

Program Title Little Brother: Manchild in the Promised Land (Chapter 5)
Program Subject(s) African Americans; Youth; Adolescents; Education; Gender Identity
Year Produced 2015
Directed by Nicole Franklin
Produced by Epiphany, Inc.
Distributed by Third World Newsreel, 545 8th Ave., Suite 550, New York, NY 10018,
www.littlebrotherfilm.com
Reviewed by Timothy Hackman, University of Maryland
Running Time 17 minutes
Color or B&W Color
Awards Received N/A
Audience Level High School – General Adult
Review

The fifth installment of the Little Brother series continues its conversations with African American youth, ranging in age from nine to thirteen, on what it means to be a man, and a black man in particular, in America today. The goal of the series is to “[give] Black boys a unique voice” by talking with them about love. This episode was filmed in Tucson, Arizona, where some of the boys have a chance to visit a historical site (Presidio San Agustin del Tucson) and learn about their city’s history of black pioneers and soldiers. Though brief, the episode includes the boys’ thoughts on what they are or aren’t taught about African American history in schools, when it is acceptable or unacceptable to cry, their experiences and expectations of being racially profiled, and the love they are seeking from the world around them. By itself, the film is probably not essential for most collections, but could make a useful starting point for a program of similar conversations in schools, libraries, or churches. Its value, I believe, would be increased through comparison with other entries in the series (the first three of which were previously reviewed by EMRO here: <http://emro.lib.buffalo.edu/emro/emroDetail.asp?Number=5253>)

Reviewer Rating Recommended