



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to *Powerhouse for God*, 1988-1989

Human Studies Film Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland 20746  
hsfa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	1
Container Listing .....	3

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Human Studies Film Archives
<b>Title:</b>	<i>Powerhouse for God</i>
<b>Date:</b>	1988-1989
<b>Identifier:</b>	HSFA.1989.15
<b>Creator:</b>	Dornfeld, Barry, 1958-
<b>Extent:</b>	45 Film reels (color sound; 16mm)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from Barry Dornfeld in 1989.

### Preferred Citation

*Powerhouse for God*, Human Studies Film Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Please contact the archives for information on availability of access copies of audiovisual recordings. Original audiovisual material in the Human Studies Film Archives may not be played.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

---

## Scope and Contents

Collection consists of the edited film, *Powerhouse for God*, and related outtakes. The films document a Baptist pastor and his congregation in Virginia's northern Blue Ridge Mountains and center on the worship service and devotional performances.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or Anthropology Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Religion

Types of Materials:

Sound films

Places:

North America  
Virginia

## Container Listing

Powerhouse for God, 1989

2 Film reels (58 minutes; color sound; 16mm)

[Video: Powerhouse for God, 1988](#)

Notes: Edited film documents the religious performance genres of and life in an Appalachian Baptist church. The film focuses on Brother John Sherfy, a prominent Baptist preacher, and utilizes a combination of life history, conversation, and sermonizing to explore the nature of this Appalachian folk religion and its significance for individual families and the community.

HSFA 1989.15.1

Powerhouse for God (Outtakes), 1988

43 Film reels (color sound; 47,300 feet; 16mm)

Notes: Outtakes of a film which documents the religious performance genres of and life in an Appalachian Baptist church. Focusing on Brother John Sherfy, the footage explores the nature of this Appalachian folk religion and its significance for individual families and the community.

HSFA 1989.15.2