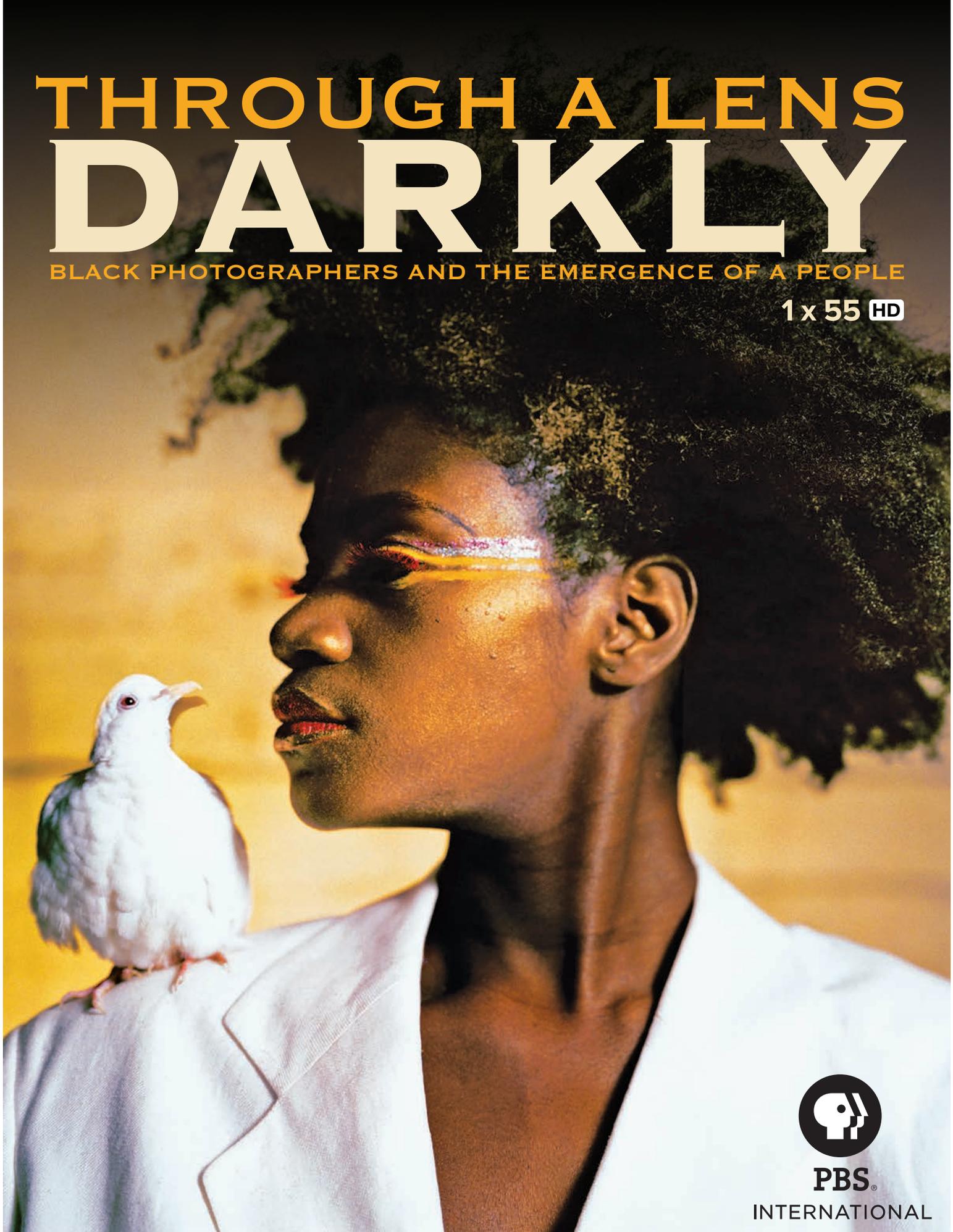


THROUGH A LENS DARKLY

BLACK PHOTOGRAPHERS AND THE EMERGENCE OF A PEOPLE

1 x 55 HD



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CONTACT

Tom Koch, Vice President
PBS International
10 Guest Street
Boston, MA 02135 USA

TEL: 617-300-3893
FAX: 617-779-7900

jtkoch@pbs.org
pbsinternational.org

Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People is the first film to explore the role of photography in shaping the identity, aspirations and social emergence of African Americans from slavery to the present, probing the recesses of American history by discovering images that have been suppressed, forgotten and lost.

Bringing to light the hidden and unknown photos shot by both professional and vernacular African American photographers, the film opens a window into the lives, experiences and perspectives of black families that is absent from the traditional historical canon. These images show a much more complex and nuanced view of American culture and society and its founding ideals.

Inspired by Deborah Willis' book *Reflections in Black* and featuring the works of Carrie Mae Weems, Lorna Simpson, Anthony Barboza, Hank Willis Thomas, Coco Fusco, Clarissa Sligh and many others, *Through a Lens Darkly* introduces the viewer to a diverse yet focused community of storytellers who transform singular experiences into a communal journey of discovery—and a call to action.

This epic tale poetically moves between the present and the past, through contemporary photographers and artists whose images and stories seek to reconcile legacies of pride and shame, and documents how African American communities have used the camera as a tool for social change from the invention of photography to the present.

CREDITS

Director, Producer, Writer: Thomas Allen Harris

Producers: Deborah Willis, Ann Bennett, Don Perry

Executive Producers: John Singleton, Kimberly Steward

Photo: "Untitled (Mother) 1998." Photo by Lyle Ashton Harris & Thomas Allen Harris.

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