Marlon Riggs, 37

June 1, 1994

Marlon Riggs, a filmmaker who won Emmy and Peabody awards for his documentaries died of AIDS on April 5. The graphic content of Tongues Untied, his autobiographical 1989 film about black gay sexuality, caused an uproar when it was scheduled to appear on public television. PBS affiliates in several parts of the country refused to air Riggs' work and conservatives objected because the film had received a $5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

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