

ACCLAIMED AND AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES FOR

Political Science

91%: A FILM ABOUT GUNS IN AMERICA

Directed by John Richie

2016, 71 minutes

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

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

Optional closed captions

The debate for gun control has become one of the most contentious issues in recent times. In the wake of the Sandy Hook massacre, a poll revealed that 91% of Americans support comprehensive background checks that could prevent thousands of similar gun violence tragedies nationwide. In this timely documentary, survivors of gun violence tragedies tell their heartbreaking tales of loss, pain, and a heroic search for hope. Throughout these otherwise unrelated shootings, we find a common thread – the gunmen had effortless access to the virtually untraceable, high-powered weaponry used in their attacks.

Moving beyond perplexing gun control politics and avoiding any discussion about the often-unpredictable motivations of rampage killers, *91%* demonstrates that Americans almost unanimously support both 2nd amendment rights and common sense regulation.



The film finds a shared language between citizens on both sides of the issue, encouraging them to move common sense policy forward by speaking up in a conversation typically dominated by firearm lobbyists and manufacturers.

By highlighting the impact of unregulated gun sales on schools, families, and communities across the country, *91%: A Film about Guns in America* addresses the problems accompanying gun violence in America and possible solutions.



LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Directed by Thomas G. Miller

2014, 74 minutes

Purchase: **\$395** | Classroom rental: **\$125**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$890**

Decades before the Defense of Marriage Act and Proposition 8, one gay couple fell in love and took on the US government to fight for marriage and immigration equality. *Limited Partnership* tells the poignant story of Filipino-American Richard Adams and his Australian husband, Tony Sullivan, who in 1975, became one of the first same-sex couples to be legally married in the world. This award-winning documentary recounts their 40-year struggle to stay together, and parallels the history of the LGBT marriage and immigration equality movements.

Immediately after getting married in Colorado in 1975, Richard filed for a green card for Tony based on their marriage. Richard received a denial letter from the

Immigration and Naturalization Service stating, "You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots." Outraged at the tone, tenor and politics of this letter and to prevent Tony's impending deportation, the couple sued the U.S. government. This became the first federal lawsuit in U.S. history seeking equal treatment for a same-sex marriage.

"The documentary serves as a relevant LGBT-rights history lesson and is equally a poignant love story. Adams and Sullivan come across as unsung civil-rights pioneers and inspiring examples of enduring love." —*San Francisco Examiner*

"The film constantly educates its audience and offers perspective on the wider history of the fight for equality by LGBT community and same-sex bi-national couples."

—*The Independent Film Quarterly*

 **"Highly Recommended. The film is poignant, deeply moving and beautifully narrated."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

Women in Politics



ALL ABOUT ANN: GOVERNOR RICHARDS OF THE LONE STAR STATE

Directed by Keith Patterson and Phillip Schopper
2014, 82 minutes
Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

Feisty, fiery, a force of nature, and funny as hell. These are a few of the terms used to describe Ann Richards, one of the most charismatic American political figures of the last 30 years. This compelling portrait tells her remarkable story, from the young girl who grew up poor in rural Texas to the beloved national icon and Democratic leader who rose to power in a conservative stronghold.

Governor Richards was the first woman to be elected to the Texas's highest office. She emerged on the national stage as Texas state treasurer delivering a blistering keynote speech at the 1988 Democratic National Convention. As state treasurer, she computerized public finances and set revenue records. As governor, she diversified state government, used her experience with recovery from alcoholism to inaugurate drug-rehab programs in prisons and wrangled with big insurance.

All About Ann tells the story of an incredibly powerful female figure, inspiring then, and now.

✓ **"Highly Recommended. A subtle editorial on the state of women in politics in the U.S. This superb work focuses on themes and devices used in her political campaigns, demonstrating how she promoted her platform, disarmed her political opponents, and recruited support, all while dealing with health issues and media questions about alleged drug abuse."**

—Educational Media Reviews Online

"This funny and compelling film is recommended to all viewers interested in American politics."

—Library Journal

"Richards's easy humor and obvious zest for politics will keep most students engaged."

—School Library Journal



RADICAL GRACE

Directed by Rebecca Parrish
2015, 86 minutes
Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**
Optional closed captions

A riveting example of feminist disobedience, *Radical Grace* follows three extraordinary American Catholic nuns—including Sister Simone Campbell who plays a pivotal role in the organization of the Nuns on the Bus—who faithfully honor their vow of obedience to God, even when it means angering the Church hierarchy. As modern-day feminist nuns, Simone Campbell, Jean Hughes and Chris Schenk lead very different lives—yet they are united by the common bonds of fierce devotion to their faith and commitment to the Catholic social teachings of justice, equality and freedom from poverty and oppression. In April 2012, the Vatican formally censures the American nuns, criticizing them for spending too much time on social justice issues like poverty and not enough time opposing abortion and gay marriage.

The nuns refuse to back down. From their cross-country Nuns on the Bus tour, to serving those on the margins, to a continued struggle for Catholic women's religious equality, these sisters are transforming American politics—and the Church itself.

✓ **"Highly Recommended. Utilizing footage from major news outlets to frame the issues, Parrish follows the sisters through a tumultuous time."**

—Educational Media Reviews Online

★ **"Inspiring viewing."** —Booklist

FRONTRUNNER: THE WOMAN WHO SURPRISED THE WORLD

Directed by Virginia Williams
2008, 90 minutes
Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**



SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY

Directed by Mary Dore
2014, 92 minutes
Purchase: **\$395** | Classroom rental: **\$125**
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$890**

An essential documentary about the birth of the women's liberation movement, *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* tells the story of one of the most important social movements of the 20th century.

"An urgent, illuminating dive into the headwaters of second-wave feminism. *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* is the best filmed account of how that happened you could ever expect to see."

—Village Voice

"An enticing blend of historical clips and interviews. There's a warm, wise, passionate glow to a great political success story."

—The New Yorker

"A feminist film masterpiece. Offers an inspiring account of the women's liberation movement of the late 1960s." —Ms Magazine

"Excellent research and broad scope, examining the people, the politics, the media, and the society of the times and these women's shocking struggles. Recommended to all generations of women, and men, to remind us of what these courageous pioneers faced and the dangers of taking things for granted and letting progress erode." —Library Journal

"This is the best film yet about the women's movement, and it will be invaluable as a teaching resource." —The American Historian

The heroic story of the first woman to run for President of Afghanistan. *Frontrunner* introduces us to Dr. Massouda Jalal, a mother of three children, whose campaign inspired thousands of women across the country to participate in the democratic process.

"Recommended. *Frontrunner* offers a fine portrait of one committed woman, while also reminding us that while the road to democracy may be worth traveling, it invariably features numerous potholes and speed bumps." —Video Librarian

Local Government & Urban Renewal

Activism



CITY OF TREES

Directed by Brandon Kramer
2015, 76 minutes
Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**
Optional closed captions

A complex tale of social justice, urban forestry and community politics, *City of Trees* 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.

"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

"A terrific labor film. It uses an environmental program as a prism into the interconnected intricacies of work, race, class, urban space, male breadwinner gender roles and community politics." —Jason Kozlowski, Labor Historian and Labor Educator West Virginia University Institute for Labor Studies and Research

THE HILL

Directed by Lisa Molomot
2013, 60 minutes
Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

Clinging to the last affordable housing in a rapidly gentrifying city, a determined group of neighbors come together when the city claims eminent domain over their land in order to build a new school. An absorbing look at the complex issues surrounding urban planning, gentrification and economic renewal.

★★★ **"Telling a timely human story about the potential downsides of urban planning, this is recommended."** —Video Librarian

✓ **"Highly Recommended. Immediately draws the audience into the controversial issues surrounding the political practices of urban renewal, socio-economical inequalities, and the ugly outcome of poor planning triggered by city leaders."** —Educational Media Reviews Online

"An inspiring example of what community action can accomplish... this film illustrates how it's possible for even the common man to have his say and to fight back." —Library Journal



ZIPPER: CONEY ISLAND'S LAST WILD RIDE

Directed by Amy Nicholson
2012, 77 minutes
Purchase: **\$310** | Classroom rental: **\$125**
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$720**

A documentary about greed, politics, urban development and renewal, the award-winning *Zipper: Coney*

THE ABORTION HOTLINE

Directed by Fernando López Escrivá
2016, 57 minutes
Purchase: **\$350** | Classroom rental: **\$125**
DVD+Digital Site License: **\$800**

Chile is one of six countries in the world where abortion is prohibited under any circumstance, even in cases of rape or risk to the life of the mother. Despite this prohibition, each year, several tens of thousands of Chilean women have illegal abortions conducted in secrecy. This chilling documentary chronicles the Lesbians and Feminists for the Right to Information, a female collective which bypasses strict laws by giving desperate callers information about using misoprostol, a drug usually used to treat ulcers, that can also induce abortion.



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 distributing homemade erotic films on the internet.

Island's Last Wild Ride is an absorbing chronicle of the efforts to redevelop an iconic American landmark, Coney Island.

"Interviews with government officials, local residents, and those with businesses in Coney Island provide first-hand accounts of changes in the area and its short and long-term impacts." —Anthropology Review Database

"An excellent document of how wrenching change can be." —Architectural Record

Politics and Labor

Immigration Reform



NEW

RAISING BERTIE

Directed by Margaret Byrne

2016, 102 minutes

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

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

Optional closed captions

Another harrowing release from the acclaimed documentary powerhouse Kartemquin Films, *Raising Bertie* is an authentic and tender portrait of the lives of three young boys as they face a precarious coming of age within Bertie County, a rural African-American community in North Carolina. Recorded over six years, the film shows the process of growing up in a place afflicted by generations of economic and educational segregation.

Raising Bertie explores the boys' perspectives and provides an in-depth look at issues facing rural America's youth and at what happens in the everyday lives of young people caught in the complex interplay of lasting poverty, economic isolation, and educational inequity.

"A curiously intimate look at what life is like for young black men in an impoverished rural community where opportunities are scarce and potential pitfalls are everywhere."

—*The News & Observer*

"The documentary brilliantly weaves the young men's stories together, as they transition from their teens into manhood, engaged in a shared struggle for social and economic survival."

—*The Huffington Post*

BROTHERS ON THE LINE

Directed by Sasha Reuther

2012, 80 minutes

Purchase: **\$195** | Classroom rental: **\$85**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$490**

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.

"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*

"A concise overview of modern American labor and political history through the lives of the Reuther brothers. This video is very highly recommended for adult collections concerned with U.S. and labor history."

—*Library Journal*

✓ **"Highly Recommended."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*



AS GOES JANESVILLE

Directed by Brad Lichtenstein

2012, 88 & 52 minute versions available

Purchase: **\$195** | Classroom rental: **\$95**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$490**

Optional closed captions

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 lives and 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.

"An up-close view of one of the meanest and most dramatic chapters in recent American politics. A political thriller!" —*The New York Times*



INOCENTE

Directed by Andrea Nix Fine and Sean Fine

2012, 40 minutes

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

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

Optional closed captions and Spanish subtitles

2013 VRT NOTABLE
VIDEO FOR ADULTS

ALA American
Library
Association

2013 Academy Winner
Best Documentary, Short Subject

The moving and inspiring story of a remarkable 15-year-old girl, homeless and undocumented who is fiercely pursuing her dream of becoming an artist. An essential documentary that confronts issues of teen homelessness, immigration and the importance of arts education in this country.

"This poignant film gives face to homeless children and should prompt discussions about immigration reform, homelessness, and arts education." —*Booklist*

THE NEW AMERICANS

Executive Produced by Steve James and Gordon Quinn

2004, 411 minutes (2-Disc Set)

Purchase: **\$495** | Classroom Rental: **\$195**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$1,090**

A landmark seven-hour documentary series from Kartemquin Films, *The New Americans* follows the lives of a diverse group of contemporary immigrants — from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, India, Nigeria and Palestine — to offer a kaleidoscopic picture of immigrant life in the U.S.

"In the post-9/11 era, when many immigrants are looked upon with distrust, *The New Americans* offers a fresh perspective. A powerful and deeply personal documentary." —*The Boston Globe*

✓ **"Highly Recommended. Brings the immigration experience to a remarkably personal and enthralling level."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

The Arab Spring & Its Aftermath

NEW



50 FEET FROM SYRIA

Directed by Skye Fitzgerald

2015, 39 minutes

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

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

Optional closed captions

A gripping and timely snapshot that provides a glimpse into the plight of Syrian refugees, *50 Feet from Syria* uncovers the humanitarian efforts of a Syrian-American orthopedic surgeon who travels to the Turkish border to volunteer to operate on victims of the civil war. With a suitcase full of donated stainless-steel bone

implants, Syrian-American surgeon Hisham Bismar arrives at a Turkish hospital on the Syrian border, ready for anything.

What he finds is horror, chaos, and an ocean of refugees in need of medical care: Colleagues who perform operations without anesthesia, stories of Syrian government snipers targeting children and pregnant women, and images of 55 gallon barrels filled with shrapnel and TNT dropped deliberately on civilians.

"A fine and inspiring film. A direct experience of the lives of people displaced—and often enough physically dismembered—by Middle Eastern war."

—*Anthropology Review Database*



ROUGE PAROLE

Directed by Elyes Baccar

2011, 95 minutes

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

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

On December 17, 2010, 26-year-old Mohamed Bouazizi set fire to himself on the streets of Tunis sparking a popular uprising that toppled a dictator and developed into the Arab Spring. With remarkable never-before-seen footage of the demonstrations and celebrations, *Rouge Parole* chronicles the revolution in Tunisia and its immediate aftermath.

"Rouge Parole is integral film for those trying to understand the spontaneity and collective nature of the revolution." —*Al Jadid*

✓ **"Highly Recommended."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

WORDS OF WITNESS

Directed by Mai Iskander

2012, 70 minutes

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

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

A fascinating account of Egypt post-revolution, *Words of Witness* follows a 22-year-old female reporter, an incredible, fearless young woman, as she covers her country's unsteady transition to democracy. From the director of *Garbage Dreams*, *Words of Witness* presents a dynamic portrait of the youth movement that sparked the revolution and its continued reliance on social media.

"A crucial story of modern revolution."

—*Los Angeles Times*

"Fascinating — an excellent supplement to a broader curriculum about the world-changing events in the Middle East."

—*School Library Journal*

"Recommended. This film's use of a female voice to capture the emotional metamorphosis that the Egyptian masses are experiencing gives the viewer a very real sense of the fragility of the situation but also the hope and excitement that the youth of the country embody."

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

NEW



Academy Award Nominee
Best Documentary, Short Subject

KARAMA HAS NO WALLS

Directed by Sara Ishaq

2013, 26 minutes

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

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

Nominated for an Academy Award, *Karama Has No Walls* is a gripping account of the tragic day that changed the course of the revolution in Yemen; when pro-government snipers opened fired on a peaceful gathering of protesters, sparking national outrage and ultimately leading to the end of 33 years of autocratic rule. On March 18, 2011, a peaceful assembly of protesters gathered in the capital city of Sana'a to demand an end to the presidency of Ali Abdullah Saleh. After Friday prayers, gunmen ascended rooftops surrounding the square and opened fire. 53 people were killed, hundreds were injured. It was one of the bloodiest days in Yemen's modern history.

Incorporating remarkable footage from two cameramen who were there as events unfolded, *Karama Has No Walls* offers a dynamic, multifaceted perspective in telling the story of a single day that altered the path of a nation.

"A snapshot of a protest movement at its most powerful, when differences (male, female, Southern, Northern, Sunni, Shia, old, young, secularist, Islamist) were put aside in the name of battling the shared injustices of poverty, unemployment, and corruption."

—*The New Yorker*

"An urgent, stereotype-exploding historical document." —*Salon*

"Ishaq managed to put together twenty-six of the most powerful minutes on the Yemeni uprisings during the Arab Spring in 2011."

—*Islamic Monthly*

"A remarkable street-level portrayal of a historic clash between freedom and anti-freedom."

—*Anthropology Review Database*

✓ **"Highly Recommended."**

—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

International Politics

NEW

Dear Max,
What does a diplomat
for a country that isn't recognized
do when he comes to the office
in the morning?
Eric



LETTERS TO MAX

Directed by Eric Baudelaire

2013, 103 minutes

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

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

Optional closed captions

What is the job of a diplomat for a country that does not exist? With this question, acclaimed filmmaker Eric Baudelaire initiates a wide-ranging correspondence with his friend Maxim Gvinjia, former Minister of Foreign Affairs for Abkhazia, a country with physical borders, a government, and its own flag, but has not been recognized as a nation. A small state by the

Black Sea, Abkhazia is country whose independence remains a matter of dispute. It seceded from Georgia after the 1992-1993 civil war (which saw Russian troops assisting its efforts, like they did in South Ossetia and in Crimea). But it was never recognized by the United Nations or by most of the world's countries.

"An illuminating snapshot of a land that has been largely off the world's radar since the end of the civil war with Georgia in 1993."

—*The Hollywood Reporter*

★★★★ **"Highly Recommended. Invigorating and surprising, raising intriguing notions regarding sovereignty, identity, and the challenge of being an unlikely pariah among the community of nations."** —*Video Librarian*



MAIDAN

Directed by Sergei Loznitsa

2014, 131 minutes

Purchase: **\$195**

DVD+Digital Site License: **\$645**

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sergei Loznitsa, *Maidan* chronicles the civil uprising that toppled the government of Ukrainian president Victor Yanukovich and has since developed into an international crisis. Filmed in stunning long takes, *Maidan* is a record of a momentous historical event and an extraordinary study of the popular uprising as a social, cultural and philosophical phenomenon.

"A vital and urgent film." —*The Guardian*

"An impressive, bold treatment of a complex subject. One of the few documentaries about a recent revolution that won't feel dated in five years." —*Variety*

"A must-watch for anyone interested in understanding the dynamics involved in this contentious region." —*Library Journal*

"Starkly beautiful. Succeeds in chronicling a remarkable historical moment and delivering an emotional wallop." —*Cinema Scope*



VIRAMUNDO: A MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH GILBERTO GIL

Directed by Pierre-Yves Borgeaud

2013, 93 minutes

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

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

After decades of sold out shows and international recognition, musician Gilberto Gil embarks on a new kind of world tour. Traveling from Brazil to Australia and Africa, where he meets with local indigenous communities, Gil continues the work he began as Brazil's first black Minister of Culture - promoting the power of cultural diversity in a globalized world and sharing his vision for the future: a diverse, interconnected planet filled with hope, exchange and of course, music!



ROBERT MUGABE... WHAT HAPPENED?

Directed by Simon Bright

2011, 84 minutes

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

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

Once hailed as a national hero, Robert Mugabe — Zimbabwe's first and only elected political leader — is today widely considered one of Africa's most brutal dictators. What happened? This illuminating documentary offers an in-depth examination of Mugabe's life, policies and staggering transformation. Using extensive archival footage, illuminating interviews with the country's preeminent political figures and analysts, as well as victims of Mugabe's despotism, director Simon Bright tracks Mugabe's political career while offering a thorough history of contemporary Zimbabwe from its struggle to gain independence to the present day.

"A powerful, informative, and cautionary tale."

—*Anthropology Review Database*

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