History on Film: Slavery and the African Diaspora from a Global Perspective

Screening of ‘Body Games. Capoeira and Ancestry’

Monday 9 October 2017 | 3-5pm | School of Advanced Study
Senate House (South Block) | Room G34

As part of the series History on Film: Slavery and the African Diaspora from a Global Perspective this event will host the screening of the film ‘BODY GAMES. CAPOEIRA AND ANCESTRY (JOGO DE CORPO. CAPOEIRA E ANCESTRALIDADE)’, Directed by Richard Pakleppa, Matthias Röhrig Assuncão and Cinêzio Peçanha (Mestre Cobra Mansa), 87 mins., 2014. Audio: Nyaneka and Portuguese, subtitles: Portuguese and English; UK/Brazil/South Africa: On Land & Manganga Productions, 2014.

BODY GAMES presents a sensual tapestry of combat games from both sides of the Atlantic. It tells a story driven by Mestre Cobra Mansa’s need to understand the ancestry of his art form, Capoeira, as part of a wider concern with his Afro-Brazilian heritage. The search starts in Rio where, as a 12 year old street child, Cobra found survival and self-esteem playing Capoeira. Through Capoeira he grew into Brazil’s black movement and discovered his identity as an Afro-Brazilian. A powerful Brazilian myth links Capoeira to a legendary Angolan game called Engolo. Through an exchange of Capoeira and Engolo in the dusty villages of Southern Angola, Cobra and his friends begin to understand the affinities and differences between combat games played on both sides of the Atlantic.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Matthias Röhrig Assuncão (University of Essex).

Please RSVP to mr28@soas.ac.uk