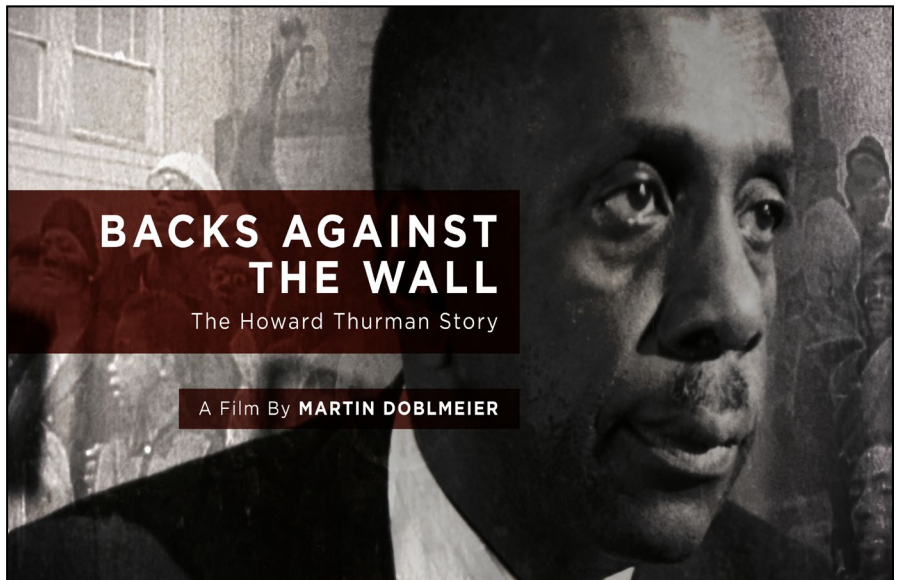


Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story to begin airing next month

BY ELIZA SMITH BROWN

Journey Films recently produced Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story, which will begin airing nationwide on PBS stations in February for Black History Month. It will also have a national broadcast on the PBS WORLD Channel on Friday, February 8 at 9 p.m., ET. The film focuses on Howard Thurman, a “moral anchor” for the Civil Rights Movement.



A [trailer](#) for the film summarizes Thurman’s importance as a quiet inspiration for those on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement. In a video interview, director Martin Doblmeier offers four brief vignettes about (1) [Thurman's influence on the movement](#), (2) [his thoughts on the “spiritual but not religious,”](#) (3) [his commitment to teaching](#), and (4) [his wisdom on building common ground in a divided world](#).

Doblmeier has already scheduled more than a dozen private screenings of the film, beginning on Capitol Hill and including a number of ATS member schools. Educational materials are also available to enhance the film’s use as a teaching tool.

This is the second in a series of biographical documentaries Journey Films is producing. The first was on Reinhold Niebuhr, and the next will be on Catholic activist Dorothy Day. Doblmeier explains that he wants to lift up prophetic voices from the last century.

"These were people who had a deep faith foundation and out of that spoke with courage, eloquence, and conviction to the critical issues of their day," he explains. "Because they did it with such spiritual imagination, they have much to offer us today."

For more information and to schedule a private screening of the Thurman film, [contact Martin Doblmeier](#).



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