

Starting next Thursday: *Notes from the Road*—The Films of Robert Mugge



Gil Scott-Heron in *Black Wax*; courtesy of AFI Silver

Sonny Rollins. Gil Scott-Heron. Al Green. Sun Ra. You can't teach a course on the history of American music without looking at the candid documentaries made by filmmaker **Robert Mugge**. And it so happens that more than one of his musical subjects were captured during appearances in D.C. The director is back in town with his wife and filmmaking partner, **Diana Zelman**, promoting his new book, *Notes from the Road: A Filmmaker's Journey Through American Music*, and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center is celebrating with a selection of his best-known films. Mugge will introduce every screening and is selling signed copies of his book. Among the films showing are *Sun Ra: A Joyful Noise* (Nov. 16), an hourlong portrait of the intergalactic traveler as seen in his earthly home of Philadelphia, as well as on visits to Baltimore and D.C. between 1978 and 1980; *Saxophone Colossus* (Nov. 17), a record of inspired concert performances by tenor legend Rollins in 1986; *The Gospel According to Al Green* (Nov. 17), which cuts between a service at the soul icon's Full Gospel Tabernacle Church in Memphis to a concert at Bolling Air Force Base; a rare 35mm print of *Cool Runnings: The Reggae Movie* (Nov. 18), a documentary of the 1983 Reggae Sunsplash festival featuring performances by **Gregory Isaacs**, Scott-Heron, and **Sugar Minott**; and last but not least, *Black Wax* (Nov. 16), which chronicles onetime Washington resident Scott-Heron in a compelling concert film shot at the late, lamented Southeast venue The Wax Museum. *Black Wax* is as much a window on old Washington as it is on the music of the time. *Notes from the Road* runs Nov. 16 through 19 at the AFI Silver, 8633 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. silver.afi.com. \$13. —Pat Padua