

# SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

**The International Sweethearts of Rhythm: America's Hottest All-Girl Band.** 16mm or videocassette. color. 30 min. Prod. by Jezebel Prods. and Rosetta Records. Dist. by Cinema Guild. 1986. 16mm: \$425; videocassette: \$295 (Rental: \$55). Preview avail.

*Gr 9 Up*—A compilation of old film clips, still photographs, and recent interviews, the film provides a look at a period of time and a culture that is no more. The International Sweethearts of Rhythm was a jazz band of the 1940s whose members were black, or passed for black to avoid unpleasant scenes in hotels or transportation. The group, composed of all women, successfully toured the United States and post-war Germany performing their high energy brand of swing and jazz. Beyond its entertainment value, the film is interesting for its social and economic history. The "Sweethearts" were successful in spite of their exclusion from the musical mainstream of the all male "Big Bands" of that era. Even with the restraints of time, the former band members who were interviewed felt that the experience of being a part of the band was something that they would not have missed. Technically the film is edited very effectively, although the quality of some of the old film clips is poor. Useful in history or sociology classes to promote discussions about changing women's roles and race relations.—*Phyllis Petcoff, Hinsdale Central High School, Ill.*