

ACCLAIMED AND AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES FOR

## Environmental Studies



### CITY OF TREES

Directed by Brandon Kramer

2015, 76 minutes

Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

Optional closed captions

A hit on the environmental film festival circuit, *City of Trees* is a complex tale of social justice, urban forestry and community politics. This acclaimed documentary portrays the struggles of a DC non-profit to challenge the cycle of poverty and violence in blighted urban areas by implementing an ambitious "green jobs" program that hires 150 unemployed residents to plant trees in underserved parks.

What sounds like a simple goal — putting people back to work by planting trees in a blighted neighborhood — becomes complicated by local racial tensions, a community's entrenched distrust of outsiders, and a fast-approaching deadline before the grant money runs out.

*City of Trees* profiles Steve Coleman, a grassroots environmental activist who directs the organization, and three employees, each struggling with a history of missed opportunities, as they begin to transform their lives by transforming landscapes.

**"A subtly powerful, insightful, and at times poignant social and environmental documentary."**

—Jason Kozlowski, *Labor Historian and Labor Educator, West Virginia University Institute for Labor Studies and Research*

**"An expertly crafted, intimately rendered, verite documentary. *City of Trees* reveals how necessary inclusive interpersonal work in the environmental effort must be."**

—Giovanna Chesler, *Director of Film & Video Studies Program, George Mason University*

**"Beautiful and engaging. *City of Trees* offers a great "new narrative" to counter the conventional formula of the traditional success story and explores different dimensions of social and environmental justice."** —Thomas Walker, PhD  
*Director of the Environmental Studies Program, Goucher College*

### DEEP TIME

Directed by Noah Hutton

2015, 89 minutes

Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

A kaleidoscopic study of the recent oil boom in North Dakota, *Deep Time* is an award winning documentary that focuses on the impact the fossil fuel business has on the environment and on how it affects local land-owners, state officials and the indigenous population.

As Stanley, North Dakota transforms from small-town America into one of the biggest centers of the oil boom, inhabitants face overwhelming challenges. Major spills occur almost every week, many unreported. With a significant influx of oil rig workers, the rental market



explodes as demand for affordable housing skyrockets. Tensions escalate between newcomers and locals, as well as between workers who have been in the field for many years and workers who are taking their first oil job.

**"Viewers will be fascinated and concerned."**

—*Library Journal*

**"Recommended. A worthwhile film to boost one's thoughts on fracking and drilling oil in the United States."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

★★★ **"Recommended."**

—*Video Librarian*

NEW



## SALERO

Directed by Mike Plunkett

2015, 76 minutes

Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

A rare and thorough look at the earth's largest salt flat, Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni, *Salero* is a poetic journey through the eyes of Moises Chambi Yucra, one of the last remaining salt gatherers. This secluded region is thrust into the future when Bolivia embarks on a plan to extract untapped lithium beneath the Salar and to build an infrastructure that will connect it to the modern world.

A reflective glimpse at life in one of the most remote places on earth, *Salero* explores what it means to be the last link between tradition and progress.

**"Plunkett's documentary manages to look at the stark impact of industrialization on a remote area through an often poetic lens."**

—*The Huffington Post*

## Pollution



## SONGHUA

Directed by J.P. Sniadecki

2007, 28 minutes

Purchase: **\$250** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$600**

For generations, the Songhua River in Northeastern China has served as a vital center for leisure, commerce, and most importantly, drinking water for the people of Harbin. Through a series of vignettes filmed only one year after a major chemical spill, *Songhua* is at once a tender record of interactions with the natural waterway, and a subtle, but dark consideration of the societal and environmental implications of the river's condition.

**"In his patiently involving setups and thorough documentation of a variety of these riverside tasks, Sniadecki is able to capture an at once troubling and comedic means of everyday existence, one not readily reported or relayed to outside eyes and ears."** —*Keyframe*



Academy Award Nominee  
Best Documentary, Short Subject

## THE WARRIORS OF QIUGANG

Directed by Ruby Yang

2010, 39 minutes

Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

A powerful documentary that captures the stirrings of an environmental movement in China, *The Warriors of Qiugang* brings to light the incredible efforts of a small village to shut down a chemical plant after years of environmental neglect.

**"Powerful. A visually inventive and eloquent film."**  
—*Los Angeles Times*

**"A welcome addition to an environmental studies curriculum that often leaves teachers struggling not to leave their students discouraged."**  
—*Asian Educational Media Service*



## ELEMENTAL

Directed by Gayatri Roshan & Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee  
2012, 93 and 56 minute version available

Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

Optional closed captions (56 minute version)

A powerful and unusually intimate portrait of modern environmental activism, *Elemental* captures the stories of three eco-warriors, separated by oceans, but united by their deep connection with nature and commitment to confront some of the most pressing ecological challenges of our time.

**"Elemental speaks to the importance of protecting the natural elements: water, air, earth. It's a beautifully filmed piece, even when it's showing us white clouds of pollutants billowing out of a smokestack."** —*The Washington Post*

✓ **"Highly Recommended."**  
—*Educational Media Reviews Online*



## LA LAGUNA

Directed by Aaron Schock

2016, 38 minutes

Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

An immersive, visually stunning portrait of a childhood on the margins of society by Emmy-nominated director Aaron Schock, *La Laguna* documents the remarkable journey undertaken by a Mayan adolescent as he tries to navigate the changing world around him in the endangered rainforests of southern Mexico.

**"A luminous, poignant journey."** —*Aspen FilmFest*



## Recycling



### SINGLE STREAM

Directed by Paweł Wojtasik, Toby Lee & Ernst Karel

2014, 25 minutes

Purchase: **\$250** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$600**

*Single Stream* plunges viewers into the steady flow of a materials recycling facility where hundreds of tons of refuse are sorted each day.

Filmed inside one of the largest material recycling facilities in the US, the title of this astoundingly beautiful documentary refers to the 'single stream' method of recycling, in which all types of recyclables are initially gathered together to be sorted later at a specialized facility.

A revelatory documentary from Harvard's Sensory Ethnography Lab (*Sweetgrass*, *Leviathan*, *People's Park*), *Single Stream* locates the beauty, efficiency and futurism of an industry built on our culture of excess.

**"The movement of this waste takes on a mesmeric dimension."**

—*Film Comment*

✓ **"Highly Recommended. Could provide a useful think-piece for environmental studies students or other classes in the social sciences."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*



### TERRA BLIGHT

Directed by Isaac Brown

2012, 55 minutes

Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

A fascinating, eye-opening documentary that examines America's consumption of technology and the global problem of e-waste. *Terra Blight* traces the life cycle of computers from creation to disposal, and uncovers exactly where these computers wind up. While seventy percent of America's e-waste is buried in toxic landfills, the rest is sent to developing countries.

*Terra Blight* brings us to one such landfill in Ghana, where young boys scavenge through mountains of broken computers, keyboards and laptops searching for copper and other metals.

✓ **"Highly Recommended. Must have for all programs dealing with environmental issues."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

**"Juxtaposing footage of toxic trash of old PCs with scenes of the newest machines networked in a giant video-game tournament makes for a disturbing and thought-provoking image of the environmental costs of rapid obsolescence."**

—*Video Librarian*

**"This eye-opening documentary will stir debate in classrooms."** —*School Library Journal*



### GARBAGE DREAMS

Directed by Mai Iskander

2009, 53 and 79 minute versions available

Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

For generations, Cairo has relied on the Zabelleen or "garbage people" to collect the city's trash - resulting in the world's most efficient recycling program. A multiple award-winning documentary, *Garbage Dreams* considers the environmental and social 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*



## Environmental Anthropology



### SURVIVAL PRAYER

Directed by Benjamin Greené  
2012, 70 minutes  
Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**  
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

On a remote archipelago in the Pacific Northwest, an uncommon abundance of animal and vegetable life has sustained the Haida people for countless generations. Following traditional food harvesters as they gather and prepare for the winter, *Survival Prayer* is an intimate ethnographic portrait of an indigenous community and the conditions — environmental and man-made — that threaten their way of life.

**“A dreamlike film in which elders tell ancient tales describing how nature is tied to the nurturing of body and soul.”** —EcoWatch

**“Recommended.”**

—Educational Media Reviews Online



### NOWA CUMIG: THE DRUM WILL NEVER STOP

Directed by Marie-Michele Jasmin-Belisle  
2012, 74 minutes  
Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**  
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

A candid portrait of Dennis Banks (“Nowa Cumig” in Ojibwe), co-founder of the American Indian Movement

as he embarks upon his continued historical quest for the protection and revitalization of health, culture, and environment. Filled with extensive interviews and never-before-seen archival materials including the Longest Walk of 1978, the film offers a powerful account of the legendary American Indian leader.

**“Recommended. Heart-felt and hopeful. The film could inform policy studies regarding nuclear energy and other forms of energy and land use.”**

—Educational Media Reviews Online



### MUSICWOOD

Directed by Maxine Trump  
2012, 80 minutes  
Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**  
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

For hundreds of years, the acoustic guitar has been manufactured from the same high-quality Spruce tree. Today, due to a logging practice known as clear-cutting, this tree is on the brink of disappearing, taking with it, this historic musical instrument. In this captivating documentary, owners of the top guitar makers unite with Greenpeace and travel to the largest forest in the US to meet with Native American landowners in the hope of finding a sustainable solution.

**“An unflinching look at the complex politics behind the logging of the Tongass National Forest.”** —Greenpeace

✓ **“Highly Recommended.”**

—Educational Media Reviews Online



### THE LAST DAYS OF SHISHMAREF

Directed by Jan Louter  
2008, 90 minutes  
Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**  
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

An astounding documentary on the first victims of global warming, *The Last Days of Shishmaref* travels to a small village in northwest Alaska, home to an Inupiaq Eskimo community, where homes are literally falling into the sea. The community must now weigh the difficult and expensive option of moving the entire village to the mainland.

✓ **“Highly recommended for collections with an interest in environmental issues and those with an interest in Native American studies.”**

—Educational Media Reviews Online



### WAVUMBA: THEY WHO SMELL OF FISH

Directed by Jeroen van Velzen  
2012, 80 minutes  
Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**  
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

A gorgeously filmed ethnographic portrait of an elderly Kenyan shark fisherman who has a primeval bond with the ocean and its creatures, *Wavumba: They Who Smell of Fish* delivers an enchanting depiction of Africa's storytelling tradition, where fantasy, dreams, belief and reality blend.





*In Pursuit of Silence* is available for pre-order and will ship in 2017.

## IN PURSUIT OF SILENCE

Directed by Patrick Shen

2016, 81 minutes

Purchase: **\$395**

Optional closed captions

Responding to the increase of noise pollution, a "major environmental and public health burden" according to the World Health Organization, *In Pursuit of Silence* is a meditative exploration of our relationship with silence, sound and the impact of noise on our lives. This critically acclaimed documentary takes

us on an immersive cinematic journey around the globe— from Denali National Park in Alaska to a forest outside of Tokyo, where a researcher studies the impact of silence on urban dwellers – and instantly inspires us to experience silence and celebrate the wonders of our world.

**"Engaging and thought-provoking throughout."**

—*New Scientist*

**"A gorgeously rendered meditation on the role silence plays in our mental health."**

—*MovieMaker Magazine*

**"A testament to the power of quiet places."**

—*The Herald Sun*



## THE CREEPING GARDEN

Directed by Tim Grabham & Jasper Sharp

2015, 82 minutes

Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

Optional closed captions

Featuring stunning macroscopic time-lapse footage, *The Creeping Garden* is an award winning documentary exploring the work of fringe scientists, mycologists and artists, and their relationship with the extraordinary plasmodial slime mold. The slime mold is being used to explore biological-inspired design, emergence theory, unconventional computing and robot controllers, much of which borders on the world of science fiction.

As well as exploring the slime mold in the lab, the film also travels out into the wild, hunting for the organisms in their natural habitat. This is a unique exploration into a hitherto untapped subject matter, observing and immersing the audience into the worlds of the observers and the observed.

**"A surprising investigation of perception, thought and life itself."**

—*The New York Times*

✓ **"Highly Recommended. A spectacularly beautiful, extremely well done, and highly informative film. The limited knowledge and lack of official academic interest in slime molds make this film a necessary proponent for further basic scientific study of these captivating, and as the film proves, useful organisms."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

## Agriculture



## GIMME GREEN

Directed by Isaac Brown & Eric Flagg

2007, 28 minutes

Purchase: **\$265** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$630**

A social history of one of our most recognizable national symbols — the residential lawn. Humorous and thought-provoking, *Gimme Green* considers the impact of this uniquely American obsession on the environment, our health, and our way of life.

**"An entertaining slice of Americana with an environmental edge (particularly in its comments about the potential looming water shortage), Gimme Green is recommended."**

—*Video Librarian*



## LADIES OF THE LAND

Directed by Megan Thompson

2007, 29 minutes

Purchase: **\$265** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$630**

As small farms continue to disappear at an alarming rate, a growing number of women are venturing into this tradition-bound, male-dominated industry — and revitalizing it from within. *Ladies of the Land* explores the recent emergence of the woman farmer and its connection to the boom in organic agriculture.

**"Recommended."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*



## Urbanism & Architecture

### RECONVERSÃO

Directed by Thom Andersen

2012, 67 minutes

Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

A master of the essay film, Thom Andersen (*Los Angeles Plays Itself*, *Red Hollywood*) surveys the work of Portuguese architect Eduardo Souto de Moura, winner of his profession's highest honor, the Pritzker Prize, whose astonishing, often-controversial projects embrace decay, local history, and nature. Andersen masterfully brings forward what makes Souto de Moura an original: the incorporation of the passing of time into architectural designs, positing them within a history



fraught with class struggle and societal changes, in a continuum with ruins from which they may originate, and to which they will return and with nature which they frame, and by which they are framed.

✓ **"Highly Recommended. A wonderful examination of Souto de Moura's work. A comprehensive introduction to the architect's work."**

—Educational Media Reviews Online

### BUILDING THE GHERKIN

Directed by Mirjam von Arx

2005, 52 minutes

Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

Can a single building impact the career of an architect, the image of a global company and the future

of a major city? *Building the Gherkin* chronicles the design, planning and construction of the controversial Swiss Re building in London, an 'ecological skyscraper' designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster.

**"A superb documentary!"**

—*The Times (UK)*

**"Recommended."**

—Educational Media Reviews Online



## Activism



### F\*CK FOR FOREST

Directed by Michał Marczak

2012, 85 minutes

Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

A compelling, thought-provoking documentary, *F\*ck for Forest* explores a unique form of modern environmental activism where sexual liberation merges with global altruism. This critically acclaimed film follows several members of the eponymous organization as they raise money for struggling indigenous tribes in the Amazon by using the internet to distribute home-made erotic films.

**"A fascinating, timely film."** —*Time Out London*

**"A look at the objectives of altruism and aid."**

—*Newsweek*



### BULLSHIT

Directed by Peâ Holmquist & Suzanne Khardalian

2005, 73 minutes

Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

An insightful, eye-opening portrait of the tireless and fearless activist and nuclear physicist Vandana Shiva. *Bullshit* follows Shiva for a period of two years as she battles with the multinational proponents of globalization, including infamously influential corporations like Coca-Cola and Monsanto.

## Order Information

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