

## **Critical Acclaim for BROTHER OUTSIDER: THE LIFE OF BAYARD RUSTIN**

A film by Nancy Kates & Bennett Singer / Mridu Chandra, Co-Producer  
Sam Pollard, Executive Producer

Five years in the making and the recipient of more than 20 awards and honors in the U.S. and abroad, **BROTHER OUTSIDER** illuminates the life and work of Bayard Rustin, a visionary activist and strategist who has been called “the unknown hero” of the civil rights movement. A tireless crusader for social and economic justice, a disciple of Gandhi, a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., and the organizer of the triumphant 1963 March on Washington, Rustin dared to live as an openly gay man during the fiercely homophobic 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. **BROTHER OUTSIDER** reveals the price that Rustin paid for this openness, chronicling both the triumphs and setbacks of his remarkable 60-year career. The film—a meditation on the parallels between racism and homophobia—has been described as “rich in humanity” (*africana.com*), “poignant” (*TIME*), “powerful and startling” (*The Advocate*) and “a potent and persuasive piece of historical rediscovery” (*Los Angeles Times*).

Since its national broadcast on PBS’ prestigious *P.O.V.* series in 2003 and its festival premiere at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, **BROTHER OUTSIDER** has garnered numerous accolades, including six “audience favorite” awards and six jury awards for “best documentary” at film festivals around the world. The film was shown at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March on Washington, and in numerous countries around the globe, including India, Switzerland, Poland, England, Italy, Iceland and South Korea. Awards and honors include:

**2004 GLAAD MEDIA AWARD** FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY  
**SILVER HUGO AWARD**, CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION COMPETITION, 2004  
**WINNER**, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NOTABLE VIDEOS FOR ADULTS AWARD, 2004  
**WINNER**, CINE GOLDEN EAGLE, 2003  
**FIRST PRIZE**, DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION, 2003 RHODE ISLAND INTL. FILM FESTIVAL  
**JURY AWARD** FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY, 2003 CINEQUEST FILM FESTIVAL  
**JURY AWARD** FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY, 2003 TURIN GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL  
**JURY AWARD** FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY, 2003 CHICAGO LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL  
**JURY AWARD** FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY, 2004 ICELANDIC GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL  
**JURY AWARD**, 2003 ATHENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
**AUDIENCE AWARD**, 2003 NEW YORK LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL  
**AUDIENCE AWARD**, 2003 SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL  
**AUDIENCE AWARD**, 2003 LOS ANGELES LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL  
**AUDIENCE AWARD**, 2003 PHILADELPHIA LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL  
**AUDIENCE AWARD**, 2003 PITTSBURGH LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL  
**AUDIENCE AWARD**, 2003 INDIANAPOLIS LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL  
**NOMINATED FOR NAACP IMAGE AWARD**  
**NOMINATED FOR INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY ASSN.’S PARE LORENTZ AWARD**  
**NOMINATED FOR INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY ASSN.’S ABC NEWS VIDEOSOURCE AWARD**  
**OFFICIAL SELECTION**, 2003 **SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL**  
**OFFICIAL SELECTION**, 2003 **NATIONAL BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL OF ATLANTA**  
**OFFICIAL SELECTION**, 2003 **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
**KENNEDY CENTER SCREENING**, WASHINGTON, DC, AUGUST 2003

*For a full list of festival screenings, please visit [www.rustin.org](http://www.rustin.org)*

*“A potent and persuasive piece of historical rediscovery.”*

-Kenneth Turan  
Los Angeles Times

*“Powerful [and] startling.”*

-David Ehrenstein  
The Advocate

*“Vividly brings back to life a man who deeply and brilliantly influenced the course of the civil rights and peace movements...a thoroughly honest portrait of Bayard and his tumultuous times.”*

-Nat Hentoff  
**Village Voice**

*“Like Rustin, the film is alive with ideas, fast-paced and surprising, and rich in humanity. It’s beautiful like him ... and it’s got rhythm.”*

-Kate Tuttle  
**Africana.com**

*“... Beautifully crafted ... While directors Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer want to pay tribute to Rustin, they avoid sentiment and let his story speak for itself. And it speaks loudly.”*

-Matthew Gilbert  
**Boston Globe**

*“Poignant...In the struggle for African-American dignity, Rustin was perhaps the most critical figure that many people have never heard of ... Rustin came to see his struggle as a homosexual as inextricable from his struggle as a black man in America. But neither mainstream society nor even the civil rights leadership could cope with his honesty.”*

-Andrew Sullivan  
**TIME Magazine**

*“Brother Outsider moves through the complications of Rustin’s life — a black man who stayed out of the spotlight because he knew his homosexuality would cost the movement mainstream credibility – like a lunar cycle, tracking all of the turbulence around him and the power of his own gravitational pull. Brother Outsider is packed with information that hasn’t been widely circulated.”*

-Elvis Mitchell  
**The New York Times**

*“Marvelous ... [The film’s] emotional force is strengthened by brilliant background music – spirituals and civil-rights songs, many sung by Rustin himself in his trademark sweet tenor. It adds up to a worthy tribute and to a powerful retelling of the civil-rights story.”*

-Joshua Muravchik  
**The Wall Street Journal**

*“Evokes with poignancy the many trials of Rustin — a beautiful man, a gifted singer, a dynamic speaker, and a successful civil rights leader — who never attained the stature of King, Ralph Abernathy, or Jesse Jackson, primarily because he was gay at a time when homosexuality was fodder for blackmail.”*

-Alex Beam  
**The Boston Globe**

*“A largely unsung hero of the Civil Rights movement gets overdue recognition in Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin, a well-crafted and evenhanded documentary ... Pic should attract attention – and, perhaps, spark debate – during post-broadcast exposure at niche festivals and nonprofit venues ... Co-helmers Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer take an admiring yet unsentimental view of Rustin ...To their credit, the filmmakers are too honest to attempt a canonization of their subject.”*

-Joe Leydon  
**Daily Variety**

*“Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin is a P.O.V. look at the civil-rights leader, a brilliant theorist and exponent of nonviolence, who seems always to have embarrassed his movement of colleagues by the simple fact of his homosexuality. The irony isn’t lost on those who remember him in this tough-minded documentary.”*

-John Leonard  
**New York Magazine**

*“Outstanding.”*

-Frazier Moore  
**Associated Press**