



**Precarious Living:
Rediscoveries
in American
Independent Film**



**Rubenstein
Arts Center**
at Duke University

BLESS THEIR LITTLE HEARTS

**New
Restoration**



(Billy Woodberry, 1984, 80 min, USA, in English, B&W, DCP)

The vaunted history of the L.A. Rebellion hit a high point with Charles Burnett's *Killer of Sheep* (1977) and hit another with *Bless Their Little Hearts* seven years later. Working with a screenplay by Burnett, Billy Woodberry brings to life this portrait of a married couple and their three young children whose emotional resources are drained by the precarious effects of underemployment. Woodberry's observant style suits his exquisite work with actors; Nate Hardman's quietly explosive, self-pitying performance makes explicit the delicate ties between stable employment and masculine self-worth; and Kaycee Moore (*Killer of Sheep*, *Daughters of the Dust*) gives an exceptionally nuanced performance as the family's primary emotional laborer. Full of humor and devoid of the least pity for its characters, *Bless Their Little Hearts* is a striking portrait of working poverty in Reagan's 80's, and a classic of independent cinema.

"This wonderful neo-realist look at a working-class black family in South Central LA is worthy of being placed alongside Burnett's *Killer of Sheep*. Passionately recommended." -- Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Chicago Reader*

Sponsored by the Program in the Arts of the Moving Image (AMI).

THURSDAY

NOV 15^H

7:00 PM

**Rubenstein
Arts Center
Film Theater**

Free Screening!



<http://ami.duke.edu/screensociety> |  @DukeAMI |  movingimageDuke

