CINEMA POLITICA

EDUCATIONAL CATALOGUE

2022 – 2023
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OUR DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS ARE SQUARELY CONCERNED WITH IMPACT, ACTIVATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE ON A LOCAL AND GLOBAL SCALE
Palestinian filmmaker Mai Masri’s stunning feature debut is inspired by a true story and shot in a real prison. 3000 NIGHTS traces a young mother’s journey of hope, resilience and survival against all odds.

Accused of helping a teenage boy on the run, Layal, a newlywed Palestinian schoolteacher, finds herself incarcerated in a top security prison for Palestinian and Israeli women. After Layal discovers that she is pregnant, the prison director pressures her to get an abortion and spy on the Palestinian inmates. Terrified but defiant, she gives birth to her child in chains. Through her struggle to raise her son behind bars, Layal manages to find a sense of hope and meaning to her life. When prison conditions deteriorate and the Palestinian prisoners decide to strike, the prison director warns her against joining the strike and threatens to take her child away. In a moment of truth, Layal is forced to make a choice that will forever change her life.
ANOTHER WORD FOR LEARNING examines the disconnect between the contemporary colonial educational system and Indigenous communities, in light of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the painful legacy of the Sixties Scoop.

An inspiring production that puts autodidacts and alternative education at the forefront, filmmaker Jadis Mariette Dumas—who is mostly self-taught herself—spotlights the story of 11 year old Aisha, a Kwakwaka’wakw girl who is navigating choices on her schooling while living in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. Along the way, Aisha is guided by her mother—Vancouver-based radio host, producer and activist Gunargie O’Sullivan—as she explores alternative modes of learning while asserting her Indigenous sense of identity and knowledge. Clever, creative and fierce, Aisha pulls no punches as she critiques the colonial institutions that seek to fit her into a box she finds unrelatable and unjust at the core.

Gunargie herself is a residential school survivor, and lends a critical voice to their legacy, alongside the intersectional issues of the opioid crisis as it unfolds in Vancouver, and the potency of self-education outside of the confines of traditional schooling. ANOTHER WORD FOR LEARNING is a thoughtful portrayal of this compelling and outspoken young protagonist and her relationship to her mother, while offering a nuanced view of one of Canada’s principal colonial institutions, where so many learn precisely what it means to be “Canadian”.
DEAR JACKIE is a cinematic letter to Jackie Robinson, the first African American player in Major League Baseball and a civil rights activist who broke the colour barrier when he joined the minor-league Montreal Royals in 1946. For a short time, the impossible seemed possible in a segregated North America. But did Montrealeans use this historic moment to perpetuate a myth of a post-racial society?

Through eloquent interviews, archival footage, and powerful vérité moments shot in lustrous black and white, director Henri Pardo masterfully threads together fragments of the past with the present-day realities of Little Burgundy, once known as the “Harlem of the North”. DEAR JACKIE unfolds as an intimate correspondence with Robinson that unravels the myth of a post-racial society, and is a testament to the triumphs and resilience of a community whose stories reveal the insidious racial inequalities in Montreal and Quebec as a whole.
In 1973, Dr. Mutulu Shakur, along with fellow Black Panthers and the Young Lords, combined community health with radical politics to create the first acupuncture detoxification program in America. This form of radical harm reduction was a revolutionary act toward the government programs that transfixed the lives of black and brown communities throughout the South Bronx.

DOPE IS DEATH utilizes an abundant archive while giving us insight into how the acupuncture clinic rose to prominence and, despite funding challenges, still functions to this day. Some of those who benefited from the program became acupuncturists themselves. Dr. Mutulu’s legacy is cemented within this profound story of community healing and activism.

(Amir George of True/False)
FINDING SALLY is a riveting portrait of a family history cast against the 1974 Ethiopian Revolution, uncovering the incredible story of a 23-year-old woman from an upper-class family who became a communist rebel with the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Party. Idealistic and in love, Sally got caught up in her country’s revolutionary fervour, landing on the military government’s most-wanted list. She went underground, and her family never saw her again.

Four decades after Sally’s disappearance, filmmaker Tamara Dawit pieces together the mysterious life of her aunt Sally. She revisits the Ethiopian Revolution and the terrible massacre that followed, which resulted in nearly every Ethiopian family losing a loved one. Her quest leads her to question notions of belonging, personal convictions and political ideals at a time when Ethiopia is going through dramatic political changes once again.
The Prophecy of the 7th Fire says a black snake will bring destruction to the earth. We will have a choice of two paths. One is scorched, and one is green. For Winona (Ojibwe for “first daughter”) LaDuke—a formidable economist, writer, agriculturalist, and fierce Indigenous politico—that black snake takes the form of oil trains and pipelines.

When Winona learns that Canadian-owned Enbridge plans to route a new pipeline through White Earth Nation’s 1855 Treaty land in Minnesota, she springs into action with her community to save the sacred wild rice lakes and sustainable sources of food, and preserve traditional ways of life.

Following her decision to fight Enbridge, Winona dreams that she is riding her horse against the current of the oil. Launching an annual spiritual horse ride along the proposed pipeline route, speaking at community meetings and regulatory hearings, Winona testifies that the pipeline route follows the course of historical and contemporary trauma. The White Earth Nation demands to participate in the pipeline permitting process, asserting their treaty rights to protect their natural resources.

Winona’s journey takes her and her son to Michigan, “downwind” of Marathon Petroleum’s tar sands oil refinery, where activists reveal the health impacts of living next to an area known as the “Sacrifice Zone.” As Enbridge announces the cancellation of the Sandpiper pipeline, turning its investments toward the Dakota Access pipeline, Winona’s activism continues as Line 3 threatens to cross the same Treaty lands.
In the middle of an economic crisis, in the shadow of Wall Street, an institution that represents a less well-known American tradition is booming. Founded in 1973, the Park Slope Food Coop is a cooperative supermarket where all 16,000 members work 3 hours per month to earn the right to buy the best food in Brooklyn at incredibly low prices. With a healthy dose of insight and wit, FOOD COOP takes the viewer into the belly of one of the most successfully implemented socialist experiences in the United States.

Working against everything that defines the capitalistic indulgence of the “American Way of Life,” this resilient coop has curiously inspired as much hatred as enthusiasm. FOOD COOP relates how Park Slope Food Coop has come to life over the decades, and how this institution’s mode of participation teaches democracy and demonstrates a tangible example of social change.
Gift

ROBIN MCKENNA / CANADA / 2018 / 89’ / ENGLISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN / ENGLISH, FRENCH SUBS

AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | CANADA

GIFT is a tribute to something that can’t be measured or counted, bought or sold. Inspired by Lewis Hyde’s beloved book The Gift: Creativity and the Artist in the Modern World, Robin McKenna’s film is a richly cinematic experience, interweaving character-driven stories. Exploring the parallels between artists’ work and a gift economy, it’s a reflection on the creative process, the reasons we “labour in service of our gifts”, and a celebration of the imagination.

On North America’s Pacific Northwest Coast, a young Indigenous man undertakes the elaborate preparations for a potlatch — to establish himself in his community and take on the responsibilities of leadership by giving everything away. In Rome, an abandoned factory occupied by migrant families is transformed into a living museum, protected by a barricade of art; a model of resistance, and an invaluable gift both to the inhabitants and to the city beyond its walls. In the pirate utopia of Burning Man, a mutant bumblebee art-car distributes honey in a post-apocalyptic desert landscape. Meanwhile, in Auckland, New Zealand, artist Mingwei Lee prepares to launch Sonic Blossom — a transformative gift of song.
Taking inspiration from the late cultural theorist Lauren Berlant’s influential scholarly work Cruel Optimism, Vancouver-based director Shannon Walsh delivers a philosophical portrait of five women’s stories of survival and transformation on a global scale.

A compelling meditation on resilience in the face of disaster, ILLUSIONS OF CONTROL unfolds in landscapes that are irrevocably shaped by human attempts to dominate them. Five women confront crises that seem unbearable. Silvia searches for her missing daughter in the deserts of northern Mexico. Yang attempts to hold back the expanding desert in China. Kaori mobilizes mothers as citizen-scientist to monitor radiation in Fukushima, Japan. Stacey builds on Indigenous knowledge to confront toxic industrial legacies in Yellowknife. Lauren stands at the crossroads of a terminal cancer diagnosis in Chicago.

What opportunities does ecological instability offer for imagining new ways of relating to each other, to the places we inhabit, and to our collective future? In this ambitious and reflective film, each story reveals surprising ways to live on, and re-imagine life in the ruins.
Making a war is a storyteller’s job. A good story is crucial to legitimize the use of military force. That’s why militaries need strong promotion and Israel is a model country in promoting its military ventures. We’ve successfully colonized, occupied and overgrown, and only got stronger and more accepted amongst the nations. Our history as persecuted Jews, and our enlightened democracy are both in use in our solid PR kit. But before pitching our story to the world, we need to pitch it to our children. As moral corruption linked with apartheid thrives, avoiding military service becomes a threat. For some children we’ll offer benefits, for most we’ll sell fictitious promises. Every child is screened to serve with bearable pressure and an adjusted amount of exposure to violence. INNOCENCE tells the story of children who resisted to be enlisted but capitulated. Their stories were never told as they died during their service. Through a narration based on their haunting diaries, the film depicts their inner turmoil. It interweaves first-hand military images, key moments from childhood until enlistment and home videos of the deceased soldiers whose stories are silenced and seen as a national threat.
In his directorial debut, LITTLE PALESTINE, DIARY OF A SIEGE, filmmaker Abdallah Al-Khatib offers a glimpse into the daily life of the residents of Yarmouk, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in the world.

Home to thousands of Palestinians, Yarmouk was seized in 2015 by ISIS/Daesh in alliance with al-Nousra. Syrian government forces retaliated to the siege with indiscriminate shelling of the camp that provoked widespread outcry against the loss of civilian lives and the destruction of the refugee camp. Yarmouk was cut off from electricity, leaving Palestinian refugees in an even more vulnerable and embattled state.

With the help of his friends, Al-Khatib portrays the ordinary lives of Yarmouk’s residents in the years leading up to the siege, as they persevere with dignity, love and hope amid a never-ending state of war.
Migrant Dreams

MIGRANT DREAMS tells the untold story of migrant agricultural workers struggling against Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) that treats foreign workers as modern-day indentured labourers and ties low-wage migrants to one employer. Min Sook Li’s incisive film exposes the underbelly of the Canadian government labour program that has built a system designed to empower brokers and growers to exploit, dehumanize and deceive migrant workers who have virtually no access to support or information in their own language. Workers willing to pay exorbitant fees to work at minimum wage jobs packing the fruits and vegetables we eat in our homes. Canada it seems, has failed them.

Activist Cathy sets up secretive meetings with Evelyn, a member of Justice for Migrant Workers. They are the lifeline for a group of Indonesian migrant agricultural workers who find themselves trapped in a web of lies, and coerced by threats of deportation from agents and greenhouse owners. The workers, most of whom are women, have been recruited to work in Canada packing vegetables inside greenhouse operations, by agents who illegally charge upwards to seven thousand dollars in agency fees. Unable to afford the levy, migrants use their Canadian wages to pay back their debt to the agents.

The workers’ dreams are pinned to the hope that their two-year contracts will be renewed for another two years. Only ‘good behavior’ will secure a contract renewal. Speaking out is the last thing they can afford to do. But by the time we meet the group, comprised mostly of women, speaking out and resisting is the only thing left to do.
Shot over a span of ten years, MODIFIED follows the grassroots struggle to label genetically modified foods, exposing the cozy relationship between governments and the biotech industry. The film is anchored in the moving story of Nova Scotia-based filmmaker Aube Giroux’s relationship to her mother—a prolific gardener, seed saver, and food activist who was fighting cancer while the film’s production was underway.

Interweaving the personal and the political, MODIFIED uses archives of home videos, and playful cooking and farming vignettes from the Giroux’s award-winning PBS cooking show, in a mouth-watering celebration of homegrown food. This mother-daughter investigative journey skillfully debunks the myth that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are needed to feed the world, making a strong case for a more transparent and sustainable food system.
The news is full of images of overcrowded boats and vast tent camps. But how much do we really know about what refugees are going through? Notes on Displacement takes a deep dive by following a single family on a grueling journey, destination Germany. Their fear, disorientation, and solidarity is palpable.

Nadira, an elderly Palestinian, has been a refugee since the age of 12. And now she has to leave Damascus, too. She and her daughter Mona feared for their lives there, but the idea of a safe existence elsewhere is a distant dream. Filmmaker Khaled Jarrar receives unsettling videos and voice messages as they cross to the Greek island of Lesbos. He joins them there, on the long road to a better life.

Jarrar has his personal reasons for going through this experience in order to eliminate, in his own images, the distance so dominant in Western media coverage. He worms his way through the thronging crowds, gets lost in the night with his group, discovers how dangerous language barriers can be, and wanders around in the dehumanizing camps. And in a sense he —along with the viewer — becomes a true member of this family.
Karachi’s feminists organise a woman’s march, coming up against Pakistan’s radical religious right as "my body, my choice" becomes a controversial slogan that holds the country’s imagination in its grip. Filmmaker Anam Abbas follows the march’s organisers as they negotiate a deeply surveilled, paranoia-inducing, and often physically violent space in the hopes of spurring a revolution. A philosophical work, *This Stained Dawn* is not just about the Aurat March, but about the act of political organising itself.

Detailing the preparation of the multi-city Aurat March (Women’s March) in Pakistan, This Stained Dawn tells the story of a feminist movement asserting itself in the country’s urban spaces through the eyes of the march’s organisers. Just a few weeks before the start of the pandemic, 10,000 protesters gathered in Karachi. Filmmaker Anam Abbas follows the organisers of the march as they negotiate a deeply surveilled, paranoia-inducing, and often physically violent space in the hopes of spurring a revolution. The film’s approach is, suitably, a polyphonic one. Observational footage of the event’s planning and orchestration mixes with animation, and archive, tracing a history of the state suppression of women’s resistance in Pakistan and illuminating the urgency of the unfolding struggle of today, where "my body, my choice" becomes a controversial slogan that holds the country’s imagination in its grip. What emerges is a philosophical work, not just about the Aurat March, but about the act of political organising itself.
Tunniit: Retracing the Lines of Inuit Tattoos

ALETHEA ARNAQUQ-BARIL / CANADA / 2011 / 50' / ENGLISH, FRENCH, INUKTITUT / ENGLISH, FRENCH SUBS

AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

Central to the film is Arnaquq-Baril’s personal debate over whether or not to get tattooed herself. With candour and humour, she welcomes the viewer into her world, to experience firsthand the complex emotions that accompany her struggle. Past meets present in this intimate account of one woman’s journey towards self-empowerment and cultural understanding.

For over a century, traditional Inuit face tattoos had been forbidden by the Canadian government and the art-form almost forgotten. Arnaquq-Baril, together with long-time friend and activist Aaju Peter, is determined to uncover the mystery and meaning behind this beautiful and ancient tradition. Together they embark on an adventure through Arctic communities, speaking with elders and recording the stories of a once popularized female art form practiced.
Economist Bernard Maris, a.k.a. “Uncle Bernard”, was killed during the Charlie Hebdo shooting, on January 7, 2015. This fascinating interview with him was filmed in March 2000 as part of the documentary ENCIRCLEMENT – NEO-LIBERALISM ENSNARES DEMOCRACY.

Frank and unvarnished, this is a true “counter lesson in economics” in which the director gives centre stage to Maris’ vibrant, incisive, and mischievous words of dissent. Maris strikes at leisure, unleashing hard-hitting truths that challenge the dogmas that are incessantly rehashed by the vibrant choir enslaved to the “science” of Economics. With his wit, eloquence, and erudition, and his prodigious capacity to distill complex issues and make the most arduous subject matters exciting, “Uncle Bernard” unveils his courageously original ideas over the course of the interview – ideas that are all the more precious in this era of intellectual resignation and economic austerity.
b.h. YAEL COLLECTION

CINEMA POLITICA’S EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION OF FILMS BY B.H. YAEL EXPLORING ARAB–JEWISH IDENTITY, ISRAELI COLONIZATION OF PALESTINE, THE POLITICS OF FAMILY AND APOCALYPTICISM, AND PROTEST IN QUÉBEC
In the context of the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, in April 2000, a group of filmmakers and video artists came together to consider the repercussions of free trade and to collaborate on a project that resulted in “Blah, Blah, Blah. (Re)Viewing Quebec.” (of)fences was made for this compilation.

This impressionistic documentation is located at the perimeter of the very long fence that surrounded the conference grounds, holding in the leaders and holding out the voices and bodies of the protesters. The fence disallowed, precluded, protected, imposed ... the offences of silence. (OF) FENCES addresses the protesters and is a meditation on the reasons people came to speak in Quebec, listing the issues at stake for leadership, democracy, workers, the earth and other aspects of their lives.

A HOT SANDFILLED WIND is a 13-minute lyrical piece, based on a poem by Nadia Habib. An appeal for recognition against despair, it emphasizes that beyond the politics of occupation, Israelis and Palestinians live in proximity, side by side.
**Deir Yassin Remembered**

b.h. Yael / Canada, Palestinian Territory / 2006 / 28' / Arabic, English, Hebrew

**Availability:** Digital Site License | Worldwide

**DEIR YASSIN REMEMBERED** considers the repercussions of a largely forgotten massacre of almost 100 Palestinians in 1948. The massacre at Deir Yassin was pivotal to Palestinian dispossession. Though Deir Yassin has been partially acknowledged by Israelis, many other massacres of the time have not. The video not only gives an account of what happened at Deir Yassin, but also argues for the need for acknowledgement and commemoration.

**Even in the Desert**

b.h. Yael / Canada, Palestine / 2006 / 33' / Arabic, English, Hebrew

**Availability:** Digital Site License | Worldwide

**EVEN IN THE DESERT** is a personal reportage focusing on concrete actions by Israelis, Palestinians and international activists working together in the face of and against current agendas to displace Palestinians and to limit their movements. The video travels to various locations and sites of resistance and solidarity in the West Bank: from Mas’ha to Susya and Jinba, as well as Jerusalem.
Fresh Blood

FRESH BLOOD, A CONSIDERATION OF BELONGING is a hybrid documentary or video essay which includes questions around Arab Jewishness, negotiating Palestine, gender, belly-dancing and memory. This video essay, formed by personal narrative and including a return to Israel/Palestine, engages issues of: Jewish racialized identity, Arab/Jewish dichotomies and the way these come together in Iraqi Jewish culture, and the personal implications of the politics of Palestine and the Jewish holocaust.

Structured into 12 chapters, FRESH BLOOD features interviews with Ella Shohat, Eli Amir and Nabila Espanioly, among others, provide historical and political contexts for the many questions that arise about various 'belongings'.

In the Middle of the Street

The loss of individual lives in Israel/Palestine as a result of the Israeli occupation is too much for any of us to comprehend at this point. The number of injuries and the psychic toll is even greater. We do not see the full picture. Most often the perspectives that are privileged are extremist ones.

As well, we do not see or hear about the many actions by those who work for a viable solution and ultimately peace. Activists and ordinary citizens are taking part in protests, are involved in actions of cooperation, and are working together so that a different voice may be heard.
Ken
Tov Beseder

b.h. Y AEL / ISRAEL, PALESTINE / 2010 / 5’ / ARABIC, ENGLISH, HEBREW
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

Arriving at a garden store by the side of a road, he stops, looks at the flowers, and says, “Khallas.” (Arabic for “Enough”). Cutaways interrupt the man’s journey, images of maps from 1948, 1967, 1977, 1993 and 2002, corresponding to his location and to significant dates in the past 62 year history of Palestine/Israel. The man is walking, as it were, through time and space.

At times acquiescent, at times frustrated, insistent and soothing, he negotiates through these three Hebrew words.

Lessons for Polygamists

b.h. Y AEL / CANADA / 2017 / 15’ / ENGLISH, FRENCH / FRENCH SUBS
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

Employing animation and collage, LESSONS FOR POLYGAMISTS takes place inside the diary of an adolescent girl growing up in a polygamous household. She lists the lessons she would convey to Dad, if only she could.

Every teenager knows better than the adults in their lives. LESSONS FOR POLYGAMISTS reflects the righteous voice of adolescence as the young narrator attempts to make sense of her family dynamics, and more so her Dad’s behaviour. LESSONS FOR POLYGAMISTS is b.h. Yael’s story of growing up in a polygamous family. Through animated playfulness the images are drawn from family photographs and documentation and the stories extend the lessons to a wider audience.
TRADING THE FUTURE is a video essay that questions the inevitability of apocalypse and its repercussions on environmental urgencies. Starting with a personal memory, the fear of the rapture, the video addresses the Christian narrative for the end of times, and draws connections to secular apocalypticism and our ready acceptance of a cataclysmic end. The video also challenges the philosophical and practical underpinnings of the symbolic of death, the desirability of the growth of the market place, and the politics of apocalypse, while proposing possible alternatives in the idea of natality, the productivity of biodiversity and the agency of everyday activism.

b.h. Yael traveled from Toronto to Patmos Island in Greece (where John wrote the book of Revelation), from Tofino, B.C. to New York, from England to Megiddo in northern Israel. Decidedly un-heroic, or non-messianic, TRADING THE FUTURE refuses to reproduce the apocalyptic images that we have been inundated with in media and movies.
A Cinema Politica commissioned project that envisions the creation of a new film genre through innovative and experimental filmmaking practices associated with documentary in order to imagine, speculate and represent a 'Canada' of the future.
The name ARYANA means “holy one”. Many decades ago, the nation of ARYANA was forcefully transitioned into becoming AFGHANISTAN, the land of seven tribes. This period of rule, brought tremendous suffering, especially for the women and girls of the nation. Outsiders entered and exited, raping the land of its resources until it was useless to invaders and too broken for the tribal war lords to make use of. Afghan men gave up on the nation. Finally, the women came out of the shadows. Slowly, through decades, they restructured the nation into the small self-sufficient nation of ARYANA. ARYANA RESURRECTED looks at the future of this nation through the powerful and difficult action taken by its women. The men of the nation are locked away. They’re being rehabilitated to re-enter the nation of ARYANA as egalitarians. PTSD, war traumas and addictions caused the men a lot of pain. They acted out in unreasonable and unholy manners on the women. Decades ago, the women of ARYANA took a vote against misogynistic self-serving goals, and fundamentalist ideas. The men of ARYANA have been quarantined since 2047. Now, it is 2077. We meet the women of Aryana on the year and day they must vote…Do we allow the men into society?
150 years in the future, an American refugee is forced to leave her life behind – seeking a different way of life from the technologically advanced society she has grown up in. As she journeys along this new underground railroad, she reflects on her original harrowing escape to Canada and the recent events that prompted her need to escape once again.

Summer 2117 will be revealing for Sam, an 18-year-old Cameroonian girl. Freshly elected to the tribal council that governs her country, she joins the national delegation that is invited to Tiohtià:ke (Montreal). This trip is a pilgrimage for the young girl, as she traces the steps of her great-grandmother who lived in this northern land over a hundred years ago. She will also come to realize the connection that ties her people to this foreign land, a bond woven through a struggle that will lead Cameroonian people and First nations of Canada to linguistic sovereignty.
JK is a 26 year-old astronaut from India selected to go on a mission to Mars in the year 2035. As she gets ready for her momentous day, she reflects on her past and the people who helped her get to where she is now.

Couleur du Moment follows five employees during their last day on the job at a colour forecasting agency. The workers still go about business despite having been replaced by algorithms that design new digital colours to be experienced in the widely popular virtual landscape. A humanoid robot documents their mundane tasks and office drama. Some employees long for their glory days in the exciting world of colour branding, falling victim to their own nostalgia, some see the end in sight.
Lost Alien

“A teenager’s first taste of independence is thwarted when an in-app purchase is refused. The reason? Her first basic income payment has been withheld. Alone in the woods, she is forced to launch Nova, her personalized AI tutor. Nova seizes the opportunity; whatever it takes, she is determined to get her human to finally complete the last module of the universal education app. In a world where augmented reality has enabled the gamification of everyday things and automation has replaced the need for human labour, every citizen must now complete this learning app, an effort to curb the misinformation crisis of the twenty-first century. Much like a driver’s license signaled freedom to past generations, completing universal education is now the new marker of adulthood. So why has this teenager put it off for so long? And what are Nova’s true motives — can she be trusted?

This video uses a speculative narrative framework overlaid onto documentary footage to ponder money, relationships and critical thinking in the Information Age as automation accelerates on.”

Nova

“Blending documentary techniques with surrealist and silent filmmaking, LOST ALIEN captures the Afrofuturist cosplay of ZiggZaggerZ the Bastard as a photosensitive black alien stranded on a sunlit planet. Having lost her way from the continuum of cosmic blackness, we watch as she wanders through the planet’s forest, struggling against the debilitating effects of the sun while seeking a means of return to her dark dimension.

By depicting how ZiggZaggerZ uses cosplay to creatively reimagine her own photosensitivity, Lost Alien explores the power of the Afrofuturist imaginary to transform our perceptions of disability and race. Culminating in a series of interventions in public space, ZiggZaggerZ defamiliarises the humanoid form with her cosplay of alien gesture and movement, while the alien ambient soundtrack by s* with music from label IO SOUND likewise unearths the natural environment through its uncanny atmospheres. As we explore the sunlit world through the eyes and ears of a photosensitive black alien, we experience what it means to feel alienated on a white and bright planet.”
"Reclamation" is a documentary-style imagining of a post-dystopic future in Canada after massive climate change, wars, pollution, and the after effects of the large scale colonial project which has now destroyed the land. When Indigenous people are left behind after a massive exodus by primarily privileged White settlers who have moved to Mars, the original inhabitants of this land cope by trying to restore and rehabilitate the beautiful country they feel they belong to. Complicated by the need to look after southern climate refugees, this Post-Dystopic society struggles to reinvent itself as a more healthy community, with opportunities for healing from shared trauma, and using traditional Indigenous scientific knowledge to reclaim Canada environmentally.

Indigenous people demonstrate the jobs they are doing to heal Canada, the Earth, and themselves, like clean water projects, gathering litter, disposing safely of hazardous wastes, planting trees, conducting healing circles and ceremonies, playing together, and having discussions about what it feels like to be left behind on what was seen by White settlers as a dying, disposable, planet."
Solitudes

Lamine, a Senegalese student in Quebec, decides to film a carsharing ride between Rimouski and Montreal. In the course of his discussions with Rémi, a young filmmaker focusing on ‘minorities’ and Nataly, an Indigenous woman, Lamine grasps the link between his own daily difficulties and the question of the representation of the Other.

The Ceremony

Two young warrior siblings, Vim and Hax, are living in a post-apocalyptic world caused by climate change. For 150 years, the air has not been breathable for humans. As such, their whole community lives in high tech homes to keep them alive, and must wear helmets to venture outdoors. But it hasn’t stopped them from surviving; for years, they have worked to heal the earth, held onto their traditions, and kept their community together.

The land they live on has no government and no borders. They speak their own language freely. They are a community built out of love and resilience. This story prioritizes a future built on indigenous struggle, leadership, and resistance, as well as the environmental leadership of a community that didn’t just fight climate change, but worked along side of it as heroes, never losing sight of themselves.
The Universe According to Dan Buckley

“Dan Buckley parts the veil on the origins and future of the universe. He investigates the disorder and delight that proliferates in between; the worlds and ideas that rub up against each other and, at times, collide.

A reflection on assigning meaning and shedding preconceptions while in free fall.”

We Might Have Been Heroes

In the year 2020, all untapped minerals in the bowels of the earth were diluted and transformed into poisonous gases by the Aqua Regia Storm. Expelled through every open pit mine on the planet, the gas leak killed around 80 percent of the total world population in less than a month. Fifty years after, located in what was once Northern Quebec, the New Abitibi Independent Communities Confederacy (NAICC) faces, together with many communities around the world, the challenge of building a new global system.

Before the dilution the village of Agbogbloshie, a former wetland in Accra, Ghana, West Africa, was home to the world’s largest e-waste dumping site. Filled with tons of technological garbage, rapidly it became the center of the new world; its population, highly tech-skilled, travels around the world sharing knowledge, trying to keep the world connected.
THE NETTIE WILD COLLECTION

28 YEARS OF COMMITTED FILMMAKING FROM A MAVERICK IN THE FIELD WHO HAS DOCUMENTED CIVIL WAR, INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE, REVOLUTIONS, DRUG ADDICTION ACTIVISM AND MORE
Blockade

Acclaimed filmmaker Nettie Wild has framed it as a struggle for environmental preservation, as well as a battle between two histories: the oral history of traditional land use by the Gitxsan, and the legal history of private property and ownership. When the B.C. courts finally reject the historical Gitxsan claim as unreliable, the battle between histories boils over.

Fix: The Story of an Addicted City

In this documentary, a group of Vancouver, British Columbia, activists, led by former computer salesman Dean Wilson, lead the charge to curb the city’s drug problem and high HIV rate by opening North America’s first safe-injection site. Surprisingly, they have the support of the city’s Conservative mayor, who wants to change Vancouver’s image as a drug haven. The mayor’s political peers, however, do not share his vision and will stop at nothing to derail these plans. The stories of FIX span over two years as our characters’ lives interconnect to reveal a battle for the hearts, minds and streets of a city each one calls home.
A Place Called Chiapas

On January 1st, 1994, the Zapatista indigenous uprising took over five towns and 500 ranches in southern Mexico. Now, three years later, Nettie Wild and her Canadian/Mexican film crew travel to the jungle canyons of Chiapas to capture eight months in the elusive and fragile life of a revolution.

Since the first days of the uprising there has been a nervous ceasefire. Despite it, 2000 indigenous villagers have been forced out of their villages by a government backed paramilitary group, which ironically calls itself, “Paz y Justicia” or “Peace and Justice”.

On camera, the Peace and Justice accuse the Zapatistas of violence. Off camera, they threaten to kill the Mexican members of the film crew.

Nettie Wild went to Chiapas to film an uprising. She ended up framing the entrapment of a revolution. It is a journey through fear and hope and illusion. In A PLACE CALLED CHIAPAS, nothing is as it first appears.

A Rustling Of Leaves

This film offers a remarkable behind-the-frontlines look at the aftermath of the anti-Marcos “Yellow Revolution” that brought Corazon Aquino to power in the Philippines in 1986. Shot over eight months, often in dangerous conditions, the film chronicles the three points of an often-violent political triangle: the legal left; the illegal, armed leftists of the New People’s Army; and the armed, reactionary right-wing groups operating on both sides of the law. The fascinating personalities on display include a former guerrilla leader now running for election; a rabidly right-wing radio DJ propagandizing for the death squads; and a rebel Catholic priest who shares command of the NPA. “There is [also] the puzzling dark side to Mrs. Aquino’s presidency. The film captures the tragedy of the Mendiola massacre where farmers were killed marching on the palace to demand land reform, and the president’s confusing endorsement of the vigilante groups which have brought back the terrors of the Marcos era.
NEW ZEALAND FILM COLLECTION

A TREASURE TROVE OF MAORI AND NON-MAORI MADE CINEMA FROM AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND SPANNING NEARLY FOUR DECADES AND MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CANADA COURTESY OF THE NEW ZEALAND FILM COMMISSION
In Spring One Plants Alone

VINCENT WARD / NEW ZEALAND / 1980 / 45' / ENGLISH

An aged woman lives with her fully grown and wholly dependent son.

This Vincent Ward film is a rare view of an enclosed world where an 82-year-old woman, alone, is 'The Burdened One'. Filmed over a period of one and a half years, IN SPRING, ONE PLANTS ALONE emerges as a haunting and powerful portrayal of their life together, a life of ritual and of their survival.

Making Utu

GAYLENE PRESTON / NEW ZEALAND / 1982 / 48' / ENGLISH, MAORI

MAKING UTU is a making of documentary filmed on the set of New Zealand’s first epic, UTU (REDUX), produced with little money and dealing respectfully with matters of cultural protocol. “It’s like football innit? You set up the event and cover it...” says Murphy, as he prepares to shoot a battle scene. The film’s insistence on cultural respect is conveyed as Merata Mita discusses some of the complex issues of inter-cultural conflict, as well as the beauty of ta moko.
MAURI is the story of Rewi, a man haunted by a past which threatens to engulf his future. The story is set among the colourful characters of a once thriving settlement, Te Mata, upon whom the encroachment by Europeans spells disaster. Now isolated by lack of numbers, time and distance, the remaining survivors form a tight-knit community which outsiders find impenetrable. Rewi’s deceit forces him to become part of that community and his life is inextricably interwoven with those around him.

A young boy is afflicted by apocalyptic visions in medieval Cumbria. Believing he is divinely inspired to save his village from the Black Death, he persuades a group of men to follow him into a tunnel. They dig deep into the earth and emerge ... in Auckland, New Zealand, 1987. Following portents, the time travelers must negotiate the terrors of a strange new world, (motorways, nuclear submarines) – while seeking to save their own.
**Ngati**

BARRY BARCLAY / NEW ZEALAND / 1987 / 93’ / ENGLISH

A boy is dying from leukemia; a young Australian doctor uncovers his own Māori heritage; the industrial freezing works that provide employment for the local community are threatened to close down. Set in and around the fictional coastal town of Kapua in 1948, NGĀTI is the story of a Māori community, weaving together threads about friendship, love, and solidarity against the backdrop of the struggle for Indigenous sovereignty.

Acclaimed at Cannes in 1987, Barry Barclay’s first dramatic feature is also the first feature ever written and directed by a Māori filmmaker. A poignant celebration of Māori pride and heritage, NGĀTI calls for decolonization and the community’s re-appropriation of capitalist industries.

**O Tamaiti**

SIMA URIALE / NEW ZEALAND / 1996 / 15’ / ENGLISH, SAMOAN / ENGLISH SUBS

Seen through the eyes of 11 year old Tino, the eldest of five children in a Samoan family, the film opens with the birth of yet another baby, and Tino must cope with the added pressures and responsibilities expected of him as the eldest.

With mother and father figures who are heard but not seen, they struggle with mundane jobs, changing social values, and financial pressures in a new country. Tino must carry the weight of responsibilities, tending to the needs of his younger siblings and newborn baby with adult maturity. But even all his efforts cannot prevent the tragic cot death of his baby brother.

O TAMAITI portrays the impressions of a young boy in a powerless adult dominated world.
17 years after Vaaiga was banished from her ancestral village, three large and intimidating men, including her older brother Poto, arrive at Saili’s house and forever change their quiet lives.

The Orator is contemporary drama about courage, forgiveness and love in which a man confronts self-doubt, distrust and prejudice to speak up for those he loves.

Himiona Grace’s exploration of masculinity and Māori identity in THE PĀ BOYS is full of passion, creativity and anguish. The film follows a fictional Reggae band as it tours Aotearoa from Wellington to Cape Reinga, struggling to keep cohesion and community among its members. At the heart of this dramatic feature (which has its share of laughs as well) is a story about identity, and the ways in which some internalize colonization while others find ways to expunge settler culture by forging their own Māori identity that is connected with history and tradition.

Fran Kora (from the band KORA) and Matariki Whatarau (Go Girls, The Almighty Johnsons) give captivating performances as these soulful musicians searching for meaning and place as Māori men.
**Tamu Tu**

Every culture has its stories and its heroes. For the Māori, the men of the 28th Battalion are legendary. These were soldiers who owed no allegiance to a national flag, but fought and died in the thousands amid the Second World War because they were warriors at heart.

Rifle in hand, six Māori infantry soldiers are posted in a bombed-out house facing a German stronghold. Amid a long, absurd and fearful wait, they respond with a form of their own resistance: with traditional knowledge, humor and solidarity. Communication within the group is reduced to gestures, jokes, games, and mute haka challenges. As they try to distance from the reminders of war around them, a tohu (sign) brings them back to the world of the dying and the darkness of war.

TAMA TŪ is the first dramatic film that tells this sombre war story in this early short by internationally renowned filmmaker Taika Waititi.

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**Te Rua**

Heroes or terrorists? A hundred years after the theft of three irreplaceable Māori carvings from New Zealand, two Māori men decide it’s time for ancient grievances to be put right, setting their sights on the Berlin museum where the carvings are stored.

Rewi Marangai, a successful lawyer, has been working on a patent case. Peter Huaka, a performance poet, is on a European tour. They first meet when Peter is detained in the museum, where he has been causing turmoil about the stolen carvings. Back in New Zealand, they meet again where Peter is recruiting helpers for his campaign to bring the carvings back home. But when Rewi is persuaded to join the group by a Māori elder, plans go awry, leaving more than the fate of the carvings in balance.
Two Cars, One Night

TAIKA WAITITI / NEW ZEALAND / 2014 / 11' / ENGLISH

Set in the carpark of a rural pub in Tek Kaha, New Zealand, this award-winning short comedy from Taika Waititi tells the story of two brothers, Romeo and Ed, who wait in the car while their parents are inside drinking. Romeo spots Polly, an eleven-year-old girl who is also waiting for her parents in their car. Bored and restless he decides to make contact with the girl, and what at first seems to be a relationship based on rivalry soon develops, and the cross-car rivalry warms into a budding friendship. Waititi shows his genius for subtle humour and sweet innocence in this early film from the director of the equally funny and much bigger budgeted THOR: RAGNAROK!

Utu Redux

GEOFF MURPHY / NEW ZEALAND / 2013 / 197' / ENGLISH

Meaning retribution, Utu takes an unflinching look at the British colonial presence in the country during the 1870s. Te Wheke, a scout and guide for the British army, comes across his village, wiped out in a massacre by the British. He deserts and vows to take revenge against his former employers. Joining a group of other, equally angry Maori, he sets in motion a brutal campaign of terror and murder. It begins with a single woman and the burning of her house and spreads far and wide from there.

As Te Wheke, Anzac Wallace gives an unforgettable performance, ably supported by Kiwi icon Bruno Lawrence. Utu has lost none of its power or relevance in the years since its initial release, and this version gives new life to a story that should never be forgotten.
EDUCATIONAL & DIGITAL SITE LICENSE COLLECTION

FROM SCREENS TO THE STREETS, OUR GOAL IS TO DIVERSIFY THE SCREENING EXPERIENCE AND SHOWCASE STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES FROM THE MARGINS.
1 Vers[us] 1

KOURTNEY JACKSON / CANADA / 2018 / 5'
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

1 VERS(US) 1 depicts a young woman’s inner monologue as she confronts the intersections of faith, womanhood, and the immigrant experience. In this five-minute short, director Kourtney Jackson confronts a growing disillusionment with her Christian upbringing. Through the lens of her experience going to a religious school and attending service with her family, Jackson portrays a modern struggle for youth to define the meaning of faith, community and identity for themselves in a world so often polarized by fear of difference.

63 Boycott

GORDON QUINN / UNITED STATES / 2017 / 31'
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | CANADA

On October 22, 1963, more than 250,000 students boycotted the Chicago Public Schools to protest racial segregation. Many marched through the city calling for the resignation of School Superintendent Benjamin Willis, who placed trailers, dubbed ‘Willis Wagons,’ on playgrounds and parking lots of overcrowded black schools rather than let them enroll in nearby white schools. Blending unseen 16mm footage of the march shot by Kartemquin founder Gordon Quinn with the participants’ reflections today, ‘63 BOYCOTT connects the forgotten story of one of the largest northern civil rights demonstrations to contemporary issues around race, education, school closings, and youth activism.
ABEO
BREN LÓPEZ ZEPEDA / CANADA / 2018 / 7’ / ENGLISH, SPANISH / ENGLISH SUBS
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

ABEO is a hard-hitting mixed media animated short that depicts the journey of Nadia and Lupe, two immigrants who risked their lives to cross the Arizona desert in search for a better life. The combination of stop-motion, traditional 2D digital animation, and direct animation techniques brings the reality of the characters to life.

Above All Else
JOHN FIEGE / UNITED STATES / 2014 / 95 / ENGLISH
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

One man risks his family and future to stop the tar sands of the Keystone XL oil pipeline from crossing his land. Shot in the forests, pastures, and living rooms of rural East Texas, Above All Else follows David Daniel, a retired high-wire artist and circus performer, from the moment that he discovers survey stakes on his land, through years of activism and civic engagement, to four climatic days in September 2012, when Daniel made a final stand against the pipeline.

What begins as a stand against corporate bullying and property rights abuse would become a rallying cry for climate protesters nationwide. Photographed in beautiful, cinematic HD by director/cinematographer John Fiege, an intimate portrait emerges of unforgettable characters and their East Texas home, interwoven with an exploration of how they were driven to drastic action—ordinary people transformed into political actors through circumstances not of their choosing.
Aisheen Still Alive in Gaza

NICOLAS WADIMOFF, BÉATRICE GUELPA / FRANCE, QATAR, SWITZERLAND / 2009 / 85’ / ARABIC, ENGLISH / ENGLISH SUBS

AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | CANADA

January 2009 offensive, this sensitively crafted doc captures the human suffering and devastation wrought on Gaza’s Palestinian residents as they struggle daily to survive. But this compelling, impressionistic journey through Gaza also casts a gentle light on the creativity and resilience of Palestinians rebuilding their lives decade after decade of Israeli bombings.

“Where is the ghost town?” asks the little boy to the theme park attendant. “It’s there, right there. But it has been bombed. Do you want to see it?” With these words, Aisheen begins. And the ghost town? Gaza is the ghost town. Clowns trying to make children forget the bombing with balloons and make-up; a beached whale “as big as a building” picked clean in a matter of hours by hungry residents; a scrawny stuffed lion hanging limply in a zoo cage—these surreal scenes convey the absurdity of a nation living on the brink, seemingly forever.

Shot a few weeks after the end of Israel’s

All Still Orbit

DANE KOMLJEN, JAMES LATTIMER / CROATIA / 2016 / 23’

AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

“All Still Orbit” links together two apparently unrelated moments in the construction of Brasilia: a dream by an Italian saint used to justify its creation and a small city built by the workers constructing the new capital to house them and their families. How do you make sense of a city built on a dream? Are all dreams made equal? Sometimes a documentary can feel like a fair...
Amazon Voices

Lucile Alemany, Lamia Chraibi / Ecuador, France / 2015 / 52' / English, Quechua, Spanish / English subs
Availability: Digital Site License | Worldwide

In Sarayaku, Yasuni and Lago Agrio—a region devastated by the Chevron Texaco corporation, several indigenous communities are still trying to make their voices heard. Denouncing the social, cultural, environmental and human damage caused by oil extraction, they propose profoundly different ways of thinking. How does one define development? What is a “good-living” society? What solutions can be found in education? Get to know those who resist—and those who propose and create new ways to live in society.

American Radical

David Ridgen, Nicolas Rossier / United States / 2009 / 84' / English
Availability: Digital Site License | Worldwide

American Radical is the probing, definitive documentary about American academic Norman Finkelstein. A devoted son of Holocaust survivors, ardent critic of Israel and U.S. policy toward the Middle East, and author of five provocative books, including The Holocaust Industry, Norman Finkelstein has been steadfast at the center of many intractable controversies, including his denial of tenure at DePaul University.

Called a lunatic and disgusting self-hating Jew by some, and an inspirational revolutionary by others, Finkelstein is a deeply polarizing figure whose struggles arise from core questions about freedom, identity and nationhood. From Beirut to Kyoto, the filmmakers follow Finkelstein around the world as he attempts to negotiate a voice among both supporters and critics, providing an intimate portrait of the man behind the controversy while giving equal time to both his critics and supporters.
Anarchchronicles

This feature documentary relates the experience of various militant anarchists from Quebec, who represent different sides of this political movement. Drawing from more than 40 hours of interviews, countless manifestations, and numerous libertarian initiatives, this film strives to be a tool for popular education, which will de-mystify the chaotic and violent labels which are too often attributed to this political movement. It attempts to present a different view, in which anarchism is seen as a varied, ever-expanding and evolving movement. This work was produced entirely independently.

The Art of Resistance

Argentine’s troubled history, culminating in the major crisis of 2001, has seen the rise of a wave of original artistic and cultural expression. This documentary introduces us to several creators and artist collectives who use artistic expression as a means to deliver powerful social statements, explore unbridled creativity, and participate actively in constructing a new reality. The Art of Resistance is an inventive treatment of these artists’ responses to the critical situations they are living. Born in a climate of urgency, their creativity is without boundaries, their strategies constantly renewed. The 85-year-old visual artist León Ferrari launches a vigorous national debate by denouncing the Catholic Church’s dark underside, factories open their doors to artists who conceive performances among the workers, patients at a psychiatric asylum join together to form an artistic front and charismatic actor Julio Arrieta makes a movie about the extraterrestrial invasion of his shantytown.
Ayiti Toma

Beyond the country that overcame slavery to become the first Black Republic, beyond the country that has survived numerous natural disasters and even humanitarian aid, lies Ayiti Toma ("the country that is ours").

AYITI TOMA, THE LAND OF THE LIVING aspires to present this lesser known, more inclusive Ayiti as it is retold and illuminated by the Ayitians themselves, from intellectuals and politicians, to practitioners of voodoo and young survivors from a hard-hit borough of Port-au-Prince. With the additional input of anthropologists, historians and aid workers, this documentary illustrates that the country’s extraordinarily rich culture and magical traditions must be taken into account if Ayiti Toma, the land of the living, is to truly come into being.

Artist On Vacation

What happens when 11 world-renowned avant-garde artists are invited to a luxurious resort in the Adriatic where they can do nothing but rest? Attila Csernik (Serbia), Radomir Damnjanović Damnjan (Serbia), Željko Kipke (Croatia), Ivan Kožarić (Croatia), Vlado Martek (Croatia), Era Milivojević (Serbia), Romelo Pervolovici (Romania), Pinczehely Sandor (Hungary), Balint Szombathy (Hungary), Janos Sugar (Hungary) and Ilija Šoškić (Montenegro) are still in full artistic sway.
Be... Without Water

ROB TURGEON / CANADA / 2011 / 43’ / ENGLISH

About sixty families in Penobsquis near Sussex have wells that have gone dry, and now have to pay to have water. They are seeking compensation from Potash Corp. which, they believe, is responsible for their water loss. They have little hope of receiving anything from the multi-billion dollar corporation.

Twenty eight concerned citizen groups are demanding that at least a moratorium be placed on the billion-dollar shale gas industry operations until the “infant industry” methods can be proven to be safe. Citizens are worried about well water contamination, heavy industrialization of rural areas, increasing pollution, a decrease in the value of their homes, etc. When damage is done to their property, they fear that they will not receive any compensation, unless they are able to prove that the damage is the result of shale gas operations.

This documentary by filmmaker Rob Turgeon, looks at these two situations of people in conflict with big business in New Brunswick in 2010-2011.

Berta Didn’t Die, She Multiplied!

SAM VINAL / HONDURAS, UNITED STATES / 2017 / 30’ / ENGLISH, SPANISH / ENGLISH SUBS

In Honduras, the most dangerous country in the world to be a land defender, the assassination of world renowned environmental activist Berta Cáceres has not silenced the many campesinas and campesinos fighting for justice and Indigenous sovereignty.

As co-founder and leader of the Council of Popular Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), Cáceres courageously fought against the massive Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam on the Rio Gualcarque. Since her assassination in 2016, Honduran officials have not conducted thorough investigation into Cáceres’ death, prompting activists to launch a campaign for justice, and rally with powerful chants of “Berta Didn’t Die, She Multiplied!”
Betrayed

Although Canada is surrounded by three oceans, there is not a single deep-sea ship flying the Canadian flag. But sixty years ago, Canada had the fourth-largest merchant fleet in the world.

“BETRAYED: THE STORY OF THE CANADIAN MERCHANT SEAMAN’S UNION” tells the story of the little-known struggle to save the merchant fleet and the livelihood of merchant seamen.

Bitter Paradise

As Canadians we pride ourselves on our international reputation as peacekeeper and power broker. But there is a dark side to our foreign policy – a policy that encourages and subsidizes business and cultural ties with Indonesia, a country responsible for the deaths of more than 200,000 people on the tiny island of East Timor.

The brutal 1975 takeover of East Timor was immediately condemned by the United Nations, yet Canada abstained. Since then, Canada has stepped up its aid and business ties to Indonesia in spite of an international campaign to force Indonesia to withdraw its troops from East Timor.

This documentary tells the story of one people’s struggle for survival in a world dominated by the search for raw materials and new markets. It is the story of Canada’s shameless, ongoing support for a predatory regime, and of Elaine Brière’s personal journey, from political innocence to political activism.
**Blokada (The Blockade)**

Igor Bezinovic / Croatia / 2012 / 93' / Croatian / Eng subs

**AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE**

The Blockade portrays the largest, longest and most politically significant student protest in Croatia since 1971, which started in April 2009 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb. Offering a unique view from within, this film relates the story of a struggle against the commercialization of education, and the blockade of teaching classes that lasted for 34 days.

This rebellion spread onto more than 20 faculties across the country, and the students became an active and relevant political subject. Director Igor Bezinovic followed everything: from the exhilarating preparation meetings and the blockade of classes, to the first signs of exhaustion and personal late-night discussions; from the initial support of most faculty members, to the moment they turned their back on the movement, and the attempt to reach Croatia’s missing Minister of Education.

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**Bonum**

Sabrina Naz Comanescu / Canada / 2017 / 12' / English

**AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE**

After they cycle through two steps back and one step forward again, the dangers of complacency are revealed and the reward that is nestled in perseverance is imagined. Conceivably this is the taste of BONUM.

Calgary-born dancer Sabrina Naz Comanescu enthralls audiences with her choreography for video — artistically shot by Aran Wilkinson-Blanc — making dance accessible as a narrative composed and filmed for the screen. Infusing her background in contemporary dance with a crisp music video sensibility, Comanescu’s BONUM reflects staging influences from South Korean TV dramas, and embraces the analogue tactility of VHS film and glitch.
Burkinabe Rising

IARA LEE / BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, UNITED STATES / 2018 / 72’ / ENGLISH, FRENCH, MODÈRE / ENGLISH SUBS
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

Burkinabé Rising showcases creative nonviolent resistance in Burkina Faso. A small, landlocked country in West Africa, Burkina Faso is home to a vibrant community of artists and engaged citizens, who provide an example of the type of political change that can be achieved when people come together. It is an inspiration, not only to the rest of Africa but also to the rest of the world.

The Caretakers

DAVID GOLDBERG / CANADA / 2017 / 39’ / ENGLISH
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

Exploring the fragile dynamic between settler activists and Indigenous land and water defenders, THE CARETAKERS articulates the effects of colonization on the environment and Indigenous peoples. Looking in particular at the anti-Kinder Morgan blockade that took place in the fall of 2014 within the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, the film asks the question: “How do we work in solidarity as settlers on these lands, in opposition to unnecessary resource projects?”

Filmmaker David Goldberg follows a few key members of a group of activists known as The Caretakers, as they set out to navigate the daily struggle and beauty of maintaining their blockade, while exemplifying how to work together in solidarity against the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion project.
CHILDREN 404 spotlights the lives of Russian LGBTQ+ youth struggling with decisions to remain in their home country or build a new life abroad, while offering a glimpse at the country’s deeply rooted conservatism. In 2013, Russian President Vladimir Putin passed a bill forbidding the “promotion of nontraditional sexual relations to minors.” LGBT youth, now defenseless against insults and intimidation under this “gay propaganda” law, are considered sick, sinful and abnormal. Psychologists, teachers and even parents can be fined or imprisoned for supporting them.

Forty-five Russian teens and tweens share their stories through anonymous interviews and video diaries. They detail their humiliations and discriminations, as well as their courageous stands against bullies. Their testimonies are collected online as the Children 404 project, named after the common “Error 404: Page Not Found” web message.

The movement for disability justice in Quebec emerged in the 1970s, in the wake of mobilizations of other groups that experienced oppression and discrimination. As a youth-led movement, it gained momentum and made significant progress in the 80s and 90s. Since the 2000s, however, it lost some of this power, weakened both by the neoliberal policies of successive governments and by the decline of activism among disabled communities.

CONTINUONS À ALLER PLUS LOIN ENSEMBLE! depicts the interventions of fifteen activists and workers from across generations. Reflecting on the history of disability justice activism, this documentary also examines the pressing issues and perspectives for the movement today.
COVER/AGE examines the lack of healthcare access for undocumented immigrants in California, and how two undocumented individuals are advocating to fight this exclusion. One protagonist is Emma, an elderly Filipina caregiver, who has spent over a decade providing care for others. The other protagonist is Héctor (they/them), one of the young adult founders of the immigrant health movement in California. As Emma and Héctor navigate the complex health policy system, critical gaps in a health system that excludes undocumented migrants reveal the profound and harmful impact on the community.

This film highlights the urgency of expanding healthcare access to undocumented people by centering the unwavering voices of immigrant health justice leaders. Through the film, we learn of their important activism and organizing, from mobilizing around healthcare with legislators in the state capitol to training other undocumented immigrants to advocate for themselves.

Crude Gold is a series of short documentary films showcasing 5 pivotal cases of foreign-funded mining exploitation connected to Canadian investors.

“Gran Colombia Gold” is part of the Crude Gold series, and is focused on a particular mining company. The story of how Gran Colombia Gold came to be formed is the story of abuses of power against a worker’s union as a rightful owner of the mine. The story takes place in Segovia, a town with a long and proud tradition in gold mining. The Toronto-based corporation may be involved with the murder of president of the Regional Union Mining and Energy workers, Rafael Tobon Zea, in 2011, and has been accused of paramilitary connections. The film explores foreign investment conflicts, and the role and impacts to trade union members in a country that is labelled as the most dangerous place in the world to be a trade unionist. These brave individuals engage in union resistance, demand justice for human rights violations and raise awareness for these important issues, often at great personal cost.
Crude Gold: The Case Of Eco Oro

MONICA GUTIERREZ / CANADA, COLOMBIA / 2015 / 9’ / ENGLISH, SPANISH / ENGLISH (HARDCODED) SUBS

Availability: Digital Site License | Worldwide

This film is part of the CRUDE GOLD series. The Santurban paramo has become an example of community struggle to protect water sources successfully. Lawyers, community leaders and activists united to mobilized and demanded the protection of natural resources threatened by Vancouver-based Eco Oro projects. A palpable urgency surrounds this story because of the fragility of the paramo—high-altitude wetlands—which supplies fresh water to the vast regions around Bucaramanga.

Cultures of Resistance

IARA LEE / BRAZIL, UNITED STATES / 2011 / 73’ / ARABIC, BURMESE, ENGLISH, Farsi, French, Hebrew, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Xhosa / English Subs

Availability: Digital Site License | Worldwide

In 2003, on the eve of the Iraq war, acclaimed filmmaker Iara Lee embarked on a journey to better understand a world increasingly embroiled in conflict and, as she saw it, heading for self-destruction. After several years, traveling over five continents, Iara encountered growing numbers of people who committed their lives to promoting change. From Iran, where graffiti and rap became tools in fighting government repression, moving on to Brazil, where musicians reach out to slum kids and transform guns into guitars, and ending in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, where photography, music, and film have given a voice to those rarely heard, CULTURES OF RESISTANCE explores how art and creativity can be ammunition in the battle for peace and justice.
The plants are the only ones remaining in the vacant business building. In this large and once lavish space, the gardener still maintains the plants, which have become part of its architecture. She sifts through the ones in pots and prepares them for their relocation. The plants which used to reign over this imposing interior in the eighties now construct a new temporality in this building void of people. Apart from the gardener, a single fireman watches over the empty building, doing absurd rounds, and maintaining for no one.

Days of Madness is a participatory-observational documentary taking us to the otherwise hidden and to most people abject world of the mentally different, easily rejected by society and branded as mental patients.

With subtle vibrancy, Days of Madness register their lonely daily life caught in the vicious circle of rejection and guilt, as well as an attempt to find a little corner of their own in the society that rejected them. On this road they will have to face their own ghosts of the past and the kings of the present, who call demonic everything they do not understand. Mladen and Maja will say their final NO to the doctors and take their health into their own hands, finally ready to share their painful odyssey with others. Through admirably captured moments of two almost lost lives, we need to ask ourselves the question – who is in fact mad here?
“Diversidad – A Road Trip to Deconstruct Dinner” is a documentary about a group of young Canadians who got on their bikes to raise awareness on the impacts of World Trade Organization and industrial agriculture.

From the waterfronts of Vancouver to the mountaintops of Mexico, this journey lifts the veil of idealism. They discover the challenges and hardships of organic farmers. They see that for a lot of inner city families do not have access to fresh food, let alone the land to grow their own. They realize that their point of view of the plight of the undocumented farm worker isn’t quite what they had read about before they left home. And they begin to realize that perhaps this journey wasn’t so much about what they had to share with the world, but more about what they had to learn from the world.

Upon their return home, they are confronted by the reality of being part of the system they’re fighting against: can they practice what they preach?

The colourful and joyous festival of Durga Puja (Durgotsava) is one of the largest religious festivals in India, in honour of the goddess Durga. While the goddess of protection, motherhood and war is celebrated, millions of Indian women live another reality, much less revered. DURGA is a haunting visual poem that examines the contradiction between the spiritual worship of femininity and the brutality of domestic violence.
EAST HASTINGS PHARMACY is a chronicle of a typical pharmacy in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, where most clients are on a treatment for opioid dependence that requires taking daily doses of methadone witnessed by the pharmacist. The pharmacy is a site of rituals and repeated interactions, where quiet routine and confrontation follow each other in continuous movement. Antoine Bourges’ film was made in collaboration with residents of the Vancouver Downtown Eastside through improvisations and re-enactments.

EAST HASTINGS PHARMACY
ANTOINE BOURGES / CANADA / 2012 / 43' / ENGLISH
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

ENCIRCLEMENT: NEO-LIBERALISM
RICHARD BROUILLETTE / CANADA / 2008 / 168' / ENGLISH, FRENCH / ENGLISH SUBS
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | CANADA (OUTSIDE QC)

Drawing upon the thinking and analyses of internationally renowned intellectuals, ENCIRCLEMENT: NEO-LIBERALISM ENSNARES DEMOCRACY sketches a portrait of neoliberal ideology and examines the various mechanisms used to impose its dictates throughout the world. The one-size-fits-all dogmas of neoliberalism are well known: deregulation, reducing the role of the State, privatization, limiting inflation rather than unemployment. In other words, depoliticizing the economy and putting it into the hands of the financial class. Often imposed with force—either through the structural adjustment plans of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, under the pressure of financial markets and multinationals, or even by outright war—the neoliberal doctrine has now reached every corner of the planet. But what is really going on behind the ideological smokescreen, behind the neat concepts of natural order and the harmony of interests in a free market, beyond the panacea of the “invisible hand”? 
END:CIV
FRANKLIN LÓPEZ / CANADA / 2011 / 115' / ENGLISH
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENCE | WORLDWIDE

END:CIV examines our culture’s addiction to systematic violence and environmental exploitation, and probes the resulting epidemic of poisoned landscapes and shell-shocked nations. Based in part on Endgame, the best-selling book by Derrick Jensen, END:CIV illuminates a way out of this all-consuming madness and into a saner future. Backed by Jensen’s narrative, the film calls on us to act as if we truly love this land.

The film trips along at a brisk pace, using music, archival footage, motion graphics, animation, slapstick and satire to deconstruct the global economic system. END:CIV illustrates first-person stories of sacrifice and heroism with intense, emotionally-charged images that match Jensen’s poetic and intuitive approach. Scenes shot in the back country provide interludes of breathtaking natural beauty alongside clear cut evidence of horrific but commonplace destruction. END:CIV features interviews with Paul Watson, Waziyatawin, Gord Hill, Michael Becker, Peter Gelderloos, Lierre Keith, James Howard Kunstler, Stephanie McMillan, Qwatsinas, Rod Coronado, John Zerzan and more.

The 5th Region is a short narrative film that discusses the lives of Nancy and Joshua who are Inuit but raised in southern Canada. All their lives they struggled with aspects of their identities and now begin to redefine what it means to be a young urban Inuk growing up under the shadow of the Sixties Scoop and the residential school system.

The Fifth Region
GABRIEL NURAKI KOPERQUALUK, AYELIYA HUSAIN / CANADA / 2018 / 47' / ENGLISH
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE
Ghosts

MORVARY SAMARE / CANADA / 2009 / 53’ / ENGLISH / ENGLISH SUBS

AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

Three Arab-Canadian men are detained and tortured for months and years in Syria and Egypt. Upon their release they return to Canada struggling to find some answers as to why they were detained and tortured. An internal inquiry into their cases, the Iacobucci Inquiry, reveals that the Canadian government was complicit in their detention and torture. The camera team follows the lives and cases of the men for a year and a half as the men fight to leave the horror of torture behind them. This is a powerful and intimate documentary about the fragile balance between democracy, human rights and national security fears. It is also a portrait of life after torture experiences.

God’s Will

BEATA BUBENEK / RUSSIA / 2014 / 55’ / ENGLISH, RUSSIAN / ENGLISH SUB

AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

A former neo-Buddhist who has become an ardent defender of Orthodox values, Dmitry Enteo riveted public attention after performing several eccentric actions on himself. He calls himself an orthodox ‘actionist’, and opposes the creative activity of the Voyna and Pussy Riot art groups. Having gathered a movement of Orthodox activists around himself and called it ‘God’s Will’, Dmitry declared his intention to lead first Russia, and then the whole world to Eucharistic revolution. What follows on from this, and who is Enteo really?
THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR takes a closer look at the environmental and social effects of living near the Canadian oil sands in Alberta, an epic journey filmed from Montreal to Fort McMurray in a truck that runs on used vegetable oil.

Statoil, a major oil company primarily owned by the Norwegian government (and thus the Norwegian people) has expanded its operations well beyond its borders, and is now a major player in oil production in over 40 countries around the world. Through the eyes of Julie Strand Offerdal, a young Norwegian woman, we get an insight into the extractive industry’s complicated navigation between the lack of governmental regulations, and the violations of First Nations’ human rights and their land-based constitutional rights in Canada.

Nishtha Jain’s fierce documentary follows the true story of activist Sampat Pal and the legendary women’s vigilante group known as the Gulabi Gang. Never without a healthy dose of humour, this is a deeply humane film that is truly inspiring for women of all ages.

Rising up in resistance to femicide in Bundelkhand, Central India, and the discrimination of India’s caste system, this roving band of powerful ladies wrests justice for women and Dalits, undeterred by sneering policemen and condescending bureaucrats. From armed self-defense training, to confronting offenders and officials in their towns, GULABI GANG shows what it means to build an organic movement, and to unite and fight as a community. With sticks, if necessary.
Haiti Betrayed

ELAINE BRIÈRE / CANADA / 2019 / 90’ / ENGLISH, FRENCH / ENGLISH SUBS
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

As Canadians, we often take pride in our international reputation as peacekeepers and defenders of democracy. But there is a dark side to our foreign policy — a policy that has thwarted the Haitian people’s struggles for freedom and self-determination over the last two decades.

Haiti Betrayed reconstructs Canada’s role in the events that culminated in the United Nations-sanctioned coup d’état on February 29, 2004 and the bloody aftermath that followed. Haiti Betrayed is a searing indictment of Canadian leaders’ complicity in the international oppression of this long-suffering nation.

With the country in the throes of a new popular uprising against corruption and authoritarianism, Brière’s film shows that the roots of the current crisis can be found in the coup d’état backed by Canada fifteen years ago.

Hands On: Women, Climate, Change

LIZ MILLER, NUPUR BASU, MARY KHO, IPHIGÉNIE MARCOUX-FORTIER, KAREN WINTHER / CANADA / 2014 / 48’ / CREE, ENGLISH, FRENCH, INUIT, NORWEGIAN, TAMIL / ENGLISH SUBS
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | CANADA

HANDS ON profiles five women from four continents tackling climate change through policy, protest, education and innovation, and demonstrates how women are transferring knowledge and local networks into hands-on strategies. This collaborative documentary offers unique perspectives on climate change and environmental activism across cultures and generations, from a young woman challenging the expansion of oil rigs in the North Sea, to a seasoned community organizer interpreting satellite weather reports for fishermen struggling to survive on India’s increasingly volatile coast.
HEALTH FACTORY explores the downfalls of health care privatization in Norway. Governments apply models taken from business corporations in order to improve our health care systems. The goal is to get more health for the money spent, based on the presumption that private corporations are more efficient and less wasteful than public bodies. Could it be that we by trying to fix the health service, have created a monster? Is the disease and suffering of individuals of such a nature that market mechanisms are the best tools with which to treat them?

Conceived and produced in response to the call for the inaugural #TIFFxInstagram Shorts Festival, HEARTBREAK is a poetic moment paused for Black motherhood, for Black bodies and Black resilience. The 60 second film is a tribute to black women and the difficulty of raising Black children (particularly boys) in our society. The idea for the film sprung from the filmmaker’s despair at the shooting of black men and the chaos that ensued during the week the short film competition was announced.
I Am Rohingya

YUSUF ZINE / CANADA / 2018 / 90’ / ENGLISH

I AM ROHINGYA: A GENOCIDE IN FOUR ACTS chronicles the journey of fourteen refugee youth who take to the stage to re-enact their families’ harrowing experiences in Burma and beyond. This story chronicles their journey before, during, and immediately after the escalation of military violence in their native homeland, Rakhine state; their unforgiving escape by foot and by boat to makeshift camps in Bangladesh; and their eventual resettlement in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario.

There, the children resolve to raise awareness for a conflict that has increasingly resembled a cruel systematic ethnic cleansing campaign — one of the most egregious and overlooked humanitarian crises in the world. With no prior theatrical experience, the decision to perform the stories of their people — accounts of unimaginable loss and suffering that have tragically come to define the Rohingya Muslim identity — becomes a courageous act of resistance, demonstrating to the world that they will not be erased and they will not be forgotten.

In the Shadow of a Gold Mine

ZAHRA MOLOO / KENYA / 2014 / 15’ / ENGLISH, SWAHILI

Tanzania is one of the largest gold producers in Africa, with multinational mining companies from London, Dubai and Toronto operating all across the country. But as these companies turn greater profits and Tanzania becomes a major investment destination, hundreds of people are bearing the cost, in some cases with their lives.

IN THE SHADOW OF A GOLD MINE is an investigative portrait of one multinational gold mine in Tanzania and its impact on the small-scale miners and farmers who live in its shadow.
Island of Forgotten Cinemas

A poetic documentary about the lost film culture in small villages on Croatian islands, during the second half of the last century. Six witnesses of the time are remembering their favorite films and events related to their viewing and screening experiences, which marked their lives.

Julio of Jackson Heights

On the night of July 2, 1990, three young men in the neighbourhood of Jackson Heights went out armed with a claw hammer, a plumber’s wrench and a kitchen knife, hunting for “a gay guy to stretch out.” After deciding not to attack a gay couple walking along the avenue because they didn’t “like the odds” of a three-on-two fight, they went to the P.S. 69 schoolyard which was well-known as a meeting place for gay men because of its shadowy nooks. There they found Julio Rivera, a 29 year old New York-born Puerto Rican originally from the Bronx.

JULIO OF JACKSON HEIGHTS is the story of how all this changed. It is the story of how a handful of people – Julio’s friends and family – decided that they would not accept the official police report, and learned how to organize, ultimately bringing their case to the attention of then Mayor Dinkins. The movement has given birth to dozens of LGBTQ organizations and advocacy groups, the Queens Pride Parade which was the first LGBTQ pride parade in one of the “outer” boroughs of New York City, and ultimately it served as the platform for electing Queens’ first two openly gay candidates to the New York City Council.
The Kalasha and the Crescent

Rumoured to be the descendants of Alexander the Great, the Kalash people have in fact inhabited northern Pakistan’s Chitral Valley long before the legendary conqueror came to the region. They uphold a rich cultural heritage with polytheistic beliefs, seasonal festivals, and a variety of other traditions that are at odds with Pakistan’s dominant Islam.

In May 2013, director Iara Lee traveled to the Chitral Valley to document the Kalash spring festival, Joshi. THE KALASHA AND THE CRESCENT uses the festival as an entry point into this vibrant community and the tough questions facing it. What does conversion to Islam—whether forced or spontaneous—mean for Kalash identity? Can Kalash traditions withstand the challenges brought by globalization on the one hand, and by religious tensions on the other?

La leçon de l’escargot

Following the uprising of January 1, 1994, the Indigenous peoples of Chiapas in Mexico assessed their disaffection with the Mexican education system, describing it as a vector of poverty and injustice. Since then, the Zapatista resistance has remained one of the most intriguing organizations among contemporary international revolutionary struggles, pushing back against the margins of the hegemonic neoliberalism of Western nations and self-proclaimed “democracies”. In the context of globalization, they have also warned the rest of the planet that another world must be made possible.

THE LESSON OF THE SNAIL is a film about decolonizing education and creating spaces for community-based learning. Filmmaker Sylvie Lapointe investigates the daily lives of these Indigenous communities, disclosing their alternative education systems in which all has been recreated to fit with the values and dreams of transformation. Refuse all government funds in order to keep their freedom, these revolutionaries are strongly committed to protecting their language and culture for future generations.
Manic

Kalina Bertin / Canada, United States / 2017 / 64’ / English
Availability: Digital Site License | Worldwide

Manic chronicles Montreal-based filmmaker Kalina Bertin’s struggle to make sense of the legacy of mental illness that is shaping her siblings’ lives. Convinced that her father holds a key piece of the puzzle, she sets out to find the truth about him, and discovers a man known alternately as a cult leader, a scam artist, a prophet, and a father of fifteen.

As she unravels the multiple lives led by her father, known to others as a cult leader, Bertin forges a renewed creative link between generations. Across borders, MANIC is a spellbinding exploration that unearths the artifacts of a family history, inviting the viewer on a compelling and intimate journey through time and through the mind, where past and present collide.

Maximum Tolerated Dose

Karol Orzechowski / Canada / 2012 / 90’ / English
Availability: Digital Site License | Worldwide

Maximum Tolerated Dose (MTD): An animal / human experiment to find the highest dose of a chemical that, when administered to a group of test subjects in a clinical trial, does not result in a fatality due to short-term toxicity. This dose is then used for longer-term safety studies of the same species, lasting anywhere from two years to a lifetime. The MTD test is controversial, however, in part because of difficulties in extrapolating findings to more realistic doses, and in extrapolating results from animals to humans. Maximum Tolerated Dose is the first feature-length documentary by Deciper Films. Equal parts found-footage mash-up, verité investigation, and artful meditation, the film charts the lives of both humans and non-humans who have experienced animal testing first-hand, with hauntingly honest testimony of scientists and lab technicians whose ethics demanded they choose a different path, as well as the simultaneously heartwarming and heartbreaking stories of animals who have seen both sides of the cage. MTD aims to re-ignite the debate about animal testing by bringing these rarely-heard perspectives to the fore.
The Mosque

The story of the Quebec Mosque Shooting—the first ever mass shooting in a mosque in the West—is known around the world, but the story of the community that survived the attack is all but unknown.

THE MOSQUE: A COMMUNITY’S STRUGGLE is a portrait of the resilient Muslim community of Ste-Foy, Québec, as they struggle to survive and shift the narrative of what it means to be a Muslim, one year after the devastating attack that took the lives of six of their members. As the world moves on, this small mosque and its community fights Islamophobia, harassment and hate speech. How will the community heal and how will they stop the rhetoric that threatens to precipitate further violence?

Mother Europe

Mother Europe takes a look at Europe through the eyes of a six year old child, Terra. Born in the Balkans, but raised as a citizen of the world by her Cuban-Macedonian father and Slovenian mother, little Terra quickly learned about borders. She goes on a journey through former Yugoslavia with her family, encountering numerous remarkable characters with interesting stories, and tells us her innocent but intelligent, and already experienced view of the continent that is not at all as united as it would apparently like to be. Look at Europe through the eyes of a small child from the Balkans: she may easily shatter your preconceptions about where you live.
My Brooklyn

Kelly Anderson. Allison Lirish Dean / United States / 2012 / 75 / English
Availability: Digital Site License | Canada

My Brooklyn is a documentary about Director Kelly Anderson’s personal journey, as a Brooklyn “gentrifier,” to understand the forces reshaping her neighborhood along lines of race and class. The story begins when Anderson moves to Brooklyn in 1988, lured by cheap rents and bohemian culture. She watches as an explosion of luxury housing and chain store development spurs bitter conflict over who has a right to live in the city and to determine its future. While some people view these development patterns as ultimately revitalizing the city, to others, they are erasing the eclectic urban fabric, economic and racial diversity, creative alternative culture, and unique local economies that drew them to Brooklyn in the first place.

The film’s ultimate questions become how to heal the deep racial wounds embedded in our urban development patterns, and how citizens can become active in restoring democracy to a broken planning process.

My Life Without Air

Bojana Burnać / Croatia / 2017 / 75 / Croatian, English / English Subs
Availability: Digital Site License | Worldwide

My Life Without Air is a thrilling view of the wondrous world of a man whose most important moments in life take place underwater during one highly controlled breath. Unrelentingly shifting the boundaries of physicality, he persists beyond the possible, believing that upon return to the surface he will once again be the best. My Life Without Air conveys the feeling we have when we take a dive into the blue – the complex mixture of excitement, fear, uncertainty and power accompanied by the buzzing silence.
My World is Upside Down

The music is produced by the indie rock icon Chris Eckman (The Walkabouts), and expertly mixed with archive footage of Ježek’s own performances and skits, creating a touching and thought-provoking narrative.

Myths for Profit

MYTHS FOR PROFIT is a dramatic, exposé documentary which explores ‘Canada’s role in Industries of War and Peace’. Through diverse interviews and case studies this documentary unveils the specific interests and profits that are made by certain corporations, individuals and agencies within Canada. By examining these myths we seek to find out what are the possible motives that hide behind these stories, and if there are certain people who stand to gain and maintain these misconceptions.

MYTH 1) examines the changes in the Department of National Defense since 1999 and takes a serious look at the role Canada has taken in NATO. MYTH 2) investigates how various government agencies and ministries have specific agendas they are implementing around the world. MYTH 3) By investigating the magnitude of the Canadian military industrial complex, this section probes the intersecting relationships between various government agencies and corporations as well as public complicity in this vast industry.
Occupy Love

From the Arab Spring to the European Summer, from the Occupy Movement to the global climate justice movement, a profound shift is taking place: humanity is waking up to the fact that the dominant system of power is failing to provide us with health, happiness or meaning. The old paradigm that concentrates wealth, founded on the greed of the few, is collapsing. Endless growth on a finite planet cannot be sustained. The resulting crisis has become the catalyst for a profound transformation: millions of people are deciding that enough is enough – the time has come to create a new world, a world that works for all life. Woven throughout the moving, action oriented backbone of the story, is a deep exploration of the heart of the movement, the meaning of love, and concrete examples of just what “another world” could look like, featuring some of the world’s key visionaries on alternative systems of economics, sustainability, and empathy. Occupy Love is a moving, transformative, heartfelt film, featuring Ripper’s signature stunning visuals and rich soundscapes. A powerful cinematic experience that will leave audiences inspired.

On the Side of the Road

Lia Tarachansky grew up in a settlement. When the second Intifadah broke out in 2000 her family moved to Canada. There, for the first time she met Palestinians and “discovered” their history and learned why they were fighting Israel in the first place. When she became a journalist, she returned to Israel to become the local correspondent for The Real News network. Returning for the first time to her settlement, she “discovers” the Palestinians next door as she travels the West Bank covering the Israeli military occupation. In this film she meets with those who played a personal role in the events of 1948 and like her, “discovered” that which they had not only erased from their consciousness, but erased from the map. This is a film about the questions Israelis cannot ask, about memories that cannot be uncovered, and the history that’s fighting to come to light.
“Pinkwashing” is a term activists have coined for when countries engaged in terrible human rights violations promote themselves as “gay friendly” to improve their public image. Israel is the country most famous for this strategy, having initiated it as part of a rebranding campaign in which it has been engaged in for the last decade to distract from the human rights abuses it is committing against Palestinians. Made in Seattle, on Duwamish Land, PINKWASHING EXPOSED: SEATTLE FIGHTS BACK! explores how pinkwashing works and what activists are doing to fight back.

In 2012, activists in the Pacific Northwestern region of the US responded to an Israeli Consulate-funded pinkwashing tour that featured gay and lesbian Israeli activists. Local queer Palestinian solidarity activists exposed the “Rainbow Generations” tour as pro-Israel propaganda, resulting in the cancellation of some of the events, including the tour’s centerpiece event hosted by the City of Seattle’s LGBT Commission. A significant backlash ensued involving the Seattle City Council and Seattle’s leading LGBT and HIV organizations.

After the Canadian legal system fails to serve justice for the survivor of a brutal, racially-driven sexual assault, an Indigenous woman becomes a motorcycle-riding, ass-kicking vigilante who takes on the attackers of other women who’ve suffered the same fate.

A RED GIRL’S REASONING is a no-holds-barred, neo-noir thriller featuring a formidable female vigilante who seeks revenge. Directed by Blackfoot and Sámi actor and filmmaker Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, this short film is a powerful social commentary that responds to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in Canada.
Resistencia: The Fight For Aguan Valley

JESSE FREESTON / CANADA, HONDURAS / 2015 / 92' / ENGLISH, SPANISH / ENGLISH, SPANISH SUBS
AVAILABILITY: DIGITAL SITE LICENSE | WORLDWIDE

The morning of June 28th, 2009. The people of Honduras are preparing to vote in their first-ever referendum. The proposition is to write a new constitution, and a ‘yes’ vote could dramatically transform the country. Three-quarters of Hondurans weren’t even alive the last time an elected government was overthrown in Central America, yet they awake to find soldiers everywhere and reports that President Manuel Zelaya has been kidnapped by the military.

A nation-wide movement, known simply as ‘The Resistance,’ rises in opposition. RESISTENCIA: THE FIGHT FOR THE AGUAN VALLEY follows the protagonists behind the most daring wing of the movement, the farmers of the Aguan Valley. Not satisfied with marching and blocking highways, the farmers take over the palm oil plantations of Miguel Facussé, the country’s largest landowner and a key player in the coup. The camera follows three members of the movement over the four-year period between their takeover of the plantations and the elections they hope will restore democracy.

Produced in Turkey by Armenian director Hale Güzin Kızılaslan, THE RETURN reflects on present-day Eastern Anatolia, or the Armenian Highlands—a region where Christian Armenians had historically lived alongside Muslim Kurds. Through scenes from the everyday life of present-day occupants, Kızılaslan unravels the generational memory of the Armenian Genocide, remembered as the Medz Yeghern (“Great Catastrophe”). The Armenian population in this region of the Ottoman Empire dropped from around two million to less than 500,000 through expropriation, displacement and extermination. Despite the ethnic cleansing committed against Armenians during the First World War, Turkey has refuted claims of genocide.

THE RETURN is especially relevant in a moment of unfolding conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, where Turkey has been implicated through its military alliance with Azerbaijan. As history comes full circle, land is shown to be the true backbone to community.
Could a remote hospital that runs on solar panels, in a community without paved roads or electricity, provide a global model for health care? Since arriving in Honduras in 1797, the Garifuna people have struggled against exclusion, discrimination and dispossession of their land. Today, their first hospital provides holistic care, for free, without receiving a cent from the government. This is a story of how and why they do it.

Over a period of three years, stencil artist Peter Gibson (aka Roadsworth) made his mark on Montreal in the early hours of the morning by launching a self-described “attack on the streets.” Armed with spray paint and handmade stencils, he began to play with the language of the streets, overlaying city asphalt markings with his own images: a crosswalk became a giant boot print, vines choked up traffic dividers, and electrical plugs filled parking spots. Each piece begged the question: who owns public space?
POLITICS
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
PROPAGANDA
US

SILHOUETTE CITY is an immersive journey through the recent history of American apocalypticism. Using archival video, movement propaganda and original investigative material, the film tracks the movement of apocalyptic Christian nationalism and its most extreme adherents from the margins to the mainstream, the military and beyond.

In the age of a networked Christian Right, movement propaganda has the potential to reach a greater speed and audience than ever before. The film examines the striking ideological and rhetorical similarities between The Covenant, The Sword & The Arm Of The Lord (CSA) - a group that provided the model for militia group activity in the 1990s - and the mainstream Christian Right of today. It reveals how the apocalyptic intensity and rhetoric of final warfare are symptoms of those impulses opposed to cultural openness - and as the formal and conceptual methods of propagandizing their struggle are laid bare - the CSA provides a case study in grassroots response to right-wing apocalyptic impulses.

SIRAJ

Directors Rolla Tahir’s debut short film SIRA is an experimental essay that traces the exodus of a Sudanese family from Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion. Excavated footage disrupts constructed memories as a mother recounts the evacuation, marring the bliss of her new family. In this unique commission by Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto, Tahir engages with experimental and travelogue film archives, producing SIRA in response to the travel documentaries of Armenian filmmaker Jacques Madvo.
In 1994, the Swiss government approved a law authorizing the detention of all foreigners in an irregular situation until they are expelled. Every year, a purely administrative decision has thousands of men and women imprisoned without trial or sentence. Their only crime is to be paperless. Those who refuse to leave voluntarily are bound hand and foot, hooded, put in disposable diapers and forced into a plane. In this extreme situation, despair has a name: special flight.

SPECIAL FLIGHT turns its lens toward the end of the migrants’ journey. Melgar immersed himself for nine months in the administrative detention centre of Frambois in Geneva, one of the 28 deportation centres for undocumented migrants in Switzerland. Behind the closed prison doors, staff and inmates negotiate relationships that are full of tension, fear and stress on one side, and motivation, close connection and humanist values on the other.

In the early 90’s, the new-born state of Croatia was involved in a military conflict with neighbouring Serbia. Criminals used the chaos of war to harass and rob Serbian civilians living in Croatia.

One of the innocent victims was a girl living in Zagreb, Aleksandra Zec. She was brutally murdered, alongside her family who were of Serbian descent. The perpetrators were soon found but because of political pressure no one has ever been convicted for the crime.

Quarter-century later, controversial theatre director Oliver Frljic is working on a play about the case. The process brings out the hidden traumas, rehearsals become a collective psychotherapy, and the 12-year old actress Nina feels as if the war had never ended. When director asks her to profess as Serbian in front of the audience, Nina is terrified, and does not know what to do.
In the spring of 2012, a massive student strike in opposition to a tuition hike, rocked the streets of the Montréal for over six months. Protests and militant street actions became part of the daily and nightly reality of this Canadian metropolis. Several times during this tumultuous spring, the numbers in the streets would reach over one hundred thousand. Police routinely clubbed students and their allies, and arrested them by the hundreds. Some were even banned from entering the city. But every time the cops struck, the student movement got bigger and angrier. This is a story about how the arrogance of a government underestimated a dedicated group of students, who, through long term organizing, laid the foundation for some of the largest mass demonstrations in Canada’s history. But it is also a story of how a crew of determined anarchists, educated a new generation of students, in the importance of owning the streets. In Street Politics 101, subMedia.tv features some of the best footage from what some called “the maple spring.” It also features interviews with students, teachers and anarchists involved in one of the most militant rebellions in Quebec.

SWEET CRUDE is a journey of multilayered revelation and ever-deepening questions. It’s about one place in one moment, with themes that echo many places throughout history. SWEET CRUDE shows the humanity behind the statistics, events and highly sensationalized media portrayal of the region. Set against a stunning backdrop of Niger Delta footage, the film gives voice to the region’s complex mix of stakeholders and invites the audience to learn the deeper story.

The issues are local and human, yet they have far-reaching political, environmental and economic implications. It’s a powder-keg situation that affects the daily lives and futures of the people who live there. Left unchecked, its consequences will be felt around the globe. Yet barely anyone outside the Delta knows what’s really happening.

With this independent documentary, we take a stand for a more truthful conversation, with the hope that a more educated public will hold governments and big oil accountable to peaceful and just resolution.
TESFAYE (Hope) is a 30-minute experimental documentary film based on the extraordinary life of an Ethiopian refugee, rescued from the sea in Madagascar and now living in Canada. Shot in Ethiopia and Canada, the film recounts the life of Tesfaye — caught between a nostalgia for his home country and the possibility of a better life in another one.

To experiment with alternative methods of film exhibition, this film is structured as a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony which is composed of three sections – ABOL, TONA, BEREKA.

The coffee ceremony is practiced all over Ethiopia for generations and is one of the cultural devices that help foster community discussions where people share their experiences and tell stories. Similar to the Ethiopian coffee ceremony, the film is also broken into three sections and screened in parallel with the ceremony. It is to be stopped at the end of each section for a refill of coffee and audience participation.

Gesturing to the racial bias behind Kodak's mid-century skin-tone “Shirley cards,” Sonya Mwambu brings deeply textured layers of Black artistry, history and the racial politics of popular culture. Initially optimized for white skin through the 1970s, Shirley cards eventually began to be produced with a wider range of skin tones in the late 20th century.

In this poetic short film, Mwambu critiques the pervasive racial bias in commercial photography, marketing and pop culture — bolstered by a material scarcity of tools and techniques to reflect racial diversity in 20th century photography. Going beyond the surface, THE SHIRLEY CARD reminds us of the additional burden of labour that used to be required to process photographs with racially diverse subjects, and the standards to which our society calibrates the very tools we use to create images.
United Front of Opportunists

Dejan Oblak and Vedran Senjanović / Croatia / 2016 / 44’

“United Front of Opportunists” follows the candidacy of the eponymous political party in Croatian parliamentary elections. It is represented by students of political science, whose main political goal was a parody of the entire democratic election process present in Croatia today. The documentary follows 14 candidates and the way they manage themselves on the political field. Hilarious experiment with even more hilarious consequences.

Upstream: Stewards Of The Land

Paola Rosà, Antonio Senter / Canada / 2017 / 44’ / English

This documentary film is an abstract from their web series made of 18 short films and is a tribute to “the Stewards of the Land” protecting rivers and salmon, woods and caribous. Despite the change of government in Victoria, First Nations community members and activists haven’t stopped fighting because projects and developments have been approved and confirmed. People are still out there, in the bush, along the creeks, in the ocean, to stop the pipelines, to save our future.

Along the proposed pipeline route that is planned to connect the fracked gas wells in North Eastern British Columbia with the Pacific coast, like in the famous Standing Rock camp which was internationally in the headlines for months, Indigenous Peoples are reaffirming their title and going back to the land. During three months in Summer and Autumn 2016, Paola Rosà and Antonio Senter followed the 1000-km-route of the opposed gas pipelines from the construction site of the third dam on the Peace River to Lelu Island offshore of Prince Rupert, along the Skeena River and into the Morice Valley in search of voices of resistance.
High in the French Alps, on the border between Italy and France, African migrants fleeing war, poverty and political persecution risk their lives crossing dangerous mountain routes. Witnessing the increasing influx of refugees, local communities in the Roya and Durance Valleys start providing them with shelter, food and legal counselling. But providing assistance to undocumented migrants is a criminal offence, and the charitable actions of those citizen groups have put them on the wrong side of the law.

Six student activists. Thirty-six Canadian towns. One giant corporation. A daunting experiment in activism. A group of six university students, calling themselves Wal-Town, take to the Canadian highway over two summers. Armed with thousands of pamphlets and fliers—with one gonzo journalist along for the ride—they visit 36 of Canada’s more than 200 Wal-Mart stores with one formidable goal: to raise public awareness about Wal-Mart’s business practices and the effects of the company’s policies on cities and towns across Canada.

WAL-TOWN: THE FILM is the story of their ambitious, exasperating and ultimately rewarding journey to the very heart of Canadian consumerism—Wal-Mart’s front door. Interspersing frank exchanges between activists and Wal-Mart shoppers with interviews with a range of characters from either side of the issue, the film takes us to the frontlines of the ongoing debate over the company’s increasing dominance in the Canadian retail market.
Using an artistic combination of documentary footage, archive images, and animation, director Ahmed Nour tells a personal story and that of his generation, born on the cusp of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s rule in the early 1980s. WAVES is a documentary in seven chapters relating the story of Suez, home to the internationally renowned Suez Canal, and the city that triggered the revolution, leading the media to call it “the flame of the Egyptian revolution”.

WE ARE WISCONSIN is a feature documentary film that follows the day-to-day unfolding of public outcry against Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker’s controversial budget-repair bill, focusing on the human story behind a remarkable popular uprising forged on the floor of the Madison Capitol. The film asks the question “Why should we care about what’s going on in Wisconsin?” on multiple levels, through an in-depth profile of six leading individuals central to the story who all meet inside the capitol over the course of what became an historic twenty-six days, February-March, 2011. The film also amplifies why Wisconsin has become ground zero for so many disparate groups, awakening a sleeping giant of collective voices, alarmed and angry at the new Corporate-funded, hyper-conservative wave of local government sweeping the country. The Wisconsin spirit of peaceful resistance spread powerfully in waves from the Capitol Rotunda to the streets outside and beyond, winning hearts and minds and sparking what is now known as the Occupy Movement, led by the 99%.
You Never Bike Alone

Cyclists are changing the face of Vancouver, a city that has become renowned for the party spirit of its Critical Mass bike rides that attract all types of cyclists. From the Wholesome Undie and the World Naked Bike Ride (a ride founded in Vancouver), follow a local bike collective and share in the “velo love” of buildathons, street theatre, and rides.

YOU NEVER BIKE ALONE charts the development of Critical Mass rides in Vancouver—from the protest rides across the historic Lions Gate Bridge in the early and mid-1990s, through the “No Fun City” years of the late 1990s and early 2000s when cyclists were routinely arrested for riding together, up to the giant Critical Mass rides of more recent years. Drawing on footage shot over the last decade, YOU NEVER BIKE ALONE asks whether cycle activists are succeeding in their goals, and asks whether Critical Mass and similarly styled rides are winning hearts and minds.