III. CROSSING THE CONTINENT: New Video From Africa

This 2-part program was curated by Glaxo Lawrence, a Toronto-based film and video artist who has traveled extensively throughout Africa. Lawrence has constructed a series of recent video work from Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Zimbabwe, much of which has never been screened in the United States. It examines the struggles within contemporary Africa to change traditional customs and beliefs to meet the needs of modern society. Crossing the Continent features animation, documentary, and drama, celebrating the range of media currently being produced in Africa.

CROSSING THE CONTINENT, Program 1: June 17, 8:00 PM

This evening of video focuses primarily upon women's issues within contemporary African society. "Neria" by B.M. Imoro (Ghana) is the story of a dedicated nurse forced to choose between her profession and the man she loves. The title character of "Neria" by Godwina Mawura (Zimbabwe) is a recently widowed woman who entered into a modern marriage but must face her in-laws who, motivated by greed, claim traditional rites. "Genesis to Zero" is an animation by Victorine Tsoatso Broholm (Ethiopia/Ghana).

CROSSING THE CONTINENT, Program 2: Saturday, July 17, 8:00 PM

Videos on health issues affecting African families today: reproductive rights & family planning. "Dangerous Numbers" by Yaw Firepong Bokoo (Ghana) was commissioned by Johns Hopkins University & focuses on the debate surrounding non-traditional small families. "Harvest" by Kwaas Anseh (Ghana) exposes the high mortality rate of women who undergo induced abortions & the struggle to maintain a traditional way of life among young Ghanaian women influenced by American culture. "A Certain Matrimony" by Fanta Regina Naoro (Burkina Faso) is a drama about a farm family who answer a woman's call for help.