

My Ancestors Were Rogues and Murderers (2005)

Screening: Saturday Nov. 21, 2009 9:00 pm - River Park Church Auditorium, 3818 -14A Street SW

Length: 55 minutes

Director: Anne Troake

Film Website: <http://www.onf-nfb.gc.ca/eng/collection/film/?id=51455>

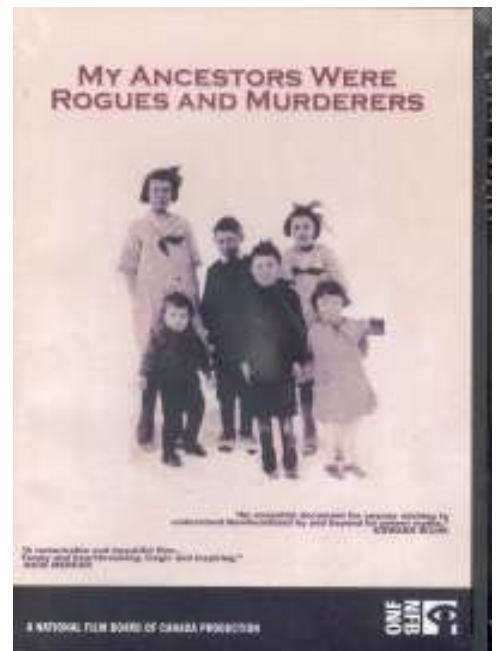
Trailer: None available

Stills: <http://www.onf-nfb.gc.ca/eng/collection/film/images-gallery.php?id=51455>

Summary: It was a PR coup that launched the animal rights movement onto the international stage. It's 1977 and Brian Davies, head of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, has brought Brigitte Bardot to Newfoundland to protest the seal hunt. The villains of the piece are the inhabitants of the island's northern outports, their image transmitted to the world as the epitome of brutality.

In a thoughtful contribution to the debate on Canada's seal hunt, artist Anne Troake celebrates the unique culture of Newfoundland's outports. She explores the notions of ecology and conservation through the story of her extended family, descendants of 18th century settlers from the English West Country. In a society shaped by the environment and seasons, sealing became one of many activities that sustained them.

Blending poetic ethnography with politics, Troake weaves her argument into a meditation on a resilient people and their special place in the world. A remarkable interview with her grandmother infuses the film with wry wisdom and a bright sense of life's possibilities.



Recognition:

- Best Newfoundland Documentary, Nickel Independent Film & Video Festival, St. John's Newfoundland 2005

Post Film Event: Kitchen Party with "The Dorymates" Rutland Park Community Association. Tickets will be available at the film festival on Friday and Saturday. Since 1995, The Dorymates have been entertaining Western Canada with east coast music that gets the hands and feet moving. The band consists of four lads from the Atlantic Provinces, three Newfies and a Herring Choker (that's New Brunswick for you Westerners).

Larry Skinner, originally from Rencontre West, NL is the lead singer and jokester on rhythm guitar. Johnny McGrath, from Bell Island, NL plays a mean button accordion. Playing the drums and bodhran and singing back up vocals, Ray Kenny hails from Canada's oldest city, St. John's, NL. Eddie Richard, from Minto, NB adds vocals and plays bass guitar.