"Walter Rodney: What they don’t Want you to Know" is a documentary that delves into the life and impact of Walter Rodney, focusing on his murder, Cold War intrigues, involvement in Black Power movements, and his critique of colonialism and empire. It sheds light on the personal toll of his assassination on his family, a narrative revealed for the first time by his widow. Contributors to the documentary include Angela Davis, Gina Miller, former Guyanese President Donald Ramotar, and Rodney’s family members, along with prominent historians.

Rodney, both an academic and activist, faced backlash for his support of anti-colonial movements and civil rights, with British secret propaganda units funding negative reviews of his work due to its perceived threat to the post-colonial narrative and interests. Despite this, his book "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa" became a key text in university courses globally, inspiring contemporary social movements such as Black Lives Matter, Pan-Africanism, and reparations. The documentary employs declassified documents, interviews, and reconstructions to uncover Rodney's influential but often overlooked story, filmed across six countries to illustrate his global impact.

This documentary is supported by Patricia Rodney, The Walter Rodney Foundation & The Ameena Gafoor Institute.

Directors Bio:
Directed by father and son team, Daniyal Harris-Vajda and Arlen Harris.

Arlen is an award-winning programme maker with over 30 years’ experience in print, TV and radio, working mainly for British television for the BBC, Channel 4 and ITV on World in Action, Panorama and Dispatches. His reporting on racial segregation in the army for the Observer helped end the color bar in the elite regiments guarding the Queen. He has made a film on Guinness, the beer and the family. He has filmed with pirates in the South China seas, in Beirut and in Sri Lanka during the civil war and made films about the Iraq War.

Daniyal currently works as a Development Producer /Director at a London based production company Ratchet Productions. In the last three years he has independently made a feature length documentary and shot and directed a series of films in Latin America. Documentaries he part filmed and helped produce for Noah Media Group have been shown on ITV, Netflix, France’s Canal Plus, Amazon Prime and ‘Arsene Wenger: Invincible’ had a cinematic release. The three-part series ‘South of the River’ about why South London is producing so much football talent in the face of twelve years of austerity was highly commended at the Broadcast Sports Awards in 2022 and won a bronze at the Sport Journalism Awards.

Join the conversation with the directors and screening on Friday, March 22nd, in hall HS.2010, at 18:30.