



# Get the facts!

## After Fair Housing Month: Movies to See

### Feature Films

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- *Remember the Titans*—A film about racial integration in the 1960s in Virginia, using football as a way to bring people together.
- *Raisin in the Sun*—The classic movie based on the award winning Lorraine Hansberry play about black family's experiences with discrimination moving into the Washington Park subdivision of Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood.
- *Focus*—An adaptation of Arthur Miller's 1945 novel, this movie takes place in New York at the end of World War II. Protestant Newman (William Macy) becomes the target of anti-Semitism in his own home because his glasses make him look "too Jewish".
- *Gentleman's Agreement*—A 1947 film directed by Elia Kazan features Gregory Peck who portrays an investigative reporter who poses as Jewish man to investigate anti-Semitism in post war New York and Darien, Connecticut.
- *Do the Right Thing*—Racial tension erupts on a hot summer day in the Bedford Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn in this critically acclaimed Spike Lee movie.
- *Lone Star*—a film by John Sayles that focuses on the racial tensions in a small Texas town near a military base.
- *Sunshine State*—a film by John Sayles in which a woman and her new husband return to her hometown roots in coastal northern Florida, and must deal with family, business, and encroaching real estate development. The film also highlights land use and zoning regulations while also showing the difficulty of community organizing without a strong foundation.
- *Matewan*—focuses on the West Virginia coalfield war of the late 1910s and early 1920s and shows the interplay of race and labor.
- *City of Hope*—a movie that weaves several different storylines together about life in a large urban city, dealing specifically with race, homophobia, urban politics, crime, etc.
- *Honeydripper*—is a film set in the South in the 1950s and focuses on a "juke joint" owner trying to save his club. Again, it has issues of race, segregation etc. woven through it all.



## Documentaries

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- *Best Years of Our Lives*—The story of three veterans returning after World War II and the difficulties they encounter, on the job and in other areas of their lives.
- *Brick by Brick: A Civil Rights Story*—A documentary about legal battles in Yonkers, New York, in the 1980s. [brick-by-brick.com](http://brick-by-brick.com)
- *Matters of Race: The Divide*—This episode looks at Siler, North Carolina, and the struggle for power and identity in a small town with white and black communities and an unsettled past. The documentary follows what happens when the white dominant culture loses its hold. [pbs.org/mattersofrace/prog1.shtml](http://pbs.org/mattersofrace/prog1.shtml)
- *The New Metropolis*—A 2-part PBS series on the challenges that suburbs face today. Specifically, the second part addresses how certain towns have attempted to intentionally maintain balanced integration. The website has materials for facilitators / moderators. [thenewmetropolis.com](http://thenewmetropolis.com)
- *Kennedy v. Zanesville*—A documentary about the town of Zanesville, Ohio, and a small, historically African American community that was denied municipal services. The case resulted in an \$11 million settlement in July 2008. [relmanlaw.com/civil-rights-litigation/cases/zanesville.php](http://relmanlaw.com/civil-rights-litigation/cases/zanesville.php)
- *The New Neighbors*—A short documentary of once of the earliest established suburbs that made integration a key goal in stabilizing their community. [bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/nm.html](http://bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/nm.html)

