

Lost Stories Reclaimed

32 Recent Films on DVD for U.S. & World History

ASIA

The Nine Lives of Norodom Sihanouk

A Film by Gilles Cayatte



For more than sixty years, Cambodia has been personified by Norodom Sihanouk. Throughout his life, he has played roles as King, Prime Minister, Prince, Head of State for Life, Exile, and Prisoner. **THE NINE LIVES OF NORODOM SIHANOUK** chronicles his life story, which is inextricable from the modern history of Cambodia.



Appointed King in 1941, when the nation was still part of French Indochina, Sihanouk helped win the country's independence in 1953, and played capitalist and communist superpowers off one another during Cambodia's golden age of neutrality.

During the Sixties, however, Sihanouk increasingly became victim of international pressures. The Vietnam War spilled over Cambodia's borders, leading to a civil war, a coup d'état, and Sihanouk's misbegotten alliance with Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. Following years of exile, Sihanouk returned to Cambodia in 1991, regaining his title as King.

Using archival footage and contemporary interviews with Sihanouk's former colleagues and political opponents, eyewitnesses, journalists and historians, including Jean Lacouture, David Chandler, Patrice De Beer, Jacques Bekaert, and John Gunther Dean, former U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, **THE NINE LIVES OF NORODOM SIHANOUK** tells the story of this controversial political leader whose country became the "killing fields" for one of the greatest human tragedies of the 20th century.



"Nourished by rich eyewitness accounts and based on solid archival work. A historical and geopolitical lesson more than the portrait of an outmoded monarch, at once odious and fascinating."—Télérama

Color | 52 minutes | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-1

Agent Orange: A Personal Requiem

A Film by Masako Sakata



In the late Sixties, Greg Davis served for three years in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. The area where he was stationed was one of many sprayed by the military with Agent Orange, which contains dioxin, the most toxic chemical known to man.

In 2003, at the age of 54, Davis died from liver cancer, believed to be the result of exposure to Agent Orange. Produced by Davis's widow, AGENT ORANGE chronicles the history of this toxic herbicide and how it was used in Vietnam for nearly a decade, tracing its effects not only on U.S. servicemen but also on the environment and continuing generations of both Americans and Vietnamese, as seen in scenes of hospitalized Vietnamese children with congenital disabilities or physical deformities.

Davis's experiences, as well as that of other American servicemen in Vietnam, are recounted through photos and audio recordings, archival footage, and U.S. Army films declaring the defoliants to be "harmless to man." AGENT ORANGE also features interviews with Vietnamese doctors, a U.S. Army veteran who returned to do humanitarian work in Vietnam, and discusses a law suit brought in a U.S. District Court against Dow Chemical and Monsanto for its liability in wreaking this human and environmental destruction.

"Highly recommended!"
—Library Journal

"A remarkable film... Sakata's moving film brought back to me memories of the Vietnam War, the war of my generation, with great poignancy and power."

—Roger Pulvers, *The Japan Times*

 **Special Prize of the Jury, 2008 Paris International Film Festival**

 **2007 Tokyo International Women's Film Festival**

 **2007 International Festival of New Latin American Cinema**

66 minutes | color | 2007
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$348
Order #HI09-2

Nanjing: Memory and Oblivion

A Film by Michaël Prazan



Although the Nanjing Massacre, a series of war crimes committed by Japanese troops in China's capital during the second Sino-Japanese War, occurred seventy years ago, the nature and extent of these atrocities remains the subject of continuing historical debate and the source of political tensions between China and Japan.

During the military occupation, Japanese troops engaged in arson, rape, looting and executions of prisoners of war and civilians, including women and children. Debate continues to rage over the extent of the atrocities and the number of deaths.

NANJING: MEMORY AND OBLIVION uses archival footage and photos, interviews with Chinese survivors and eyewitnesses, former Japanese soldiers, and both Chinese and Japanese government officials, historians and lawyers, to document the events of "The Rape of Nanking" and to show how the interpretation of this history has become politicized.

In addition to shocking accounts of atrocities witnessed and committed, the film profiles foreigners residing in Nanjing, known as "the righteous," whose efforts saved many lives. Although featuring contentious commentary by both Japanese and Chinese advocates for both sides of the continuing controversy, NANJING also shows a Chinese and a Japanese history teacher who, unlike their government leaders, are working to construct a shared memory of the events.

"A remarkable documentary... retraces with precision the unfolding of events... gives a frightening example of the manipulation of history."—Télérama

 **2007 Chicago International Documentary Festival**

 **2006 International Festival of Audiovisual Programs**

53 minutes | color | 2006
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-3



Lotman's World

A Film by Agne Nelk



NEW Blending archival footage and imaginative animation (and periodic mash-ups of both), LOTMAN'S WORLD introduces us to the life and work of Yuri Lotman (1922-1993), a pioneer semiotician and cultural critic whose many writings on semiotics and structuralism dealt with a wide range of artistic, theoretical and historical issues.

Lotman studied philology and literature at Leningrad State University and served as a radio operator during WWII, but after the war Lotman was unable to continue his studies or find employment in Leningrad because of anti-Semitism. In 1950 he began teaching at Tartu University in Estonia, which he found an oasis of free thought, where he could lecture and write and conduct research with likeminded educators.

Lotman's Tartu colleagues—including Boris Uspensky, Alexander Piatigorsky, Vladimir Toporov and Vyacheslav Ivanov—plus semioticians such as Umberto Eco and Peter Torop, discuss the cultural study of signs, signifiers and meanings, languages as both textual and visual structures, and reminisce about Lotman's talents as a lecturer and his brilliance as a thinker and writer.

In archival interviews, Lotman himself discusses the broader context of semiotics, which involves the relationship between culture and nature, the importance of moral qualities such as tolerance, intelligence, and self-respect, the true nature of freedom, and the overall meaning of life.



Best Jewish Culture Film, 2008 Jewish Motifs International Film Festival

Best Documentary Director, 2008 Minsk International Film Festival Listapad

57 minutes | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-4

Revue

A Film by Sergei Loznitsa



As he did with his critically-acclaimed BLOCKADE (see page 21), filmmaker Sergei Loznitsa once again scoured the Russian film archives for REVUE, selecting excerpts from newsreels, propaganda films, TV shows and feature films that present an evocative portrait of Soviet life during the 1950s and 1960s.

With scenes taken from the length and breadth of the Soviet Motherland, REVUE illustrates industry and agriculture (dam construction, steel plants, Stakanovite labor competitions), political life (local elections, speeches by Khrushchev, the threat of capitalist spies), popular culture (a dance troupe, a traveling cinema, a propagandistic stage play), and technology (space exploration, astronaut Yuri Gagarin, new industrial development).

The film's fascinating flow of disparate scenes representing typical Soviet life of the period is, seen from today's perspective, alternately poignant, funny, and tragic. The cumulative impact reveals a life of hardship, deprivation and seemingly absurd social rituals, but one always inspired by the vision, or illusion, of a communist future.

Seen from these dual historical and contemporary perspectives, REVUE is both a nostalgic and instructive look back at a communist past that represents social engineering on a grand, and frightening, scale.

"Loznitsa's narration-free compilation of documentary scenes from the Soviet way of life is a must for anyone interested in glimpsing the disappeared Soviet experience. An unorthodox iconography of society, culture and politics in the old U.S.S.R."—**Louis Menashe, Polytechnic Institute of New York University**

2008 Rotterdam International Documentary Festival

72 minutes | b&w | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$440
Order #HI09-5

Svetlana About Svetlana

A Film by Lana Parshina



Svetlana Parshina was deeply moved by her childhood reading of *Twenty Letters to a Friend* by Svetlana Alliluyeva, Joseph Stalin's daughter. Years later, learning that the now 82-year-old was living incognito in a Madison, Wisconsin retirement home, Parshina phones and requests an interview.

After repeated denials, and only after insisting upon certain conditions, the now-82-year-old Alliluyeva finally consents to a rare filmed interview in which she discusses her education, marriages, her children, the development of her own humanistic philosophy, her CIA-assisted defection to the U.S., and her skeptical views on the competing Cold War ideologies.

In more intimate moments, she discusses her childhood, her nanny, the suicide of her mother, her brothers Vasily and Yakov (who died in a Nazi concentration camp) and, of course, her famous father, who most Soviets saw as "a living god." Her poignant and often candid reminiscences, and a few humorous anecdotes, are combined with archival footage and photos, including numerous family snapshots.

SVETLANA BY SVETLANA thus offers a rare glimpse of what it was like to be the daughter of a man who had too much power.



"Ideal material for courses in twentieth century history... Highly Recommended."
—Educational Media Reviews Online

44 minutes | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$375
Order #HI09-6

Milosevic on Trial

A Film by Michael Christoffersen



In February 2002 the biggest war crimes tribunal since the WWII Nuremberg Trials began in the Hague. Slobodan Milosevic, former President of Serbia and Yugoslavia, was charged with 66 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide for his role in the conflict in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo during the '90s. In March 2006, with only forty hours of hearings remaining, Milosevic died from a heart attack.

MILOSEVIC ON TRIAL records history in the making over the four-year period. In addition to highlights from courtroom sessions, culled from over 2,000 hours of footage, the film features interviews with lead prosecutor Geoffrey Nice, Milosevic's legal adviser Dragoslav Ogjanovic, the court-appointed British barristers rejected by Milosevic, and other key players.

We hear dramatic testimony given during the trial by survivors and eyewitnesses of Serbian Army and paramilitary atrocities, former U.S. government and U.N. officials, and Serbian military and government officials. Prosecution evidence includes revealing excerpts from Milosevic's diaries, recordings of intercepted phone conversations, and amateur videos that document battlefield executions and other atrocities.

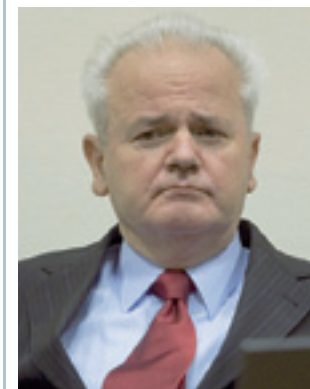
"Stirring... a truly thought provoking and wildly informative work... It is rare that a documentary can successfully distill four years of court proceedings into a succinct work as this but MILOSEVIC ON TRIAL does it with aplomb."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

 **2008 Danish Academy Award for Best Documentary**

 **2008 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival**

 **2007 European Broadcasting Union Golden Link Award**



69 minutes | color | 2007 **CC**
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398
Order #HI09-7

In Search Of Memory

A Film by Petra Seeger



NEW IN SEARCH OF MEMORY is a compelling blend of autobiography and history that recounts the life of one of the most important neuroscientists of the 20th century and illuminates scientific developments in our understanding of the brain's role in recording and preserving memory. In addition to archival footage and dramatic re-creations of Kandel's childhood experiences in Nazi-occupied Vienna and his formative years as an emigrant in New York, the film features discussions with Kandel, friends and family, as well as his public lectures in Vienna and New York.

Both through its personal journey into the memory of this amazingly spry and witty 79-year old, especially his traumatic experiences during the Holocaust, and a visit to his Columbia University laboratory, IN SEARCH OF MEMORY examines how the brain enables remembrance, especially how historical trauma implants memories that will never fade.

"Moving. Fascinating... A documentary masterpiece in the history of science."
—Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

"Resonates in all directions, illuminating not only the trajectory of psychology and neuroscience in the last century, but the nature of art and science, history and remembrance, work and love, inspiration and achievement. It is an unforgettable journey."—**Oliver Sacks, world-renowned neurologist and author of Awakenings and The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat**

95 minutes | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$440
Order #HI09-8

Secret Museums

A Film by Peter Woditsch



"A brilliant documentary [that] is at times like a graduate seminar broaching issues about ethics, public space and cultural memory, preservation and archival energy... A 'must-see' for anyone interested in the discussion of the nature of power and knowledge."

—Review Vancouver

2008 Vancouver International Film Festival

2009 Tel-Aviv International Documentary Film Festival

2009 Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival

NEW Throughout the ages, erotic art has been created by some of the world's best-known artists, but it is rarely on public display. Whether it is held in private collections, or kept under lock and key in museums and libraries worldwide, erotic art and literature remains censored.

Filed in England, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the U.S., SECRET MUSEUMS explores the locked rooms, warehouses, museum cellars, bank safes and private homes where erotica is hidden, from the British Museum and the National Library of France to Munich's National Graphics Collection and the Vatican, home of the world's largest collection of pornography. Gaining access to carefully guarded collections with names such as "Secretum," "Gabinetto Segreto" and "L'Enfer," the film reveals books and images never before filmed or photographed.

SECRET MUSEUMS features interviews with wealthy collectors, museum curators and guides, librarians, authors, gallery directors, art restorers and experts in erotic art, who discuss the reasons for the cultural suppression and control of erotic art; how institutional gatekeepers, as the protectors of public morality, decide what is acceptable; and how erotic art provides a revealing snapshot of previous societies and cultures.



Color | 77 minutes | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398
Order #HI09-9

Tracing Aleida


A Film by Christiane Burkhard



"Seeks to give face, name and voice to one of the hundreds of cases of missing persons in Mexico in the seventies."

—La Jornada Jalisco

 **Best Feature-Length Mexican Documentary, 2008 Morelia Film Festival**

 **Best Mexican Documentary, 2008 Guadalajara International Film Festival**

During the 1970s, Mexico engaged in a "dirty war" against left-wing dissidents and suspected "subversives," resulting in the arrest and "disappearance" of hundreds of its own citizens. In many instances, the children of the "disappeared" were adopted by other families.

TRACING ALEIDA relates the story of 31-year-old Aleida Gallangos, who discovered her true identity only in 2001, and her 3-year-long efforts to locate her older brother, from whom she was separated at the age of 2 when their parents were arrested by state security forces in 1975. Researching adoption records, Aleida traced her brother, Lucio Antonio, to a Mexican family living in Washington, D.C.

This documentary interweaves Aleida's contemporary efforts to locate and arrange a meeting with her long-lost brother with the personal and political history of her parents, including the raid on a guerrilla safe house that resulted in their disappearance and the separation of the two children.

TRACING ALEIDA shows that while the now-reunited Aleida and Lucio are learning to reconcile two separate personal and family histories, Mexico itself is engaged in a likewise problematic effort to acknowledge the atrocities committed against its own people.



88 minutes | color | 2007
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398
Order #HI09-10

Agustín's Newspaper

A Film by Ignacio Agüero



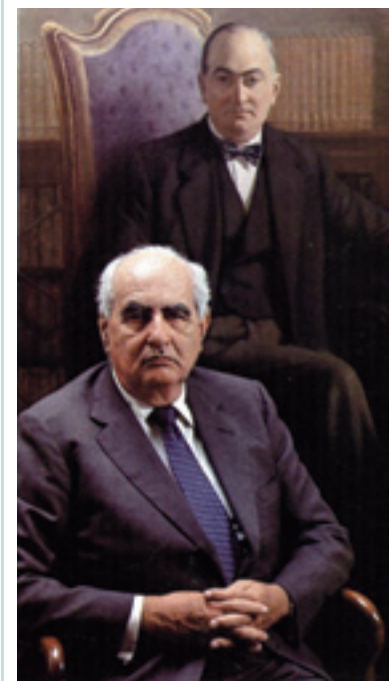
El Mercurio, the oldest and largest newspaper in Chile, has been owned and operated since 1849 by the Edwards family. Its current owner, Agustín Edwards Eastman, has controlled the politically conservative journal since 1956.

In AGUSTÍN'S NEWSPAPER, journalism students from the University of Chile examine the role of *El Mercurio* during the period of the election of Salvador Allende in 1970, the 1973 coup led by Augusto Pinochet and the following seventeen years of political repression by the military junta.

An analysis of the newspaper's reporting on several key events reveals its role in perpetuating disinformation created by the CIA and Chilean government agencies, including the secret police (DINA), clearly exposing *El Mercurio's* record of aiding and abetting the government's repeated human rights violations.

AGUSTÍN'S NEWSPAPER features archival footage, interviews with former editors, journalists and other staff members at *El Mercurio*, Pinochet's political advisor and press secretary, relatives of political dissidents who were "disappeared," as well as John Dinges, former *Washington Post* correspondent in Santiago.

In documenting the interrelationships between *El Mercurio*, the CIA, the military junta and its secret police, AGUSTÍN'S NEWSPAPER reveals how Chile's most influential newspaper distorted or manipulated news to hide the crimes of the Pinochet regime.



 **2009 Guadalajara International Film Festival**

 **2009 Santiago International Documentary Festival**

 **2009 Mexico City Festival of Independent Cinema**

80 minutes | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398
Order #HI09-11

Rapayan

A Film by Francis Delfour

NEW The slopes overlooking the tiny Peruvian village of Rapayan are dotted with the remarkably well-preserved ruins of an indigenous settlement that predates the Incas. It is a virtual city, complete with homes, a castle, a fortress, mausoleums, murals, subterranean galleries and mummified remains of its ancient inhabitants. As an archeological discovery, it is larger, richer and older than the celebrated Macchu Pichu.



RAPAYAN follows the efforts of archaeologist Alexis Mantha, who “discovered” the historic ruins, and his Peruvian colleagues Hernando Malea and Jorge Cotrina, as they uncover and research this ancient civilization, providing insights into the political, economic and religious aspects of the Andean Middle Ages.



2009 Archaeology Channel International Film and Video Festival

52 minutes | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-12

The village below, where descendants of that ancient civilization live, has only recently begun to modernize, with the arrival of electricity and the construction of the first asphalt road. Through interviews with the archaeologists, village residents, school children, the mayor and local politicians, the film reveals the uneasy relationship between villagers and scientific outsiders, who are suspected of stealing historical artifacts and profaning graves.

RAPAYAN exposes an intriguing cultural conflict between Rapayan's residents, less concerned with the past as they contend with the forces of modernization and globalization, and archaeologists eager to examine and preserve an ancient cultural patrimony. Can people confront the future when they have forgotten where they came from?

Lucanamarca

A Film by Carlos Cárdenas & Héctor Gálvez



NEW *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path), a Maoist group established in the 1970s by philosophy professor Abimael Guzmán, had by 1980 launched in the Peruvian countryside a revolutionary insurrection. When the guerrilla movement failed in its effort to recruit Quechuan peasants to its cause, they began a campaign of violence against the local populace, including the April 1983 massacre of 69 people in the village of Santiago de Lucanamarca.

Some 20 years later, LUCANAMARCA shows the arrival of Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission to exhume the bodies of the victims in order to establish their identities and causes of death, an effort that reawakens old enmities among the still-divided villagers.

In addition to showing the work of the forensic anthropologists, LUCANAMARCA features interviews with massacre survivors, villagers who recount the activities of Shining Path—including the still ostracized siblings of a local Shining Path leader who was killed in retribution by angry villagers—and who provide eyewitness testimony of Shining Path atrocities in the 2005 trial of Guzmán in Lima.

By the conclusion of LUCANAMARCA, after the victims' remains have received a mass ceremonial burial, other aftereffects of those violent years become apparent, including tensions between former Shining Path adherents and members of the Association of Victims of April 3rd, whose government benefits generate feelings of jealousy throughout the community.



2009 Guadalajara International Film Festival
2008 International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

69 minutes | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398
Order #HI09-13

Sacred Soil

A Film by Olivia Lucia Carrescia



In Guatemala, 25 years after numerous army massacres of indigenous peasants, which left an estimated 160,000 or more dead, the filmmaker of the award-winning Mayan trilogy returns to Guatemala to document the work of the Guatemalan Foundation of Forensic Anthropology (FAFG). This non-profit organization exhumes as many as 1,000 bodies a year, attempting to identify the victims and to return the remains to their families for burial.



SACRED SOIL shows the FAFG team at work, as they exhume the body of a 2005 mudslide victim, and features an interview with Fredy Peccerelli, the Foundation's Executive Director. He describes the various aspects of their efforts, including social anthropology, or meetings with village residents, archaeology, or the physical recovery of bodies, and physical anthropology, the analysis of the remains to determine the cause of death and the identity of the victim. A detailed explanation of how FAFG members analyze victims' skeletal remains is combined with interviews with relatives of decades-old massacre victims.

Peccerelli also explains that, since the Foundation's work can provide evidence for criminal trials, he and other Foundation members have received death threats and must be protected by bodyguards. The FAFG is presently working on the creation of a national database of information and DNA samples, which will prove an invaluable resource for future criminal and humanitarian investigations.

22 minutes | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$225
Order #HI09-14

The Moroccan Labyrinth

A Film by Julio Sánchez Veiga



In 1898, after losing Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the U.S., Spain focused its colonial aims on northern Morocco, establishing a Spanish Protectorate in 1912. From 1920 to 1926, Spanish military attempts to conquer the territory were resisted by the guerrilla forces of Rif leader Abd el-Krim. Thousands of Spanish soldiers died and the Spanish Army responded with aerial bombings, chemical weapons and widespread atrocities.



 **2008 Marbella International Film Festival**

90 minutes | color | 2007
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$440
Order #HI09-15

THE MOROCCAN LABYRINTH reveals how this colonial conflict served as prologue to the Spanish Civil War, with losses in the African war undermining the monarchy and politically emboldening the "African militarists," including generals such as Francisco Franco, who in 1936 launched a revolt against the Spanish Republic. Ironically, in order to escape famine and poverty, thousands of Moroccans enlisted in the Spanish Falangist movement and found themselves fighting for their former enemies in Spain against Republican forces.

This documentary features rare archival footage, propaganda films of the era, contemporary interviews with elderly Moroccan combatants, their children and leading international historians, who discuss the Rif War, how the conflict influenced political developments in Spain, how Moroccan mercenaries were used as shock troops during the Spanish Civil War and then, despite financial promises, were immediately expelled from Spain after the Nationalist victory.



Mustapha Kemal Atatürk: The Birth Of A Republic

A Film by Séverine Labat



Mustapha Kemal (1881-1938), called Atatürk ("the father of the Turks"), was the founder of the Republic of Turkey and its first President. Both in Turkey and abroad, however, his actions continue to stir debate. Was he a visionary statesman or an enlightened despot?



MUSTAPHA KEMAL ATATÜRK tells the story of this historic figure with archival footage, news-reels and photos, and discussions with Turkish and Western historians, sociologists and biographers. The film traces his early secular education and his political rise as an army officer, from the birth of the "Young Turks" movement in 1908, through WWI, the Turkish War of Independence, the dethroning of the Sultan and elimination of the Caliphate, and the establishment of the republic in 1923.

Much of the film's debate focuses on Kemal's authoritarian rule, when he abolished the national parliament, outlawed opposition parties and labor unions, and forced through legislation that led to sweeping political, economic and social reforms. MUSTAPHA KEMAL ATATÜRK makes clear that any consideration of Kemal's historic role must recognize that his "democracy" was founded upon a single party dictatorship whose cult-of-personality leader engendered as much fear as respect.

The rapid transformation of Turkey into the first secular Muslim republic, attempting to blend Western and Eastern influences, upset much of the country's population and laid the basis for tensions at the center of Turkey's social and political life today.

"A classic documentary, accurate without embellishment."

—Télérama

52 minutes | color | 2005
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-16

A Road To Mecca: The Journey Of Muhammad Asad

A Film by Georg Misch



In 1922 Leopold Weiss, a Viennese Jew, alienated by the materialism and spiritual emptiness of the West, travelled to the Middle East, visiting Jerusalem, Egypt, the Transjordan and Saudi Arabia. After studying the Koran, he left his Jewish roots behind, and in 1926 converted to Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Asad.

Asad (1900-1992) became one of the most important Muslims of the 20th century, spreading its message of peace and brotherhood as a journalist, translator of the Koran into English, and author of books such as *Islam at the Crossroads*, *The Principles of State and Government in Islam* and an autobiography, *The Road to Mecca*. He served as an advisor to the royal court of Saudi Arabia and was a co-founder of Pakistan and its first Ambassador to the UN.

A ROAD TO MECCA traces his journey, visiting the places where Asad lived and travelled. Archival footage and photos and excerpts from Asad's writings are blended with contemporary interviews with writers, historians, scholars, friends and associates, who discuss Asad's role as a theological thinker and political diplomat who, as "Europe's gift to Islam," played an important historical role in bridging the divide between East and West.

"Fascinating... informative... a well-judged combo of travelogue and biopic... a fine piece of anthropology, worthy of the dedication it copies from Asad's translation of the Koran: 'For people who think.'"
—Alissa Simon, *Variety*

Jury Award, 2008
FIDADOC Film Festival
(Morocco)

Best Cinematography Award, 2008
Diagonale Festival of Austrian Films

92 minutes | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$440
Order #HI09-17

Baghdad Twist

A Film by Joe Balass

A National Film Board of Canada Production



"Poignant... This film is remarkable, not just the history it presents, but for the melodious way in which Balass lets the story unfold."

—Rebecca Joubin, *Al-Jadid: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts*

2008 Tribeca Film Festival

2008 San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

34 minutes | color | 2008 CC
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$225
Order #HI09-18

In this "visual memoir," filmmaker Joe Balass, born in Baghdad in 1966, blends a voice-over interview with his mother, Valentine, with photos, archival footage and home movies of his family's life in Iraq before their departure for North America in 1970.

BAGHDAD TWIST provides a poignant portrait of Iraq's Jewish society, one of the world's oldest Jewish communities, living harmoniously among their Arab neighbors. Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, however, they began to experience persecution, and thousands of Iraqi Jews fled to Israel. The government-inspired persecution intensified after the 1967 war, when Iraqi Jews were suspected as "Israeli spies."

Balass's mother reminisces about life in Iraq in the Fifties, from fond recollections of family gatherings and weddings to more emotionally intense memories from the late '60s, in particular a growing sense of insecurity and fear, which led to their sudden and daring escape by car, leaving their home and belongings behind.

Valentine's memories recall a vibrant multicultural society that increasingly became politically fragmented and, within a decade, led to the virtual disappearance of the Jewish community in Iraq.



An Injury To One

A Film by Travis Wilkerson



AN INJURY TO ONE relates the history of political conflict and environmental disaster in Butte, Montana, once considered the richest region on Earth. At the height of WWI ten percent of all copper was mined there. In the process, Butte became the most polluted site in the nation. The dramatic rise and fall of the city, and the environmental destruction left behind, is traced back to the Anaconda Mining Company.

The company's extreme indifference to safety (mortality rates in the mines were higher than in the trenches of Europe) led to the arrival of Frank Little, an organizer for the International Workers of the World, during a heated struggle between miners and their bosses. As his popularity increased, so did the company's distaste for him. In August 1917, Little was abducted by still-unknown assailants who lynched him on a railroad bridge.

The murder provides AN INJURY TO ONE with a taut narrative, but it isn't the only story. Butte's history is bound with the destruction of the environment, the history of the American left, the rise of McCarthyism, and even the birth of the detective novel.

"The most exciting documentary of the season. Passionate, persuasive, and beautifully designed."

—The New York Sun

"Wilkerson's austere technique radically responds to the paucity of contemporaneous documentary accounts, performing a powerful act of historical archaeology."

—Sundance Film Festival

Big Sky Award, 2004
Big Sky Documentary Film Festival

Gold Prize, 2002
Big Muddy Film Festival



53 minutes | color/b&w | 2002
Sale/DVD: \$390
Order #HI09-19

Milk in the Land

A Film by Ariana Gerstein & Monteith McCollum



"Truly captivating... makes clear that nature's perfect food is inextricably bound to the social history of America."—**Lisa Tucker, Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture**

"This inventively historicized documentary unearths the sundry political, moral, and scientific platforms that got milk to its current post as beleaguered alpha beverage... an investigation that leaves no cow unturned."—**Flavorpill**


MILK IN THE LAND traces the history of the national consumption of milk, from the mid-19th century swill cow stables—an urban byproduct of distilleries, when Americans drank more beer than milk—to today's industrialized production of homogenized and pasteurized milk, which produces vast surpluses of dairy products stored in underground government depots.

The film surveys the role of milk throughout American history, politics and popular culture—from government price support programs, links with eugenics and political scandals, to infant feeder collector conventions and cow beauty contests. MILK IN THE LAND imaginatively blends archival footage, period graphics, animation, stop-motion and time-lapse photography, commercials, cartoons, WWII propaganda films, and newspaper clippings, interspersed between idyllic scenes of mist-shrouded pastoral landscapes with grazing cows.

MILK IN THE LAND also features interviews with historians, sociologists, physicians, farmers, philosophers, activists, ethicists, and authors, including Melanie Dupuis (*Nature's Perfect Food*), Noel Foster Feliciano (*Early History of American Dairying*), Robin Mathers Jenkins (*A Garden of Unearthly Delights*), Ron Schmid (*The Untold Story of Milk*), Daniel Block (*Hawking Milk*), Robert Cohen (*Milk—The Deadly Poison*) and Jim Sheppard (*Re-thinking Cities*).

This provocative film will provide viewers with new and surprising insights into this commonplace but iconic American drink.



 **Organization of American Historians Conference 2009**

 **HotDocs International Documentary Festival**

75 minutes | color | 2007
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398
Order #HI09-20

More History Films

AFRICA

Last Grave at Dimbaza

Directed by Chris Curling and Pascoe Macfarlane
Produced by Nana Mahomo, Antonia Caccia and Andrew Tsehiana

One of the first and most influential films about apartheid, LAST GRAVE AT DIMBAZA was shot clandestinely in South Africa. It is now a rare, primary visual resource, a portrait of a time and place that was largely unrecorded by photographs or film.

"Provides a window to a world one cannot easily forget."

—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

55 minutes | color | 1974 **CC**
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-21

Mobutu: King of Zaire

A Three-Part Film by Thierry Michel



Drawing upon 140 hours of rare archival material, and 50 hours of interviews, MOBUTU tells the story of Joseph Désiré

Mobutu, ruler of Zaire (the Congo) for over 30 years.

"A stunning documentary."

—**American Historical Review**

3x54 minutes | color | 1999
Sale/DVD: \$490
Order #HI09-22

No More Hiroshima!

A Film by Martin Duckworth
A National Film Board of Canada Production

This film introduces us to two "hibakusha"—survivors of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima—who discuss their deep-rooted fear that world leaders will ignore their warnings and subject future generations to the horrors of nuclear war.

"[A] wonderful film... Strongly recommended."—**Library Journal**

26 minutes | color | 1984
Sale/DVD: \$248
Order #HI09-23

Blowing Up Paradise

A Film by Ben Lewis

This film tells the story of thirty years of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, the protests against them, and French counterattacks, including the lethal bombing of the "Rainbow Warrior," the Greenpeace ship sunk by the French Secret Service.

"Remarkable... one of the best documentaries on the atomic age."—**H-France**

60 minutes | color | 2005 **CC**
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-24



They Chose China

A Film by Shuibao Wang
A National Film Board of Canada Production

Using rare archival footage, as well as period and contemporary interviews, THEY CHOSE CHINA tells the controversial story of American POWs who refused repatriation after the Korean War, choosing to stay in China.

"A fascinating introduction to a little-known episode of Cold War history. Recommended."—**Video Librarian**

52 minutes | color | 2005 **CC**
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-25

Blockade



A Film by Sergei Loznitsa

Made entirely from footage discovered in Russian archives, BLOCKADE vividly re-creates the 900 day WWII siege of Leningrad, when Hitler attempted to starve the Soviet city of three million people into submission.

"Riveting... a technical marvel."—**Film & History**

52 minutes | b&w | 2005
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390
Order #HI09-26



More History Films

The Battle of Chernobyl

A Film by Thomas Johnson

Previously secret documents, plus interviews with survivors and eyewitnesses, reveal the little-known reality of the nuclear plant explosion. The film reveals a systematic cover-up of the disaster, including the possibility of a secondary explosion, whose radioactive clouds would have rendered Europe uninhabitable.

"Powerful... an important film."

—American Society for Environmental History Newsletter

94 minutes | color | 2006
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$440

Order #HI09-27

Forever Lenin

A Film by Xavier Villetard

Why, and how, was Lenin mummified in 1924? And how, and why, is he still on display in Red Square today? FOREVER LENIN chronicles this story through archival footage, a wry voice-over commentary, and interviews.

"Beneath its melancholy, disturbingly dream-like surfaces, the film reveals... the absurdity of a regime gone mad."—Télérama

52 minutes | color | 2005
Sale/DVD: \$390

Order #HI09-28

The Diaries of Yossef Nachmani

A Film by Dalia Karpel

This history of the early Zionists' acquisition and settlement of Palestinian lands in the Galilee, from the 1920's thru 1948, is based on the diaries of a land broker for the Jewish National Fund. It also uses archival footage, interviews with eyewitnesses and participants, and Israeli historian Benny Morris.

"Powerful... An impressive visual and historical document."—Shlomo Sand, Professor of History at Tel Aviv University

60 minutes | c/b&w | 2005
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390

Order #HI09-29

Iran: A Cinematographic Revolution

A Film by Nader Takmil Homayoun

Using archival footage, film clips, and interviews, this documentary portrays the intertwined history of Iran and its cinema, from the first silent films to the talkies, from the Shah's regime to the Islamic revolution, and Iranian filmmakers' contemporary international success.

"Remarkable... offers an insight into the two revolutions—political and artistic."

—Film & History

98 minutes | c/b&w | 2006
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398

Order #HI09-30

The Prize of the Pole

A Film by Staffan Julén

Combining biography and history, this film accompanies the Inuit hunter Hivshu (Robert E. Peary II) on a quest to trace the story of his great grandfather and his other ancestors, including the Eskimo family the famous Arctic explorer brought back with him to New York as part of an exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in 1897.

"The sweep of this film is prodigious... a must-see."—The Explorers Journal

78 minutes | color | 2006 CC
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$440

Order #HI09-31

Ghosts of Attica

A Film by Brad Lichtenstein

Produced by David Van Taylor and Brad Lichtenstein

Narrated by Susan Sarandon

This definitive account of America's most violent prison rebellion, its deadly suppression, the days of torture that ensued, and the almost 30-year legal case that followed, uses exclusive video of the assault and interviews with eyewitnesses.

"A hard-hitting documentary... Highly Recommended."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

90 minutes | color | 2001
Sale/DVD: \$440

Order #HI09-32

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