

The Centre for Feminist Research presents

Sathima's Windsong

a film by Daniel Yon

Thursday, September 20, 2012

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Nat Taylor Cinema (102 Ross North)

Sathima's Windsong is about the life and times of South African jazz singer Sathima Bea Benjamin whose musical creations were often in the shadow of her husband, jazz musician Abdullah Ibrahim.

The film is shot primarily in New York, Cape Town but opens with short of the Island of St Helena, birthplace of Sathima's grandmother. It returns to the ocean to signal travel, 'routes' and jazz as metaphors for her life-history. In her apartment of the Chelsea Hotel Apartment, Sathima's home for more than thirty years, she patches together her journeys from apartheid

South Africa, and its 'patterns of brokenness', to Europe, and a chance meeting and a recording with Duke Ellington in Paris in 1963, to the highs and lows of making a life for herself and family in New York.

The narrative of her journeys is interwoven with her music and the reflections of folks in South Africa and New York who know her work thus making this film both a celebration of Sathima's music as well as a reflection on the historical context that helped shape it. The film takes its title from Sathima's haunting composition, "Windsong," which, like this film, is itself is a reflection upon displacement, exile, belonging and longing.



The screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring

Daniel Yon

Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and the Department of Anthropology and former Director of the Graduate Programme in Social Anthropology at York University

Richard Fung

Associate Professor in the Faculty of Art at OCAD University

Liam Rodrigues

Alternative Educator and independent scholar

D. Alissa Trotz

Associate Professor, Caribbean Studies at New College and Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto

Questions? cfr@yorku.ca