Documentary
Educational Resources

FALL 2026 - WINTER 2027





UNTIL THE SUN DIES (HASTA QUE SE APAGUE EL SOL)

Jonas Brander, Catalina Flórez
88 min, 2023

Until The Sun Dies follows two Colombian community leaders pursuing justice: Albeiro Camayo, a Nasa Indigenous leader defending ancestral lands from armed groups and multinational encroachment, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Luz Marina Bernal, seeking justice for victims of extrajudicial killings by the Colombian Army, including her son. Their stories embody the enduring resistance and quest for dignity among Colombia's marginalized communities.

"This humble film reminds us that the voices of those barely heard in mainstream media are those who will pave the way into another future." — ACT Human Rights Film Festival

Best Cinematography, Achtung! Berlin, Germany
Best Documentary, Sole Luna DOC, Italy
Best Documentary, Seattle Latino Film Festival, USA

REGION
South America
Colombia

SUBJECT AREAS
Ethics and Human Rights
Indigenous Peoples
Politics and Government

LANGUAGES
Nasa
Spanish



A RECKONING IN BOSTON

James Rutenbeck, Kafi Dixon, Carl Chandler
84 min, 2021

In a tuition-free night course in their Boston neighborhood, Kafi Dixon and Carl Chandler are transformed by the lessons of history and philosophy. But is their new sense of agency strong enough to deflect the inequities of a rapidly gentrifying city, one where median household wealth is $247,000 for white families and just $8 for Black families? Hard-hitting yet deeply caring, the film reveals a stark, systemic divide.

"*A Reckoning in Boston* is a powerful film that lays bare the transformative forceof the humanities in our lives in these turbulent and troubling times." — Cornel West, Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice, Union Theological Seminary

Nationwide Broadcast on PBS's Independent Lens
Video Librarian's Best Documentaries of the Year List
Best Feature, Morehouse College Human Rights Film Fest
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival
Human Rights Watch Film Festival

REGION
North America
United States

SUBJECT AREAS
Displacement (DIDR)
Education and Schooling
Urban Life



GOODBYE, CAPTAIN (ADEUS, CAPITÃO)

Vincent Carelli, Tatiana Almeida, Ernesto de Carvalho
175 min, 2022

Prompted by the younger Gavião generation, "Captain" Krohokrenhum revisits his people's first encounter with the *kupen* (whites) and its lasting consequences, linking language erosion to the loss of land, autonomy, and collective memory. Weaving archival images with lived testimony, *Goodbye, Captain* traces an ongoing movement of oral transmission and linguistic reclamation as the foundation of Indigenous survival and self-determination.

"[This film is] an almost universal allegory about the history of capitalism and a farewell to a specific world and its people. It is also, in a way, Carelli's farewell to the history of over three decades of work encapsulated and embedded in three films, his *Martyrdom* trilogy."
— *Outskirts Film Magazine*

Mondes en Regards Prize, Jean Rouch Intl Ethno. FF
Sheffield International Documentary Festival, UK
Intl Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)

REGION
Amazonia
South America
Brazil

SUBJECT AREAS
Indigenous Peoples
Language and Culture
Postcolonial Studies

LANGUAGES
Gavião
Portuguese



HELP ME HELP YOU

Stéphanie Sassen
36 min, 2023

A group of Ju/'hoansi youths from Nyae Nyae, in Namibia's Kalahari Desert, take part in a film training project led by a foreign NGO. They turn the camera on a dynamic they know intimately: the roots of continued educational marginalization in their community, despite decades of outside attention and aid. The film reveals the complexities of good intentions-both hope and disillusionment.

"*Help Me Help You* is a compelling and thoughtful documentary that challenges conventional notions of aid and assistance. Through its intricate examination of the dynamics between helpers and those they aim to help, Stéphanie Sassen offers a critical look at the complexities of intervention and the true meaning of making a difference."
— CLIMAX Festival Internacional de Cinema Independiente

Best Documentary Short, Santa Cruz Intl FF, Argentina
Best Ethnographic Film, New York Intl Film Awards, USA

REGION
Southern Africa
Namibia

SUBJECT AREAS
Displacement (DIDR)
Fieldwork and Filmmaking
San Studies

LANGUAGES
Ju/'hoan



THE SONG OF AIDA (LA CHANSON D'AIDA)

Giovanni Principalli
90 min, 2024

Spanning twenty years, this intimate coming-of-age film follows Aida, a young Romani woman on the outskirts of Bari, Italy, as she grows from adolescence into adulthood. Over twenty years, we witness her pursuit of independence and her voice against the obstacles she faces both from her traditionally patriarchal community and an Italian society marked by strong anti-Roma sentiment.

"*The Song of Aida* is the fruit of more than twenty years of acquaintance, frequentation, presence, during which Principalli enters the dwellings of others and their lives, which are told to him. In the film, no one is excluded. Everyone can talk and then think again. So grow."
— Viva Paci, Professor in Film Theory, l'Université du Québec

Jerusalem Anthropological Film Festival, Israel
NAFA Intl Ethnographic Film Festival, Sweden
Ethnocineca Intl Doc FF, Austria

REGION
Southern Europe
Italy

SUBJECT AREAS
Ethics and Human Rights
Gender and Sexuality
Identity Studies

LANGUAGES
Italian
Romani
Romanian



RASPUTIN'S SHADOW (L'OMBRA DI RASPUTIN)

Pietro Francesco Pingitore
27 min, 2023

This short ethnographic film explores human, animal, and technological entanglements in Piacenza, Italy. Through layered soundscapes of voices, wildlife, and environments—fields, forests, the Trebbia River, and industrial outskirts—it traces care, conservation, and conflict in living with wildlife. The film invites reflection on interdependence and what it means to coexist with wolves and other forms of life.

Freiburger Filmforum, Germany
Festival Film Dokumenter, Indonesia
Korean Intl Ethnographic Film Festival (KIEFF), Korea
Animal Nature Future Film Festival (ANFFF)

REGION
Southern Europe
Italy

SUBJECT AREAS
Environment and Climate
Human-Animal Relations

LANGUAGES
Italian



Introducing DER Direct, our new streaming platform, where the **complete Documentary Educational Resources film collection** is available for educational use for the first time. A subscription opens the door to **more than 900 films** and foundational works of cultural and visual anthropology. **A must-have collection** for any library supporting the study of world cultures, societies, and the moving image.

DESIGNED WITH EDUCATORS IN MIND

- **Teach across disciplines.** The collection supports courses in anthropology, film, sociology, political science, women's and gender studies, area studies **and more**.
- **Go deeper with built-in resources.** Study guides, filmmaker interviews, and episodes of the behind-the-scenes series *Through the Lens* give instructors ready support for shaping learning objectives and discussions.
- **Screen together.** With **more than 300 short films**, the collection offers plenty of options for shared viewing in a single class session.

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- **Institutional sign-in** for managing your subscription, reviewing usage data and more
- **MARC catalog records** available for all titles

To request a free trial or inquire about licensing options, contact Alice Apley at **alice@der.org**



"What excites me about DER's new streaming platform is not simply that it makes an extraordinary collection of ethnographic films easier to access, but that it brings films, study guides, filmmaker materials, and other teaching resources into conversation with one another... In a media-saturated world, DER's platform helps us teach students not only how to watch, but how to think carefully and critically with film."
— Harjant Gill, Professor of Anthropology, Towson University



Still from *Coffee Futures* (Zeynep Devrim Gürsel, 2009)

FILM, CONVERSATION, AND COMMUNITY: YEAR ONE OF THE COMMUNITY CIRCLE

In 2026, we introduced the DER Community Circle, a membership program for lovers of nonfiction film, and celebrated its inaugural year with four curated programs, six filmmaker conversations, and a roundtable discussion.

Each quarter, up to six films are made available for viewing at home, followed by an intimate virtual conversation featuring the filmmakers behind the work, educators who teach with the film, or experts in the field.

Our programming opened with the *Flagship Program*, a sampling of the range and richness of the DER catalog. *American Belonging* followed, gathering films about families and communities across the United States whose hyphenated identities resist any single story of what it means to belong. Over the summer, *Everyday Devotions* turned to the short form, finding quiet power in daily rituals, rhythms and practices.

The year closed with a tribute to Swiss ethnomusicologist Hugo Zemp, whose groundbreaking work changed how film was used in the field of ethnomusicology, featuring a showcase of his films and a roundtable discussion.

Programming continues in January 2027. Join us and help shape the conversations and connections that come next.

Annual memberships start at just $60 USD per year.

Learn more: der.org/membership

LEARN MORE



Still from *Ciao Babylon* (Kurt Reinhard and Christoph Schreiber, 2017)

TEACHING WITH FILM: A WORKSHOP ON ETHICAL AND EFFECTIVE DOCUMENTARY PEDAGOGY

Documentary film holds tremendous promise as a learning tool, but also carries real risks. Without careful scaffolding, film can reinforce tropes, flatten cultural complexity, and misrepresent the communities it portrays.

Drawing on our **expertise in educational distribution** and our collective teaching experience, we've developed a workshop that helps educators build lesson plans grounded in **contextualization**, situating films within their broader production history; **socio-historical framing**, connecting content to relevant historical and **cultural context**; and critical discussion, equipping students to engage thoughtfully, not passively.

This is a 90-minute, practice-based, hands-on session: **a full walk-through of a complete lesson plan**, designed to leave participants ready to teach with film. We will share film clips, and two companion resources for classroom use:

1. **Study guides**, written by area specialists

2. **Through the Lens** videos, in which filmmakers offer behind-the-scenes insight into their own work

Offered both in person and virtually, every workshop can be tailored to your institution's needs, curriculum, and audience.

To book a workshop or learn more, contact us: info@der.org

CONTACT US



SEPIDEH

Berrit Madsen
91 min, 2013

"I want my thinking to be as vast and high as the sky." Sepideh, 16, lives in Fars, Iran, and dreams of studying astronomy. Since her father's death, the night sky is her solace, and her astronomy club her community. But family pressure, gender discrimination, and poverty stand in her way. Sepideh's story becomes a lens on barriers girls face worldwide.

"With Madsen, primarily a social anthropologist who flawlessly presents this young woman and her story, everything is just in perfect alignment here for a truly extraordinary film."
— Christopher Campbell, Nonfics.com

Maysles Brothers Award, Belfast Film Festival, UK
Basil Wright Film Prize, RAI Intl Film Festival, UK
IDFA, International Competition, Amsterdam
Sundance Festival, World Cinema Doc Competition
British Doc Awards, Grierson Award Competition

REGION
Middle East
Iran

SUBJECT AREAS
Education and Schooling
Gender and Sexuality
Science and Technology

LANGUAGES
Farsi



THABYAY: CREATIVE RESISTANCE IN MYANMAR

Jeanne Hallacy
62 min, 2025

What role can art play in political resistance? Set against Myanmar's 2021 military coup, *Thabyay* profiles four artists whose creative work becomes both defiance and survival under military rule. Through songs, poetry, painting, and grassroots gatherings, they fuse art with activism—sustaining morale, preserving collective memory, and envisioning a more united, democratic Myanmar that transcends ethnic divides.

"*Thabyay* is a beautifully crafted and deeply affecting film — both heartbreaking and uplifting. It provides a fresh, honest portrayal of the triumph of the human spirit even in the bleakest moments."
— Prof. Christina Fink, Director, International Development Studies MA Program, George Washington University

Ethnografilm, France
European Society for Oceanists, Switzerland
SVA Film and Media Festival (SVAFMF), USA

REGION
Southeast Asia
Myanmar

SUBJECT AREAS
Art, Craft, and Design
Ethics and Human Rights
Politics and Government

LANGUAGES
Burmese



POTS OF MILLET, FACES OF GOLD

Richard K. Wolf
81 min, 2025

Pots of Millet, Faces of Gold: Transformation draws from Richard K. Wolf's ethnomusicological research with the Kota people of South India over 35 years. The film thematizes music and the transformation of materials, bodies, and spiritual entities, moving from making pottery and musical instruments, to using these items in multiday mortuary ceremonies. The film is narrated in Kota and addresses Kotas 100 years in the future.

"Richard Wolf deftly explores the struggle of the Kotas to maintain their unique religion, language and ritual, framed by the observations and life experience of Duryodana, his long-term Kota friend and collaborator." — David MacDougall, Honorary Professor, Australian National University

India International Center, India
Kaleidoscope Centre for Alternate Education, India
RLMA Tamil Music College, India
Renmin University, Beijing, China
Inner Mongolia Normal University, China
RLMA Tamil Music College, Madurai

REGION
South Asia
India

SUBJECT AREAS
Ethnomusicology
Language and Culture
Nationalism and Territory

LANGUAGES
Kota
Tamil



FATTOUSH (شوتف)

Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins
20 min, 2024

For Palestinians, bread is sacred. In *Fattoush*, five Palestinian filmmakers follow its life cycle, from baking to the afterlives of stale loaves, across Gaza City, Ramallah, Jerusalem, and beyond. Anthropologist and director Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins asks how the careful reuse of an essential good becomes an ethical practice and a foundation for community.

Middle East Studies Association Conference
Karama Human Rights Film Festival, Jordan
New York Short Film Festival

REGION
Middle East
Palestine

SUBJECT AREAS
Foodways and Subsistence
Language and Culture

LANGUAGES
Arabic



LOST YANNINA: A TOPOGRAPHY OF JEWISH MEMORY

Nikos Chrisikakis
73 min, 2024

Lost Yannina retraces the micro-history of the Greek city of Ioannina, once the heart of Romaniote (Hellenized) Judaism, across the years before, during, and after WWII. The film turns the city's everyday spaces (houses, streets, shops, ruins) into sites of memory: "anti-heroic" landmarks mapped onto personal topographies of the city but also on maps designed with a variety of narrative materials.

"The interpretative insights that emerge from the documentary's concern with space are profound. The survivors' testimonies foreground the irreducibly plural experiences of the Holocaust, even challenging the stability of such fundamental categories of identification as 'community' and 'Jewishness.'"
— Paris Papamichos Chronakis, *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*

Thessaloniki Intl Documentary Film Festival, Greece
12th Intl Documentary Festival of Ierapetra & Awards

REGION
Mediterranean
Southern Europe
Greece

SUBJECT AREAS
Architecture
Trauma, Loss and Genocide
Displacement (DIDR)

LANGUAGES
Greek
Hebrew



EXILE NUTAUNIKUT

Zacharias Kunuk
49 min, 2009

In 1953, as a geopolitical assertion of territorial sovereignty, the Canadian government forcibly relocated nine Inuit families from Nunavik, northern Québec, 1,500 kilometres north to the inhospitable High Arctic. What happened to them? Through devastating first-person accounts, survivors recount displacement, betrayal, family separation and abuse, revealing the untold Inuit side of this chapter of Canadian history.

Produced primarily for broadcast as an advocacy tool, *Exile Nutaunikut* has continued to circulate through Inuit community television and Indigenous media platforms, including IsumaTV.

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN)
History CANADA
Uvagut TV

REGION
North America
Canada

SUBJECT AREAS
Indigenous Peoples
Politics and Government
Trauma, Loss and Genocide

LANGUAGES
Inuktitut



BALIEM VALLEY, 1961

Robert Gardner
142 min, 2021 (Filmed 1961)

Robert Gardner's Harvard Peabody Expedition to Netherlands New Guinea resulted in one of his most widely seen, discussed, and debated films, the feature-length *Dead Birds* (1964). In the final years of his life, he began editing together more than a dozen short pieces drawn from the hours of footage amassed during the expedition. Following his death, Gardner's Estate, under the direction of Adele Pressman, commissioned Olivia Wyatt to complete the editing on Gardner's pieces, and Ernst Karel to construct soundtracks using audio recordings taken by Michael Rockefeller during the expedition. Ranging in length from 2-20 minutes, with each film focusing on a specific facet of Hubula culture (from daily activities like hunting, cooking, grooming, to special ceremonies including funerals, war, and ritual dances), the sketches are beautifully composed, and stand in fascinating relation to Gardner's earlier work.

REGION
Oceania
Western New Guinea

SUBJECT AREAS
Indigenous Peoples
Fieldwork and Filmmaking

LANGUAGES
Hubula (Dani)

Anthology Film Archives, USA
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, USA
Harvard Film Archive, USA



THE SACRIFICE

Robert Lemelson
80 min, 2025

Since childhood, Ketut Sudirta has lived with severe mental illness. His turbulent adulthood has been marked by episodes of instability and violence: wandering the streets, incarceration, hospitalization, attacking his half-sister, and questioning his own existence. Filmed and narrated by a childhood friend, this longitudinal ethnographic work explores the grief, concern, and culturally informed meaning-making that surround a deeply troubled life.

LOCATION
Southeast Asia
Indonesia

SUBJECT AREAS
Family and Kinship
Medicine and Public Health
Religion and Philosophy

LANGUAGES
Balinese
Indonesian

German Intl Ethnographic Film Festival (GIEFF), Germany
14th Anthropological Film Festival, Israel

Society for Psychological Anthropology Conference, USA
Society for Study of Psychiatry and Culture, USA
AAS-in-Asia Conference (as a work-in-progress), USA

AVAILABILITY & ACCESS

EDUCATIONAL VIEWING
DER films are available to educational institutions on DER Direct (DER's own streaming platform) and on DVD. Limited offerings are available on other streaming platforms. All include limited public performance rights.

Pricing for individual titles and series are available on films.der.org.

Email sales@der.org for information about:
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SCREENINGS
DER films screen around the world at campus cinematheques, museums, art house theatres, film festivals, and non-profit events. 16mm print rentals of many of our classic titles are also available for screening. To arrange a screening, or to invite a filmmaker, use the form on our website: der.org/films/host-a-screening

HOME VIEWING
Most titles are available for purchase on DVD or for 48-hour rental on DER Direct.

PROFESSORS, TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS – WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Improving our catalog offerings for you is a priority: let us know which new films you would like more information on, which DER films you use most frequently and for which subject areas you are still looking for audiovisual material. We are happy to offer customized recommendations for your class.

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