

LABOR AND GLOBALIZATION



Someone Else's War

Directed by Lee Wang
2007, 25 minutes
Purchase: \$210 / Classroom Rental: \$125

During the Iraq War lived an invisible army made up of more than 30,000 low-wage workers from South and Southeast Asia. Working for a fraction of what American contractors earn in Iraq, these Asian workers do the dirty work on U.S. military bases—cleaning toilets, serving food and driving some of the most dangerous roads in the country.

By tracing the journey of these workers from their communities in the Philippines to the slums of Kuwait and finally onto U.S. military bases in Iraq, this film provides an intimate look into the forces of poverty and desperation that persuade workers to risk their lives for the chance at a better life.

Calcutta Calling

Directed by Andre Hormann
2007, 17 minutes
Purchase: \$140 / Classroom Rental: \$75

Business Process Outsourcing is one of the fastest growing industry in the world. This insightful documentary follows Vikeel Uppal, a young man who works in a busy calling center selling cell phones and fire extinguishers to customers in America and Great Britain.

“Recommended. In 17 minutes, *Calcutta Calling* effectively shows how business outsourcing from developed nations has changed the meaning of work, place and time for thousands of Indians.”
—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

Garbage Dreams

Directed by Mai Iskander
2009, 53 and 79 minute versions available
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom Rental: \$125

For generations, the residents of Cairo have depended on the Zaballeen or “garbage people” to collect their trash, paying them only a minimal amount for their garbage collection services. These entrepreneurial garbage workers survive by recycling the city’s waste. A multiple award-winning documentary, *Garbage Dreams* considers the social and environmental repercussions when the city suddenly decides to outsource their trade to multinational waste disposal companies.

✔ **“HIGHLY RECOMMENDED... The film may easily be used in classrooms to motivate discussions.”**
—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

★★★★ **“HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.”**—*Video Librarian*



Journey of a Red Fridge

Directed by Lucian Muntean and Natasa Stankovic
2007, 52 Minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom Rental: \$125

The journey of a young boy, hired to carry a red Co-ca-Cola fridge across the Himalayan Mountains, is an acute portrait of child labor in the developing world.

“Provides an intimate view and raises many interesting questions about child labor. The film could be used as a starting point for students to explore such questions as what are the causes of child labor? What steps have policymakers taken to try to eradicate it?”—*Asian Educational Media Service*

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Acclaimed and Award-Winning Documentaries for Labor Studies



Brothers on the Line

Directed by Sasha Reuther
2012, 80 minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125



Narrated by Martin Sheen, *Brothers on the Line* explores the extraordinary journey and legacy of the Reuther brothers—prolific labor leaders and organizers whose crusade for social justice, at the helm of the United Auto Workers union, forever transformed the auto industry and labor in this country. The film follows the brothers as they rise from shop-floor organizers in 1930s Detroit to leaders in collective bargaining, civil rights activism, and international labor solidarity.

In 1930s Detroit, a new industrial revolution came to life in the colossal factories of the Motor City. Taking a stand against oppressive working conditions, young autoworkers, Walter, Roy,

and Victor Reuther, overcame intimidation and violence to help organize sit-down strikes; the most successful occurring at the General Motors facilities in Flint, Michigan. Their bold rhetoric challenged the mighty automakers, winning unprecedented quality-of-life gains, giving a voice to the rank-and-file, and establishing the United Auto Workers as one of the most influential unions in American history.

As UAW President for nearly three decades, Walter was heralded as a visionary negotiator and leader, with his brothers as advisors on community, political, and international affairs. Together, they forged a potent coalition of Washington lawmakers, overseas dignitaries, and social activists. The union’s innovative settlement details encouraged a flourishing middle-class, while its resources supported the burgeoning civil rights movement in a common fight for a fair shake.

Spanning over forty years, and featuring an impressive roster of interviewees including autoworkers executives, historians, activists, professors and civil rights leaders, *Brothers on the Line* delivers an in- depth examination of the legacy of the visionary labor organizers.

“A concise and moving story...about the history of the U.A.W., and it needs to be told to every generation...Shows how the brothers built the U.A.W. and how that union helped raise living standards for not just one million autoworkers, but also for a large swath of America.”—*The New York Times*

“Filmmaker Reuther... has done an excellent job of providing here a concise overview of modern American labor and political history. This video is very highly recommended for adult collections concerned with U.S. and labor history.”—*Library Journal*

“Historians should find much value in *Brothers on the Line*. The caliber of interviewees is consistently first-rate.”—James I. Deutsch, Smithsonian Institution, *Journal of American History*

✔ **“Highly Recommended...remarkable work that provides insight on both the national implications of the American labor movement from its inception, and the personal details of the lives of key players.”**
—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

“Technically superb...presents the good as well as questionable aspects of the brothers’ actions...an ideal film for use in economic anthropology, culture of capitalism, and the anthropology of work courses.”
—*Anthropology Review Database*



ALA American Library Association
VRT NOTABLE VIDEO FOR ADULTS 2011

AMERICAN LABOR FORCE



ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
BEST DOCUMENTARY
Short Subject

Inocente

Directed by Andrea Nix Fine and Sean Fine
2012, 40 minutes
Optional closed captions and Spanish subtitles
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom Rental: \$125

An essential documentary that tells the moving story of a remarkable 15-year-old Latina, homeless and undocumented, but fiercely pursuing her dream of becoming an artist.

“A glowing portrait of a homeless 15-year-old illegal immigrant.”—*The New York Times*

★★★★★ **Editor’s Choice. “Inocente casts light on the plight of homeless and undocumented children in America. Highly Recommended.”**—*Video Librarian*

As Goes Janesville

Directed Brad Lichstein
2012, 88 & 54 minute version included
Closed Captioned
Purchase: \$195 / Classroom rental: \$125

As Goes Janesville delivers a powerful multi-faceted account of the struggles and hopes of union workers, business leaders and elected officials to rebuild their town’s economy following the 2008 closure of the oldest operating General Motors plant. Meanwhile, newly elected governor Scott Walker ignites a firestorm by introducing a bill to end collective bargaining, sparking a recall election.



“Highly Recommended. A provocative look at an unfolding problem with national repercussions.”—*Library Journal*

✔ **“Highly Recommended. Provides utmost balance in its exploration of such volatile issues as organized labor, union busting, and benefits for the unemployed, making an ideal foundation for debate.”**—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

“This amazingly engrossing film personalizes the struggles of the laid off workers and chronicles the economic impact on Janesville and the surrounding area.”—*Booklist*



Your Day Is My Night

Directed by Lynne Sachs
2013, 64 minutes
Purchase: \$350 / Classroom rental: \$125



Blending autobiographical monologues, intimate conversations, and staged performances, Lynne Sachs’ *Your Day Is My Night* documents the lives of Chinese immigrants sharing a “shift-bed” apartment in the heart of New York City’s Chinatown, offering a deeply felt portrait of the Asian-American immigrant experience.

“Your Day is My Night is sumptuous and exploratory, bringing us a Chinatown we have never seen before in film.”—*San Diego Asian Film Festival*

“Using beds as a metaphor for privacy, intimacy and power, the film explores intercultural and trans-historical dialogue.”—*The Washington Post*



The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworker’s Struggle

A film by Ray Telles and Rick Tejada-Flores
1996, 116 minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom Rental: \$125

This important documentary relates the story of Cesar Chavez, the charismatic founder of the United Farmworkers Union, and the movement that he inspired—one that touched the hearts of millions of Americans with the grape and lettuce boycotts, a nonviolent movement that confronted conservative politicians like Ronald Reagan and the powerful Teamsters Union.

★★★★★ **“A must for any library interested in Latino studies, labor studies, or California history.”**—*Video Librarian*

“An important contribution to American labor lore. Recommended for labor studies, political science, and public policy collections.”—*Library Journal*



A Life in Print

Directed by Michel Fraser
2008, 60 Minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom Rental: \$125

A rich historical record of Chicano art, life and culture since WWII, *A Life in Print* profiles influential artist and printmaker Xavier Viramontes, founding member of Galeria de la Raza, whose iconoclastic silkscreen poster for the United Farmworkers rallied a nation and sparked the Chicano movement in art.

ANTHROPOLOGY OF LABOR



Cousin Jules

Directed by Dominique Benicheti
1973 / 2012, 91 minutes
Purchase: \$395 / Classroom rental: \$125

A lost masterpiece, now exquisitely restored, Dominique Benicheti’s *Cousin Jules* is a beautiful, immersive documentary portrait of a blacksmith living with his wife in the French countryside. One of the earliest documentaries to be shot in CinemaScope with stereo sound, it is a record of a time and a way of life that has long ago vanished.

Recorded over a 5-year period, director Benicheti palpably captures the rhythms and rituals of the couple. As Jules stokes the forge and hammers the iron into shape with targeted blows to form the anchor plates, Félicie tends a vegetable garden, fires up the oven, puts the water on to boil, grinds coffee beans, peels potatoes, and stirs soup. Quiet, tender and revelatory, *Cousin Jules* meticulously transforms the simplicity of daily peasant life into a symphony of sound and image.

“A quiet jewel. Luminous. A tribute to life itself.”—*Wall Street Journal*

“A tender and accomplished documentary. Benicheti makes images that are as poised and attentive as are his subjects. Each new activity that he reveals offers surprises that are fraught with the passing of time and the burden of labor.”—*The New Yorker*

“Breathtakingly beautiful. An often fascinating ethnographic study of peasant survival and a pastoral life long gone.”—*Film Journal*

“A Bressonian study of hard work and the value of unadorned observation, raising labor to the level of ritual and almost mystical ceremony.”—*Boston Herald*



Skinningrove

Directed by Michael Almereyda
2013, 15 minutes
Purchase: \$95

In this intimate film—winner of the Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival—acclaimed filmmaker Michael Almereyda probes photographer Chris Killip’s memory of a small isolated fishing village, Skinningrove, in Northern England.

Killip, a renowned photographer whose work has been exhibited around the world, made several trips to Skinningrove in the 1980s to take portraits of the town and its fishing community. These are striking black & white photographs of teenagers loafing about, children on the beach and fishermen at work in their boats.

Leviathan

Directed by Lucien Castaing-Taylor & Véréna Paravel
2012, 87 minutes
Bonus materials include an exclusive short film
Purchase: \$195 / Classroom Rental: \$125

One of the most critically acclaimed films in recent years, *Leviathan* is a thrilling, immersive documentary that takes viewers deep inside the dangerous world of commercial fishing.

Set aboard a hulking fishing vessel as it navigates the treacherous waves off the New England coast—the very waters that once inspired “Moby Dick”—the film, virtually free of dialogue, captures the harsh, unforgiving world of the fishermen in starkly haunting, yet beautiful detail. Employing an arsenal of cameras that pass freely from film crew to ship crew, and swoop from below sea level to astonishing bird’s-eye views, *Leviathan* is unlike anything you have ever seen; a purely visceral, cinematic experience.

“An immersive examination of a highly mechanized process. Demands to be seen.”—*The Hollywood Reporter*

“Imbued with America’s history of economic dependence upon sea life—Leviathan embodies the frenzy, nerve, and vigor behind the effort to apprehend the world.”—*Film Comment*



Sweetgrass

Produced by Ilisa Barbash
Recorded by Lucien Castaing-Taylor
2009, 101 minutes
Purchase: \$195

Sweetgrass follows the last modern-day cowboys to lead their flocks of sheep up into Montana’s breathtaking and often dangerous Absaroka-Beartooth mountains for summer pasture. This astonishing film discovers a world of harsh beauty and arduous labor, where humans still work in rugged intimacy with nature.

“[A] wonderful documentary...a graceful and often meditation on a disappearing way of life.”—*The New York Times*

✔ **“Highly recommended.”**—*Educational Media Reviews Online*



Campesinos... We Will Inherit the Earth

Directed by Adam Pajot Gendron
2009, 52 minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom Rental: \$125

This revealing documentary profiles three children in Central America whose farming families are responsible for sustainably growing products that are everyday staples in our society.

✔ **“Highly recommended. Campesinos highlights the difficulties faced by organic, fair trade small farmers who compete in a world dominated by huge factory farms.”**—*Educational Media Reviews Online*