his first meeting with Biko in 1975 to his dramatic flight into Lesotho less than three years later. In so doing, the film confirms with sympathy and a deal of emotional clout what we all knew - that Biko was a truly great man, that apartheid and the regime enforcing it were inhumane, and that love must overcome hatred.

Cleverly, it does all that while beating to the pace of a thriller, reaching fever pitch after Biko's demise when Woods, hounded by a gnashing John Thaw (playing Minister Of Police, James Kruger), attempts to uncover the brutal truth of his friends

South Africa, 1987, 158 minutes