

Owu: Chidi Joins the Okoroshi Secret Society testimonials.

“*Owu: Chidi Joins the Okoroshi Secret Society* paints a vivid portrait of the Oru Igbo community. It is an important documentary that can effectively supplement a number of courses that focus on African culture.”

(Donald Morales, Mercy College, N.Y.)

“*Owu: Chidi Joins the Okoroshi Secret Society*” is a fabulous journey that takes us through ceremonies and rituals of initiations into the secret and select society of the Igbo people. We are exposed and introduced to the mystifying and mystic world of the Igbo people and their daily dealings with the spiritual, the social and the mundane. The film says it all. ... [*Owu*] succinctly reveals the varied but important roles that women play in the running of their society. There is a fascinating interview of the town’s woman chieftain ... all roles, by men and women, have the same or parallel importance within Igbo cosmology. [*Owu*] is also a further testimony of the versatility of Igbo culture, civilization, history and the literature. The narrator of the ‘*Owu*’ myth at the beginning of the documentary film is the *Okwa*—the bard or griot—who employs sophisticated and learned diction enhanced with calculated gesticulations, music and theatrical performances. ... This documentary is highly recommended for various disciplines in the Liberal Arts: Anthropology, Ethnology, Ethnic/African Studies, Art History and Civilization. *Owu: Chidi Joins the Okoroshi Secret Society* ... is a rare treasure in the annals of ethnographic documentation.”

(Michael C. Mbabuike, Hostos Community College, Bronx, NY)

“‘*Owu*’ is a remarkable piece of film for its access to a key and often secret social-ritual complex.”

(Jack David Eller, Community College of Denver)

“The authenticity of the documentary film in its respect for the tradition and its attention to the details of the ceremony, has to be applauded. So authentic was this documentary of a society to which women and non-initiates are not welcome that when I showed it to an Okoroshi member he got visibly uncomfortable because it revealed native secrets. However, he agreed that that the film was important for posterity ... The *Owu* film is both balanced in its painstaking attention to the details of rituals, its telling of the *Owu* history, the role of women in this society of men, and the economic implications of the *Owu* ceremony. ... The documentary is ... a recommended addition to any African library.”

(Nkechi Obiora, New York City)

Jack David Eller. Anthropology Review Database, 28 Nov. 2009.

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/ARD/cgi/showme.cgi?keycode=3514>

Michael C. Mbabuike. Visual Anthropology 13 (4), 2000, 425-428.

Nkechi Obiora. African Profiles International, February 1995: 50.

Donald Morales, NYASA Newsletter No. 34, Fall 1994: 8.