



BACKGROUNDER

Screening Schedule	1
More About the Films	2
NGO Village	8
Sponsors	8

Screening Schedule

Friday, Nov. 16

7:00 PM – China Blue **Calgary Premiere**

9:10 PM – The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil

Saturday, Nov. 17

1:00 PM – Manufactured Landscapes

2:40 PM – Kilowatt Ours

4:00 PM – Finding Dawn

7:00 PM – Masizakhe **Alberta Premiere**

Sunday, Nov. 18

1:00 PM – Martyr Street **Calgary Premiere**

3:15 PM – Ryan’s Well

4:30 PM – Switch Off **Calgary Premiere**

by 80 percent—people were desperate. This film tells of the hardships and struggles as well as the community and creativity of the Cuban people during this difficult time. Cubans share how they transitioned from a highly mechanized, industrial agricultural system to one using organic methods of farming and local, urban gardens. It is an unusual look into the Cuban culture during this economic crisis, which they call "The Special Period." The film opens with a short history of Peak Oil, a term for the time in our history when world oil production will reach its all-time peak and begin to decline forever. Cuba, the only country that has faced such a crisis is an example of options and hope.

Recognition

- Aotearoa Environmental Film Festival – People's Choice Award for Best International Film

Manufactured Landscapes (2006)

Screening: Sat., November 17, 1:00 PM

Length: 87 minutes

Director: Jennifer Baichwal

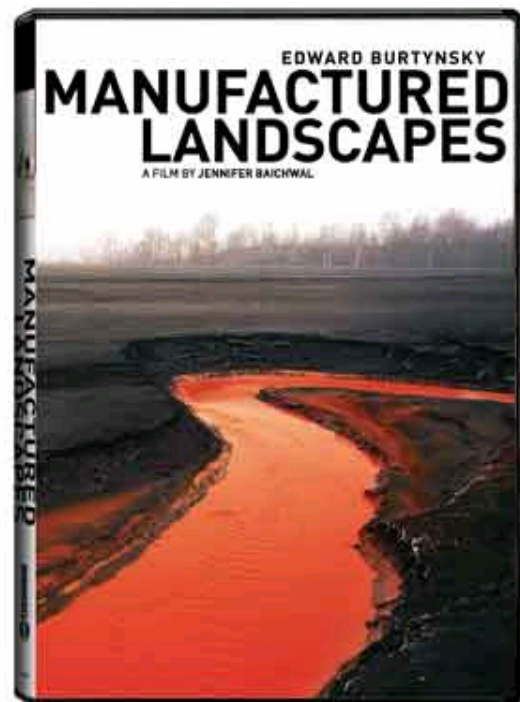
www.mongrelmedia.com/films/ManufacturedLandscapes.html

Summary

Edward Burtynsky is internationally acclaimed for his large-scale photographs of nature transformed by industry. *Manufactured Landscapes* follows Burtynsky to China, as he captures the effects of the country's massive industrial revolution. This remarkable film leads us to meditate on human endeavour and its impact on the planet.

Recognition

- 2007 Genie Awards – Best Documentary
- Toronto International Film Festival – Best Canadian Film
- Toronto Film Critics Association Awards – Best Canadian Film; Best Documentary
- Sundance Film Festival 2007 – Grand Jury Prize Nominee



Kilowatt Ours (2005)

Screening: Sat., November 17, 2:40 PM

Length: 38 minutes

Director: Jeff Barrie

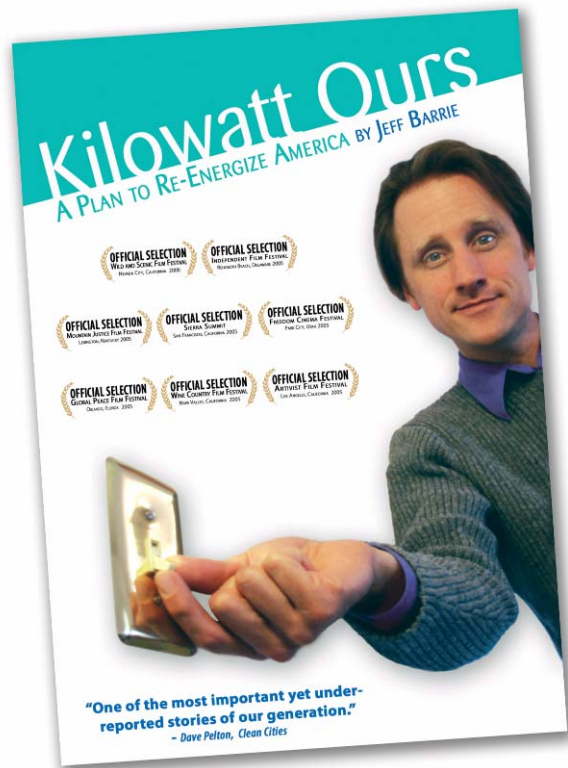
www.kilowattours.org

Summary

Kilowatt Ours reveals the consequences of a coal-powered economy. The film opens with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney's energy policy speech in which he makes the claim that America needs nearly 1,900 new power plants in the next 20 years to meet projected electricity demands. The film takes viewers on a journey from the coal mines of West Virginia to the solar panel fields of Florida, as the filmmaker discovers solutions to America's energy-related problems.

Recognition

- 2005 Freedom Cinema Festival, Park City, Utah – Official Selection
- 2005 Artivist Film Festival, Los Angeles, California – Official Selection



Finding Dawn (2006)

Screening: Sat., November 17, 4:00 PM

Length: 74 minutes

Director: Christine Welsh

www.onf.ca/trouverunfilm/fichefilm.php?!g=en&id=52581&v=h

Summary

Dawn Crey. Ramona Wilson. Daleen Kay Bosse. These are just three of the estimated 500 Aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in Canada over the past thirty years. Finding Dawn is a compelling documentary that puts a human face to this national tragedy.

This is an epic journey from Vancouver's skid row, where more than 60 women are missing, we travel to the "Highway of Tears" in northern British Columbia, and onward to Saskatoon, where the murders and disappearances of Native women remain unresolved.



The film offers reason for hope. Hope lives in Native rights activists Professor Janice

Acoose and Fay Blaney. It inspires communities all along the length of Highway 16 to come together to demand change. Finding Dawn illustrates the deep historical, social and economic factors that contribute to the epidemic of violence against Native women in this country. It goes further to present the ultimate message that stopping the violence is everyone's responsibility.

Recognition

- Amnesty International Film Festival, Vancouver – Gold Audience Award

Post Film Conversation Leader

Theresa Ducharme, Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC); and Community Development Coordinator for Sisters in Spirit (SIS). The main objective of SIS is to address violence, particularly violence against Aboriginal women in Canada.

Masizakhe (2006)

Screening: Sat., November 17, 4:00 PM

Length: 60 minutes

Director: Scott Macklin

www.audience.withoutabox.com



Summary

Filmed in the townships and center of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 'Masizakhe: Let Us Build Each Other' focuses on a new generation of activists who have taken the mantle from the activists who were instrumental in freeing South Africa in 1994. The past eleven years of freedom have proven extremely difficult and the effects of apartheid are still a reality for the majority of South Africans, especially for Black Africans. Much of the work that these new activists are doing revolves around building community through music, hip-hop, spoken word, and radio. White and Afrikaans South Africans are a part of this film as they deal with their role and legacy in the country.

Recognition

- 2007 Pan African Film and Arts Festival – Best Documentary Nominee

Post Film Conversation Leaders and Dancers

Amara Ijo Dance Group. These young Nigerian-Canadian women from Calgary represent their homeland of Nigeria in the form of rhythmic and artistic dance expression. The name Amara Ijo means "divine grace of dance". The group has appeared at Afrikadey, Globalfest, Heritage Day, and the Nigerian Canadian Association of Calgary Gala Nite.

Martyr Street (2006)

Screening: Sunday, November 17, 1:00 PM

Length: 91 minutes

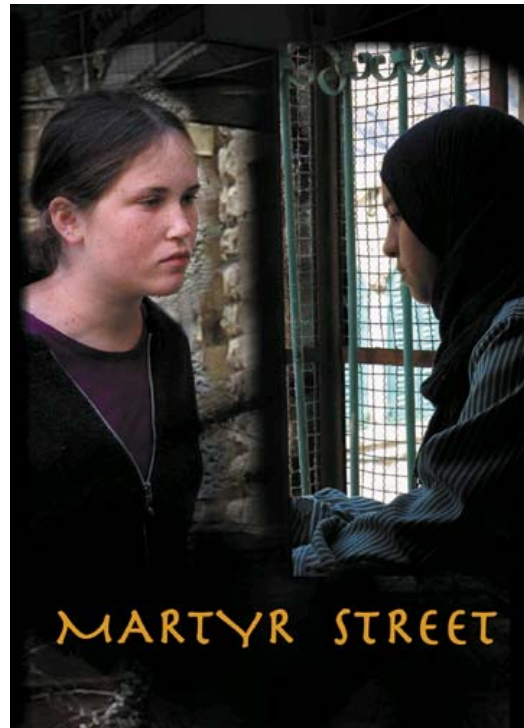
Director: Shelley Saywell

www.bisharifilms.ca

Summary

Martyr Street, Hebron is the only place in the West Bank where Jewish settlers live in the heart of a Palestinian city; it has long been known as a flashpoint. In September 2000 when the filmmakers were in the midst of shooting a film on children living there, the intifadah broke out. Nearly impossible to enter without official sanction, Martyr Street had become almost deserted; “cleansed” of most of its Palestinian population.

Martyr Street explores the roots of violence on the street named for its dead. It features the children as they grow older, and includes the adults in their lives; the soldiers, the teachers, the fanatics and the fatalists – each claiming huge stakes that are both incompatible and impassioned. But it goes back even further, to the story of Abraham, the patriarch of both the Muslims and Jews, who is buried there. Out of a shared heritage, death seems, at first, their only common ground. Does it have to be?



Recognition

- 2006 Hot Docs, Toronto – Best Canadian Feature

Ryan's Well (2001)

Screening: Sunday, November 17, 1:00 PM

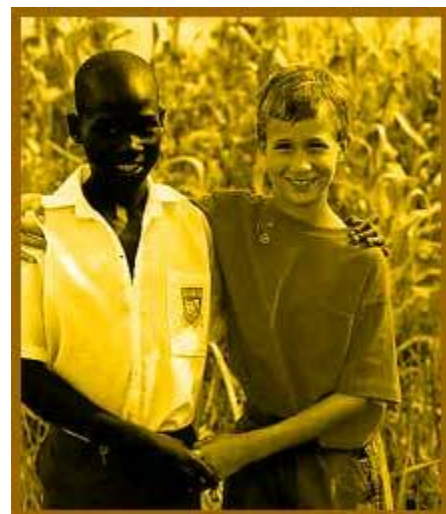
Length: 50 minutes

Director: Latita Krishna

www.ryanswell.ca

Summary

The film details the amazingly successful efforts of 7-year-old Ryan Hreljac of Kemptonville, Ontario, to have a well built in Uganda. Ryan at first mistakenly thought that he could get the well built for \$70. Upon learning the true figure—\$2,000—he determines to raise that money.



In this moving documentary, we meet Ryan and his friends who helped raise the money: his family and his generous neighbours. We find out

what touched Ryan, what motivated him and what kept him going. And, of course, we will be with Ryan when he sees, for the first time, the difference he has made with the building of Ryan's Well.

Recognition

- 2002 Columbus International Film & Video Festival – Chris Statuette for Best Social Issue Documentary
 - 2003 East Lansing Film Festival – Best Documentary
 - 2003 Kids World Film Festival – Kid's First Choice Award
 - 2003 Alliance for Children and Television – Award of Excellence Nominee
-

Switch Off (2006)

Length: 87 minutes (Subtitles)

Director: Manel Mayol

www.switchoffthemovie.com



The Pehuenche-Mapuche people live above the Bío Bío River, in Ralco valley, Chile. For over four centuries they have fought off all invaders who tried to enter the valley, from the Incas to the Spanish conquistadors. In 2004, amongst the scenic beauty of the Chilean Andes, Spain's largest hydroelectric company, Endesa, constructed the world's third largest dam. This dam flooded the Ralco valley and forced the "exchange" of whole villages to much higher ground. Despite enshrining protection for indigenous people in the Chilean constitution, the government has shown little inclination to enforce their rights against the wealthy Spanish multinational. Protestors—including activists, journalists, and lawyers—have found themselves arrested under anti-terrorist laws, facing anonymous witnesses whose identities are concealed from even the court.

Recognition

- 2007 Green Film Festival, Seoul – Excellence Prize
 - 2005 Planet in Focus, Toronto – Best Film
 - 2005 Ecocinema, Athens – Best Film
-

NGO Village

Upwards of 20 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will have tables and booths in an “NGO Village” at the Festival venue. They will provide opportunities to:

- interact with and learn more about local and international grassroots/humanitarian organizations.
- get involved in meaningful initiatives that lead to positive change
- sign petitions
- buy fair trade artisan crafts from around the world

NGOs Confirmed

- Ayudamos Foundation www.ayudamos.ca
- Christmas Future www.christmasfuture.org
- Elizabeth Fry Society Calgary www.elizabethfry.ab.ca
- Free the Children www.freethechildren.com
- Grandmothers to Grandmothers Calgary Region
- Operation Eyesight www.operationeyesight.ca
- Pembina Institute www.pembina.org
- Servants Anonymous Foundation
www.safoundation.com/section03/GlobalWonders.htm
- Sustainable Practices Action Network <http://sustainablepractices.blogspot.com>

Sponsors

