

2018 Film Descriptions - Travelling World Community Festival

PRELIMINARY LIST: MORE FILMS WILL BE ADDED

116 Cameras 16 min. 2017

Trailer: <http://www.birdlings.com/116cameras/>

Birdling Films

Director: Davina Pardo

As the Holocaust survivor community ages, the Shoah Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies, has embarked on an ambitious new project to transform survivors into 3D digital holograms that will interact with generations to come.

116 Cameras follows Eva Schloss, a Holocaust survivor and stepsister of Anne Frank, as she tells her story. This creative project addresses the pressing question of what might happen when witnesses are no longer with us.

19 Paper Cranes 6 min. 2017

Trailer: [19 Paper Cranes](#)

L'Arche International

Director: Michael Joseph

On July 25th, 2016, a young man attacked a centre for people with disabilities in Japan, killing 19 and wounding 26. He had sent a letter to the president of the Japanese Parliament expressing his belief that people with disabilities cannot be happy and can only bring misfortune to their guardians. In this film we meet Sachiko Tanaka, a woman living with an intellectual disability and a member of L'Arche in Japan. Sachiko, whose name means "child of happiness", is making recycled paper, as she does every day. However, this time with her community, Sachiko is recycling the letter on which the murderer justified his actions. She uses the finished paper to make nineteen Origami cranes. According to Japanese tradition, the cranes' task is to carry souls to paradise. This heartwarming film is a tribute to the victims and a challenge to assumptions about people with different abilities.

Birth of a Family 79 min. 2017

Trailer: [Birth of a Family](#)

NFB

Director: Tasha Hubbard

Three sisters and a brother, adopted as infants into separate families across North America, meet together for the first time in this deeply moving documentary. Removed from their young Dene mother's care as part of Canada's infamous Sixties Scoop, Betty Ann, Esther, Rosalie and Ben were four of the 20,000 Indigenous children taken from their families between 1955 and 1985, to be either adopted into white families or to live in foster care. As the four siblings piece together their shared history, their connection deepens, bringing laughter with it, and their family begins to take shape.

Birthright: A War Story 100 min. 2017

Trailer: [Birthright: A War Story](#)

Women Make Movies

Director: Civia Tamarkin

In the US today, a radical movement has tightened its grip on state power, seeking to control whether and how women bear children. In this crusade, pregnant women are subject to state control, surveillance, and punishment. Even women who don't want an abortion face shocking risks—like the

pregnant woman in Alabama who faced criminal charges for taking half a Valium. Or like the grieving woman in Nebraska who, already devastated by a bleak diagnosis at 22 weeks, was forced to continue an unviable and dangerous pregnancy because of a new "fetal pain" law. *Birthright: A War Story* tells stories of women caught up in a frightening new legal system, which criminalizes and physically violates women, threatens lives, and challenges their constitutional protections. These stories are a warning to those who take their rights for granted.

Children of Redress 18 min. 2013

Trailer: [Children of Redress](#)

Director: Greg Masuda

In 1942 the Canadian government ordered the uprooting of 22,000 men, women and children in one of the nation's largest and cruelest dispossession and dispersals ever. A generation later, Japanese Canadians fought back – and won. Using rarely seen archival footage and interviews with members of the negotiation team including Roy Miki, Art Miki, Cassandra Kobayashi, Audrey Kobayashi, Maryka Omatsu, as well as *Obasan* author Joy Kogawa, *Children of Redress* calls on today's generation to stand up for what is right.

Denial 92 (or 52) 2016

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx4D9ZMtc7k>

McNabb /Connolly

Filmmaker: Derek Hallquist

Every day our changing climate pushes us closer to an environmental catastrophe, but the problem is easy to ignore. We often find it difficult to face change. We'd rather be in denial.

David Hallquist, CEO of a Vermont utility, has made it his mission to take on one of the US's largest contributors to this global crisis, the outdated and vulnerable electric grid. But when his filmmaker son, Derek, tries to tell his father's story, the film is soon derailed by a family secret that can no longer be denied. David is a trans-woman. With stunning access to intimate family moments and behind-the-scenes energy deals, and with unique humour in the face of overwhelming events, *Denial* manages to present insights into two important topics - one global and one personal - and at the same time to throw light on the messy business of change. **Audience Award, Yale Environmental Film Festival**

Dolores 98min. 2017

Trailer: [Dolores](#)

PBS Distribution

Director Peter Bratt

Producer: Carlos Santana

Dolores Huerta is among the most important, yet least known, activists in American history. An equal partner in co-founding the first US farm workers' union with Cesar Chavez, her enormous contributions have gone largely unrecognized. Dolores tirelessly led the fight for racial and labour justice alongside Chavez, becoming one of the most defiant feminists of the twentieth century. At 87, she continues the fight to this day. With intimate and unprecedented access to this intensely private mother of eleven, the film reveals the raw personal stakes involved in committing one's life to social change. "exuberantly inspiring... makes you want to march *and* dance." San Francisco Chronicle

Audience Award, San Francisco Film Festival; Best Documentary, Seattle Int'l Film Festival

Evolution of Organic **87 min.** **2017**

Trailer: [The Evolution of Organic](#)

www.evolutionoforganic.com

Director: Mark Kitchell

This is the story of organic agriculture, told by those who built the movement. A motley crew of back-to-the-landers reject chemical farming and set out to explore organic alternatives. It's a heartfelt journey of change – from a small band of rebels to a cultural transformation in the way we grow and eat food. Organic has now gone mainstream, split into an industry oriented toward bringing organic food to all people and a movement that has realized a vision of sustainable agriculture. The next generation of organic farmers is broadening their scope to include methods such as “no till” and carbon farming as a climate solution. Regenerative agriculture is the new frontier.

Finding Kukan **75 min.** **2015**

Trailer: [Finding Kukan](#)

New Day Films

Director: Robin Lung

In the late 1930s China is in dire straits. The country will collapse under Japan's military juggernaut if it doesn't get outside help. Chinese American firebrand Li Ling-Ai jolts Americans into action with a new medium — 16mm Kodachrome color film. She hires photojournalist Rey Scott to travel to China and capture a citizen's perspective of the war-torn country, including the massive bombing of the wartime capital Chungking (now Chongqing). Their landmark film *KUKAN* screened for President Roosevelt at the White House, was called “awesome” by the New York Times, and received one of the first Academy Awards for a feature documentary in 1942. Why have we never heard of this remarkable woman, Li Ling-Ai? And why have all copies of *KUKAN* disappeared? Filmmaker Robin Lung goes on a 7-year quest to find the answers. **Best Documentary & Special Jury Award, Hawaii Int'l Film Festival**

Footprint: Population, Consumption and Sustainability **82 Min.** **2017**

Trailer: [Footprint](#)

Women Make Movies

Director: Valentina Canavesio

Footprint takes a dizzying spin around the globe, witnessing population explosions, over-consumption, limited resources, and expert testimony about what a world straining at its limits can sustain. We spend time with indigenous health workers, activists, and the ordinary people in the Philippines, Mexico, Pakistan and Kenya. All of them challenge the idea that our world can continue to support the weight of humanity's footprint on it. *Footprint* offers unprecedented access to the people on the ground who are challenging the status quo. It is time to ask critical questions about our shared future on the planet.

The Forger **16 min.** **2016**

Trailer: [The Forger](#)

NY Times Documentary and Manual Cinema Studios

Filmmakers: Samantha Stark, Alexandra Garcia, Pamela Druckerman

It's 1944 in occupied Paris. Four friends spend their days in a narrow room atop a Left Bank apartment building. The neighbours think they're painters — a cover story to explain the chemical smell. In fact, the friends are members of a Jewish resistance cell. They're operating a clandestine laboratory to make false passports for children and families about to be deported to concentration camps. The youngest member of the group, the lab's technical director, is 18-year-old Adolfo Kaminsky. Their heroic actions helped save the lives of thousands of Jews. Kaminsky went on to forge papers for people around the world in practically every major conflict of the mid-20th century. **Audience Award for Short Documentary, Hot Docs**

Freightened: The Real Price of Shipping 52 min. 2016

Trailer: [Freightened](#)

Green Planet Films

Director: Denis Delestrac

The cargo shipping industry is a key player in world economy bringing 90% of the goods we consume in the West. Yet the functioning and regulation of this business remains largely obscure to many, and its hidden costs affect us all. Due to their size, freight ships no longer fit in traditional city harbours; they have moved out of the public's eye, behind barriers and check points. The film answers many questions: Who pulls the strings in this multi-billion dollar business? To what extent does the industry control our policy makers? How does it affect the environment above and below the water-line?

Love the Sinner 17 min. 2017

Trailer: <https://www.lovethesinnerfilm.com/>

Women Make Movies

Filmmakers: Jessica Devaney & Geeta Gandbhir

This is a personal documentary exploring the connection between Christianity and homophobia in the wake of the 2016 shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Queer filmmaker Jessica Devaney grew up deeply immersed in Evangelical Christianity in Florida. After breaking with her youth as a nationally recognized activist and leader among conservative Evangelicals, Jessica left Florida and didn't look back. She built a life that took her as far away from home as possible. Over time, her daily life became a progressive echo chamber. The mass shooting at Pulse was a wake-up call. By avoiding hard conversations with church leadership, had she missed opportunities to challenge homophobia? *Love the Sinner* probes our responsibility to face bias in our communities and push for dignity and equality for all.

Our People Will Be Healed 97 min. 2017

Trailer: [Our People Will Be Healed](#)

NFB

Director: Alanis Obomsawin

Our People Will Be Healed, Alanis Obomsawin's 50th film, reveals how a Cree community in Manitoba has been enriched through the power of education. The Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre in Norway House, north of Winnipeg, receives a level of funding that few other Indigenous institutions enjoy. Its teachers help their students to develop their abilities and their sense of pride in their culture. This positive story illustrates what is possible with proper funding and support.

Pre-Crime **88 min.** **2017**

Trailer: [Pre-Crime](#)

Rise and Shine

Directors: Monika Hiescher & Matthias Heeder

What if tomorrow's murders could be prevented today? To predict a future crime scene and to prevent a murder seems like something from a sci-fi movie. To make this possible, powerful computers and omnipresent cameras capture data from all sources, which is then evaluated and analyzed with the help of algorithms. At the same time, citizens are transformed into carriers of recorded data; our every move, message and purchase is tracked and mapped. Ratings of how likely we are to commit a crime are attached to our personae. Computers spit out lists of tomorrow's criminals. But what if it's you who ends up on this list? What if the data is wrong or biased? How can we be guilty of things we haven't done? Who is, or isn't, protected by the algorithm?

The film exposes the creators of this technology, how they work and who really benefits from their invention. We are the first generation to hand over to computers the control over our freedom for the promise of total security. *Pre-Crime* is a chilling wake-up call.

Rebels On Pointe **89 min.** **2017**

Trailer: [Rebels on Pointe](#)

Exploring universal themes of identity, dreams and family, *Rebels on Pointe* celebrates the world famous Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo. The notorious all-male, comic, drag ballet company was founded over 40 years ago in New York City on the heels of the Stonewall riots, and has a passionate cult following around the world. The film juxtaposes intimate behind-the-scenes access, rich archives and history, engaging character-driven stories, and dance performances shot in North America, Europe and Japan. *Rebels on Pointe* is a creative blend of gender-bending artistic expression, diversity, passion and purpose. A story which ultimately proves that a ballerina is not only a woman dancing—but an act of revolution in a tutu. "Laugh out loud funny!... The dancers are good company for any audience."—POV Magazine. **Best Documentary, San Luis Obispo Film Festival and Miami LGBT Film Festival**

The Right to Remain **45 min.** **2015**

Trailer: [The Right to Remain](#)

Director: Greg Masuda

The Right To Remain is a look at Vancouver's Downtown Eastside residents and their fight to save their community from development. The documentary is told from a Japanese-Canadian perspective of those who remember their own displacement and internment and are guided by solidarity with their neighbours. The film follows Tom and others who sense homelessness knocking at their doors as rents skyrocket while the city lays out its development plans for the next 30 years.

The Road Forward **101 min.** **2017**

Trailer: [The Road Forward](#)

NFB

Director: Marie Clements

The Road Forward, a musical documentary, connects a pivotal moment in Canada's civil rights history—the beginnings of Indian Nationalism in the 1930s—with the powerful momentum of First

Nations activism today. The Road Forward's stunningly shot musical sequences, performed by an ensemble of some of Canada's finest vocalists and musicians, seamlessly connect past and present with soaring vocals, blues, rock, and traditional beats. This is a rousing tribute to the fighters for First Nations rights, a soul-resounding historical experience, and a visceral call to action.

Seeking Wisdom: Students and Elders in the Sea to Sky 24 min. 2017

Trailer: <http://carswellfilm.ca/showreel/>

Copyright Squamish Nation and School District 48

Director: Ed Carswell

Students from School District 48's Aboriginal Leadership Group travel throughout the Sea to Sky to interview Elders from both the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations. The teachings empower the students for their 3rd annual 24 Hour Drum event. Elders share stories, poetry, and deep wisdom surrounding issues of language revitalization, reconciliation and forgiveness.

The Silent Land 75 min. 2017

Trailer: <http://silentland.org/en/>

In Cambodia, more and more fertile land is being taken over by large-scale farming industries while small-scale farmers are fighting to keep ownership of their land in order to maintain local food security.

Silent Land tells the story of one young farmer, Moon, who wants to continue to grow organic rice. She realizes that she has to find a middle way to survive between the large-scale companies and the precarious future of individual farmers.

Moon has no formal education; her father, a rice farmer and bicycle repair man, had no money to send her to school. Now she attends evening classes and learns about the weak legal system in Cambodia. Since she can't count on the legal system, she organizes a cooperative with other farmers in her village in order to improve their chances of resisting land grabs.

A Silent Transformation 55 min. 2017

Trailer: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/a-silent-transformation#/>

Powerline Films

Filmmakers: Simon Brothers, Luke Mistruzzi, Anton Smolski, & Mark Preston

This is a film about the transformative power of the co-operative enterprise model. The co-op movement was built by people who took on the responsibility for their collective well-being in the face of government neglect, economic exclusion and cultural discrimination. As the modern economy increasingly denies the basic amenities for a decent life to vast sectors of the population, this co-operative spirit is as critical as ever. *A Silent Transformation* explores the innovative self-help efforts of different communities across Ontario. In these communities are the seeds of economic democracy, global solidarity, and a movement to transform society.

Vancouver: No Fixed Address 75 min. 2017

Trailer: [Vancouver, No Fixed Address](#)

Shore Films

Director: Charles Wilkinson

What's going on with exploding housing costs in key cities around the world? *Vancouver: No Fixed*

Address focuses on the global housing bubble in a city often voted to be the 'Best City in the World'. But the reality on the ground is that many residents are deeply concerned about their ability to stay here. This film engages with a group of experts who explain exactly what's happening. It puts a human face on the housing crisis and the gross inequality it has left in its wake. The conclusions are pretty straightforward. But are the solutions?

Waking the Sleeping Giant 93min. 2017

Trailer: [Waking the Sleeping Giant](#)

Director: Jacob Smith, Jon Erikson, Kathryn Goldman

Consulting Producer: Velcrow Ripper

Waking the Sleeping Giant: The Making of a Political Revolution is the story of the attempt to build a 21st century progressive movement in the US. Five remarkable individuals wrestle with persistent racial injustice, growing economic inequality, and the corrupting influence of money in politics against the backdrop of an extraordinary 2016 presidential race. From the presidential campaign trail with Senator Bernie Sanders to a local race in the failing economy of rural West Virginia, from a mass sit-in on the US Capitol steps to racially-charged police commission hearings in Los Angeles, *Waking the Sleeping Giant* makes sense of this moment in American politics, probing widespread discontent during the 2016 election cycle, Donald Trump's dramatic electoral victory, and the challenges ahead for those building a re-energized progressive movement. In crisis, there is also opportunity.

Water Warriors 22 min. 2017

Trailer: [Water Warriors](#)

Storyline Inc.

Director: Michael Premo

Water Warriors is the story of a community's successful fight to protect their water from the oil and natural gas industry. In 2013, Texas-based SWN Resources arrived in New Brunswick to explore for natural (fracked) gas. The region is known for its forestry, farming and fishing industries, which are commercial as well as subsistence operations that rural communities depend on. In response, a multicultural group of unlikely warriors—including members of the Mi'kmaq Elsipogtog First Nation, French-speaking Acadians and white English-speaking families—set up a series of road blockades preventing exploration. After months of resistance, their efforts not only halted drilling, they elected a new government and won an indefinite moratorium on fracking in the province.