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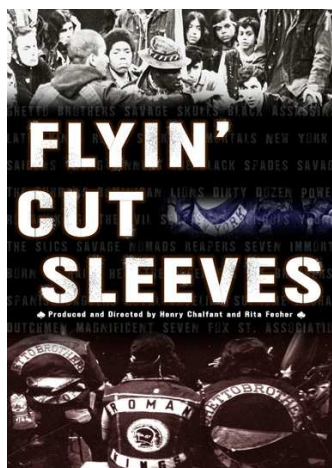
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Issue #21.13 :: 10/21/2009 - 10/27/2009

## Flyin' Cut Sleeves

Produced and directed by Henry Chalfant and Rita Fechner

BY **DINO LULL**



### "Flyin' Cut Sleeves"

MVD Visual  
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Produced and directed by Henry Chalfant and Rita Fechner

AUGUSTA, GA - A 60-minute documentary done in a where-are-they-now style, "Flyin' Cut Sleeves" expertly captures the changes that come with age for several ex-gang members from turbulent early '70's South Bronx, New York.

Completed in 1993, this documentary not only explains the actions, desires, and history of South Bronx street gangs such as the Savage Nomads, the Young Lords and many others; but it also shows the viewer how the gangs collapsed, how the members go on with their lives after they have grown up, and what became of the good intentions of community building many of the gangs tried to foster in their neighborhood.

During the late '60's and early '70's when many groups began following in the footsteps of the Black Panthers, the disaffected urban youth gathered together into street gangs, often fighting for dominance of their turf. Director Rita Fechner was there on the front lines, talking to the young men and women who shaped their communities first through gang violence then through proactive political action and protest. Now, 20 years later Fechner returns to visit her old friends and finds some of them family men, many are social workers, and some never made it out.

Emotionally moving and very real, "Flyin' Cut Sleeves" shows both the accomplishments and the failures of the ex-members. The viewer feels their pain and sees that many of them have become their own parents in a cyclical system. The lingering question is this: Will their children also become gang members?

Sixty minutes of high-quality video, "Flyin' Cut Sleeves" is an interesting, intellectual trip to the South Bronx and into a world many only know about from television.

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