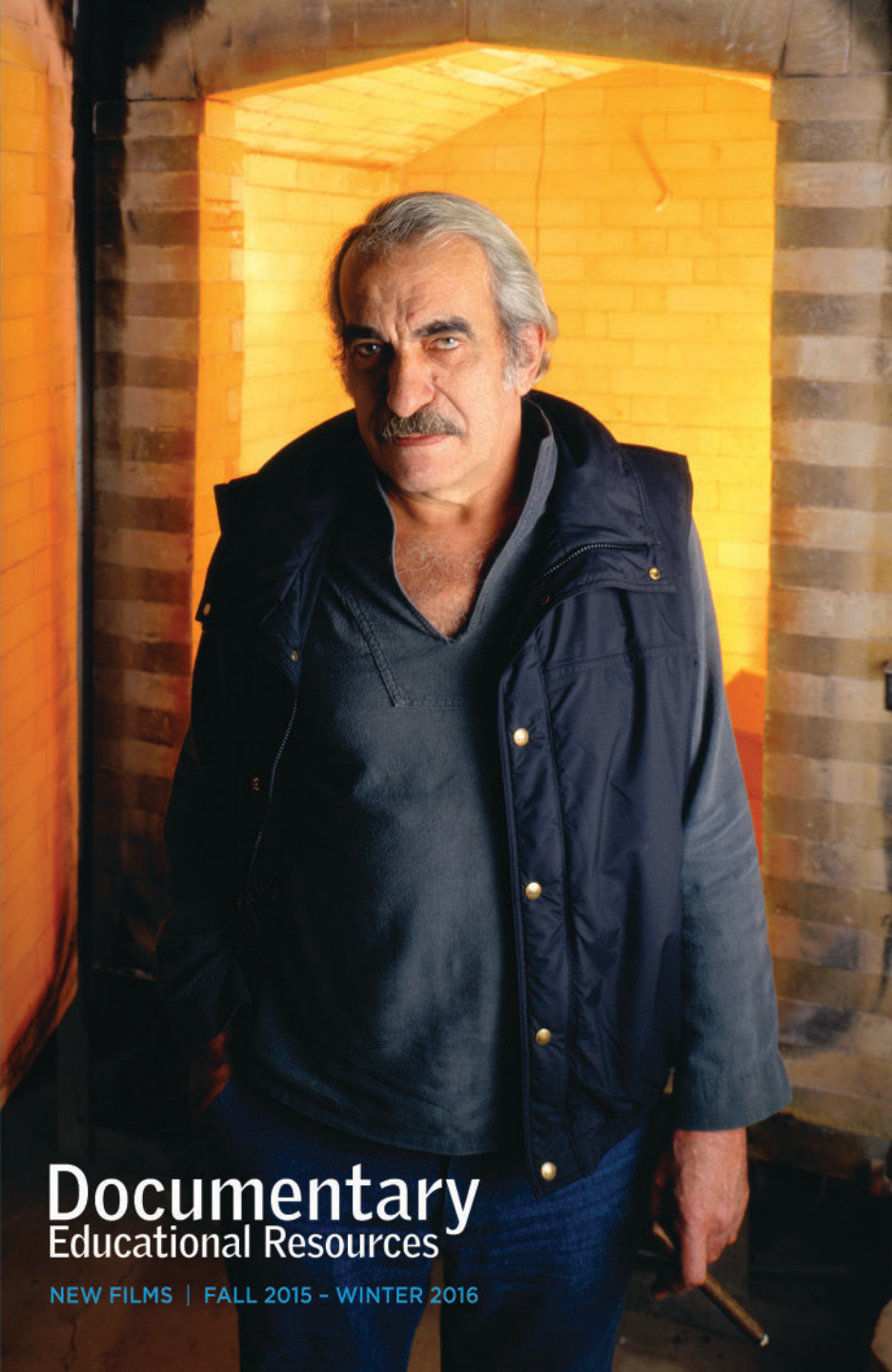


Documentary
Educational Resources

NEW FILMS | FALL 2015 – WINTER 2016

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Visions du Réel

MYSTIC MASS

Karim B Haroun
70 min, 2014

Every year, thousands of Shia gather in the town of Nabatiyyeh, Lebanon, to commemorate the death of Imam Hussein, killed in battle in 680 A.D. They take part in long processions, flagellation and self-mutilation, and reenact the martyrdom of Hussein with their own blood and flesh. With great sensitivity, MYSTIC MASS documents the emotional ceremony, and provides an engaging portrayal of how the mass is formed, how it attains its highest mystical levels, and how it dissolves - all within twenty-four hours.

GRAND JURY PRIZE
Oceania International
Documentary Film Festival

TENDER

Lynette Wallworth, produced by Kath Shelper
73 min, 2013

In Port Kembla, Australia, a feisty and resilient community group is determined to take back the responsibility that most leave to strangers — caring for their own dead. As their plans for a community-based funeral organization gather momentum, they are put to the test when one of their own is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. *Tender* reveals our uneasy relationship to death and challenges viewers to consider alternatives to the medicalized and commercialized end of life practices we take for granted.

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SVA/AAA Film
and Media Festival

DEAD BIRDS RE-ENCOUNTERED

Robert Gardner
46 min, 2013

In 1961, Robert Gardner organized an expedition to the Highlands of New Guinea to film the Dani people. He stayed for six months reflecting on the violence and death witnessed within the intense ritual warfare between rival Dani villages, and ultimately on the role of violence in human life. The end result was his seminal film, *Dead Birds*. Twenty-eight years later, Gardner returned to the Dani villages to see what had become of the people he had met there and to show them the film. *Dead Birds Re-encountered* is a captivating and reflexive epilogue, raising questions about modernization, tourism, cross-cultural relations, and the meaning of friendship.

SPOTLIGHT AWARD
Cinema Eye

ARGENTINIAN LESSON

Wojciech Staroń, produced by Małgorzata Staroń
59 min, 2011

With lush, intimate cinematography, Staroń documents his family's move from Poland to Argentina. Struggling to adapt in a foreign country, his 8-year-old son Janek befriends Marcia, a grounded 11-year-old Argentinean. In this coming-of-age story, Janek and Marcia adventure throughout the Argentinian countryside together, looking for work and discovering the world around them. Janek's eagerness and Marcia's tenacity make them two unforgettable characters that show the innocence of childhood surrounded by the realities of adulthood in this unique story of immigration.

CAMIRA JURY PRIZE
International Competition
Play-Doc, Tui, Spain

LIAHONA

Talena Sanders
69 min, 2013

Liahona is an experimental documentary examining the culture, history, and lived experience of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or the Mormon faith. The film creates a portrait of Mormonism through documentation of its cultural dominance in Utah, landmark Mormon life experiences, and Sanders' personal connection to the church. *Liahona* shifts through perspectives on the faith – from reverence to questioning – and uses found media to illuminate a religion that intrigues many, but is seen as mysterious or inaccessible. Recorded on 16mm film, *Liahona* traverses Utah, Illinois, and Missouri to piece together this portrait of a faith.

PUBLIC TELEVISION
National prime time broadcasts

BEYOND RECOGNITION

Michelle Grace Steinberg, co-produced with Robyn Bykofsky
27 min, 2013

Beyond Recognition tells the story of a Native woman and her allies as they struggle to protect her ancestors' burial places around San Francisco, ultimately establishing the first women-led urban Indigenous land trust. Over the course of the film, their journey transforms the way viewers see cities, revealing histories that have been buried by shifting urban landscapes. *Beyond Recognition* points to the intersection of human rights, women's rights, and environmental protection, spotlighting a California story that has worldwide resonance.

OFFICIAL SELECTION
RAI International Festival of Ethnographic Film

SWISS YODELLING – 30 YEARS LATER

Hugo Zemp
71 min with 21 min of extras, 2015

Thirty years after making *A Swiss Yodelling Series*, filmmaker and ethnomusicologist Hugo Zemp returned to the Muotatal, a small valley in the Swiss Pre-Alps. Zemp revisited the community to record how the traditional local yodel ("yootz"), sang at work or while socializing, had evolved. Bernhard, the 7-year old boy who had sung with his parents and sisters, is now 37. With five friends from his village, Bernhard founded a traditional yootzing group, seeking to revive casual singing with friends. This new film shows performances and often humorous conversations between the singers around topics of tradition and change.

OFFICIAL SELECTION
RAI International Festival of Ethnographic Film

COMMON ROADS

Tommi Mendel
95 min, 2013

While the label of 'pilgrim' is still mostly associated with devout persons leaving home with purely religious motives, young people taking to the road as 'backpackers' are generally perceived as adventure seeking globetrotters. Questioning these stereotypes, anthropologist and filmmaker Tommi Mendel followed two young women, one along the Way of St. James — a centuries old pilgrimage route — through France and Spain, and another backpacking through Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. Documenting their experiences and encounters over a period of three years, this film reveals parallels between what at first glance appear as two different ways of traveling.

See also the new book ***Drawn to Landscape: The Pioneering Work of J.B. Jackson***

JB JACKSON AND THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

produced by Janet Mendelsohn
103 min with 57 min of extras, 2015

This comprehensive compilation highlights the work and personality of John Brinckerhoff (J.B.) Jackson, considered by many to be the originator of landscape studies in the United States. The DVD includes ***Figure in a Landscape: A Conversation with J.B. Jackson*** (1988), ***J.B. Jackson and The Love of Everyday Places*** (1989), a portfolio of Jackson's drawings, watercolors and teaching slides, and interviews with scholars and artists on the impact of Jackson's ideas and his continued relevance today.

"The commonplace aspects of the world could teach us a great deal not only about American history and society but also about ourselves. It is a matter of learning how to see." — *J.B. Jackson*

VALLEY OF THE HEROES

Khashem Gyal
53 min, 2013

Language loss has reached a crisis point in many Tibetan communities. Elders are passing away, and fewer young Tibetans understand their native language. Chinese has become the language of business and education. Once a place where Tibetan culture thrived, now over 30% of the population of Hualong County is unable to speak any Tibetan. Through the voices of farmers, townspeople, children and elders, *Valley of the Heroes* offers a rare window into Tibet's shifting cultural landscape. This is one of the first independent documentaries produced entirely in Tibet by a Tibetan filmmaker.

( ) **OFFICIAL SELECTION**
Intimate Lens Film Festival

( ) **SPECIAL SCREENING**
MoMA

AFRICAN CHRISTIANITY RISING

James Ault
151 mins with 225 mins of extras, 2013

Christianity's unexpected explosive growth in Africa is part of a startling reversal in world history: over two-thirds of the world's Christians now live in the global South, with Africa growing the fastest. These films explore how Christianity has become increasingly popular by becoming increasingly African. In Ghana and Zimbabwe this means emphasizing healing or dancing as spiritual discipline, or addressing the multiplicity of spirits that are part of the world most Africans know. Viewers are brought into this world through the personal dramas of ordinary people, and interviews with pioneering Ghanian theologians.

4-DVD set contains over 3.5 hours of additional educational materials

YUCATEC MAYA DEAF SIGN

Hubert Smith
31 min, 1977 / 2015

In 1976, Hubert Smith set out with a group of researchers to document Yucatec Maya society within the village of Chican. This resulted in the 4-part series, *The Living Maya*. During filming, however, it was impossible to ignore the use of sign language in the village. On seeing preliminary footage, Margaret Mead remarked, "the language is fine but what is remarkable is the entire community uses it!" With this in mind, the project directors contacted sign language researchers and returned to film members of Chican's deaf community in order to share a story solely about them.

Downloadable PDF study guide available for free on our website

THE FACES OF CHANGE COLLECTION

RETRANSFERED & REAUTHORED

This revolutionary series, unprecedented in its scope and documented by some of the finest ethnographic filmmakers of our time, is now available in an updated edition through DER. These retransfered films examine four cultures selected for the diversity of their geographic location: starting with the China Coast at sea level and moving up to Afghanistan, Kenya, and finally to the mountains of Bolivia. Each location is examined through five themes: Rural Society, Education, Rural Economy, Women, and Beliefs. Study guides and supplemental materials are available for download on the DER website. The original 16mm films and outtakes are archived in the Human Studies Film Archives, Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

AFGHANISTAN SERIES

films by David Hancock, Herbert DiGioia, Louis & Nancy Dupree

AFGHAN NOMADS: THE MALDAR 21 min, 1974
AN AFGHAN VILLAGE 44 min, 1974
AFGHAN WOMEN 17 min, 1974
NAIM AND JABAR 50 min, 1974
WHEAT CYCLE 16 min, 1975

BOLIVIA SERIES

films by Hubert Smith and Neil Reichline

ANDEAN WOMEN 17 min, 1974
THE CHILDREN KNOW 33 min, 1974
MAGIC AND CATHOLICISM 34 min, 1974
POTATO PLANTERS 17 min, 1974
THE SPIRIT POSSESSION OF ALEJANDRO MAMANI 16 min, 1974
VIRACOCHA 30 min, 1974

CHINA COAST SERIES

films by George Chang, Richard Chen and Norman Miller

CHINA COAST FISHING 19 min, 1974
HOY FOK AND THE ISLAND SCHOOL 32 min, 1974
THE ISLAND FISHPOND 13 min, 1974
ISLAND IN THE CHINA SEA 32 min, 1974
THREE ISLAND WOMEN 17 min, 1974

KENYA SERIES

films by David MacDougall and James Blue

BORAN HERDSMEN 18 min, 1974
BORAN WOMEN 18 min, 1974
HARAMBEE: PULL TOGETHER 19 min, 1974
KENYA BORAN 66 min, 1974

FACES OF CHANGE

FORTY YEARS LATER

"**FACES OF CHANGE**, funded by the National Science Foundation produced by Norman Miller, was an unusual and innovative project for its time, the early 1970s... Our approach in Kenya, and the approach of Hancock and di Gioia in Afghanistan [for example], was to look for situations in the lives of our protagonists that revealed some of the fundamental social and economic forces affecting their lives. In the Kenyan context, these were the introduction of agriculture, a growing money economy, modern education, the construction of a major road through the area, and the pragmatism of the Boran, who were a predominantly pastoral people traditionally dependant on cattle, camels, and goats.

We felt that it was only by observing the interaction of these forces on the ground under specific conditions that one could gain a reasonable understanding of how they operated both historically and on a larger scale. This kind of filming, we also believed, provided an ideal way for students to learn about change, by witnessing the kinds of contradictions and difficult choices it presented for our protagonists... Looked at in retrospect, the Faces of Change project represents educational filmmaking at one of its boldest and most innovative moments. It produced a body of work of both historical importance and continuing value, for the best of these films remain as fresh, intimate, and intellectually relevant as when they were made."

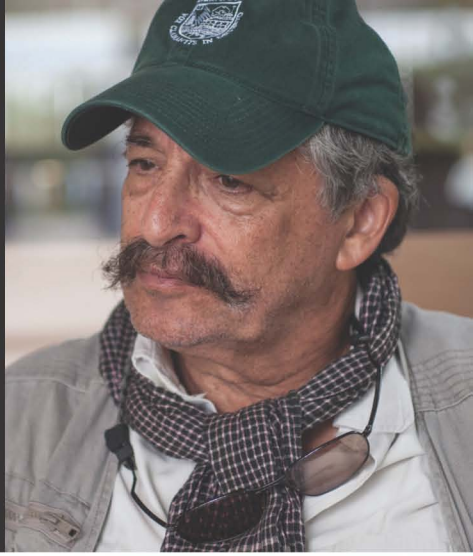
– DAVID MACDOUGALL, JULY 2015

FILMMAKER SPOTLIGHT

DAVID A. FEINGOLD

For over 30 years, anthropologist and filmmaker David A. Feingold has worked to bring important social, cultural and political issues of Southeast Asia to light. An internationally recognized expert on the opium trade and human trafficking, Feingold has led humanitarian and research initiatives on behalf of the UN, U.S. Congress, and UNESCO. His art and research go hand in hand, enacting policy change and informing international audiences.

2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge's rise to power in Cambodia, where Feingold has dedicated much of his life and work. With this in mind, we revisit Feingold's influential body of films.



LIFE AND DEATH AT PREAH VIHEAR

51 min, 2015

Shot over a five year period in Thailand and Cambodia, this film uses the conflict over the ancient temple of Preah Vihear (Khmer)/Khao Phra Viharn (Thai) to illuminate current political and cultural tensions. Rare archival footage places the present dispute in historical context, and shows the ways colonial encounters with the West impacted the concept of borders in Southeast Asia. The film contains interviews with policymakers, scholars and ordinary people on both sides of the border, and explores the political divisions that have split Thailand into "Red Shirts" and "Yellow Shirts," including the most recent Thai military coup.

"*Life and Death at Preah Vihear* is a valuable work of art, culture, and history... It delves sympathetically but carefully into the rich cultural and political histories of both Cambodia and Thailand, and their differential experiences with French colonialist frontier-making." — *Ben Kiernan, Chair, Council on Southeast Asia Studies, Yale University*

OTHER CAMBODIA FILMS BY DAVID A. FEINGOLD

WAITING FOR CAMBODIA
58 min, 1988

RETURN TO YEAR ZERO?
42 min, 1989

K'SAI CHIVIT: THREADS OF LIFE
20 min, 1994

SILENT SENTINELS, COWARD'S WAR
54 min, 1995

INSIDE THE KHMER ROUGE

45 min, 1990

Inside the Khmer Rouge takes an in-depth look at the history and post-regime status of the Khmer Rouge. The film includes a comprehensive timeline of the regime's five-year occupation, as well as interviews with soldiers from the Khmer Rouge and their opposition, the "jungle soldiers." Tactics used by the Khmer Rouge to expand their regime are investigated, as well as devices employed by their opposition to assure such atrocities never happen again. This film offers an invaluable introduction to a defining moment of Cambodian history.

TRADING WOMEN

77 min, 2003

Trading Women offers an enduring analysis of the Southeast Asian sex trade. The film takes viewers into the worlds of brothel owners, trafficked girls, voluntary sex workers, corrupt police and anxious politicians to explore the local economic, political and environmental factors shaping the trade in women. While upending misconceptions such as parents' complicity in their daughters' involvement, the film makes important links between practices such as the trade in drugs and the trade in women, and considers the impact of human trafficking on the global community.

WASHINGTON/PERU: WE AIN'T WINNING!

53 min, 1992

Washington/Peru documents the complex political relationships between the U.S. and Peru in the 1990s. While Peru's government fought the Shining Path communist guerillas, the U.S. military was attempting to eradicate coca production – the only viable economic option for peasant farmers – as part of the "War on Drugs." Shining Path guerillas protected the farmers, while using violence to gain power in urban areas. In retaliation, Peru's military committed grave human rights violations against its own people, prompting Congress to debate U.S. involvement.

SMALL TARGETS: CHILDREN AND LANDMINES IN MOZAMBIQUE

54 min, 1995

In 2015, following twenty years of clean up efforts, Mozambique was declared free of landmines. This film documents a moment of crisis in the young nation's history, when, following Independence and the end of the Cold War proxy struggle that divided the country, the land was left littered with mines. Most directly affected were the nation's children. *Small Targets* documents a moment when the country's economic and health concerns took precedence, leaving little hope for addressing this issue – one that continues to affect civilians across the globe.

WORLD PREMIERE
SXSW

SAILING A SINKING SEA

Olivia Wyatt
65 min, 2015

Sailing A Sinking Sea explores the culture of the Moken people of Myanmar and Thailand. The Moken are a nomadic seafaring community and one of the smallest ethnic groups in Asia. Spending eight months out of the year in thatch-roofed wooden boats, they are wholly reliant upon the sea, and their entire belief system revolves around water. Filmed on boats, underwater, and on 13 different islands, this film weaves a visual and aural tapestry of Moken mythologies and present-day practices.

DVD contains three films plus a gallery of selected work from 1949 to 2001

PETER VOULKOS WORKING

produced by Susan Fanshel with Ann Voulkos
73 min, 2015

Peter Voulkos is the undisputed creative force behind the American Clay Revolution that began in the 1950s and continues today. *Peter Voulkos Working* is a compilation of rare documentaries from three distinct chapters of his long career. ***Voulkos & Company*** (1972) witnesses the artist at work on a monumental bronze sculpture commissioned for the San Francisco Hall of Justice; ***Working in Clay*** (1990) intimately observes him in his Oakland studio; ***Voulkos at Archie Bray*** (1955) shows the artist as a young man, throwing on the wheel with confidence, evoking the promise of his future.

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Global Peace Film Festival

SEND IN THE CLOWNS

Sam Lee
83 min, 2014

Armed with a unique set of skills and an earnest desire to change the world, the organization Clowns Without Borders aims to relieve stress through laughter. This film explores the clowns' work in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Following the clowns for two years before and after the 2010 earthquake, the film questions their role in a place saturated by international intervention. *Send In the Clowns* begins as a film about artists with good intentions, but slowly reveals Haiti's conflicted relationship with the global aid industry.

FIRST APPEARANCE COMPETITION WINNER
IDFA Amsterdam

MY NAME IS SALT

Farida Pacha
92 / 52 min, 2013

Year after year, Sanabhai brings his family to a seasonal saline desert in Gujerat India, where they harvest what they proudly proclaim to be the world's whitest salt. For eight months, they use the same painstaking, manual harvesting techniques as generations before them. Every monsoon their salt fields are washed away, as the desert turns into sea. Though hardships loom large, the filmmaker's gaze is fixed on the poetry and ritual of Sanabhai and his family's existence.

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SVA/AAA Film
and Media Festival

TRANSNATIONAL FIESTA: 20 YEARS LATER

Wilton Martínez, co-produced with Paul H. Gelles
82 min, 2014

Transnational Fiesta: 20 Years Later offers an updated look at the Andean migrant community first documented in *Transnational Fiesta: 1992*. The film follows the Quispe-Abril family as they travel from Maryland back to Peru to celebrate the patron saint fiesta of Cabanaconde. The film highlights the persistence of Andean culture over time and space, as well as the relationship a new generation of immigrants have to their parents' homeland.

BEST DOCUMENTARY
Beaufort International
Film Festival

COTTON ROAD

Laura Kissel
110 min, 2015

Americans consume nearly twenty billion new items of clothing each year, and at least one billion of them are made in China. *Cotton Road* traces the transnational movement of cotton, from farms in South Carolina to factory cities in China. This film explores a contemporary landscape of globalized labor through human stories, providing an opportunity to reflect on the ways our consumption impacts others and drives a global economy.

MORE GREAT TITLES COMING FROM DER IN 2016

FORSAKEN FRAGMENTS
by Robert Gardner

CRYING EARTH RISE UP
by Suree Towfighnia

DRUMS OF WINTER (RE-MASTERED)
by Sarah Elder and Leonard Kamerling

BITTER HONEY
by Robert Lemelson

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EDUCATIONAL

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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 peoples 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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