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

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 landowners, 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.

“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
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

THE WARRIORS OF QIUGANG
Directed by Ruby Yang
2010, 39 minutes
Purchase: $310 | Classroom rental: $125
DVD+Digital Site License: $720

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

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

NEW

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 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

“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

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**SINGLE STREAM**

Directed by Pawel 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

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**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

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**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 Zabaleen 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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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
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

GI,MME 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

In Pursuit of Silence is available for pre-order and will ship in 2017.
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, by which they are framed.

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.

“Highly Recommended. A wonderful examination of Souto de Mouro’s work. A comprehensive introduction to the architect’s work.”
—Educational Media Reviews Online

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

“Recommended.”
—Educational Media Reviews Online

BULLSHIT
Directed by Peå 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.

“Highly Recommended. A wonderful examination of Souto de Mouro’s work. A comprehensive introduction to the architect’s work.”
—Educational Media Reviews Online