

means to be human and not letting herself be trapped by conventional expectations. Extras include an interview with the director, film premiere Q&A, audio of Walker reading her poem "Remember," and a study guide. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

**E.O. Wilson: Of Ants and Men** ★★☆☆1/2  
(2015) 120 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.99 w/PPR).  
PBS Video. SDH captioned. ISBN: 978-1-62789-448-7.

A champion of conservation and biodiversity, and winner of two Pulitzer prizes, octogenarian naturalist Edward Osborne Wilson has changed how we look at the world. In this PBS-aired documentary from filmmaker Shelley Schulze, Wilson calls himself a "happy man in a terrible century"—a time of environmental degradation that finds humanity seemingly rushing headlong into self-destruction. Raised in rural Alabama, Wilson was always captivated by nature, but an early injury (limiting his vision to one eye) made him concentrate on examining the world's "little things": insects, particularly ants. Wilson was struck by the similarity of ants and humans, who not only share a motivation to build complex societies while working toward common goals, but also both engage in tribalism. Wilson describes tribalism as a "sort of communion," transcending individual selves to create superorganisms, in which ants sacrifice themselves for the common good (illustrated by battles to the death between leaf cutter and termite ants, where "soldiers" die defending the nests). For humans, tribalism has both positive and negative effects. Wilson describes our love of competitive sports, particularly football,

in which archrivals battle with the encouragement of "nubile" female cheerleaders. Humans crave acceptance and security, but the flipside is brutal exclusion, best illustrated by the policies of Nazi Germany. In the twilight of his life, Wilson meditates on our place in the natural world, the need to reclaim the "better angels" of our nature, and the importance of saving other species in order to save ourselves. Offering a fine overview of Wilson's life, work, and the academic controversies concerning his research on sociobiology, this inspiring and informative profile is highly recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (S. Rees)

**Gabo: The Creation of Gabriel Garcia Márquez** ★★★

(2015) 90 min. DVD: \$348. Icarus Films. PPR.  
Closed captioned.

A serviceable documentary profile of revered writer Gabriel Garcia Márquez, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982, filmmaker Justin Webster's *Gabo* is notable for interviewing cohorts of Márquez in the South American literary firmament—Plinio Apuleyo Mendoza, Juan Gabriel Vásquez, Xavi Ayén—rather than guest Anglo academicians and various celebs. One startling exception: President Bill Clinton, an ardent admirer of Márquez's writings, who says that the author's works affected Clinton's own views on South America. Growing up in a small town in Colombia, Márquez was raised mostly by grandparents, who imbued him with a different vision of life that would nurture his "magical realist" prose style. The young "Gabo" initially worked as a newspaper reporter, and he would repeatedly return

to his journalism roots, even as his novels (including *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *Love in the Time of Cholera*) earned classic status. Late in life Márquez would use his talent to condemn the rise of narcotics and gangsterism in Colombia. Despite the Clinton interview, *Gabo* does not dwell on the State Department's infamous banning of Márquez from entering the U.S. because of his political views. His high-profile friendship with dictator Fidel Castro is described here as a complex love-hate alliance that Márquez often used to help free prisoners from Cuban jails. The great author's script contributions and adaptations for movies and TV are minimized here, although they might have lent more visual interest to a presentation that heavily relies on talking heads and archival footage. Still, given Márquez's superstar status in world literature, this made-for-libraries biographical portrait of the author is recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

**Jaco** ★★☆☆1/2

(2015) 2 discs. 217 min. DVD: \$19.99, Blu-ray: \$24.99. MVD Entertainment Group (avail. from most distributors).

Directors Paul Marchand and Stephan Kijak join forces for this stirring portrait of renowned bassist Jaco Pastorius (1951-1987), who grew up in Florida surrounded by music since his father, Jack, was a nightclub singer. Jaco played the drums before turning to the bass, which proved a perfect fit. Soul singer Wayne Cochran praises Jaco's ability to play anything thrown at him. Jaco's brother, Gregory, recalls that the birth of Jaco's daughter, Mary, inspired him to aim higher than session work. Sting believes that Jaco transformed bass playing into something symphonic, while Herbie Hancock marvels at Jaco's ability to invest his playing with personality. Mary says that her father heard music in everything, concluding, "It's a gift and it's a burden." A chance meeting with Bobby Colomby of Blood, Sweat, & Tears led to a deal with Epic and Jaco's first solo album in 1976. Jaco could have continued down the solo path, but instead he joined Weather Report, which helped to unite rock and jazz fans, inspiring bassists such as Flea and Metallica's Robert Trujillo (the latter produced this documentary). Cocky and competitive, Jaco enjoyed a fractious relationship with Weather Report founder Joe Zawinul, but Joni Mitchell and other collaborators noticed that his behavior was becoming downright erratic in the late 1970s as mental illness and substance abuse issues surfaced. There were other problems, as well, which makes *Jaco* increasingly hard to watch, but Marchand and Kijak avoid melodrama for a more matter-of-fact approach. Juan Alderete of the Mars Volta speaks for many bassists when he states: "He was our Hendrix." Extras include bonus interviews. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

**BaddDDD Sonia Sanchez** ★★★

(2015) 91 min. DVD: \$24.95: individuals; \$49.95: public libraries & high schools; \$295: colleges & universities. California Newsreel. PPR. Closed captioned.

Co-directed by Barbara Attie, Janet Goldwater, and Sabrina Schmidt Gordon, this feature-length documentary celebrates the life of octogenarian African-American poet and activist Sonia Sanchez, presenting autobiographical reflections by Sanchez, reading of her work by herself and others (including actress Ruby Dee), and testimony about her influence from colleagues and scholars. Alabama-born Sanchez speaks movingly of her youth: she lost her mother as an infant and had a troubled childhood involving a frequently-absent father and neglectful relatives. She also describes the incident that energized her at the age of 19, when she was summarily turned down for a writing job in New York because of her color. That discriminatory experience inspired Sanchez to participate in the creation of the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s, and to become a pioneer in the establishment of Black Studies curricula in American colleges (her early efforts in San Francisco met resistance, but were ultimately recognized when Sanchez was appointed to a professorship at Temple University in 1977). Sanchez's brief involvement with the Nation of Islam and her verbal confrontation with the Black Panthers, as well as her role in the anti-war movement of the '70s, are also touched upon. Often accompanied by jazz musicians here, Sanchez's recitations of free-verse poetry are now seen as a precursor of hip-hop and rap. Offering an illuminating and inspiring profile of an influential figure who helped to bring about significant social change, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

