RFK IN THE LAND OF APARTHEID – A RIPPLE OF HOPE

11 August 2010 No Comment

Thursday 19th August. 7:15pm. R39

DIRS: Larry Shore & Tami Gold / USA / 2009 / 56min

This is a film that was begging to be made, and now, 44 years later, Shore and Gold have delivered a remarkable gem, packed with rare archival footage. In June 1966, at the height of the Cold War, King’s Civil Rights Movement and Verwoerd’s apartheid regime, Robert Kennedy came to South Africa to deliver the NUSAS Annual Day of Affirmation Speech at UCT. In six days RFK covered enormous ground, delivering 4 other recorded public speeches (UND, Stellenbosch, the Johannesburg Bar and WITS), visited Soweto – shaking the hands of ordinary people – and the banned Nobel Laureate Chief Albert Luthuli. The impact of his sensible wisdom (‘Suppose God is Black?’) challenged biblically-rationalised racism, but it is his “Ripple of Hope” speech, acknowledged as the greatest of his career, that was sadly, almost 2 years to the day later, to be his epitaph.

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