

“Amaleta” and “Listen to Grandfather”

A review by Tom Sims

Just like at the Cape May Film Festival, the two films being reviewed this week are not on TV or in theaters... and you can't rent them on DVD. There will be only one chance to see them in front of a live audience.

“I, too, sing America. I am the darker brother. They send me to eat in the kitchen when company comes. But I laugh and eat well and grow strong. Tomorrow I'll be at the table when company comes. Nobody will dare say to me eat in the kitchen when company comes. Besides they'll see how beautiful I am and be ashamed. I, too, am America.” This text from Langston Hughes (“I, Too, Am America”) as read by Amaleta Moore begins the short film, “Amaleta,” directed by David Iaconangelo and edited by Luke Anderson.

“Amaleta” features one of the most revered citizens of West Cape May, Amaleta Moore and is a moving tribute and study of the daughter of undoubtedly the town's most revered historic figure, school teacher William Moore. This film is a slice of West Cape May history that can never be replicated. Ms. Moore passed away recently at the age of 94, and everyone who knew her spoke of her kind, gentle nature... her unwavering support of equality and justice. A teacher herself, she promoted a sense of self-worth in every life she touched. In her own words, Ms. Moore recalls her growing up under segregation, and her triumphs and struggles.

“Listen to Grandfather” is another tribute to one of Cape May's favorites. Directed and edited by Colin Pritchard, this film follows (literally) a day in the life of Jack Sayre, local naturalist and teacher who lives right here in Cape May. At age 75, Jack started an eco tour of the marsh lands behind the barrier islands. He lives on a farm that has been in his family since long before the Civil War. In the film, we get a taste of Jack's tour as we take a boat ride through the marshes. We also get a healthy dose of his sound wisdom relating to our frail ecological system—an important reminder with Earth Day but a few weeks behind us.

These two films are wonderfully distinct yet equally as poignant and as relative today as they were when produced by our Young Filmmakers a few years ago. The films will be screen along with a world premiere film featuring some of West Cape May's most prominent historical figures. Join the Cape May Film Society and the West Cape May Historical Society this Friday, May 7, for this special event. Admission is free, and the program will be held at the West Cape May Borough Hall. No reservations are needed, but we will be seating on a first come, first serve basis. Call for details, 609-884-6700.