

Videography

Session 2. Popular Music during the Golden Age of (Organized) Capitalism

Accompanying session 2 and the second part of chapter 1 are some wonderful documentaries and films, as listed below. You can find many of these documentaries on BoB National (<https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand>), if your institution has an active subscription. Alternatively, search in YouTube or on the worldwide web.

***Cadillac Records*, dir. Darnell Martin (2008)**

"Cadillac Records" chronicles the rise of Leonard Chess' Chess Records and its recording artists including Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Chuck Berry, Willie Dixon and the great Etta James. In this tale of sex, violence, race and rock and roll in Chicago of the 1950s and 60s, the film follows the exciting but turbulent lives of some of America's greatest musical legends. See <http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/cadillacrecords/>.

***Legends: Roll over Beethoven - The Chess Records Saga* (2014)**

Chicago's Chess Records was one of the greatest labels of the post-war era, ranking alongside other mighty independents like Atlantic, Stax and Sun. From 1950 until its demise at the end of the 1960s, Chess released a myriad of electric blues, rock 'n' roll and soul classics that helped change the landscape of black and white popular music. Chess was the label that gave the world such sonic adventurers as Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley, Howlin' Wolf and Etta James. In this documentary to mark the label's 60th anniversary, the likes of Jimmy Page, Mick Hucknall, Public Enemy's Chuck D, Paul Jones and Little Steven, as well as those attached to the label such as founder's son Marshall Chess, pay tribute to its extraordinary music and influence. The film reveals how two Polish immigrants, Leonard and Phil Chess, forged friendships with black musicians in late 1940s Chicago, shrewdly building a speciality blues label into a huge independent worth millions by the end of the 1960s. Full of vivid period detail, it places the Chess story within a wider social and historical context, as well as being about some of the greatest music ever recorded, it is, inevitably, about race in America during these tumultuous times. Available through Bob National at <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/prog/017A37FD?bcast=107472455>

***AMIGA: Der Sound der DDR* (2017)**

Documentary on occasion of the 70th anniversary of "Amiga" - the state run record company of the former GDR.

***Mbira Music: Music of the People* (1990)**

This documentary explores the traditions of mbira, its connection to the revolutionary struggle of the Second Chimurenga and transition to independence. With extensive footage from the era, the film features interviews and live performances by Thomas Mapfumo and Oliver Mtukudzi. Available at <http://www.africanmusicdiary.com/2014/03/03/mbira-music-spirit-of-the-people/>.