

PRESS RELEASE



City of Santa Monica® Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401, (310) 458-8600

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Monica Public Library presents a Screening and Discussion of *White Wash*

Santa Monica, California – Santa Monica Public Library presents ***White Wash: A Screening and Discussion*** on Sunday, September 16, at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library's MLK Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard.

This 2011 documentary explores the complexity of race in America through the history of African Americans and water culture, from slavery and civil rights wade-ins to surfing in contemporary times at sites in Santa Monica and Southern California. The 78-minute film is narrated by Grammy Award-winner Ben Harper, along with Tariq 'Blackthought' Trotter of the Grammy Award-winning hip hop group The Roots, who also provide the film's musical score. Contemporary interviews with professional and vocational surfers and scholars are woven together with historical archival film footage. The historic African American beach site known as the "Inkwell" is prominently featured in the film. View the trailer at whitewashmovie.com.

A discussion will follow the screening. Panelists include director **Ted Woods**; BlackSurfing.com founder **Rick Blocker**; and **Alison Rose Jefferson**, historian and UC Santa Barbara doctoral student. Jefferson created the language engraved on the plaque, "The Ink Well: A Place of Celebration and Pain," which commemorates the Jim Crow-era beach site, used by African Americans as a gathering place, and honors Nick Gabaldon, the first identified surfer of African American and

Mexican descent. A reception will follow the event.

This program is produced in partnership with Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Conservancy, the California Historical Society, and the NAACP.

This is a free program and all ages are welcome. Seating is limited and available on a first-arrival basis. The Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair-accessible. For special disabled services, call Library Administration at (310) 458-8606 at least one week prior to event. The Main Library is served by Big Blue Bus routes 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Ride your bike. Bicycle parking racks are available at the library. For more information about this and other Library programs, visit smppl.org or call (310) 458-8600.

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