

FILMMAKERS

Santiago Alvarez, the creator of NOW and head of the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC) had this to say in a 1975 interview in Cineaste: "In 1939, I lived in the U.S. working as a dishwasher and working in the coal mines of Pennsylvania. It was here in the U.S. that I started to become politically conscious and when I went back to Cuba I became a communist. American imperialism is the greatest promoter of communism in the world. In fact, it was my experiences here that form the roots of NOW, my film against racial discrimination in the U.S. It all came to me one day when I was listening to a song called "Now" sung by Lena Horne -- its melody based on an old Hebrew song by an anonymous author. When I started to work on the film at ICAIC, that background, that experience, helped me -- I used all the hate I had felt against discrimination and brutality."

Joanne Grant, the producer/director of "Fundi," was an activist teacher and journalist during the Civil Rights Movement. She was a correspondent for the National Guardian (as well as other papers) travelling and reporting from all over the South during the sixties. Grant is the author/editor of Black Protest and Confrontation on Campus.

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