

Film Title and Release Date: *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016)

Film Length in Minutes: 95 minutes

Film Genre: Civils Rights Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Prisha S. 11th Grade

Date Reviewed: July 28, 2020

This film covers the struggles Black Americans have faced for the past 400 years with an emphasis on the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, and the events leading up to and resulting from it. The documentary is narrated from the perspective of James Baldwin, a Black novelist, playwright, and activist. He passed away in 1987, but left several pages of a manuscript to his unfinished book, "Remember This House." The film emphasizes the plights of Medgar Evers, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and many other brave Black Americans.

The information in the film is presented in different categories of how the documentarian assumes Baldwin's understanding of these major civil rights figures. Many dated clips from the 1920s to 1960s are used to depict racial injustice throughout public facilities, schools, police enforcement, film industry, and everyday living. Clips of Baldwin's speeches and press conferences are included to establish the tone of his reasoning and racial ideologies towards the fight for Black Americans' rights. Most of the film shows the horrors and injustice Black Americans had to face in 1900s such as mockery, physical abuse, white supremacist rallies, and lynching, but the documentarian was sure to include times of sympathy and solidarity from White Americans, whether that be civilians, political leaders, or even movie stars.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I found the film on Kanopy by casual browsing.

Did the information keep you interested?

Yes, I found the information impactful and crucial for problems in today's society.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace was just right. The film wasn't chronologically sequenced, but it showed Baldwin's piecing together of what formed the Civil Rights Movement and its impact today.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

This film is appropriate for older grades such as 10-12 as it presents graphic pictures.

Rating: 5 stars: I'm really glad I watched this film; it was awesome!

I have learned a great deal of information regarding the history of Black Americans from this film and about James Baldwin who I have never learned about before. I think this information is extremely relevant to today's social and political climate of the Black Lives Matter Movement.