

Black America Since MLK

AND STILL I RISE

4 x 60 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

In *Black America Since MLK*, Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. looks at the last 50 years of African-American history, charting the remarkable progress black people have made and raising hard questions about the obstacles that remain. The series begins at the point where the story Americans tell about themselves becomes complicated and then steps out of the sanctified past and into the complex, raw, conflicted present.

Almost every U.S. schoolchild today learns about the civil rights movement—about how the nation moved itself forward, against the will of many, out of a shameful past—and though Barack Obama sits in the White House and African Americans wield influence in every domain, black people are incarcerated at six times the rate of whites and face financial inequality. Many schools and neighborhoods are more segregated than they were in 1965, and police killings of unarmed black men recur with tragic frequency.

To find out why this is happening, Professor Gates offers a fresh examination of key events and turning points in American race relations and black history over the last five decades. The series is filled with compelling reflections upon key events that have occurred over the last 50 years from African Americans who shaped a shared history. Among those interviewed are Oprah Winfrey, Nas, Ava DuVernay, Jesse Jackson, Dr. Cornel West, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Donna Brazile, Robert L. Johnson, DeRay Mckesson, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, former Attorney General Eric Holder and Shonda Rhimes—as well as eyewitnesses to Hurricane Katrina, public intellectuals, education reformers, police officers in communities that have been shaken by racial unrest and many others.

By examining the changes to black America wrought by cultural and political forces, new questions of identity, new modes of communication, a globalizing economy and mass incarceration, Gates asks what the black community has accomplished since 1965—and what it means to be “black” today. These profound questions evoke both the immense progress that has been made and the great challenges that lie ahead.

CREDITS

Executive Producer, Writer, Presenter: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Executive Producers: Dyllan McGee, Peter Kunhardt

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