

Videography

Session 6. Globalization and World Music

Accompanying this session 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.

How to be a World Music Star (2013)

Documentary telling the story of the British world music revolution from the early 1980s to the present. Through a variety of careers, starting with Zimbabwe's Bhundu Boys and culminating with Portugal's Mariza in the new millennium, the film explores what it takes to bring music from 'out there' over here. Through the testimony of artists from all around the world alongside key British producers and broadcasters including Andy Kershaw, Joe Boyd and Nick Gold, it tracks the evolving story of what British audiences have wanted from what has come to be called 'world music' and what a range of artists including Les Mystere des Voix Bulgares, Salif Keita, Youssou N'Dour, Baaba Maal, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Buena Vista Social Club and Tinariwen have made of us. At the dawn of the 80s, in an age of spandex and synthesizers, many music fans were becoming bored with the pop charts and hungered for a new music that could excite them once again. Where music from the rest of the world had once been regarded as mere exotica, there was increasingly a sense that world music could be the future of pop music. The documentary traces the hopes and ambitions of a new music industry as cultures came together for the first time, producing much brilliant music and a degree of human comedy. From the tribal warriors of Mali who fought in rebellions with guitars and guns strapped to their shoulders, all-female choirs from the other side of the Iron Curtain playing to rock fans, a band from Zimbabwe who supported Madonna to a group of old men from Cuba who took the world by storm with their music from another era, these tales from musicians from out there arriving over here trace an evolving market that has both offered a blueprint for the future and an escape into a romantic past. Available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b038rp8k> and <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand>.

Youssou N'Dour: Voice of Africa (2012)

Documentary telling the remarkable life story of Senegal's most renowned singer/composer, Youssou N'Dour. He found international fame with the song 7 Seconds, but he became the voice of Africa through the emotional power of his songs followed by a dangerous move into politics. The film tracks Youssou's personal journey, with performances and rare footage from around the world, beginning in the remote desert landscape where Youssou chose to announce his return to music in February 2013. Featuring contributions from Youssou himself, his family, friends and band members, Peter Gabriel and Neneh Cherry, plus archive, home movies and performances from throughout his career. Available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0395mzx> and <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand>.

Buena Vista Social Club (1999)

Aging Cuban musicians whose talents had been virtually forgotten following Castro's takeover of Cuba, are brought out of retirement by Ry Cooder, who travelled to Havana in order to bring the musicians together, resulting in triumphant performances of extraordinary music, and resurrecting the musicians' careers. For further information, see <http://www.pbs.org/buenavista/film/index.html>.

The Real World of Peter Gabriel (2009)

This documentary provides a look at singer-songwriter Peter Gabriel's involvement with Real World Studios, where artists from across the globe gather and collaborate to make music, examining how Peter Gabriel has created opportunities for music to cross cultural boundaries. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgTY5zGxh5A>

Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan – Documentary (Soho Works Production) (1990)

This documentary provides a portrait of Pakistan's late, great master of qawwali (the ecstatic music of Sufism), Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. It features interviews with Peter Gabriel, Nahid Siddiqui, Harminder Kalsi, Nusrath Fateh Ali Khan, and Edward George. Available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BOZY_O0OX4 or in two parts <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOtRVlnsvto> (part I) and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_DfUuvZLNg (part 2).

Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan: A Voice from Heaven (2001)

Documentary filmmaker Giuseppe Asaro directs this tribute to master qawwali singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, who died in August 1997. The film demonstrates Nusrat's leading role as an ambassador of world music by including segments of concert footage, from shows for college students in Berkeley, California, to a gathering of Sufis in Pakistan. A Voice from Heaven was screened at the L.A./AFI film festival. Available at <https://youtu.be/ql3TmuXVCaw>