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Film to be shown in Old Bridge examines 1967 unrest in Newark

BY STAFF REPORT • OCTOBER 14, 2010

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OLD BRIDGE — A screening of the film "Revolution '67" will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the central branch of the Old Bridge Public Library, located in the Municipal Center off Route 516 and Cottrell Road.

The movie series "Justice: A Dialogue through Film" is free to the public.

"Revolution '67" examines the six days in July 1967 when Newark was the site of one of the deadliest racial disturbances in U.S. history, said Newark resident Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno, who made the film with her husband, Jerome Bongiorno.

News footage and interviews with participants recreate what happened during those violent days in July, while commentary by prominent historians places it in the context of 20th-century urban development and African-American history, she said.

"We made the film to understand why Newark is in the state it's in," Tibaldo-Bongiorno said. "We really had to go back to the riots in '67 and then realized the story is much deeper. It goes back through decades of neglect and federal policies and it didn't just happen here, but all over the country and all over the world."

The couple started making the award-winning film in 2003. It was completed in 2007. Screenings have been held all over the world. It's also been shown on PBS, the filmmaker said.

"It's become a dialogue that is global," Tibaldo-Bongiorno said. "It's the same issues all over - poverty, corruption and racism. It also has an educational component."

Following the screening, a discussion will be led by the filmmakers and Dr. Leslie Wilson, a professor of history at Montclair State University.

Additional information about the film is available at www.revolution67.com. Information about the event is available by calling the library at 732-721-5600, Ext. 5033.