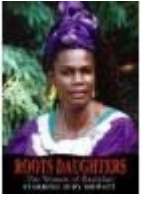


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## Roots Daughters

April 10th, 2007



Title: [Roots Daughters: The Women of Rastafari](#)

Artists: Various

Label: [MVD Visual](#)

Catalog No: DRG-227

Date: 2006, 1992

*Roots Daughters* is a notable documentary that investigates the role of women in the Rastafarian faith. Filmed in 1992 and released on DVD in 2006, Czech-Canadian director and Rasta convert Bianca Nyavingi Brynda traces the roots of Rastafari to the development of syncretic religions in the African Diaspora of the Caribbean. Rastafari developed out of resistance to the colonial oppression of the early twentieth century based on the prophecy of Marcus Garvey that a black king would arise in Africa and signal the time of Africa's redemption. The coronation of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie of Ethiopia in 1930 was seen as the fulfillment of this prophecy and a sign that Rasta's time was at hand. Since its inception, Rastafari philosophy and culture has grown into a worldwide movement galvanized by the music and messages of legendary reggae star Bob Marley.

Shot on location in Jamaica, Guyana, South America, and Canada, *Roots Daughters* is a collection of reasonings from 16 Rasta women about their day to day lives, costumes, practices, mores and their status within the hierarchy of the movement. Starring legendary reggae singer Judy Mowatt, this documentary gives insight into the various types of women that are in the movement. The film begins with a brief description and history that exposes the matrilineal roots of the Nyahbinghi sect of Rastafari. *Roots Daughters* then delves into the lives of the modern Rasta woman covering issues such as diet, significance of dreadlocks, polygamy, birth control, menstruation, and the role of Rasta women. At this point the film juxtaposes the expectations of women vs. men in areas such as leadership, drumming, and worship. The film culminates by stressing the importance of education with a look at a school that was opened to serve Rasta families. The final collection of reasoning's is a plea for Rasta women to become aware of her connection to Rastafari.

*Roots Daughters* is a rare look into the Rastafarian movement from the view point of the Rasta woman. Music is interlaced in the film with drumming and chanting typical to Nyahbinghi. Judy Mowatt performs her song "Warrior Queen" early on in the film as a message for Rasta woman to project pride and strength in herself by knowing her roots. The film also includes Mowatt performing two songs live as part of the bonus features. *Roots Daughters* is a critical film that presents an unbiased representation of Rasta women. The film itself is poignant, giving explicit insight into an extremely marginal group and serves as a model for Rasta women's potential.

Posted by Heather O'Sullivan

Review Genre(s): [Reggae](#)

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April 2007

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