

NYWIFT || Women's Film Preservation Fund

NEW YORK WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION

U.S. PREMIERE OF CALYPSO MUSIC DOCUMENTARY, *ONE HAND DON'T CLAP* (1988), MAKES ITS 4K RESTORATION PREMIERE AT TO SAVE AND PROJECT, MoMA'S 19TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FILM PRESERVATION

New York, NY – January 11, 2023 – Kavery Kaul's award-winning 1988 documentary *One Hand Don't Clap* chronicling the titans of calypso and soca music will make its U.S. restoration premiere at the **Museum of Modern Art** this **January 27th and 31st, 2023**.

To Save and Project festival has become the museum's showcase for presenting new restorations from its archive, as well as work from colleagues around the world engaged in maintaining and presenting precious audiovisual heritage.

Digitally restored by the **Academy Film Archive** and the **Women's Film Preservation Fund of New York Women in Film & Television** with additional support from the **Leon Levy Foundation**, *One Hand Don't Clap* reflects the legacy of a vast West Indian-American population, the incredible entrepreneurial growth of their music industry in the US, and their ongoing ties to the traditions that flourish in the Caribbean.

"seductively rhythmic and poetic...Not just about music and musicians, but an examination of cultures. A credit to the film and its creators."

~ *New York Newsday*

Historically acting as an avenue for political expression, lyrics frequently illuminate topical themes that continue to resonate.

"Solomon, why the hell you harassing me? You can see that both of us can't agree. Every day is a fighting' inside the place. You treat me bad, you black and blue up my face." ~ Calypso Rose, *Solomon* (Steppin' Out album, 1986)

Captured is the vibrant story of calypso and the emergence of soca, or soul calypso, through the eyes of two legendary artists. In *One Hand Don't Clap*, Lord Kitchener (1922-2000), the Grandmaster of the music and Calypso Rose (b. 1940), the first woman to break through in a traditionally male arena, move with the infectious rhythms and forceful irreverence of calypso music.

Kitchener addresses the musicality of calypso, the significance of its origins and its accessibility to broader audience. *"The foreigner is not so acquainted with this beat. Because when he was born, he was born in 4/4 time"*, laughs Lord Kitchener, his first album recorded in London in 1948, just before Harry Belafonte turned the international spotlight on calypso. When Rose won the crown at the 1978 Carnival time competition, the old title of Calypso King gave way to the reign of the new Calypso Monarch.

Additional performer appearances include David Rudder (b. 1953), Black Stalin (b. 1941), Growling Tiger (1916-1993), Lord Pretender (1917-2002), The Mighty Duke (1932-2009) and Natasha Wilson (b.1975?). With the deaths of Kitchener, and the even older Growling Tiger and Lord Pretender, the many generations in Kaul's film trace the evolution of a musical style.

One Hand Don't Clap originally premiered at the Telluride Film Festival and enjoyed theatrical runs in the US and Japan. Critics called *One Hand Don't Clap* "an enticing introduction to an appealing and unique form of music" (*New York Post*). *Down Beat* predicted, "Along with *Don't Look Back*, the best of all is *One Hand Don't Clap*. This'll look --- and sound --- just as good 25 years from now."

To purchase tickets to a screening of this new beautiful 4K restoration of *One Hand Don't Clap* visit: <https://www.moma.org/calendar/events/8363>

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[Link to download film stills](#)

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About the Filmmaker

Filmmaker **Kavery Kaul** is an award-winning director, producer, and writer, the founder of riverfilms. Her work has been featured at DOC NYC, London, Rotterdam, and Sydney Festivals, among other major festivals. It has reached wide audiences in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. *The Bengali* was released in theaters in New York and Los Angeles. Her other credits include *Cuban Canvas*, an Imagen Award Nominee which premiered at the Kennedy Center; *Long Way from Home*, a *Film Threat* and *Time Out Critic's Pick*; and *First Look*, presented on PBS-TV by the National Latino Broadcasting Consortium (LPBP). An India-born American, Kavery has garnered Fulbright and Logan Fellowships and a New York City Proclamation of Excellence. Her highly regarded TEDx talk speaks to the power of storytelling across divides.

About the Women's Film Preservation Fund

The Women's Film Preservation Fund of New York Women in Film & Television is the only program in the world dedicated to preserving the cultural legacy of women in the industry through preserving films made by women. Founded in 1995 by NYWIFT in conjunction with the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), WFPF has preserved around 150 American films, across all genres, in which women have played key creative roles. The WFPF is rewriting the film history books, by saving one moving picture at a time. www.womensfilmpreservationfund.org

About New York Women in Film & Television

New York Women in Film & Television connects, educates, and advocates for women to accelerate diversity in media. As the preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York, NYWIFT energizes women by illuminating their achievements, presenting training and professional development programs, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing access to a supportive

community of peers. NYWIFT brings together more than 2,500 women and men working both above and below the line. NYWIFT is part of a network of 60 women in film organizations worldwide, representing more than 15,000 members. NYWIFT is a nonprofit 501c3 public charity.

More information can be found online at: www.NYWIFT.org.

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Link to download film stills

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