

DVD Feature: 'Dreams From My Real Father'

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Filmmaker, Joel Gilbert's movie, 'Dreams From My Real Father,' is a potentially inflammatory re-imagining of Barack Obama's autobiography, 'Dreams From My Father' in film. Using a voice actor to portray this revised history of Barack Obama's life, this DVD sets out to reveal how the current United States President is actually a committed communist who is seeking to undermine the country from within. If it sounds like a conspiracy theory, that is because it is, however, it is one that has some interesting ideas and research backing it up.

The theory is that Obama's real father is not, as he claimed, a Kenyan goat-herder, but actually, a Communist Party USA propagandist called Frank Marshall Davis. The DVD continues, saying that Obama's young mother was seduced by Davis and fell pregnant, but the real father's identity was covered up since her father was actually a member of the C.I.A. From here 'Dreams From My Real Father' presents a picture of a highly radicalized Socialist Obama rising to finally gain the Presidency through a mixture of affirmative action, clever use of the media, contacts who included ties to Al Capone, and more. Indeed, the DVD confirms that all of this was found following, "2 years of research, interviews and newly unearthed footage and photos and the writings of Davis and Obama himself."

Despite the compelling story, there are a number of difficulties with this film; not least the fact that much of the link between Obama and his alleged 'real' father appears to hinge upon comparing photographs of the two. Certainly, Davis and Obama's mother were in the same place at the right time for the conception to have happened, and pictures that Davis had that appeared to show Obama's mother posing naked would point to more than a casual friendship. However intriguing, this evidence is still circumstantial and not definite proof that Obama was fathered by Davis, and even if he was, it takes something of a leap of faith to assert that the President of the United States is actively seeking to undermine the nation from within. Instead, it may be fairer to assert that the young Obama had some socialist leanings, as influenced by his 'real' father and the civil rights movement, which, like many people as they grow, he has honed into a less radical stand-point.

As with any type of conspiracy theory, it pays to think about the agenda of the person behind the theory as it does to look at the story itself. And this DVD certainly seems to push its own agenda beyond merely presenting the facts and evidence to support them. Director, Joel Gilbert seems happy to use inflammatory images and leaps of presumption to push a, slightly worrying, Cold-War era agenda for an apparently Middle American audience. Plus, while there are a number of interesting ideas, and some solid research in this conspiracy-theory style movie, that is not to say the information is purely based on fact. The DVD itself states that the movie "weaves together the proven facts with reasoned logic and speculation."

Speculation? How much? The film doesn't say.

Instead, Gilbert uses a voice actor, apparently designed to make it sound like the narration is being spoken by President Obama himself. While a great film-making conceit, it is a dangerous ploy to use when asserting statements such as, “my smile was the Trojan Horse unleashing a deadly [Marxist](#) agenda upon the Middle Class.” Really? Among such potentially damaging sweeping statements there are some superbly clever audio and visual editing, and some more concerning use of imagery – modern-day America subtly presented as becoming like rural Communist, inter-war era Russia, for example! Such editing calls to mind wartime propaganda films, rather than clearly reasoned and supported arguments.

There are also some worryingly lazy and casual anti-Islamist references among the scare-mongering presentation. So we thought we'd have a quick look at what other movies 'Highway 61 Entertainment' were pushing. Among their titles was, 'Atomic Jihad,' which their website described as, “Ahmadinejad's Coming War for Islamic Revival and Obama's Politics of Defeat.” Asserting that, “Atomic Jihad leaves little doubt that Iran is in the final stages of preparing a Coming War for Islamic Revival. Meanwhile, by seeking to appease Ahmadinejad with 'change' in U.S. Middle East policy, President Obama is ushering in the [Politics](#) of Defeat for America.”

Gilbert, who has also directed films about Elvis being alive and alleging that Paul McCartney is actually dead, seems to be the main man behind 'Highway 61 Entertainment.' However, this is not an attempt to call out the character of Mr. Gilbert, merely to present the facts and warn against taking this movie as the gospel truth.

Speaking on the movie, Joel Gilbert said, “While reviewing video of over 200 [Obama speeches](#) for that film, I noticed an odd pattern. When speaking of issues relating to the rich and the poor, Obama became very excited, speaking rapidly and louder, always in a higher pitch. On other subjects, he was quite calm. Why would Obama have an inner passion for class struggle? From my knowledge of his background, exclusive prep school, Ivy Leagues, [Harvard Law](#) – it didn't seem to fit. I then read his autobiography, Dreams from My Father, and noticed numerous references to Obama seeking out Marxist professors and friends, emulating Malcolm X, attending socialist conferences, and organizing. It was a life journey in [socialism](#)! Plus, of his visits to Communist Frank Marshall Davis' house with his grandfather, Obama wrote, ‘it was as if I were witnessing some complicated, unspoken transaction between the two men.’”

Joel Gilbert went on in an interview with Suite101.Com, “I decided to investigate Frank Marshall Davis. His close physical resemblance to Obama was shocking, while Obama little resembled the Kenyan Obama. How could this be? Next, I unearthed two film archives of Frank Marshall Davis, one from 1973, the other from 1987, as well as Davis' photo collection. I then acquired 500 copies of the Honolulu Record, the Communist run newspaper where Davis wrote a weekly political column for eight years. I also obtained seven indecent photos of [Ann Dunham](#), Obama's mother, taken at Frank Marshall Davis' house, suggesting an intimate connection between Dunham and Davis. I concluded the 'Birthers' were on a fool's errand. To understand Obama's plans for America, the question was not 'Where's the birth certificate?' the question was 'Who is the real father?’”

Certainly intriguing, and definitely worth watching, 'Dreams From My Real Father' is a great conspiracy theory movie. Of course, the danger lies in not recognizing it as such, and instead treating it as fact. However, that is not to say that you shouldn't watch it – with as critical an eye as the movie seeks to cast over Obama.

– Taylor

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