



YURUMEIN

HOMELAND

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Yurumein (Homeland)

Review: Joseph O. Palacio, PhD Anthropology

50-minutes, completed January 2014

DVD format / 4:3 aspect ratio / surround sound

“Andrea Leland’s Yurumein (Homeland) tells the story of a physician Dr. Gill in Los Angeles originally from the Eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent and of Carib descent returning to his hometown after twenty years. His trip, which he aptly describes as a “pilgrimage”, becomes symbolic of the efforts of his fellow Caribs to become painfully aware of the history that had been enforced on them, which is replete with negative attributes of their ancestors – “warlike”, “cannibals”, “stupid”, etc. Dr Gill’s mission in his pilgrimage is to rediscover the positive in his people’s history. He is joined by the residents who also speak of the positive characteristics of their ancestors – their bravery, deep sense of identity, and the determination to fight to death for their land.

The film is most appropriate for a people struggling to throw away a shameful past as they rediscover their true history. This applies to indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and any other people to whom cultural revitalization is a painful process. As a region the Caribbean is the crucible par excellence for such experience, for it was here where the identity of the non-colonizers was brutally suppressed and all efforts made to extinguish it permanently.”