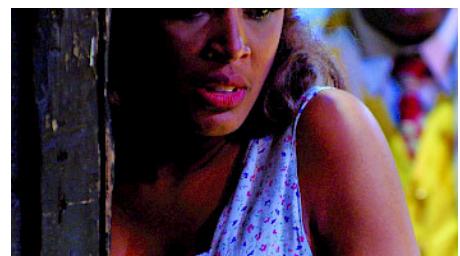




PORGY & ME - IN THE WORLD OF THE GERSHWINS' PORGY & BESS

by Susanna Böhm



SYNOPSIS

In the (white) world of opera, George Gershwin's alternately celebrated and controversial opera *Porgy and Bess* is one of the very few works that takes people of color as its subject. Susanna Boehm's stirring documentary follows the cast of the New York Harlem Theatre on their European tour of The Gershwins' work. As the troupe travels from city to city, attracting stares from startled Austrians, the parallels between the opera and the real life experiences of individual singers are revealed in a series of deeply personal conversations. Growing up poor, with drugs and violence a common experience, the ambition to become an opera singer seemed an impossible dream for many cast members. A sentiment voiced by many is that black singers have to be twice as good as white singers. Terry Lee Cook has been performing *Porgy* for ten years. But in the black community, the common perception is that *Porgy and Bess* is a graveyard for singers of color.

Germany 2009

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
German

PREMIERE
Germany (2009)

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CAST AND CREW

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George Cragg · DOP Philipp Tornau