Documentary
Educational Resources

NEW RELEASES • SUMMER / FALL 2013

New Releases

FRAMING THE OTHER

by Ilja Kok and Willem Timmers
25 min, 2011, English and French subtitles

The elaborate body ornamentation of the Mursi women is at the center of a new wave of ethno-tourism in Southern Ethiopia. Each year, the Mursi are visited by hundreds of tourists, and posing for camera-toting westerners has become their main source of income. To make more money, the Mursi now embellish their "costumes" to appear more exotic to foreigners. *Framing the Other* intercuts the inner dialogues of two women – one Mursi and one Dutch tourist – to create an intimate and complex portrayal of a tourist encounter. In so doing, this film foregrounds the messy relationship between tourism, consumption, cultural identity, and authenticity.

Official Selection
Margaret Mead
Film Festival,
2013

A LIFE WITHOUT WORDS

by Adam Isenberg
71 min, 2013, English, Spanish, French, Catalan, Turkish, Kurdish subtitles

In rural Nicaragua, deaf young adults Dulce María and her brother Francisco have lived their entire lives without any access to language – spoken, written, or signed – until Tomasa, a deaf sign-language teacher, arrives determined to teach them their first words. *A Life Without Words* provides an intimate look at the situation for deaf individuals raised in rural outposts, where access to a sign-language community is difficult to come by. In this hauntingly beautiful film we follow the siblings as they awaken to language; their resistance is clear, but so is their marvel at their teacher and the learning process. This film avoids hard and fast answers, instead offering a quiet exploration of uncomfortable questions related to education, psychology, language, ethics, and class.

Includes subtitles for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Margaret Mead
Filmmakers Award,
Margaret Mead
Film Festival, 2012

THE ONE AND THE MANY

by Andy Lawrence
56 min, 2012, English subtitles

For the Nath Yogis of Northern India, prayer is an expression of their desire to find the One amongst the many and to return to the source of all things. According to the Naths, only a true guru can guide them through the paradoxes of human life in their search for a center where nothing must exist. This anthropological documentary film offers an in-depth look at the Tantrik, Aghori, holy seekers of Northern India who are the disciples of the great Guru Gorakh Nath. Following his journey of discovery in *The Lover and the Beloved*, Rajive McMullen goes deeper into Tantra presenting his own guru's story.

Official Selection,
Ethnocineca,
2013

Best Documentary, Montreal First Peoples Film Fest, 2012

PBS – National Broadcast, 2012

SMOKIN' FISH

by Luke Griswold-Tergis and Cory Mann
80 min, 2011, English, Spanish, French, German, and Italian subtitles

Cory Mann is a quirky Tlingit businessman hustling to make a dollar in Juneau Alaska. Hungry for smoked salmon and nostalgic for his childhood, he spends summer smoking fish at his family's traditional fish camp. The unusual story of his life and the untold history of his people are interwoven with the process of preparing traditional food and his struggles to pay his bills, keep the IRS off his back, and keep his business afloat. By turns tragic, bizarre and just plain ridiculous, *Smokin' Fish* tells the story of one man's attempts to navigate between the modern world and his traditional culture.

"without pretense... thoroughly fresh, funny, wise, and sweet."
— Alaskan Author Heather Lende

A MEDIA ARCHAEOLOGY OF BOSTON

by Jesse Shapins and Olga Touloumi
b&w and color, 120 min, 2013

Using the Boston region as a laboratory for exploring different modes of urban representation across both history and media, *A Media Archaeology of Boston* excavates the city's spaces through a montage of short films, photographs, postcards, and soundscapes. Far from a comprehensive survey, this collection aims to provoke new experiences of the city and, simultaneously, to challenge everyday perceptions of it. *A Media Archaeology of Boston* expands our understanding of the city beyond its celebrated historical landscape to encompass a multiplicity of perspectives and locales of the metropolitan area.

STORI TUMBUNA: ANCESTORS' TALES

by Paul Wolffram
89 min, 2011, English subtitles

"This is a story of the Lak people. It's also a story of how I came to know the people of the region and how my story became forever woven into their own... I was to become enmeshed in events that resulted in bloodshed and death. What's more, I was held responsible."

Official Selection, Jean Rouch Int'l Film Festival, 2011

Official Selection, Gottingen Ethnographic Film Festival, 2012

In 2001, cultural researcher, Paul Wolffram traveled to an isolated Papua New Guinea community, where he lived and worked for over two years among the Lak People. As Wolffram documented Lak oral histories and legends, he became entangled in a unique murder investigation. A collaborative film that privileges the Lak point of view, *Stori Tumbuna* engages viewers in a unique experience of Lak storytelling and provides insight into the lived experience of a world inhabited by mythical creatures.

A 2-DVD set with
68 min of extra features

Best Documentary, Audience Choice, Rhode Island Int'l Film Festival, 2011

FAMBUL TOK

by Sara Terry / Catalyst for Peace
82/52 min, 2011/2012, English subtitles

Fambul Tok explores a culture that believes true justice lies in redemption and healing for individuals – and that forgiveness is the surest path to restoring dignity and building strong communities. Victims and perpetrators of Sierra Leone's brutal civil war come together in tradition-based truth-telling and forgiveness ceremonies. By reviving the practice of *fambul tok* ("family talk"), Sierra Leoneans are building sustainable peace at the grass-roots level.

This 2-DVD set contains the original film and NEW materials, including *Fambul Tok: Forgiving Savage*, which incorporates the story of rebel commander Mohammed Savage's return to his homeland and apology for the atrocities he committed, and short pieces on mediation in African and US communities using the *fambul tok* method.

Nominee, Silver Eye Award, East Silver Doc Market, 2011

EVOLUTION OF VIOLENCE

by Fritz Ofner
77 min, 2011, English subtitles

Evolution of Violence asks how violence becomes interwoven into the fabric of a society. Profiles and interviews reveal how individual lives are shaped by ongoing atrocities. Journalists wait to report on the next murder victim, a social worker helps the relatives of women who have been killed, former rebels mourn their comrades, and a war criminal has nightmares about all the things he's done. While offering a profile of the ongoing violence in Guatelmala today, the film looks to historical events – told through the use of archival footage – from the country's colonial history and place in the global banana trade, to the roots of its 36-year civil war, to try to understand how a culture of violence is created.

Nominee, Best Documentary, Israeli Academy Awards, 2012

AMEER GOT HIS GUN

by Naomi Levari and Saar Yogev
58 min, 2011, English subtitles

Israeli citizen Ameer Abu Ria chooses to enlist in the army despite being exempt on the basis of being an Arab muslim. He is considered an enemy, a fifth column in the eyes of Israeli Jews, and a traitor of the worst kind in the eyes of Arab citizens; the kind who turns against his brothers. In this observational portrait of Ameer's first year of service, we follow as he sets out on a journey to civic and self-definition. An eternal optimist, Ameer wishes to be both a proud Arab and an enthusiastic Israeli. Through his journey, the film offers a unique exploration of how citizenship is constructed and enacted in the case of one modern nation-state.

Richard Leacock & Valerie Lalonde:

The Paris Years 1989 to 2009

A NEW 5-DVD BOX SET FEATURING 11 FILMS:

Les Oeufs à la Coque de Richard Leacock (82 min, 1991)
A Musical Adventure in Siberia (56 min, 2003)
Mambo Madness (30 min, 1995)
Gott Sei Dank (30 min, 1993)
Kren – Parking (3 min, 1992)
A Celebration of Saint Silas (30 min, 1993)
Les Vacances de Monsieur Leacock (20 min, 1992)
The Killings of Cariola (35 min, 1992)
Hooray! We're Fifty! (30 min, 1993)
A Hole in the Sea (30 min, 1994)
Au Revoir, Marie Laure (42 min, 2006)

Richard Leacock was one of the few genuine pioneers in the field of documentary filmmaking and one of its greatest innovators. Along with **D.A. Pennebaker**, **Albert** and **David Maysles**, and **Robert Drew**, he helped to create the shining interval that came to be known as cinema-verité. He made his first movie at the age of 14, and he never stopped filming until his death in 2011 at the age of 89. In Leacock's hands, the camera became an astonishingly sensitive instrument. A lot has been made of his work as the young cameraman on **Robert Flaherty**'s *Louisiana Story*, but his greatest source of inspiration was the ceaselessly changing world itself.

The films in this DVD collection were made after Leacock retired from teaching at MIT and moved to Paris, where he met his great love and creative collaborator **Valerie Lalonde**. The then-new Video8 cameras delivered them from the enormous costs of shooting on film, and with unlimited time, the energizing power of love and the new lightweight equipment allowed them a freedom to film what had always interested them most: life itself, in all its beauty, charm and poignancy. This freedom is felt in every frame of every title in this collection, which spans the final period in Leacock's creative life. — **Kent Jones**

Special Jury Award, Zanzibar Int'l Film Festival, 2011

First Prize, ETNOFilm Festival, 2012

THE CHAIRMAN AND THE LIONS

Directed by Peter Biella
46 min, 2012, English subtitles

As recently as forty years ago, most Maasai were semi-nomadic and relatively independent of the nation-state. However, political, social and economic changes in East Africa have forced many herders to adopt a sedentary lifestyle. This film introduces Frank Kaipai Ikoyo, a charismatic Ilparakuyo Maasai who, at thirty-three, is the leader of Lesoit, a Tanzanian village. This ethnography of Ikoyo's duties as village chairman reveals the logic behind the unprecedented election of one so young. Literacy and insight into the workings of the nation-state are essential for Maasai to combat the many lions, both real and figurative, that beset them: land grabbers, "bush" lawyers, unemployment, out-migration and poverty. *The Chairman and the Lions* interweaves observational vignettes of Ikoyo's activities with narrative accounts by the chairman himself.

Taiwan Int'l Ethnographic Film Festival, 2011

Menzioni Speciali, Contro-Sguardi, Italy, 2010

FUNERAL SEASON

by Matthew Lancit
87 / 60 min, 2011, English and French subtitles

Travelogue and ethnography meet in this documentary film that explores African funeral rituals and culture through the eyes of a Canadian Jew. *Funeral Season*'s director, Matthew Lancit, employs symbolism, imagination, and humor in this subjective film to turn the gazes of two different worlds upon one another. Traveling through Cameroon and into the heart of the Bamileke country, where one funeral flows into the next, Lancit documents the expressive cultural practices of funeral rituals that bind the Bamileke as an ethnic group. Throughout the film, Lancit reflects on his own ancestors and the ways in which his own culture honors its dead, and uses this unique perspective to further explore Bamileke community and culture.

The Intangible Culture Film Prize, RAI Festival, 2011

UNITY THROUGH CULTURE

by Christian Suhr and Ton Otto
59 min, 2011, English subtitles

Soanin Kilangit is determined to attract international tourism and unite the people through the revival of culture on Baluan Island in the South Pacific. He organizes the largest cultural festival ever held on the island, but some traditional leaders argue that Baluan never had culture and that culture comes from the white man and is destroying their traditions. Others, however, take the festival as a welcome opportunity to revolt against '70 years of cultural oppression' by Christianity. A struggle to define the past, present and future of Baluan culture erupts to the sound of thundering log drum rhythms.

A collection of 6 films with over 200 mins of supplemental materials

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

Produced by Charles Mann
196 min with 211 min extras, 2002-2011

The films in the Development Communications Workshop (DevCom) collection are the result of a creative collaboration between social scientists with teaching objectives and veteran filmmakers with great pride in their craft. These films were designed to enrich and support courses on international development. A central theme of all the films is poverty – its nature and varied approaches to its alleviation. Designed for use in educational enrichment, the films are supported by supplementary special features intended to provide context and content for further analysis. Each DVD includes scene selection options for the film and its special features for easy classroom use.

MALLAMALL

by Lalita Krishna
74 min, 2012, English subtitles

India is undergoing a retail revolution in which the aspiring middle class is demanding more western goods and services. Modern malls are muscling into the traditional marketplace, pushing India's economic infrastructure to the limits and threatening to put thousands of bazaar owners and small farmers out of business. Nowhere else in the world are markets so lively, with their jewel-colored saris, aromatic spices, and personalities to match. In cities like Bangalore, generations of small merchant families have survived and thrived in urban centers, but now street vendors and small businesses are pitted against savvy developers of super-stores, as foreign companies are eager to capitalize on the country's $650 billion retail industry.

Official Selection, Calgary Int'l Film Festival, 2012

The latest edition in DER's George C. Stoney Collection

THE NEWCOMERS

by George C. Stoney
black & white, 30 min, 1963

The Newcomers is a film about economically threatened Appalachian people in transition. Fresh as the day it was made in 1963, the issues of immigration, migration, and learning how to live with people who are different from one's self are as challenging and critical as ever. Filmmaker George Stoney writes, "*The Newcomers* was made for a church audience. I suspect that (they) shared my middle-class attitude towards 'hillbillies'... But, for me, being exposed to them I felt was exposing myself to people I had always held in contempt. Getting to know them changed my attitude and I hope it also did for the middle class audience... I suspect those class attitudes exist today and I hope that this film can continue to help change those attitudes."

DER DIGITAL

DER offers a variety of streaming opportunities to accommodate the needs of educational institutions and home-users.

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Institutions can purchase internal streaming rights for their Learning Management System along with a DVD purchase.

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MISSION

A 501(c)(3) non profit, DER's mission is to promote thought-provoking documentary film and media for learning about the people's and cultures of the world. DER's catalog is one of the most significant collections of anthropological film in the world today. As stewards of this important resource of our collective history, we are committed to ensuring access to our collection for both scholarly and general audiences. DER believes that film and media can engage emotions and intellect to alter preconceptions and foster tolerance across social and cultural barriers.

SCREENINGS & OUTREACH

To get in touch with us about screening one of our films, please email **orders@der.org**. Become an active member of DER's community by joining our mailing list, following our social media, and letting us know how we can better serve you.

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