



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
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San Diego Public Library

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Documentary Focuses on Forced Expulsion of Black Southerners from Their Homes after the Civil War

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library will host a film showing of Marco William's *Banished*, which tells the story of the forcible expulsion of blacks from communities between Reconstruction and the Great Depression. The documentary examines the racial repercussions in contemporary Pierce City, Missouri; Harrison, Arkansas; and Forsyth County, Georgia. *Banished* was nominated for the 2007 Sundance Grand Jury Prize. The film will be shown on Sunday, January 6, at 2:00 PM in the Central Library 3rd floor auditorium located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. A public discussion will follow the film presentation. This event is FREE to the public.

From the end of Reconstruction until the end of WWI, thousands of black families, threatened with death and physical injury, were forced off their land and farms. Churches were burned, homes dynamited and shot at and black men were lynched. In dozens of cases the banishment was so complete and so swift, dozens of cities and towns became effectively all-white over night. In most cases the families were never compensated for the loss of their property. A century later, some of these towns and counties have remained all-white.

Marco William's documentary tracks the stories of the descendents of those forced to flee, as well as the descendents of the townspeople that forced the original families out, Williams personalizes this tragic period in U.S. history. *Banished* offers no solutions, but it opens the door for an expanded conversation about reparations.

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Community Cinema is affiliated with the independent media organization, Independent Television Service (ITVS). ITVS Community Cinema is a monthly screening series that pairs independently produced documentary films with leading organizations working to resolve related social issues in communities across the country. All film content featured in ITVS Community Cinema will be broadcast nationally on the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens. Banished will air in February, 2008.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org

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