

WIENER-ROGERS
LAW LIBRARY

DOCUMENTARY FILM

COLLECTION

2012

SELECTED
TITLES



Documentary Films at the Wiener-Rogers Law Library

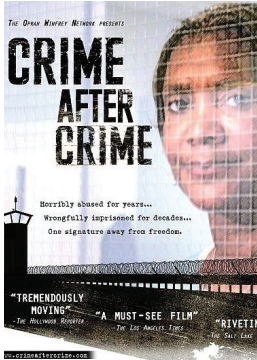
Since 1999, the Wiener-Rogers Law Library at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, has collected documentary films on a wide variety of topics of interest to the Law School community. In a relatively short amount of time, the collection has grown to be one of the most comprehensive among law libraries nationwide. The collection currently includes nearly 2000 titles, and is especially strong in the areas of social justice, immigration, labor and employment, gender studies, human rights, and criminal justice. In recent years, the number of films focusing on environmental justice, food and health, globalization, and corporate accountability has increased steadily.

Faculty members at the Law School incorporate the documentaries into their teaching activities and often find that the collection enhances their scholarship as well. Students are frequent users of the collection, both on their own initiative and upon suggestion by faculty.

This brochure highlights a sampling of the titles included in the collection.

The documentary film collection is curated by Matthew Wright, Head of Collections in the Library. Many thanks to Chad Schatzle, Student Services Librarian, who selected the films highlighted in this brochure and prepared the descriptions.

2012 Public Interest Law Film Festival – Featured Documentaries



Crime After Crime: The Battle to Free Debbie Peagler (2010)

Director: Yoav Potash

Run Time: 89 min.

“In 1983, Deborah Peagler, a woman brutally abused by her boyfriend, was sentenced to 25 years-to-life for her connection to his murder. Twenty years later, as she languished in prison, a California law allowing incarcerated domestic-violence survivors to reopen their cases was passed. Enter a pair of rookie land-use attorneys convinced that with the incontrovertible evidence that existed, they could free Deborah in a matter of months. What they didn’t know was the depth of corruption and politically driven resistance they’d encounter, sending them down a nightmarish, bureaucratic rabbit hole of injustice.” -Sundance Film Festival Catalog

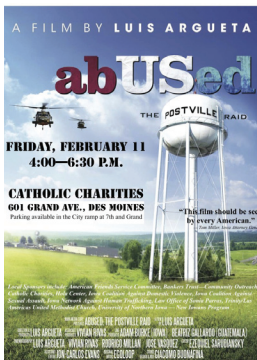


Hot Coffee: Is Justice Being Served? (2011)

Director: Susan Saladoff

Run Time: 89 min.

“Exposes how corporations spent millions on a propaganda campaign to distort Americans’ view of lawsuits, forever changing the civil justice system.” -<http://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/9317138>



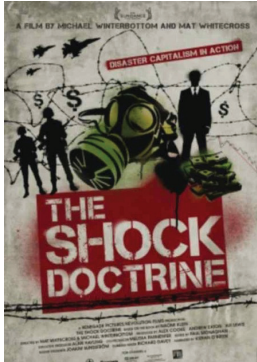
abUsed: The Postville Raid (2009)

Director: Luis Argueta

Run Time: 89 min.

“Tells the story of the largest, most expensive and brutal immigration raid in the history of the USA. On May 12, 2008, in Postville Iowa, 900-armed ICE agents arrested and chained 389 immigrant workers from Mexico and Guatemala. The federal government horded these workers through a makeshift judicial assembly line designed to convict them of a felony and deport them. A community was decimated and families torn apart; the Constitution was trampled, the rule of law neglected, due process overlooked, and the human rights of immigrant workers brazenly violated.” -<http://www.newday.com/films/abusedthepostvilleraid.html>

Capitalism & Democracy

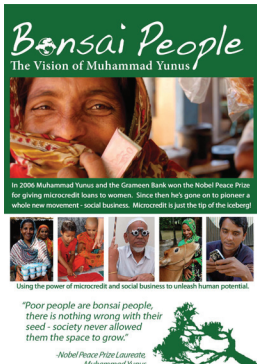


The Shock Doctrine (2012)

Director: Mat Whitecross, Michael Winterbottom

Run Time: 78 min.

“Using ‘shock therapy’ as a metaphor, the film investigates Klein’s central idea of ‘disaster capitalism.’ When countries are jolted by catastrophic events such as war or natural disasters, they are often subjected to totally un-regulated ‘free market’ remedies that benefit corporations at public expense.” -<http://www.chipublib.org/search/details/cn/8575722?branch=113>

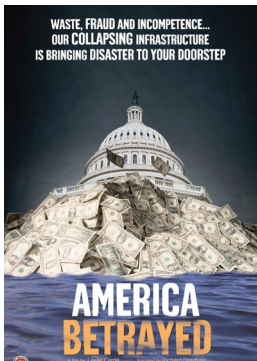


Bonsai People (2012)

Director: Holly Mosh

Run Time: 90 min.

“Bonsai People celebrates Muhammad Yunus’ extraordinary humanitarian work. Yunus pioneered microcredit, the innovative banking program that provides poor people with small loans they use to launch businesses and lift their families out of poverty.” -http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/bonsai_people_the_vision_of_muhammad_yunus/



America Betrayed: How Government and Big Business Bring Ruin to America's Infrastructure (2008)

Narrator: Richard Dreyfuss

Run Time: 94 min.

“America Betrayed is the story of waste, fraud, and abuse at the very highest echelons of our federal government. Through interviews with Pulitzer Prize winning journalists from the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and TIME Magazine, to noted scientists from Berkeley and Harvard, to U.S. Senators and Congressman, America Betrayed takes an in-depth look at just how our government’s dirty little secrets have impeded an investigation into 9/11 and nearly ruined a great American city...New Orleans.” -<http://www.americabetrayedmovie.com/>

Capitalism & Democracy (cont.)



Black Money (2009)

Editor: Stephanie Challberg

Run Time: 60 minutes

“In Black Money, Frontline correspondent Lowell Bergman investigates this shadowy side of international business, shedding light on multinational companies that have routinely made secret payments -- often referred to as “black money” -- to win billions in business. “The thing about black money is you can claim it’s being used for all kinds of things,” the British reporter David Leigh tells Bergman. ‘You get pots of black money that nobody sees, nobody has to account for, ... you can do anything you like with. Mostly what happens with black money is people steal it because they can.’” -<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/blackmoney/etc/synopsis.html>

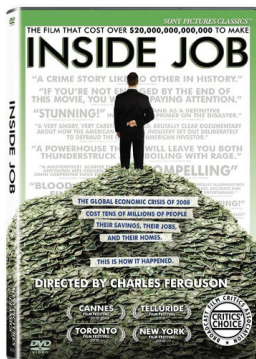


Collapse (2010)

Director: Chris Smith

Run Time: 80 minutes

“Americans generally like to hear good news. They like to believe that a new president will right old wrongs, that clean energy will replace dirty oil and that fresh thinking will set the economy straight. American pundits tend to restrain their pessimism and hope for the best. But is anyone prepared for the worst? Meet Michael Ruppert, a different kind of American. A former Los Angeles police officer turned independent reporter, he predicted the current financial crisis in his self-published newsletter. From the Wilderness, at a time when most Wall Street and Washington analysts were still in denial.” -<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1503769/synopsis>



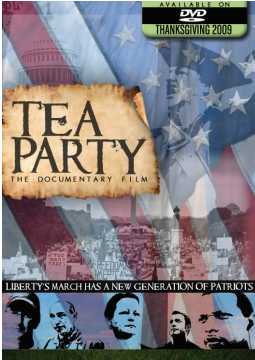
Inside Job (2011)

Director: Charles Ferguson

Run Time: 120 minutes

“From Academy Award® nominated filmmaker, Charles Ferguson (“No End In Sight”), comes INSIDE JOB, the first film to expose the shocking truth behind the economic crisis of 2008. The global financial meltdown, at a cost of over \$20 trillion, resulted in millions of people losing their homes and jobs. Through extensive research and interviews with major financial insiders, politicians and journalists, INSIDE JOB traces the rise of a rogue industry and unveils the corrosive relationships which have corrupted politics, regulation and academia.” -http://www.sonyclassics.com/insidejob/_pdf/insidejob_presskit.pdf

Capitalism & Democracy (cont.)



Tea Party: The Documentary Film (2009)

Director: Pritchett Cotton

Run Time: 100 minutes

“The Tea Party movement of 2009 shocked the political establishment, the nation at large and left a big media machine dizzy in its wake. *Tea Party: The Documentary Film* follows the struggles of five grassroots individuals and their transformation from home town rally goers and rally organizers to national activists in the 912 March on Washington. In the process, the film reveals what is at the heart of this nationwide surge of civic engagement - a return to and respect for a Constitutionally limited government, personal responsibility and fiscal restraint at the Federal level.” -<http://www.teapartymovie.com/film.html>



Access Denied: The Fight for Corporate Accountability (2010)

Director: Alliance For Justice

Run Time: 23 minutes

“When Diana Levine went to the hospital in April 2000 seeking relief for a severe migraine headache, the professional musician and children’s record producer never imagined that faulty drug labeling would result in the amputation of her arm. Today she is at the center of a closely-watched Supreme Court case and a national debate about the federal courts and corporate accountability. Through an examination of Diana Levine’s case against Wyeth Pharmaceuticals - and the experiences of others like her - *Access Denied?* takes the legal issue of preemption out of the courtroom and into the real world.” -<http://www.afj.org/resources-and-publications/films-and-programs/access-denied/>



Food Design (2010)

Directors: Martin Hablesreiter and Sonja Stummerer

Run Time: 86 min.

“Food Design takes a look at the secret chambers of a major manufacturer of food, where designers and scientists are defining your favorite mouthful of tomorrow. It shows how form, color, smell, consistency, the sounds made during eating, manufacturing technique, history and stories are all aspects of food and eating that both influence food design, and are created by it.” -<http://icarusfilms.com/new2010/fd.html>

Crime & Punishment



Out of Control (2010)

Narrator: Jason Wasserman

Run Time: 40 min.

“Ashley Smith was barely into her teens when she was sent to a youth detention center in her home province of New Brunswick. Her crime: she had tossed crabapples at a mailman. Smith’s one-month sentence would stretch to almost four years, served in 11 institutions in 5 provinces... The longer Smith was confined to her various segregation cells, the worse her behavior became and the more extreme, and frequent, the punishments. What she really needed was mental health assessment and treatment. She never got it.”
-CBC News

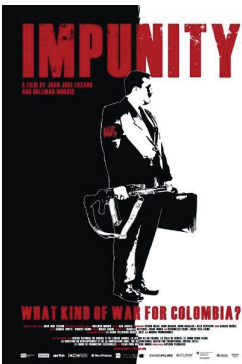


The Forgotten Man: Private Bradley Manning and the Wikileaks Controversy (2007)

Producer: Journeyman Films

Run Time: 45 minutes

“Second only to Julian Assange, Bradley Manning is the most important figure in the Wikileaks controversy; his is alleged to have handed over hundreds of thousands of secret US war files and diplomatic cables. But, while the world watches Assange’s trial with baited breath, Manning is already wasting away in solitary confinement; this is the story of his daring intelligence heist. We hear the only recording of Bradley Manning’s voice and we listen to the logs of alleged conversations with the man who ultimately betrayed him.” -The Forgotten Man DVD Jacket



Impunity (2011)

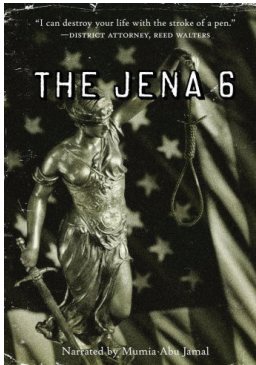
Director: Ana Acosta

Run Time: 101 min.

“Colombia today: the biggest trial against Paramilitary - accused of killing thousands of Colombians - is designed to create “peace and justice”. Instead the process comes to an abrupt halt, when the political and economic interests in the paramilitary war are uncovered.” -<http://www.autlookfilms.com/en/films/impunity/>

Crime & Punishment (cont.)

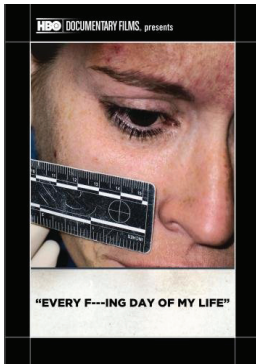
The Jena 6 (2008)



Narrator: Mumia-Abu Jamal

Run Time: 30 minutes

“In a small town in Louisiana, six families are fighting for their sons lives. Two nooses are left as a warning to black students trying to integrate their playground, fights break out across town, a white man pulls a shotgun on black students, someone burns down most of the school, the DA puts six black students on trial for attempted murder, and the quiet town of Jena becomes the site of the largest civil rights demonstration in the South since the 1960s. The Jena 6 is the story of hidden racial inequality and violence becoming visible. It is a powerful symbol for, and example of, how racial justice works in America where the lynching noose has been replaced by the DA’s pen.” -<http://www.bignoisefilms.com/films/tactical-media/99-jena>

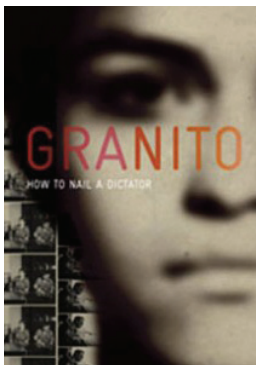


Every F----- Day of My Life (2009)

Editor: Tommy Davis

Run Time: 70 min.

“This 70-minute documentary follows the final days of freedom for Wendy Maldonado’s fateful decision to protect her family from abuse at all costs, even her own freedom.” -<http://www.amazon.com/Every-F-ing-Day-My-Life/dp/B003ES5RO4>



Granito: How to Nail a Dictator (2011)

Director: Pamela Yates

Run Time: 104 minutes

“Sometimes a film makes history; it doesn’t just document it. So it is with Granito: How to Nail a Dictator”, the astonishing new film by Pamela Yates. Part political thriller, part memoir, Yates transports us back in time through a riveting, haunting tale of genocide and returns to the present with a cast of characters joined by destiny and the quest to bring a malevolent dictator to justice.” -<http://www.metacritic.com/movie/granito-how-to-nail-a-dictator>

Crime & Punishment (cont.)



Hunting Mladic: International Justice at Work (2011)

Director: Patrick Remacle

Run Time: 54 min.

“Central to the film is a man, Serge Brammertz, prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Ex-Yugoslavia. His obsession has been finally to obtain the arrest of General Mladic, responsible for the massacre at Srebrenica.” -http://tvfrance-intl.com/en/programmes/presentation/fiche/43108_sur-la-piste-de-mladic-une-plongee-dans-la-justice-internationale/video_player/3628.html

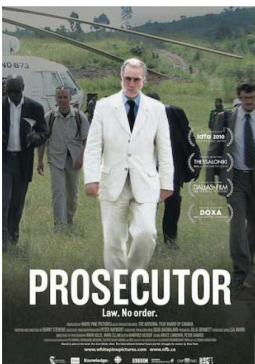


Girl Trouble: Girls Tell Their Truth about the Juvenile Justice System (2004)

Directors: Lexi Leban and Lidia Szajko

Run Time: 74 minutes

“*Girl Trouble*, an intimate documentary by directors Lexi Leban and Lidia Szajko, goes beyond the statistics and chronicles four years in the lives of three teenage girls struggling to free themselves from San Francisco’s complex and flagging juvenile justice system... While the documentary tells the compelling stories of Stephanie, Shangra and Sheila, it also opens a window onto the juvenile justice system, exposing its failure to break the cycle of poverty, crime and incarceration that consumes vulnerable young women. While girls now represent 28 percent of the U.S. juvenile detention population, they receive only two percent of delinquency services, according to a 2001 study by the American Bar Association.” -<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/girltrouble/film.html>



Prosecutor (2011)

Director: Barry Stevens

Run Time: 94 minutes

“Since the 19th Century, the creation of an International Criminal Court to prosecute human rights violators has been a fleeting goal of international civil society. The precedent was established with the Nuremberg Trials, but never before has such an institution been created on a permanent, global basis. “Prosecutor” explores the behind-the-scenes drama of the tumultuous year-in-the-life of the court’s first Chief Prosecutor, the controversial Argentinian jurist, Luis Moreno Ocampo. Ocampo’s actions - including laying charges against the elected President of Sudan - are widely praised and criticized.” -<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1754383/>

Health & Environment

A STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE OF BEES



The Strange Disappearance Of The Bees (1988)

Director / Produced: Mark Daniels

Run Time: 58 min.

“The Strange Disappearance of the Bees is a frightening documentary about how mass deaths of bees have recently swept all over the world. Increasingly each spring, beekeepers open their hives to find entire colonies wiped out. And beekeepers aren’t the only ones who are worried. Bees pollinate at least a third of the world’s crops. If the dramatic decline in worldwide bee populations continues, essential food crops could disappear, along with entire ecosystems.” -<http://icarusfilms.com/new2011/bees.html>

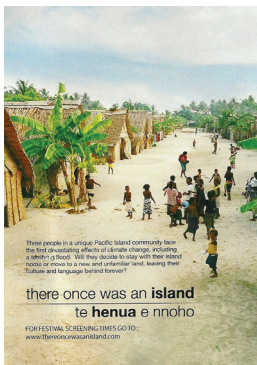


Our Daily Poison (2011)

Director: Marie-Monique Robin

Run Time: 110 min.

“A shocking documentary film that reveals a broken safety system concerned more with protecting trade secrets than human health. (In one key moment, a member of the UN agency responsible for setting acceptable daily limits of poisonous chemicals admits that the numbers are ‘theoretical’ and have ‘nothing to do with the real world.’) The film shows that the main cause of the epidemic is environmental: it is the result of the 100,000 chemical molecules that have invaded our environment, and primarily our food, since the end of the Second World War.” -<http://icarusfilms.com/new2011/pois.html>



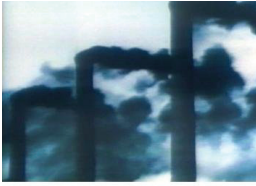
There Once was an Island: Te Henua e Nnoho (2010)

Directors: Briar March

Run Time: 67 minutes

“Three people in a unique Pacific Island community face the first devastating effects of climate change, including a terrifying flood. Will they decide to stay with their island home or move to a new and unfamiliar land, leaving their culture and language behind forever? What if your community had to decide whether to leave their homeland forever and there was no help available? This is the reality for the culturally unique Polynesian community of Takuu, a tiny low-lying atoll in the South Western Pacific. As a terrifying tidal flood rips through their already damaged home, the Takuu community experiences the devastating effects of climate change first hand.” -IMDB.com

Health & Environment (cont.)



What Price Clean Air?

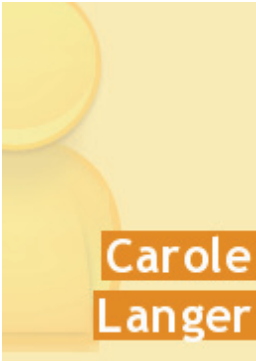
Robert Richter

What Price Clean Air (2008)

Director: Robert Richter

Run Time: 57 min.

“A hard-hitting investigative documentary of industry efforts, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to weaken the Clean Air Act. The film exposed the phony claims of concern for protecting the environment by the Reagan administration, the same kind of hypocritical line fed these days to the media and the public by later White House occupants. It was not long after the first telecast of this documentary that the head of EPA of that era resigned.” -<http://reframecollection.org/films/film?Id=1306>

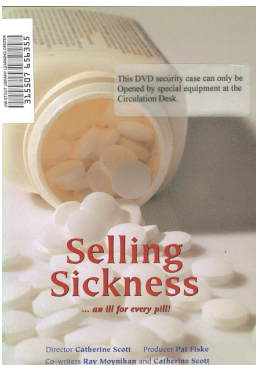


Radium City (1987)

Writer / Director: Carole Langer

Run Time: 89 min.

“This documentary concerns the women who fell victim to radium poisoning in Ottawa, Illinois during the 1920s. The women worked painting radium on the dials of clocks and would wet the tips of the paintbrushes with their tongues. Interviews with survivors from the industrial tragedy relate their experiences of the poisoning and the bureaucratic nightmare they were forced to contend with in seeking compensation and justice. Environmental concerns are raised, but the ambiguity surrounding the death toll is evident by a lack of death certificates and medical opinions.” -Dan Pavlides, Rovi Less



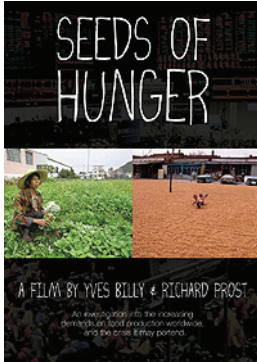
Selling Sickness (2004)

Writer / Director: Catherine Scott

Run Time: 52 min.

“The documentary explores the intensifying conflict over the very nature of illness itself and tracks the sophisticated ways in which pharmaceutical companies market their drugs. In 2002 drug companies spent close to \$US3 billion in the United States on direct-to-consumer advertising. One of the world’s leading antidepressants, Paxil, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), greatly expanded its markets by promoting the drug for a for a range of new psychiatric conditions.” -<http://www.roninfilms.com.au/feature/709/selling-sickness.html>

Health & Environment (cont.)

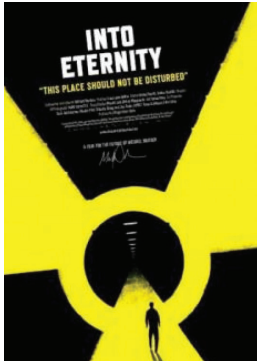


Seeds of Hunger (2009)

Editor: Sabine Franel

Run Time: 52 min.

“Today more than three billion people worldwide suffer from malnutrition, including one billion who are starving. The current global economic crisis has created food shortages, skyrocketing prices, and food riots in some countries. With the world of agriculture confronting the impact of such factors as global warming, population urbanization trends, changes in eating habits, and increased use of grains for biofuels, SEEDS OF HUNGER outlines the shape of an impending global food crisis.” -<http://icarusfilms.com/new2009/seeds.html>



Into Eternity (2010)

Writer / Director: Michael Madsen

Run Time: 75 min.

“Into Eternity is the first feature documentary to explore the mind-boggling scientific and philosophical questions long-term nuclear waste storage poses. Structured as a message to future generations, the film focuses on the Onkalo waste repository now under construction in Finland, one of the first underground storage facilities...Once the repository is full, in about 100 years, it will be closed and hopefully remain sealed for at least 100,000 years.” -<http://www.videoproject.com/intoeternity.html>



Climate Refugees (2010)

Director / Screenwriter: Michael Nash

Run Time: 86 min.

“If global warming is our planet’s most pressing issue, large-scale population displacement is the human consequence. Massive continental migration is already under way, and diminished natural resources continue to threaten the lives of millions. The quickly submerging islands of Tuvalu in the South Pacific, drought-affected regions of Sudan, storm-susceptible coastlines of Bangladesh, and rapidly expanding deserts in China are forcing millions to relocate beyond their borders. Who will accept these refugees, and how will they impact their adopted homeland?” -http://sundance.bside.com/2010/films/climaterefugees_sundance2010

Health & Environment (cont.)

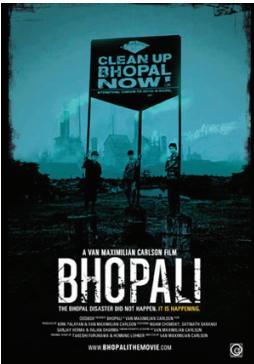


If God is Willing and The Creek Don't Rise (2011)

Writer / Director: Spike Lee

Run Time: 240 min.

“The film delves into such issues “as relocation, rebuilding, mental-health concerns, the current status of the levees, and the impact on New Orleans of the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.” -<http://www.amazon.com/God-Willing-Creek-Dont-Rise/dp/B004JA99XG>

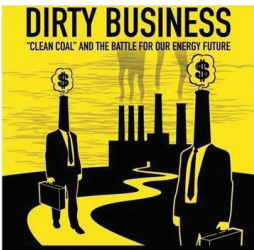


Bhopali (2011)

Director: Van Maximilian Carlson

Run Time: 80 minutes

“Bhopali documents the experience of second generation children affected by the Union Carbide gas disaster of 1984, the worst industrial disaster in history, and subsequent contamination of groundwater by Union Carbide Corporation (an American company now owned by Dow Chemical, the second largest chemical company in the world). It follows several children as they and their families cope with the ongoing medical and social disaster, as well as their memories of that traumatizing night that shocked the world and changed Bhopal forever. Set against the backdrop of vehement protests for the 25th anniversary of the disaster, the Bhopalis continue to fight for justice, proving to be anything but victims.” -<http://www.bhopalithemovie.com/about/>



Dirty Business: Clean Coal and the Battle for Our Energy Future (2011)

Director: Peter Bull

Run Time: 165 minutes

“*Clean Coal and the Battle for Our Energy Future* is a 90-minute documentary produced by the Center for Investigative Reporting that investigates the true cost of our dependence on coal for electricity in the age of climate change. Politicians and corporate interests have mounted a formidable public relations campaign promoting “clean coal” as a solution to our energy/climate problem. Despite major concerns on the part of scientists and environmental groups, there has been little public education about this issue, which was a high-profile topic of the 2008 presidential campaigns and is a central element of President Obama’s energy policy.” -<http://dirtybusinessfilm.com/about-the-film>

Health & Environment (cont.)

"Informative... Entertaining... Inspiring..." -- San Francisco Chronicle



Food Stamped (2011)

Directors: Shira and Yoav Potash

Run Time: 62 minutes

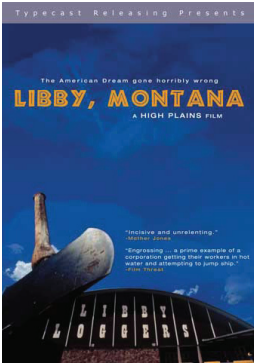
"*Food Stamped* is an informative and humorous documentary film following a couple as they attempt to eat a healthy, well-balanced diet on a food stamp budget. Through their adventures they consult with members of U.S. Congress, food justice organizations, nutrition experts, and people living on food stamps to take a deep look at America's broken food system." -<http://www.foodstamped.com/>

Libby, Montana (2005)

Directors: Drury Gunn Carr and Doug Hawes-Davis

Run Time: 124 minutes

"Nestled below the rugged peaks of the Northern Rockies in Montana — as iconic a representation of America's "purple mountain majesties" as one can find — lies the site of the worst case of community-wide exposure to a toxic substance in U.S. history. In the small town of Libby, many hundreds of people are sick or have already died from asbestos exposure." -<http://www.pbs.org/pov/libbymontana/>

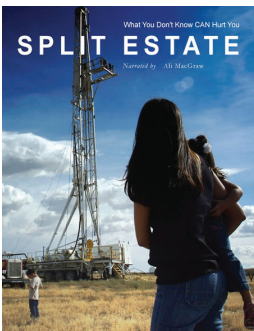


Split Estate: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You (2009)

Director: Debra Anderson

Run Time: 76 minutes

"Imagine discovering that you don't own the mineral rights under your land, and that an energy company plans to drill for natural gas two hundred feet from your front door. Imagine having little recourse, other than accepting an unregulated industry in your backyard. Split Estate maps a tragedy in the making, as citizens in the path of a new drilling boom in the Rocky Mountain West struggle against the erosion of their civil liberties, their communities and their health." -http://www.splitestate.com/the_film.html



Labor & Immigration



New Harvest, Old Shame (1990)

Directors: Hector Galan

Run Time: 93 min.

“In the 30 years since Edward R. Murrow’s powerful report ‘Harvest of Shame,’ the safety and welfare of America’s migrant workers have been improved by Federal legislation and union bargaining. Nevertheless, as tonight’s strong documentary, ‘New Harvest, Old Shame,’ shows, for the 800,000 farm workers who follow the crops north each spring, it’s still mighty hard traveling.”

-Walter Goodman, The New York Times

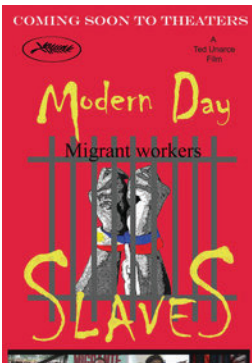


Los Mineros (1991)

Writer / Producer: Carl Byker, Lowell Bergman

Run Time: 60 min.

“Just as the xenophobic and racist responses have been triggered by the influx of undocumented workers from south of the border, full-fledged American citizens of Mexican descent have endured such hatred for more than a century. Hector Galán’s “Los Mineros,” a fascinating segment of “The American Experience” invokes the battles of Mexican American copper miners in Arizona as symbolic of this history.” -Robert Koehler, Los Angeles Times



Modern Day Slaves (2010)

Writer / Director: Ted Unarce

Run Time: 88 min.

“The film depicts the story of Filipino overseas workers who leave their home country to find work in another country. Many of them work as domestic helpers and are known to be called ‘modern day slaves.’ They earn a few dollars to support themselves and send the rest of their earnings back home by way of remittances. They seek higher wages and hope to multiply their earnings by a factor of 300% to 500% compared to what they will earn back home” -DVD Jacket

Labor & Immigration (cont.)

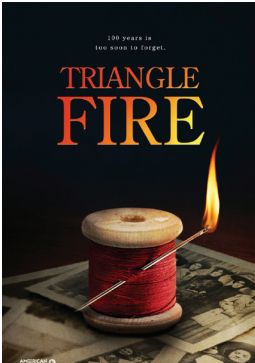


Which Way Home (2009)

Narrator: Rebecca Cammisa

Run Time: 83 min.

“As the United States continues to build a wall between itself and Mexico, *Which Way Home* shows the personal side of immigration through the eyes of children who face harrowing dangers with enormous courage and resourcefulness as they endeavor to make it to the United States. The film follows several unaccompanied child migrants as they journey through Mexico en route to the U.S. on a freight train they call “The Beast.” -<http://whichway-home.net/about.html>

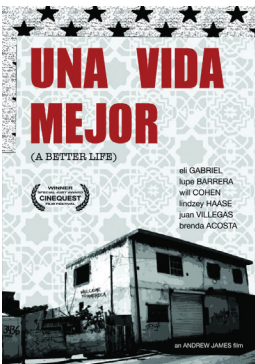


Triangle Factory (2011)

Director: Jamila Wignot

Run Time: 60 minutes

“It was the deadliest workplace accident in New York City’s history. On March 25th, 1911, a deadly fire broke out in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York’s Greenwich Village. The blaze ripped through the congested loft as petrified workers -- mostly young immigrant women -- desperately tried to make their way downstairs. By the time the fire burned itself out, 146 people were dead. All but 17 of the dead were women and nearly half were teenagers.” -<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/introduction/triangle-intro/>



Una Vida Mejor (A Better Life) (2011)

Director: Olivia Lucia Carrescia

Run Time: 52 minutes

“Welcome to America. The U.S. government has mandated the construction of a 2,000-mile long wall along the U.S./Mexico border and many Americans sport bumper stickers on their vehicles with slogans like, “Stop the Invasion.” *Una Vida Mejor (A Better Life)* follows three families, each participating in the American experience, and each searching for their own version of the American dream.” -<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1180574/>

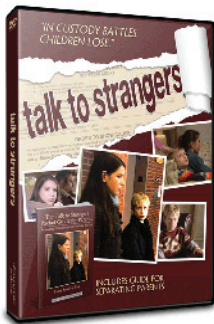
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Run Time: 73 minutes

Talk to Strangers (2011)

Run Time: 25.5 min.

“David and Laura Sherwood are getting divorced. Among the things they can’t agree on is custody of their children, nine-year-old Nicholas and thirteen-year-old Emily. But David and Laura believe that the system will protect their children. They are mistaken.” -<http://childcustodyfilm.com/>

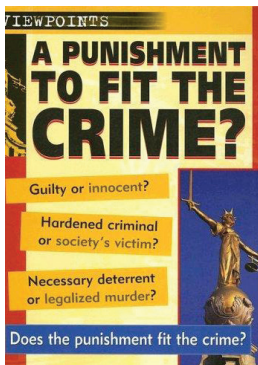


A Crime to Fit the Punishment (2011)

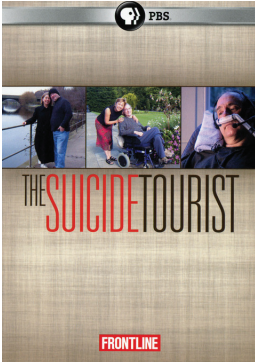
Narrator: Lee Grant

Run Time: 46 minutes

“In 1954, at the height of McCarthyism and the Cold War, blacklisted filmmakers joined together to create the controversial labor film *Salt of the Earth*, despite strong opposition from a fearful Hollywood and the U.S. government. *A Crime to Fit the Punishment* investigates the background and political atmosphere surrounding the production of the film, and movingly chronicles the filmmakers’ defiance of the blacklist.” -http://icarusfilms.com/cat97/a-e/a_crime.html



Law & Society (cont.)

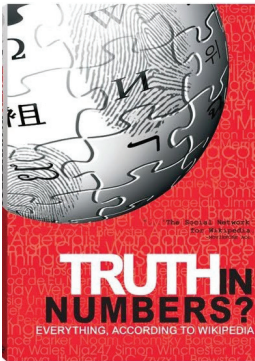


The Suicide Tourist (2007)

Director: John Zaritsky

Run Time: 60 min.

“In this documentary, filmmaker John Zaritsky examines the Dignitas institution in Switzerland, the only place in the world where citizens from any country can come to receive assistance in committing suicide. Asserting that the ending of one’s life is a basic human right, Dignitas’ founder, Ludwig Minelli, has indirectly assisted in the suicides of over 500 people from over 40 countries. The film follows new clients who wish to end their lives with Dignitas’ help, such as George, a man with heart disease who wants to forgo the increasingly unbearable pain that lies before him.” -<http://www.allrovi.com/movies/movie/the-suicide-tourist-v395715?r=allmovie>



Truth in numbers? Everything, According to Wikipedia (2010)

Directors: Scott Glosserman and Nic Hill

Run Time: 85 min.

“Filmmakers’ Scott Glosserman and Nic Hill engagingly explore the history and cultural implications of one of the most traveled and referenced sites on the Internet. A whole range of opinion is expressed about the impact of Wikipedia on the archiving of learning, from interviews with founder Jimmy Wales to commentators suspicious of the site’s supposed neutrality... Evenhandedly weaving multiple perspectives about the impact of Wikipedia, the film provokes a deeper conversation on how knowledge is formed and what future generations will learn about history and the world.” -International Movie Database



Orange Revolution (1999)

Director: Steve York

Run Time: 86 min.

“If the world remembers one image from Ukraine’s Orange Revolution, it is the hideously scarred face of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, and the mystery of his near-fatal poisoning. For many, that’s both the beginning and the end of the story. Veteran filmmaker Steve York fills in the blanks with this in-depth look at the events of the Orange Revolution.” -OrangeRevolutionMovie.com

Law & Society (cont.)

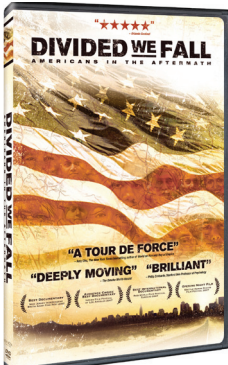


Activist Blogger: The Josh Wolf Story (2007)

Producer / Director / Editor: Donna Lee

Run Time: 29 minutes

“...this engaging and provocative documentary...is essential viewing for any journalist, media scholar, and law student who want to better understand the dramatic changes that are reshaping our media environment. This is a film which will spark debate and inspire reflection, introduce an important case and shake up any easy assumptions we might make about its significance.”
-Henry Jenkins, Professor of Communications, Journalism, Cinematic Arts & Education, University of Southern California

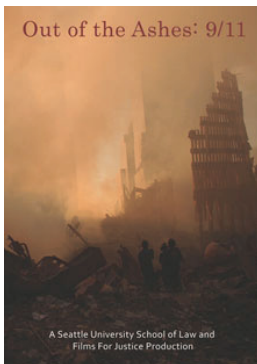


Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath (2008)

Writer / Producer: Valarie Kaur

Run Time: 90 min.

“Winner of more than a dozen international awards, Divided We Fall ‘is an illuminating meditation upon what it has meant to be ‘one of us’ since September 11’” (Harold Hongju Koh, Dean of Yale Law School). On tour, the film is opening spaces for deep dialogue in 120 cities at more than 200 universities, festivals, religious centers, corporations, and schools around the world. It is celebrated as ‘a starting point for the new dialogue on race and religion that is essential to America’s future’” -Diana L. Eck, Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies at Harvard University



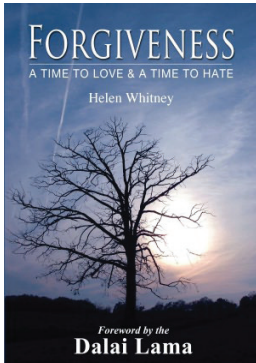
Out of the Ashes (2011)

Director: Marilyn Berger

Run Time: 120 min.

“A documentary featuring the inspiring story of seven 9/11 families and how they struggled to put back together the shattered American Dream.” -<http://www.worldcat.org/title/out-of-the-ashes-911/oclc/713565001>

Law & Society (cont.)

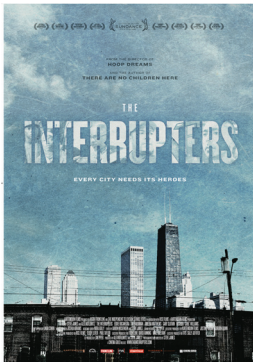


Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate (2011)

Narrator: Kathryn Walker

Run Time: 168 minutes

“Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate provides an intimate look into the spontaneous outpouring of forgiveness: from the Amish families for the 2006 shooting of their children in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania; the struggle of ‘60s radicals to cope with the serious consequences of their violent acts of protest; the shattering of a family after the mother abandons them, only to return seeking forgiveness; the legacy and divisiveness of apartheid and the aftermath of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in South Africa; the penitential journey of a modern-day Germany, confronting the horrific acts of the Holocaust; and the riveting stories of survivors of the unimaginably, brutal Rwandan genocide.” -<http://www.pbs.org/programs/forgiveness/>



The Interrupters (2011)

Director: Steve James

Run Time: 125 minutes

“The Interrupters follows three individuals who with bravado, humility, and even humor, work to protect their Chicago communities from the violence they once employed. From acclaimed director Steve James and bestselling author Alex Kotlowitz, this is an intimate journey into the stubborn persistence of violence in our cities.” -http://www.amazon.com/Frontline-The-Interrupters/dp/B006JN8748/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1343766648&sr=8-1&keywords=the+interrupters



Prom Night in Mississippi (2010)

Director: Paul Saltzman

Run Time: 89 minutes

“In 1997, Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman offered to pay for the senior prom at Charleston High School in Mississippi under one condition: the prom had to be racially integrated. His offer was ignored. In 2008, Freeman offered again. This time the school board accepted, and history was made. Charleston High School had its first-ever integrated prom - in 2008. Until then, blacks and whites had had separate proms even though their classrooms have been integrated for decades. Canadian filmmaker Paul Saltzman follows students, teachers and parents in the lead-up to the big day.” -<http://www.promnightinmississippi.com/the-film>

Law & Society (cont.)

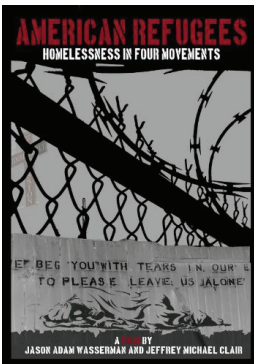


Red Hook Justice (2004)

Director: Meema Spadola

Run Time: 55 minutes

“In 2000, an experimental court opened its doors in Red Hook, Brooklyn, a neighborhood plagued by a cycle of unemployment, poverty and crime. The Red Hook Community Justice Center (RHCJC) is at the center of a legal revolution: the community justice movement, which emphasizes neighborhood-focused problem solving and rehabilitation over punishment and doing time. In *Red Hook Justice*, acclaimed filmmaker Meema Spadola provides an up-close examination of the RHCJC, a revolutionary new kind of community court that has served as a model for other courts in cities across the country.” -<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/redhookjustice/film.html>



American Refugees: Homelessness in Four Movements (2011)

Director: Jason Wasserman

Run Time: 60 minutes

“A fast-paced and gripping documentary about those who live on the streets. Shot during their four-year ethnographic study in Birmingham, Alabama, Wasserman and Clair present an onslaught of issues connected with homelessness from both social and personal angles. Original music and artistic presentation underscores this social documentary about the most marginalized members of our society.” -<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1659304/>



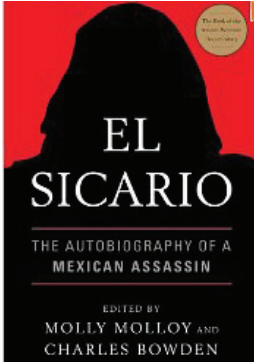
Stealing America: Vote by Vote (2008)

Narrator: Peter Coyote

Run Time: 110 minutes

“*Stealing America: Vote by Vote* brings together behind-the-scenes perspectives from the U.S. presidential election of 2004 – plus startling stories from key races in 1996, 2000, 2002 and 2006. Unbiased and nonpartisan, the film sheds light on a decade of vote counts that don’t match votes cast – uncounted ballots, vote switching, under-votes and many other examples of election totals that warrant serious investigation.” -<http://www.stealingamericathemovie.org/Documents/Synopsis.pdf>

Law Enforcement



El Sicario (2009)

Editors: Molly Molloy and Charles Bowden

Run Time: 83 min.

“El Sicario is a specialist in kidnappings, torture, and contract killings. For a number of years, he was a unit commander with the Mexican state police and he even completed training with the FBI. While working for Mexican drugs cartels over the course of 20 years, he has killed hundreds of people, but has never been apprehended. At present, he is in hiding and there is a 250,000 dollar reward on his head. Despite this, he has decided to tell his story to the camera of Italian documentary-maker Gianfranco” -IMBD.com

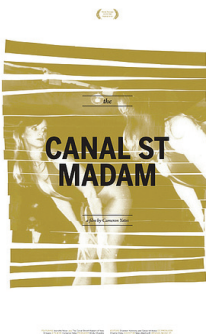


Point of Attack: A Documentary By Kathleen Foster (2004)

Director: Kathleen Foster

Run Time: 46 min.

“Point of Attack chronicles the post-9/11 racial profiling, large-scale round-ups, detentions and mass deportations of Arab, Muslim and South Asian men as part of the U.S. government’s ‘War on Terrorism,’ framing the plight of these immigrant communities within the broader context of the U.S. government’s ‘other war’ against civil liberties being waged via the USA Patriot Act.” -Kathleen Foster



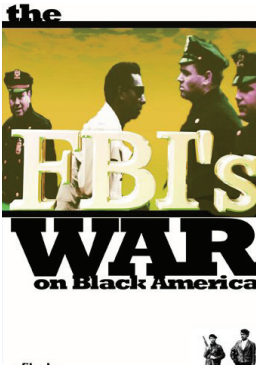
The Canal Street Madam (2010)

Producer / Director: Cameron Yates

Run Time: 73 min.

“Until an FBI bust upended her life, Jeanette Maier was a successful New Orleans madam. Her discreet clientele included a number of powerful, high-ranking politicians. The ensuing very public trial - both in the courtroom and in the media - focused salaciously on the fact that Jeanette’s brothel was a family affair - Jeanette ran the business with her mother and she employed her own daughter as an escort. Jeanette and her family ended up infamous, their futures blighted by felony convictions, yet their well-connected clients escaped exposure.” -thecanalstreetmadamfilm.com

Law Enforcement (cont.)



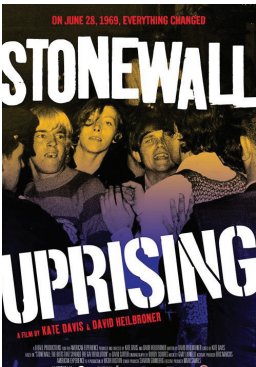
The FBI's War on Black America (1990)

Director: Jonathan Berman

Run Time: 78 min.

“The FBI’s War on Black America looks at a dark period in our country’s history. The film is a documentary exploration of the lives and deaths of people targeted by the US government’s COINTELPRO program, an FBI launched program aimed against organized efforts by African-Americans to gain rights guaranteed by our constitution. Includes both archival footage and contemporary interviews with people involved in the movement.”

-Createspace.com

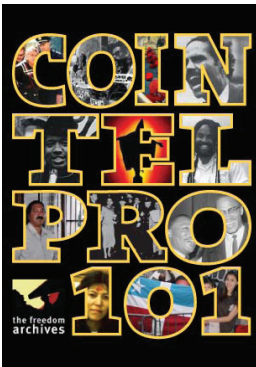


Stonewall Uprising (2011)

Director: Kate Davis and David Heilbroner

Run Time: 90 minutes

“In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in the Greenwich Village section of New York City. Such raids were not unusual in the late 1960s, an era when homosexual sex was illegal in every state but Illinois. That night, however, the street erupted into violent protests and demonstrations that lasted for the next six days. The Stonewall riots, as they came to be known, marked a major turning point in the modern gay civil rights movement in the United States and around the world.” -<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/introduction/stonewall-intro/>



Cointelpro 101 (2011)

Narrator: Liz Derias

Run Time: 56 min.

“Cointelpro may not be a well-understood acronym but its meaning and continuing impact are absolutely central to understanding the government’s wars and repression against progressive movements. Cointelpro represents the state’s strategy to prevent movements and communities from overturning white supremacy and creating racial justice. Cointelpro is both a formal program of the FBI and a term frequently used to describe a conspiracy among government agencies—local, state, and federal—to destroy movements for self-determination and liberation for Black, Brown, Asian, and Indigenous struggles, as well as mount an institutionalized attack against allies of these movements and other progressive organizations.” -<http://www.freedomarchives.org/Cointelpro.html>

Law Enforcement (cont.)

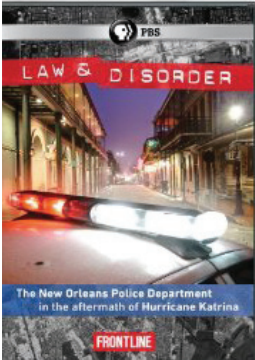


Better this World (2010)

Directors: Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega

Run Time: 89 min.

“How did two boyhood friends from Midland, Texas wind up arrested on terrorism charges at the 2008 Republican National Convention? BETTER THIS WORLD follows the journey of David McKay (22) and Bradley Crowder (23) from political neophytes to accused domestic terrorists with a particular focus on the relationship they develop with a radical activist mentor in the six months leading up to their arrests.” -<http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/better.html>

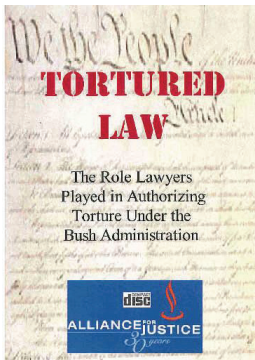


Law and Disorder (2010)

Producer: Tom Jennings

Run Time: 60 minutes

“Beginning with the death of Henry Glover -- a case that has resulted in the indictment of five New Orleans police officers by a federal grand jury -- Law & Disorder digs deep into a number of incidents in which police shot civilians. It raises new questions about the actions of police officers -- and their command structure -- in the aftermath of the catastrophe...Law & Disorder reveals that, in the midst of post-Katrina chaos, law-enforcement commanders issued orders to ignore long-established rules governing use of deadly force. FRONTLINE reports that in one instance an NOPD captain told a group of officers: ‘We have authority by martial law to shoot looters.’” -<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/law-disorder/etc/synopsis.html>



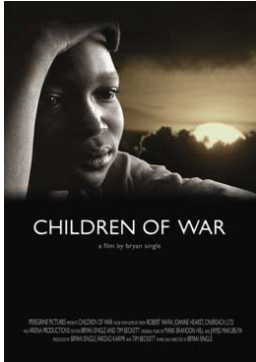
Tortured Law (2010)

Producer: Alliance for Justice

Run Time: 10 minutes

“*Tortured Law*, a 10-minute documentary by Alliance for Justice, examines the role lawyers played in authorizing torture, and calls upon Attorney General Holder to conduct a full investigation of those who ordered, designed, and justified torture.” -<http://www.afj.org/resources-and-publications/films-and-programs/tortured-law/tortured-law-overview.html>

War & Its Aftermath

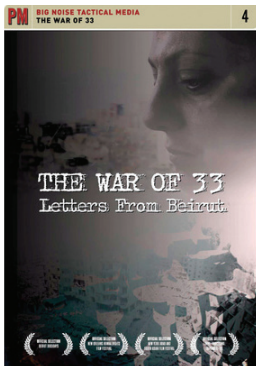


Children of War (2010)

Director: Brian Single

Run Time: 60 min.

“Filmed inside the war zone of northern Uganda over a period of three years, Children of War is a unique and incandescent documentary which captures the story of a group of former child soldiers as they undergo a process of emotional and spiritual healing while in a rehabilitation center.” -DVD Jacket

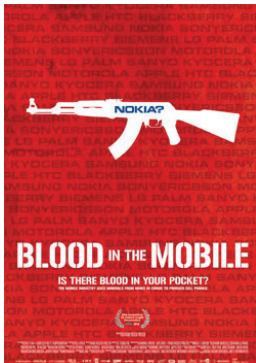


The War of 33: Letters From Beirut (2008)

Directors: Big Noise Films

Run Time: 35 minutes

“The War of 33 is an intimate, personal and powerful telling of the story of the 2006 war in Lebanon. A series of letters written by Hanady Salman - a mother living through the war in Beirut - carve a narrative arc through the intense and haunting images of conflict. She tells the stories of her family and the people she lives the war with - the refugees, the wounded, and the everyday Lebanese, struggling to maintain their sanity and their humanity during a time of war.” -<http://www.amazon.com/War-33-Letters-Beruit-VARIOUS/dp/B00158QKDM>



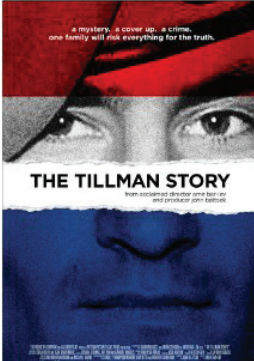
Blood in the Mobile (2011)

Director: Frank Piasecki Poulsen

Run Time: 82 minutes

“We love our cell phones and the selection between different models has never been bigger. But the production of phones has a dark, bloody side. The main part of minerals used to produce cell phones are coming from the mines in the Eastern DR Congo. The Western World is buying these so-called conflict minerals and thereby finances a civil war that, according to human rights organisations, has been the bloodiest conflict since World War II: During the last 15 years the conflict has cost the lives of more than 5 million people and 300.000 women have been raped. The war will continue as long as armed groups can finance their warfare by selling minerals.” -<http://bloodinthemobile.org/>

War & Its Aftermath (cont.)



The Tillman Story (2011)

Director: Amir Bar-Lev

Run Time: 95 minutes

“Pat Tillman never thought of himself as a hero. His choice to leave a multimillion-dollar football contract and join the military wasn’t done for any reason other than he felt it was the right thing to do. The fact that the military manipulated his tragic death in the line of duty into a propaganda tool is unfathomable and thoroughly explored in Amir Bar-Lev’s riveting and enraging documentary.” -<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1568334/>

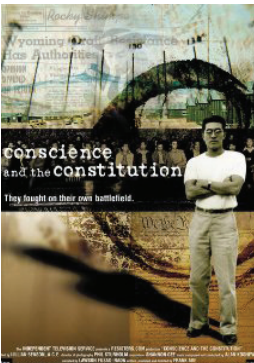


The War You Don't See (2010)

Director: Alan Lowery

Run Time: 97 minutes

“A powerful and timely investigation into the media’s role in war, tracing the history of embedded and independent reporting from the carnage of World War One to the destruction of Hiroshima, and from the invasion of Vietnam to the current war in Afghanistan and disaster in Iraq. As weapons and propaganda become even more sophisticated, the nature of war is developing into an electronic battlefield in which journalists play a key role, and civilians are the victims. But who is the real enemy?” -<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/war-you-dont-see/>



Conscience and the Constitution (2011)

Director: Frank Abe

Run Time: 190 minutes

“In World War II a handful of young Americans refused to be drafted from the American concentration camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Heart Mountain was one of the ten American concentration camps located in 7 states where Japanese Americans on the mainland U.S. were incarcerated after Pearl Harbor. The draft resisters at Heart Mountain were ready to fight for their country, but not before the government restored their rights as citizens and released their families from camp. It was a classic example of civil disobedience—the deliberate breaking of a law in order to test it.” -http://www.pbs.org/itvs/conscience/resources/for_viewers/c-and-c-viewers-guide.pdf

Selected Topics

Capitalism & Democracy

Crime & Punishment

Health & Environment

Labor & Immigration

Law & Society

Law Enforcement

War & Its Aftermath

Thanks to Brandon Diaz, René Hagedorn, Jelani Watson, and Kimara Williams.

