

#BlackLivesMatter at the University of Vermont: “Raise a Flag of Revolution” DOC film 2017

Description:

‘Raise a Flag of Revolution’ is a short documentary film that explores the untold story the Black Lives Matter flag at the University of Vermont, and how it directly affected the communities of color on our campus. This film, exquisitely narrated by many student, faculty and staff leaders, also examines the racial climate on campus, and how there is still much more work to be done.

In the Fall of 2016, a Black Lives Matter flag was flown outside of the student center at the University of Vermont. The raising of the flag attracted nationwide news coverage, controversy and even support from other universities. We hope that this film generates positive conversation, and sheds light on a side of the story that may not have been heard before.

Director/Producers:

Meghan Nanan is a senior at the University of Vermont, studying Public Communication with a minor in Music Business and Technology. Meghan was the 2015-2016 Program Director for the Caribbean House, a residential learning community where students can celebrate and practice their different cultures. There she won the 2016 Residential Community of the Year award, for promoting an inclusive, diverse and educational living environment for twenty students. Meghan played on the UVM Women’s Club Ice Hockey team for two years, and is an active member of the Black Student Union. Meghan grew up in Bedford, New Hampshire and hopes to pursue a career in Digital Media Marketing and Filmmaking.

Nishani Kessler is a senior at the University of Vermont, studying Public Communication and Anthropology. Nishani received the 2015 Rodney S. Patterson Award “for commitment to academic success and creating a better environment for the ALANA community.” Nishani was a student representative for the President’s Commission for Inclusion and Excellence from 2014-2015. Nishani co-founded the first Transracial Adoption support group in 2015, that allows students to further explore their adoption identity in a safe and understanding space. Nishani grew up in a rural town in Jericho, Vermont. The University of Vermont allowed Nishani to appreciate diversity and further understand her racial identity as an Indian-American.

Pre-Screening Activity:

Before watching the film, have everyone write down the first word or phrase that comes to mind when they hear the words “Black Lives Matter.” Present the opportunity to simply share words/phrases, but hold further discussion until after watching the film.

Post-Screening Discussion:

As soon as the film concludes, have everyone write down what they thought were the **top three most powerful moments**, and **one new fact that they learned** while watching the film. Allow time to discuss and share the powerful moments, and proceed with following discussion questions for more dialogue:

- What was the most powerful moment for you during the film?
- What was one new thing that you learned (about #BlackLivesMatter or UVM) from watching?
- Why is the freedom of speech important in a university setting?
- Did the film change your mind about any aspect of the subjects that it presented?
- What information, argument or persuasive technique caused you to change your mind?
- What could be done differently when portraying #BlackLivesMatter in the media?
- In what way could this short film be improved to support the argument, and what would you suggest?
- According to 2014 statistics, there are 10,329 students who identify as white at the University of Vermont, and only 166 students who identify as black. Were you aware of this staggering statistic? What could be done to address racial inequity at predominantly white institutions?