

The Great Dance, a hunter's story

75 min
2000

Sense Africa

Directors:

Craig Foster & Damon Foster



Numerous awards include: Delegates' Choice and Golden Panda Award Wildscreen Festival; Best of Festival International Wildlife Film Festival; Best of Festival, Telluride Mountain Film Festival; Audience Choice Award, Toronto Environmental Film and Video Festival

This remarkable film follows a group of !Xo San in the central Kalahari, focusing on the unique relationship between their lifestyle, the land and the animals they hunt. Through the eyes of the San hunters, we perceive a world invisible to outsiders. There is an unbroken link with their ancestors who have lived in the same region for over 30,000 years. The complex bond between man and animal is spiritual. "When you track an animal, you must become the animal. Tracking is like dancing, because your body is happy. When you are doing these things you are talking with God." (!Nqate Xqamxebe) Stunning cinematography.

Being San (Companion Film to The Great Dance)

15 min
2001

Sense Africa

Director: Michael Duffett

San Bushmen of the Kalahari lived a nomadic life for over 30,000 years without any concept of land ownership. As European settlers arrived, the San were forced off their traditional territories and were themselves hunted. With their traditions threatened by the encroachment of land ownership and economic pressures, the San people of the central Kalahari gather for an outdoor screening of *The Great Dance* and share in a renewed appreciation of the importance of their hunting traditions. Renewed hope and pride in being San is critical in their struggle for land claims and reclaiming their heritage.

Cosmic Africa (presented by Cosmos Studios)

72 min
2003

Aland Pictures

Filmmakers: Craig and Damon Foster



"Cosmic Africa", presented by Cosmos Studios, is an extraordinary personal odyssey of African astronomer, Thebe Medupe, who journeys into this ancient continent's astronomical past unveiling the deep connection humans have with the cosmos. As a child Thebe Medupe built his first telescope in a remote African village. Today, an astronomer, he embarks on an epic voyage where he discovers the ancient heart of the African cosmos and himself. We join Thebe on his celestial quest. A spectacular journey by multi award-winning filmmakers who brought us 'The Great Dance.' Beautiful cinematography!

My Student Loan

40 min

2003

Debt Ridden

Productions

Director: Mike Johnston



When Trent University graduate Mike Johnston graduated and found himself with a huge debt hanging over his head, he made an unusual decision: he decided to make a film about his student loan to pay off his debts. Armed with a Canada Council grant, donated videotapes and borrowed camera equipment, Johnston set out to make a documentary that looks at the absurdities of students wallowing in massive debt. "It's not just my debt; it's a societal debt," says Johnston. This gritty and sardonic documentary presents Johnston's battles with collection agencies, while commenting on the new economics of higher education. This humorous documentary about a serious issue is getting lots of attention.

One More Dead Fish

52 min

2003

InterPositive Media

Directors: Allan and Stefan Forbes

Welcome to Barrington Passage, Nova Scotia, where Tony Cunningham and five of his friends have barricaded themselves in a Federal building for 25 days. These men are handliners, the most environmentally friendly fishermen on earth. They warn that bottom trawlers are destroying the fragile ocean bottom, and throwing away 30 million tons of fish each year! Beautifully filmed, 'One More Dead Fish' is a hard-hitting expose of mismanagement, environmental destruction, and corporate domination. "A powerful portrayal of a community fighting back" filmmaker Michael Moore.

Is the Crown at war with us?

96 min

2002

National Film Board

Director: Alanis Obomsawin

Best Canadian Feature, Toronto International Film Festival

In 2000, the federal fishery officers appeared to be waging war on the Mi'kmaq lobstermen of Burnt Church, New Brunswick. Alanis Obomsawin casts her cinematic and intellectual nets into history to provide a context for the events on Miramichi Bay, building a persuasive defence of the Mi'kmaq position. This riveting film provides compelling insight into the complex relationship between Canada and its First Nations.

Totem: Return of the G'psgolox Pole

70 min
2003

National Film Board
Director: Gil Cardinal



In 1929, the Haisla people of northwestern BC returned from a fishing trip to find a 9-metre-high totem pole, known as the G'psgolox pole, severed at the base and removed from their village. The fate of the 19th century pole remained unknown to the Haisla for over sixty years. The Haisla recently discovered the pole in a Stockholm museum where it is considered state property by the Swedish government. The documentary traces the fascinating journey of the Haisla to reclaim the traditional mortuary pole. Bringing to light a powerful story of cultural rejuvenation, the film raises provocative questions about the ownership and meaning of Aboriginal objects held in museums. Cardinal skillfully layers compelling interviews, striking imagery and rare footage of master carvers as they create a replica pole for the Stockholm museum. Having honoured their end of the bargain, they await the return of the G'psgolox pole.

Crapshoot: The Gamble with Our Wastes

53 min 2003
NFB

Dir: Jeff McKay



A hazardous mix of wastes is flushed into the sewer every day.

The billions of litres of water combined with unknown quantities of chemicals, solvents, heavy metals, human waste and food -where does it all go? What are the consequences of these "trickle down" practices?

From ancient times, countries have chosen the sewer to get rid of waste yet the contaminants we flush resurface in our food chain. Does our need to dispose of waste take precedence over public safety? 'Crapshoot' examines the problem in several countries and explores some alternatives.

The Bottom Line: Privatizing the World

52 min
2002

Filmoption
International
Director: Carole
Poliquin

Water, seeds, genes, healthcare - very few things today are not considered to be saleable commodities. 'The Bottom Line' invites us to reflect on the "common good" notion which is threatened both by the decreasing role of the State and the prevailing trend to patent everything that belonged to society for generations. We travel from Canada to the US, Mexico, France, Brazil and India to explore the consequences of corporations' voracious appetite for profits. Commentary by Maude Barlow, Percy Schmeiser, Vandana Shiva, Jeremy Rifkin and others who are challenging the corporate agenda.

Street Nurse
45min
2002
McNabb & Connolly
Dir: Shelley Saywell

For years, as one of Toronto's 50 or so street nurses, Cathy Crowe has visited the habitats of the homeless, tending to their blistered feet, infected wounds and often fragile psyches. She helps find night shelter for them when temperatures reach lethally low levels. That's the silent, unseen, part of what she does. But it is her passionate advocacy on behalf of the homeless that has brought her into the spotlight in Toronto. This sensitive film introduces us to some of the people in our communities we often do not take the time to get to know. A call to action on a critical social issue.


A Child's Century of War


88 min
2001
McNabb & Connolly
Director: Shelley Saywell
Narrator: Christopher Plummer

This documentary is a journey through war from the perspective of children. It examines how modern war has increasingly victimized children. (Nine out of ten victims of war are civilians -most of them children.) Orphans of two Chechen wars, children growing up on the most dangerous street in the West Bank, and children abducted by the rebel forces in Sierra Leone tell their stories. Diaries and voices of children from the past provide an eerie parallel of history. Powerful and disturbing, this is a compelling call to take action for peace.

The Next Industrial Revolution
55 min 2001
McNabb&Connolly
Dir: Chris Bedford & Shelley Morhaim

While some environmental observers predict doomsday scenarios in which a rapidly increasing human population is forced to compete for ever scarcer natural resources, Bill McDonough sees a more exciting and hopeful future. In his vision, humanity takes nature itself as our guide reinventing technical enterprises to be as safe and ever-renewing as natural processes. Can't happen? It is already beginning to happen in surprising places -Nike, Ford Motor Company, Oberlin College and other enterprises. McDonough and his partner, chemist Michael Braungart are visionary thinkers.

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| <p>Los Trabajadores (The Workers) 48 min 2001 New Day Films Dir: Heather Courtney</p>  <p>Audience Award, SXS Film Festival, Austin Texas</p> | <p>'Los Trabajadores' illustrates the misperceptions and contradictions inherent in America's paradoxical history of both dependence on and abuse of immigrant labour. Juan from Nicaragua and Ramon from Mexico are two of the workers who take enormous risks as they leave families behind to get work in the US. "We build the buildings, we do the hardest jobs, and they still don't want us." Poignant personal stories of organizing among illegal immigrants.</p> |
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| <p>DAM/AGE: A Film with Arundhati Roy 49 min 2002 Aradhana Seth Prod. Dir: Aradhana Seth</p>  | <p>Booker Prizewinner Arundhati Roy's bold and controversial campaign against the Narmada Dam Project in India - which led to her conviction for criminal contempt in India's Supreme Court - is chronicled in this politically pointed film.</p> <p>"I suddenly realized I command the space to raise a dissenting voice," explains Roy, "and if I don't do it, it's as political as doing it. To stay quiet is as political an act as speaking out." The film traces the events that led to her imprisonment. Since 1985, a popular movement of thousands of poor rural people has grown: against the dam, against submergence, in favour of people's rights to the natural resources they depend upon to survive. See: www.narmada.org</p> |
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| <p>A Tribe of his own: The journalism of P. Sainath 50 min 2001 Moulins Media Dir: Joe Moulins</p> <p>Chris Award, 2002 Columbus Film Festival</p> | <p>When government propaganda and corporate spin are increasingly presented as fact, A Tribe of His Own reminds us what the news media can be. With a groundbreaking series of newspaper articles and a critically acclaimed book, Palagummi Sainath was the first recipient of Amnesty International's Human Rights Journalist of the Year award in 2000. We follow Sainath to the Indian villages he writes about, and explore his contention that "journalism is for people, not shareholders." Stephen Hume writes, "Mesmerizing...this film delivers powerful insights into the enduring story of human suffering and its shining corollary, imperishable hope."</p> |
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Al Jazeera, Exclusive

60 min
2003
McNabb & Connolly
Director: Ben Anthony

Founded in 1996, the Arab world's first 24 hour news station was ignored in the west until it brought the world a video of Osama Bin Laden. On assignment with the BBC, Ben Anthony gained exclusive access to make an extraordinary and exciting film following their reporters into battle at the onset of the war with Iraq, reporting the war from an Arab perspective. What happened when the Americans bombed the Al Jazeera headquarters in Baghdad killing one of their reporters? According to Al Jazeera, the Americans were well informed of the location. Was the bombing an accident or was it intentional? Some disturbing scenes

In Whose Interest?

27 min
2002
Bullfrog Films
Filmmaker: David Kaplowitz

This film questions the effects of US foreign policy over the past 50 years. Revealing a pattern of intervention, the film focuses on Guatemala, Vietnam, East Timor, El Salvador, and Palestine/Israel. Archival footage, photographs and media tidbits are dynamically interwoven with personal eye-witness accounts and commentary from academics such as Noam Chomsky, religious leaders, and politicians. 'In Whose Interest?' is informative and disturbingly honest, with twists of irony and humour.

Southern Comfort

90 min
2001
Q Ball Productions
Director: Kate Davis



Grand Jury Prize,
 Sundance Film Festival
 2001

Robert Eads, a charming, laconic cowboy, is a 52-year-old female-to male transsexual living in Georgia. Eads began life as a female, married and had two sons, before finally transitioning into the heterosexual man that he always felt he really was. In a bitter irony, however, Eads died of cervical and ovarian cancer-- (after 20 doctors refused him medical treatment) -- betrayed, as he puts it, by the last part of himself that was still female. The Southern Comfort Conference is America's pre-eminent transgendered gathering. Eads's final dream is to make it one last time. Davis follows the last year in Eads's life and introduces us to his friends and family. The film's subjects challenge endless stereotypes while forging a new culture of gender.

Breaking the Silence: Truth and Lies in the War on Terror

60 min

2003

Bullfrog Films

Filmmaker: John Pilger

Award-winning filmmaker and journalist, John Pilger investigates George W. Bush's "war on terror" and the real motives behind it. In "liberated" Afghanistan, America has its military base and pipeline access, while the people still have the warlords who are, says one woman, "in many ways worse than the Taliban." Interviews include senior Bush officials and former intelligence officers. A former senior CIA official tells Pilger that the whole issue of weapons of mass destruction was "95% charade." Filmed in Afghanistan and the US with previously unseen material acquired from Iraq.

Discovering Dominga

58 min

2002

Center for Media & Independent Learning

Director: Patricia Flynn



A housewife living in rural Iowa has been suppressing the horrible memory of when she was nine-years old, witnessing her mother's murder in the Rio Negro massacre in Guatemala. Denese travels to her homeland to become a witness in a landmark human rights case brought against the Guatemalan military. Back in the U.S., she begins speaking about her experiences before school and community groups. For Denese, honouring the truth is morally necessary, but also personally shattering. Though her husband has fully supported her journey to rediscover her identity as "Dominga," the strains begin unravelling their marriage.

The Flute Player

53 min

2003

Over the Moon Productions

Director: Jocelyn Glatzer



www.thefluteplayer.net

If the Khmer Rouge military regime hadn't taken over Cambodia in 1975, Arn Chorn-Pond probably would have followed in his family's footsteps and become an opera star. Instead at the age of 9, Arn was thrust into the darkness of the Killing Fields. While his family and culture were destroyed, Arn avoided death by playing pro-government propaganda songs on his flute, and by following orders of the Khmer Rouge. Two decades later, he travels from his home in the US to the back streets of Phnom-Penh to revive Cambodia's traditional music. This is a story of unspeakable personal suffering, perseverance, and the power of music to rebuild a shattered life. An emotional story of healing.

Winning Back Paradise

37 min
2002

Journeyman Pictures
Director: Nick
Lazaredes



The island of Diego Garcia forms part of the Chagos Archipelago. Since the mid-70s it has been home to a military base, housing B-52s and other aircraft used in the Gulf War and, most recently, in Afghanistan. Until the end of the 1960s, islanders enjoyed a relatively trouble-free existence as subjects of the British Empire. This changed when Britain negotiated a deal to sell the island to the US for a "thieves' ransom." Thousands of islanders were rounded up and displaced from their homeland. This film chronicles the islanders' fight for compensation and the right to return. Stunning expose of how certain people are considered "expendable" for military purposes.

In the Line of Fire

20 min
2003
McIntyre
Media

Journalists in conflict areas have always taken risks to bring us stories that some people would prefer to keep quiet. Journalists and filmmakers are sometimes caught in the crossfire, but now it seems that something more sinister may be going on. 'In the Line of Fire' investigates whether soldiers are deliberately firing on - and in some cases, seriously injuring - journalists covering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Silent Scream

45 min
2002
McNabb & Connolly
Directors: Dawn
Deme & Steven
Deme

Through 23 years of war, Afghanistan's women have been absent and unheard. Hidden cameras are used to give voice to the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA.) Women were granted equal rights by law in 1964 and enjoyed relative freedom during the 1970s. Following the history of Afghanistan from the Soviet invasion of 1979 to the present day, we ask why the millennium saw them back in the middle ages. Since the American bombing, the plight of women has not improved. This powerful film asks: "Does the West have the power - and the will- to help?" Some disturbing scenes.

Plan Colombia: Cashing in on the Drug War Failure

58 min

2003

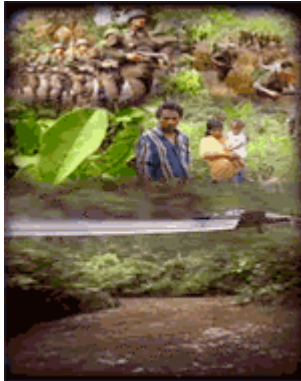
Free Will Productions

Directors:

Gerard Ungerman &

Audrey Brohy

Narrator: Ed Asner



20 years of drug-wars in the Andes have actually increased cocaine imports to the US. "Fumigation." has had more effect on the local populations than on coca leaf eradication. Could there be ulterior motives? Noam Chomsky, the late Senator Paul Wellstone, Colombian Green Party Presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, U.S. Members of Congress, U.S. State Department officials, scientists as well as many Colombians and guerilla-leaders shed light on the drug-trafficking, civil struggle and the impact of a multi-billion dollar aid package delivered to the brutal Colombian military. Oil has become a significant factor in the equation.

The Disenchanted Forest

52 min

2001

McNabb and Connolly

Director: Sarita Siegel

Narrator: Brook Shields



Merit Awards, International Wildlife Film Festival, Missoula; Honorable Mention, Columbus International Film & Video Festival

Orangutans, like humans, have "culture." The destruction of orangutan habitat and the illegal pet-trade threaten the lives of orangutans. Dr. Willie Smits, who directs the Wanariset Orangutan Reintroduction Project, and his team rescue hundreds of orangutans. Dr. Smits is committed to preserving orangutan habitat and returning captives back into Bornean rainforest homes. At Wanariset the orphans learn the vital skills they need to survive when they are later released into protected rainforest. Without mothers and more knowledgeable elders, strange 'Lord of the Flies' communities evolve in the forest. Eventually the orangutans learn to sustain themselves independently of human aid. This beautiful film makes us think about the values of culture and nature. (Appropriate for all ages.)

Simon and I

52 min

2001

Women Make Movies

Director: Bev Ditsie



Simon and I recounts the lives of two giants in the South African gay and lesbian liberation movement, Simon Nkoli a political activist and the filmmaker herself, Bev Ditsie. The story is narrated by Bev as she charts their relationship through good times and bad against a backdrop of intense political activism and the HIV/AIDS crisis. At the first Pride March in 1990, Simon made a speech that was to have an everlasting impact on Bev. She saw that her oppression was twofold, as a lesbian and as black. She and Simon became estranged as he increasingly came to represent people living with AIDS. Reconciled shortly before his death in 1998, these formidable characters bear witness to the enormous sacrifices required of human rights activism. This searing testament shows us two different, powerful personalities, but only one struggle.

My Terrorist

58 min

2002

Women Make Movies

Director: Yulie Cohen Gerstel



Jerusalem Film Festival,
Special Jury Prize, 2002

In 1978, filmmaker Yulie Cohen Gerstel was wounded in a terrorist attack by the PLO of Palestine. In a remarkable twist of faith, twenty-three years later Gerstel began questioning the causes of violence between Israelis and Palestinians and started to consider helping release the man who almost killed her, Fahad Mihi. Growing up as a staunch Israeli nationalist in Israel, Gerstel patriotically served in the military of her country. After working as a photojournalist and visiting the occupied territories along the Gaza Strip, Gerstel came to realize that both Israelis and Palestinians played a role in perpetuating the cycle of hostility and bloodshed. It became her goal to stand up as a survivor and call for reconciliation on each side. Compelling!

Pinochet's Children

60 min
2003

**German Film and
Television Academy**

Director:

Paula Rodriguez



Alejandro Goic was sixteen, Enrique Paris, twelve, and Carolina Tohá, eight years old, when General Pinochet seized power in Chile on September 11, 1973. During the coup Alejandro and Carolina lost their fathers, and all three lost their innocence and their youth. And eventually all went on to become powerful student leaders in the tumultuous eighties. With thoughtful, emotional interviews and rich archival footage, "Pinochet's Children" is a remarkable film that beautifully renders three people's course of life against the background of the socio-political developments in their homeland.

The Amasong Chorus: Singing Out

55 min
2002

Jay Rosenstein

**Director: Jay
Rosenstein**



Meet Kristina Boerger of Champaign, Illinois. Her struggles as a lesbian activist and musician led her to form the award-winning Amasong Chorus, a Lesbian/Feminist choir dedicated to the pursuit of choral excellence within an atmosphere that celebrates all forms of women's devotion to their communities. Singing beautiful arrangements of folkloric music from around the world, Amasong Chorus members explore their personal needs for expression and mutual support. This music-filled documentary has been shown to acclaim at major film festivals in Turin Italy, Sydney Australia, and San Francisco. Enjoy!

Dove Days; Journeys with Pakistan's Insan Street Theatre

47 min
2002

McNabb &

Connolly

**Director: Barrie
Kohen**

Dove Days documents the poignant exchange between Pakistan's phenomenal Insan Street Theatre troupe and Canadian high school teens. The Insan Foundation is dedicated to eliminating child rights violations. The Street Theatre troupe is comprised of former child labourers. Since Sept 11, 2001, the troupe has focussed on peace issues - even taking risks to perform in areas of Pakistan where they expected hostile audiences. Sharing the stories that motivated them to get involved in working creatively for social change, they inspire and motivate young Canadians.

Choropampa: The Price of Gold

52 min 2001

Guarango Film & Video

Dir: Ernesto Cabellos & Stephanie Boyd



In June of 2000, a truck carrying flasks of mercury, a by-product of gold mining, was descending the road from the US owned Yanacocha gold mine past several small Peruvian towns. One of the flasks leaked the poisonous substance on the road, where at least 1000 local people were exposed to it. Their suffering, and struggle to receive compensation from Minera Yanacocha, the company responsible for the mercury spill, has been captured in this film. Theirs is a remarkable story of resistance.