

2013 Film Descriptions World Community Film Festival (Nov. 24, 2012)

Reflections; Art for an Oil-Free Coast 22 min. 2012

www.raincoast.org

Director: Cameron Dennison

Reflections: Art for an Oil-Free Coast shares the story of an expedition of fifty artists into the truly stunning and remote landscape of British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest, a landscape they feel is threatened by Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline and supertanker project.

As these artists worked among pristine estuaries and alongside bears, they created an amazing collection of art to share with the world. Canadian icon Robert Bateman summarizes the crux of the matter stating, "The real problems facing this planet are not economic, and they are not technical. They are philosophical. So we need to get our philosophy right. What way do we want to go forward? We need a critical mass of people who care deeply in their hearts about nature. And that's partly what we're all about here."

Big Boys Gone Bananas! 87 min. 2012

Kinosmith

www.bigboysgonebananas.com

Director: Fredrik Gertten

Producer: Bart Simpson

In 2009, Fredrik Gertten's documentary, *Bananas!*, chronicling a lawsuit against controversial food giant Dole was set to premiere at the Los Angeles Film Festival. Dole responded with threats of legal action combined with an aggressive media and public relations campaign to quash the film's release and discredit the reputation of the filmmakers. The filmmaking team behind *Bananas!* refused to be bullied, filing a counter-suit and launching their own media strategy. A true documentarian, Gertten picks up his camera again to capture his fight for free speech. *Big Boys Gone Bananas!* is an in-depth case study of an independent filmmaker's David and Goliath battle with a corporate machine. As Dole's PR company puts it, "It is easier to cope with a bad conscience than a bad reputation". *Big Boys Gone Bananas!* is an unparalleled thriller.

Dying Green 26 min. 2011

www.dyinggreenthefilm.com

Director: Ellen Tripler

Set in the foothills of the Appalachians, this film explores one man's vision of using green burials to conserve land. Dr. Billy Campbell, the town's only physician, has radically changed people's understanding of burials in the United States. Dr. Campbell's dream is to conserve one million acres of land. *Dying Green* focuses on the revolutionary idea of using our own death to fund land conservation and create wildlife preserves. 2011 CINE Golden Eagle award

Dirty Energy 94 min. 2011

www.dirtyenergymovie.com

Director: Bryan Hopkins

On April 20th, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded off the Gulf of Mexico taking the lives of 11 workers, pouring millions of barrels of oil into the ocean and creating one of the worst environmental disasters in history. *Dirty Energy* tells the personal story of those directly affected by the spill who are now struggling to rebuild their lives amidst economic devastation and long-term health risks. This is a story too often glossed over by the mainstream media and ignored by those sent to Washington to represent the will of the people. The fate of the Gulf region and its inhabitants is largely

unknown. The systematic failures of BP and the federal government to properly confront this environmental calamity with honesty and integrity has powerful consequences, but sadly the human cost has been greatly underestimated and hidden from the public. Still today, the people of the Gulf are fighting to preserve their endangered way of life. This is their story. **Social Justice Award, Santa Barbara International Film Festival**

Crime After Crime 93 min. (or 58) 2011

www.crimeaftercrime.com

Director: Yoav Potash

Crime After Crime tells the dramatic story of the legal battle to free Debbie Peagler, a woman imprisoned for over a quarter century due to her connection to the murder of the man who abused her. Two rookie attorneys step forward to take her case and through their perseverance, they bring to light long-lost witnesses, new testimonies from the men who committed the murder, and proof of perjured evidence. Their investigation ultimately attracts global attention to victims of wrongful incarceration and abuse, and takes on profound urgency when Debbie is diagnosed with cancer. Filmmaker Yoav Potash methodically documented this story as it unfolded with exclusive access to Debbie Peagler and her attorneys, allowing his film to tell an unforgettable story of a relentless quest for justice. Numerous awards including: **Audience Choice, San Francisco Int'l Film Festival; Audience Award, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival**

Hooked on Growth 55 min. 2011

www.growthbusters.org

Director: Dave Gardner

How do we become a sustainable civilization? This film takes a unique approach among environmental documentaries. Rather than dispensing facts about climate change, peak energy, and other critical issues, it examines the cultural barriers that prevent us from acting rationally. It asks why population conversations are so difficult to have, and why a roaring economy is more important to us than a survivable planet. It explores our obsession with community growth and economic growth. *Hooked on Growth* holds up a mirror encouraging us to examine the beliefs and behaviors we must leave behind, and the values we need to embrace, in order that our children can survive and thrive.

Edible City 72 min. 2012

www.ediblecitythemovie.com

Filmmakers: Andrew Hasse and Carl Grether

Edible City is a film that tells the stories of extraordinary people who are digging their hands into the dirt, working to transform their communities and doing something truly revolutionary--growing local systems that are socially just, environmentally sound, and economically resilient. Can people disengage from the destruction taking place on planet earth and engage in something that helps to heal the earth and sets us free from the corporate systems that do us more harm than good? Local food production may be the answer to many of the challenges we face today. The film looks at examples of creative community based food security projects, including exciting work in many American inner city neighborhoods as well as in Cuba.

All Me: The Life & Times of Winfred Rembert 78 MIN. 2012

www.allmethemovie.com

Director: Vivian Ducat

With his intensely autobiographical paintings depicting the day-to-day existence of African Americans in the segregated South, Winfred Rembert has preserved an important, if often disturbing, chapter of American history. His indelible images of toiling in the cotton fields, singing in church, dancing in juke

joints, or working on a chain gang are especially powerful because he lived every moment, and because he experienced so much injustice and bigotry. Now in his sixties, Rembert has developed a growing following among art collectors and connoisseurs, and enjoyed a number of tributes and exhibitions of his work. In *All Me: The Life and Times of Winfred Rembert*, the artist relives his turbulent life, abundantly visualized by his extensive paintings and, in a series of intimate reminiscences, shows us how even the most painful memories can be transformed into something meaningful and beautiful. This music-filled film is a glowing portrait of how an artist is made. **Cine Golden Eagle Award**

Bidder 70 73 min. 2012

Directors: Beth and George Gage

www.bidder70film.com

Bidder 70 centers on an extraordinarily ingenious and effective act of civil disobedience demanding government and industry accountability. In the name of climate justice, University of Utah economics student Tim DeChristopher purchased oil and gas lease rights to thousands of acres of federal land in southern Utah, even though he had no intention of paying for it. Follow Tim (*Bidder 70*) from college student to incarcerated felon. DeChristopher says, "At this point of unimaginable threats on the horizon, this is what hope looks like...With countless lives on the line, this is what love looks like, and it will only grow..." Powerful, intelligent and very entertaining, *Bidder 70* will show you how one person can change the world. This is a truly inspiring story. **Best American Film, Traverse City Film Festival**

Symphony of the Soil 104 min. 2012

www.symphonyofthesoil.com

Director: Deborah Koons Garcia

Drawing from ancient knowledge and cutting edge science, *Symphony of the Soil* is an artistic exploration of the miraculous substance, soil. By understanding the elaborate relationships and mutuality between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals, we come to appreciate the complex and dynamic nature of this precious resource. The film also examines our human relationship with soil, the use and misuse of soil in agriculture, deforestation and development, and the latest scientific research on soil's key role in ameliorating the most challenging environmental issues of our time. Filmed on four continents, featuring esteemed scientists and working farmers and ranchers, *Symphony of the Soil* is an intriguing presentation that highlights possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet. Beautiful cinematography and musical score.

The Carbon Rush 85 min. 2012

Kinosmith

www.thecarbonrush.net

Director: Amy Miller

Hundreds of hydroelectric dams in Panama-- incinerators burning garbage in India-- biogas extracted from palm oil in Honduras-- eucalyptus forests harvested for charcoal in Brazil; what do these projects have in common? They are all receiving carbon credits for offsetting pollution created somewhere else. But what impact are these offsets having? Are they actually reducing emissions? And what about the people and the communities where these projects have been set up? *The Carbon Rush* travels across four continents and brings us up close to projects working through the United Nations Kyoto Protocol designed Clean Development Mechanism. This groundbreaking documentary asks the fundamental questions, "What happens when we manipulate markets to solve the climate crisis? Who stands to gain and who stands to suffer?"

My Neighborhood 30 min. 2012

www.justvision.org

Filmmakers: Rebekah Wingert-Jabi & Julia Bacha,

Mohammed El Kurd is a Palestinian boy growing up in the neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah in the heart of East Jerusalem. When Mohammed turns 11, his family is forced to give up part of their home to Israeli settlers who are leading a campaign of court sanctioned evictions to guarantee Jewish control of the area. Shortly after their displacement, Mohammed's family and other residents begin peacefully protesting against the evictions, determined not to lose their homes for good. To their surprise, they are quickly joined by scores of Israeli supporters who are horrified to see what is being done in their name. *My Neighbourhood* captures voices rarely heard, of those striving for a shared future in the city of Jerusalem.

Paraiso for Sale 73 min. 2012

www.paraisoforsale.impactofilms.com

Filmmaker: Anayansi Prado

What price would you pay for paradise? And who would you be willing to take it from? The pristine archipelago of Bocas del Toro, Panama attracts retirees and developers from the U.S. with its crystal-clear waters and its island culture. In *Paraiso for Sale*, filmmaker, Anayansi Prado, returns to her homeland to document the effects the fast-growing migration is having on the local community. This engaging and revealing documentary tells the personal stories of the people who call this area home and would like to keep it that way. From an American couple who've invested in their home and in their Panamanian community, to a local businessman turned political hopeful and an indigenous leader fighting for his land, the characters and stories in *Paraiso for Sale* speak to the larger global issue of communities, new and old, under siege from faceless corporations. *Paraiso for Sale* explores issues of modern day colonialism, residential tourism, and global gentrification.

Peace Out 80 min. 2011

www.indiecanent.com

Director: Charles Wilkinson

In Canada's vast Peace River region the mega-projects include a major new dam, tens of thousands of hydro-fracked shale gas wells, a nuclear power plant, and the Tar Sands. Proponents of these projects argue that countless jobs are being created, resource revenues are pouring in, and schools and hospitals are staying open. Alternatively, there are credible charges that multinational corporations are despoiling an area the size of Florida, converting public assets into private fortunes and leaving a wake of Mordor-like destruction. Energy options are examined by a brilliant cast of specialists who are credible, reasonable, occasionally irreverent, but always extraordinarily well-informed on the subject. *Peace Out* is a deeply heartfelt account of what's really going on up North and how our choices down South are making it so. **Special Jury Prize, HotDocs; Most Popular Canadian Documentary, 2011 Vancouver Int'l Film Festival**

Heart of Sky, Heart of Earth 98 min. 2012

www.heart-of-sky.com

Directors: Frauke Sandig & Eric Black

The ancient Maya believed this present world would end and a new cycle arise after 5125 years. What lies behind the myth of the Mayan calendar? How does the story end? Does the water change color? Do the oceans collapse? Does the sky fall as the last tree is cut?

Heart of Sky, Heart of Earth follows six young Maya in Guatemala and Chiapas through their daily and ceremonial life. They put forth a wholly indigenous perspective in their own words, without

narration. Their cosmovision, in which all life is sacred and interconnected, presents a deeply compelling alternative to the prevailing worldview. As corporations go to the ends of the earth to extract all value, all resources, these Maya reveal their determination to resist the destruction of their culture and environment. They believe they are the guardians of the Earth. Each story touches upon a facet of the current global crisis. **Best Int'l Feature, Planet in Focus Film Festival**

Planeat 72 min. 2012

www.mcnabbconnolly.ca

Filmmakers: Shelley Lee Davies & Or Shlomi

Why has the death rate from heart disease and cancer exploded in recent times? Why are the ice caps melting, the oceans dying and the forests being cut down as we produce the food necessary to support our burgeoning populations?

Against a backdrop of colourful and delicious food grown by organic farmers and prepared in the kitchens of world-famous chefs, *Planeat* brings together the ground-breaking studies of three prominent scientists who have done important research to answer these questions. Dr. T. Colin Campbell in China explores the link between diet and disease; Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn uses nutrition to treat chronically ill heart disease patients; and Professor Gidon Eshel investigates how our food choices contribute to global warming, wasteful land use and lifeless oceans. *Planeat* inspires you to make better food choices: choices that can dramatically reduce your risk of heart disease and cancer, protect our environment and make our planet sustainable while celebrating the joys of food.

We Still Live Here (Âs Nutayuneân) 56 min. 2010

www.mcnabbconnolly.ca

Director: Anne Makepeace

The Wampanoag's ancestors ensured the survival of the English settlers known as the Pilgrims, and lived to regret it. Now a cultural revival is taking place. Spurred on by their celebrated linguist, Jessie Little Doe Baird, recent winner of a MacArthur 'genius' award, the Wampanoag are bringing their language home and saying loudly and clearly in their native tongue, "Âs Nutayuneân," (We Still Live Here).

This story begins with a vision. Years ago, Jessie began having recurring dreams of familiar-looking people from another time speaking in an incomprehensible language. These visions sent her on an odyssey that would uncover hundreds of documents written in Wampanoag, lead her to a Masters in Linguistics at MIT, and culminated in an unprecedented feat of language reclamation by her people. Jessie's daughter Mae is the first Native speaker of Wampanoag in a century. **Inspiration Award, Full Frame; Moving Mountains Prize, Telluride Mountain Films**

United States of Africa 75 min. 2011

www.onf-nfb.gc.ca

Director: Yanick Letourneau

African hip hop pioneer Didier Awadi is on a quest to craft an album that pays tribute to the great black revolutionary leaders and their struggle to realize a dream, a united and independent Africa. In this epic musical and political journey, Awadi visits some 40 countries to collaborate with hip hop activist artists, including Smockey (Burkina Faso), M-1 of Dead Prez (United States) and ZuluBoy (South Africa).

Featuring a score by Ghislain Poirier, as well as Awadi's own songs, *United States of Africa* draws the viewer into one artist's profound meditation on the power of music and the impact of political engagement, both individual and collective. A hopeful and compelling film.

Vito 93 min. 2011

www.thefilmcollaborative.org

Director: Jeffrey Schwarz

On June 27, 1969, a police raid on a Greenwich Village gay bar called the Stonewall took a surprising turn when patrons decided it was time to fight back. Vito Russo, a 23-year-old film student, was among the crowd. Over the next twenty years until his death from AIDS in 1990, Vito would go on to become one of the most outspoken and inspiring activists in the LGBT community's fight for equal rights. He was a pivotal figure in several well-known organizations including ACT UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power), a guerilla activist group that created highly telegenic acts of civil disobedience. Vito also wrote "The Celluloid Closet" which explored the ways in which gays and lesbians were portrayed on film, the lessons those characters taught gay and straight audiences, and how those negative images were at the root of society's homophobia.

Sing Your Song 104 min. 2011

www.singyoursongthemovie.com

Filmmaker: Susanne Rostock

Sing Your Song surveys the life and times of singer/actor/activist Harry Belafonte. This inspirational biographical film begins with Belafonte's birth into poverty in Harlem in 1927, and his childhood years in Jamaica. Director, Susanne Rostock takes the viewer through his discovery of theater and his training as an actor, and on to his career and success as a singer. The film includes clips of his career but also reveals the compelling story is his activism for social justice.

Belafonte is a tenacious hands-on activist, who worked intimately with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., mobilized celebrities for social justice, participated in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, and took action to counter gang violence and the incarceration of youth. He continues to work in the prison rights movement. Despite his high profile, he has never been afraid to spend time in the trenches even when it involved taking enormous personal risks. **Most Popular Nonfiction Film Award, Vancouver Int'l Film Festival**

Occupy Love 88 min. 2012

Director: Velcrow Ripper

www.occupylove.com

Join acclaimed director Velcrow Ripper on a journey deep inside the global revolution of the heart that is erupting around the planet. 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 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. The film features some of the world's key visionaries on alternative systems of economics, sustainability, and empathy. **Best Canadian Feature, Planet in Focus Festival**

Bitter Seeds 87 min. 2012

www.teddybearfilms.com

Director: Micha X. Peled

In the years since the World Trade Organization forced India to open its markets to genetically modified seeds such as Monsanto's BT Cotton, farmers have been forced into untenable debt in order to buy the more expensive seeds and the fertilizers and pesticides required to make them grow. Every 30 minutes a farmer in India kills himself in despair because he can no longer provide for his family. Will Ramkrishna be next? A cotton farmer at the epicenter of the suicide crisis region, he is struggling to keep his land. Manjusha, the neighbours' daughter, is determined to overcome village traditions and become a journalist. Ramkrishna's plight becomes her first assignment. A deeply affecting, character-driven film, *Bitter Seeds* masterfully weaves a rich tapestry of compelling human stories and subplots, that allows you to enter a world that is both personal and profound. **Oxfam Global Justice Award & Winner Green Screen competition at IDFA; Jury Award, Green Festival Korea**

Shift Change; Putting Democracy to Work 70 min. 2012

www.mcnabbconnolly.ca

Directors: Mark Dworkin & Melissa Young

Shift Change tells the little known stories of employee-owned businesses that compete successfully in today's economy while providing secure, dignified jobs in democratic workplaces.

With the economic crisis, millions have been thrown out of work, and many are losing their homes. Some citizens and public officials are ready to think outside of the box, to reinvent economies in order to restore long term community stability and a more egalitarian way of life.

There is growing interest in firms that are owned and managed by their workers. Such firms tend to be more profitable and innovative, and more committed to the communities where they are based.

This film takes us to the Mondragón Cooperative Corporation that, since the 1950s, has transformed a depressed area of Spain into one of the most productive in Europe with a high standard of living and an egalitarian way of life. In various parts of the US, the film takes us to green industry cooperatives, co-op bakeries, and Equal Exchange, one of the largest roasters of fair trade coffee in the world.

Walk in Beauty; Clean Energy for a Changeable World 14 min. 2012

www.newenergyeconomy.org

Filmmaker: Doug Crawford.

The Navajo territory of "Four Corners" has often been characterized as an "energy sacrifice zone" where people from California, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico have flipped their switches in complete ignorance of the devastating consequences of their choices. The list of staggering impacts from coal-fired electricity is long, and includes cancers, heart and lung disease and rampant asthma. This is especially true among the elderly and young. Rising levels of dangerous smog also impact visibility, and negatively affect traditional ceremonies and agriculture. These impacts from coal impose unacceptable costs. Navajo communities are moving to new sources of energy including solar power that can displace coal and uranium, create new jobs and build enduring pathways out of poverty.

Maestra 33 min. 2012

www.maestrathefilm.org

Director: Catherine Murphy

In Cuba in 1961, 250,000 volunteers taught 700,000 people to read and write in one year. 100,000 of the teachers were under 18 years old. Over half were women. *Maestra* explores this story through the personal testimonies of the young women who went out to teach literacy in rural communities across the island--and found themselves deeply transformed in the process. In the midst of the literacy

campaign, Cuban exiles launched the CIA-supported Bay of Pigs invasion. Although it was discovered and thwarted by the Cuban armed forces, escaped mercenaries combed the countryside, harassing the peasants and their literacy teachers. *Maestra* is a compelling and beautifully filmed reconstruction of one of the most significant campaigns in Cuba's history. Fifty years on, the film clearly demonstrates the impact that it had on the lives of all those who took part. "The historical significance of this archive, and its lessons for the present, cannot be overstated." Howard Zinn

The End of Immigration? 52 min. 2012

www.diffusionmultimonde.com

Filmmakers: Marie Boti & Malcolm Guy

In Canada, when we think of "temporary workers", the image that comes to mind are the seasonal agricultural workers who have been working in our fields for the past 40 years, or the live-in nannies and maids from the Philippines. But these days, temporary foreign workers are found in all sectors: fast food, service stations, city bus drivers. Canada appears to be taking its cue from places like Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia that run on temporary foreign workers. The documentary uncovers a trend which is having a profound impact on the society in which we live, where there will be citizens with full rights, and "rent-a-workers" with few or none. Is this the kind of society we want to build?

Nothing Like Chocolate 67 min. 2012

www.nothinglikechocolate.com

Director: Kum-Kum Bhavnani

Narrator: Susan Sarandon

Deep in the rain forests of Grenada, anarchist chocolate-maker Mott Green operates an unusual chocolate factory that turns out delicious creations. *Nothing like Chocolate* tells the moving story of the relentless and headstrong Mott Green, founder of the Grenada Chocolate Company, as he pursues his unique vision to create the best chocolate in the world from scratch. Solar power, employee shareholding and small-scale antique equipment turn out delicious chocolate in the hamlet of Hermitage, Grenada. Finding hope in an industry entrenched in enslaved child labor, irresponsible corporate greed and tasteless, synthetic products, *Nothing like Chocolate* tells a compelling story of a positive alternative based on fairness, community, sustainability and high quality.

Pink Ribbons, Inc. 98 min. 2011

www.onf-nfb.gc.ca

Director: Léa Pool

Producer: Ravida Din,

Breast cancer has become the poster child of cause-related marketing campaigns. Countless people walk, run and shop for the cure. Each year, millions of dollars are raised in the name of breast cancer, but where does this money go and what does it actually achieve?

Pink Ribbons, Inc. is a feature documentary from the National Film Board of Canada that shows how the devastating reality of breast cancer, which marketing experts have labeled a "dream cause," has become obfuscated by a shiny, pink story of success. The film challenges the pink-themed campaign promotion of a quick-fix mentality, focusing too much on early screening and achieving a "cure" for the disease, instead of researching causes and protection from environmental contaminants.

Surviving Progress 87 min. 2012

www.onf-nfb.gc.ca

Filmmakers: Mathieu Roy and Harold Crooks

Executive Producer: Martin Scorsese

Surviving Progress is a stunning feature documentary that connects the financial collapse, growing inequity, and the Wall Street oligarchy, with future technology, sustainability and the fate of civilization. Ronald Wright, whose best-seller, *A Short History of Progress*, inspired this film, reveals how civilizations are repeatedly destroyed by “progress traps”. Alluring technologies serve immediate needs, but ransom the future. In the past, we could use up a region’s resources and move on. But if today’s global civilization collapses from over-consumption, that’s it. We have no back-up planet.

Surviving Progress brings us thinkers who have probed our primate past, our brains and our societies. Some amplify Wright’s urgent warning, while others have faith that the very progress which has put us in jeopardy is also the key to our salvation. *Surviving Progress* leaves us with a challenge; to prove that making apes smarter was not an evolutionary dead-end.

Local Festival Additions:

Awakening the Skeena **2010** **80 minutes**

Director: Andrew Eddy **Producer:** Mike Frislev, Chad Oakes, Andrew Eddy

Cinematographer Jamie Ross

<http://www.skeenawatershed.com/>

Ali Howard’s livelihood depends, to some degree, on the vitality of the Skeena River and the pristine forests along its banks, so when Big Oil moves in with designs on methane gas exploration, she decides to do something about it. Inspired by the moxy of world-renowned river swimmer Martin Strel (star of *BIG RIVER MAN*, *CIFF Doc Soup* 2009), Howard decides that the appropriate course of action is grassroots activism: she’s going to swim all 610kms of the Skeena. During her month-long adventure—from the frigid trickle at the source of the Skeena through white-water canyons and temperate rainforests to the Pacific Ocean—Ali gets by with a little help from her friends. Filmmaker Andrew Eddy captures this roadtrip of awareness, creating a film that’s not only a document of Ali’s journey, but a stunning visual argument of a rugged and beautiful wilderness worth saving.

Holistic Healing in the Okanagan

Director: Dr Hugo De Burgos.

2012

95 Minutes

This documentary film ethnographically explores medical pluralism in the Okanagan valley, and showcases a wide variety of non-biomedical healers, their beliefs, practices and the important contribution they make to our community by providing a holistic approach to health and healing.