Becoming A Woman In Okrika

Produced by Judith Gleason and Elisa Mereghetti, Kamel Films

“This video successfully presents much that a college anthropology class could explore further in discussion.”

Choice

“Good cinematography and sound... suitable for anthropology and other social science courses.”

Library Journal

“An interesting profile of the complex balance between modern and traditional values in Nigeria.”

Landers Film & Video Reviews
This visually stunning film documents an extraordinary coming of age ritual in a village in the Niger Delta. It suggests the conflict Third World women face between traditions and the values of the modern world. The rite, called *Iria*, consists of elaborately painting the young women's bodies with beautiful designs; subjecting their bodies to public scrutiny by the elder women; methodically fattening them; and teaching them the responsibilities of womanhood. After an elaborate celebration, they run a race pursued by young men and their leader, representing a mythological personage who is armed with sticks. By passing through this rite, the women let go of girlish fantasies and prepare for childbearing. This unique film will provoke discussion in Women's Studies, Anthropology, and Development courses.

- American Film & Video Festival, 1991
- First Prize, International Ethnographic Film Festival, Italy, 1990
- Margaret Mead Film Festival, 1991

27 min.