Race, Gender, and Sexual Identity

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Pariah (Puy-rahy-huh):
1. a person without status. 2. a rejected member of society. 3. an outcast

Writer/Director Dee Rees: Autobiographical coming of age narrative … Captures coming out as Lesbian, Black, Middles Class, Urban Youth in Opposition to Family/Church Norms.

Themes:
Identity, Place, Race, Sex, Gender, Sexual Identity, Culture, Religion

Church symbolic of empowerment/strength in African American culture and community .. A pillar of strength before and after slavery. Paradoxically, a potential space of conflict… can inhibit religious freedom among LGBTQ

Sexual identity hidden to maintain family and community relationships.

Strict religious interpretations can add to homophobia/ internalized racism/sexism in African American community/family and institutionalized racism externally constructed imposed on race/sex/culture

FREEDOM

“As Black women we have the right and responsibility to define ourselves and seek our allies…we have the right to recognize each other without fear and to love where we choose. Both lesbian and heterosexual Black women today share a history of bonding and strength to which our sexual identities and our other differences must not blind us.” (Lorde, 1984)
Selected Bibliography


