OLE Winter Term 2012/13
Documentary Film Class – Film List
by Delight Rose

1. **Murder by Proxy: How America Went Postal**
   by Emil Chaberi; 2010; 75 minutes; available on Netflix

   “Murder by Proxy” is a feature-length documentary that examines the growing phenomenon of spree killings in the United States. Almost everyone is familiar with the term “going postal.” The expression is commonly used – sometimes even for comedic effect. But do people know what it actually means?

   The film explores the basic question of what brings a seemingly normal person to the point of committing mass murder. It examines the complex interplay of personal and societal factors leading up to incidents of workplace massacres, starting with the earliest post office massacre in 1986. Ultimately, it provides a thorough and provocative examination into the increasing number of mass murders in the United States, examining how and why they continue to occur, and what this phenomenon might lead to in the future.

2. **The Invisible War**
   by Kirby Dick; 2012; 93 minutes; available on Netflix

   An investigative and powerfully emotional documentary about the epidemic of rape of soldiers within the US military, the institutions that perpetuate and cover up its existence, and its profound personal and social consequences. The interviews of the victims are raw, unfiltered, and unflinching, and are, indeed, very tragic.

3. **Reel Injun**
   by Neil Diamond; 2009; 85 minutes; available on Netflix

   An entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through a century of cinema. Traveling through the heartland of America, and into the Canadian North, Diamond looks at how the myth of “the injun” has influenced the world’s understanding – and misunderstanding – of Natives. Reel Injun traces the evolution of cinema’s depiction of Native people from the silent film era to today, with clips from hundreds of classic and recent Hollywood movies, and candid interviews with celebrated Native and non-Native film celebrities, activists, film critics and historians.

4. **About Face: The Story of Gwendellin Bradshaw**
   by Mary Katzke; 2009; 87 min; available from [www.affinityfilms.org](http://www.affinityfilms.org) also at Loussac Library

   On June 1, 1980 at an Alaskan Campground, Gwen was thrown into a campfire by her mother. She sustained third degree burns over her back, legs, arms, face and head, losing fingers, an ear and half of her scalp. In 2004 Gwen suffered a mental breakdown. The film journeys with Gwen as she uncovers the abuse and deception that has haunted her youth and creates her own prescription for survival. (from affinityfilms website).
5. **Guest Speakers: Mary Katzke and Gwen Bradshaw**  
February 15, 2013

Wonderful in-person, one-on-one discussion with filmmaker Mary and courageous survivor, Gwen. We learned more about what it took to make this film and Gwen filled us in about her incredible journey toward healing.

6. **The Last Mountain**  
by Bill Haney; 2011; 1hr 35 min; available on Netflix

In the valleys of Appalachia, a battle is being fought over a mountain. It is a battle with severe consequences that affect every American, regardless of their social status, economic background or where they live. It is a battle that has taken many lives and continues to do so the longer it is waged. It is a battle over protecting our health and environment from the destructive power of Big Coal.

The mining and burning of coal is at the epicenter of America’s struggle to balance its energy needs with environmental concerns. Nowhere is that concern greater than in Coal River Valley, West Virginia, where a small but passionate group of ordinary citizens are trying to stop Big Coal corporations, like Massey Energy, from continuing the devastating practice of Mountain Top Removal.

The citizens argue the practice of dynamiting the mountain’s top off to mine the coal within pollutes the air and water, is responsible for the deaths of their neighbors and spreads pollution to other states. Yet, regardless of evidence supporting these claims, Big Coal corporations repeat the process daily in the name of profit. Massive profit allows Big Coal to wield incredible financial influence over lobbyists and government officials in both parties, rewrite environmental protection laws, avoid lawsuits and eliminate more than 40,000 mining jobs, all while claiming to be a miner’s best friend. As our energy needs increase, so does Big Coal’s control over our future. This fact and a belief that America was founded on the democratic principal that no individual or corporation owns the air and water and we all share the responsibility of protecting it, drives these patriotic citizens and their supporters from outside of Appalachia, like Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to keep fighting.

A passionate and personal tale that honors the extraordinary power of ordinary Americans when they fight for what they believe in, THE LAST MOUNTAIN shines a light on America’s energy needs and how those needs are being supplied. It is a fight for our future that affects us all.

by: Matthew Heineman (Director and Producer); 2012; available on Netflix

*This is a newly released DVD and hope to have in time for this term.*

ESCAPE FIRE examines the powerful forces maintaining the status quo, a medical industry designed for quick fixes rather than prevention, for profit-driven care rather than patient-driven care. After decades of resistance, a movement to bring innovative high-touch, low-cost methods of prevention and healing into our high-tech, costly system is finally gaining ground. This film follows dramatic human stories as well as leaders fighting to transform healthcare at the highest levels of medicine, industry, government, and even the US military. ESCAPE FIRE is about finding a way out. It’s about saving the health of a nation. (from movie website)
8. **Mad Hot Ballroom**  
by: Marilyn Agrelo; 2005; 2 hr; available on Netflix

Ballroom dancing goes from lame to cool for a group of New York City students in this insightful documentary, which follows a group of 11-yr-olds (5th graders) as they learn to dance old-school styles including the merengue, rumba, tango, foxtrot and swing. Candid interviews capture the kids’ initial reluctance at learning ballroom dance and their transformation into serious competitors determined to win a citywide competition. (from Netflix)

My comments: a fun and uplifting film that is very entertaining with great music and captures 5th graders at their best! We will need to vote to see if class wants to show a 2-hr film but in my opinion it is well worth it. We could take a break mid-way through; of course this film would not end sooner than 12:45 p.m. (BRING LUNCH)

**Websites requested from Mary Katzke and Gwen Brashaw:**

**From Gwen:**
http://www.etsy.com/shop/GwensBears  
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gwens-Bears/319368824831117

**From Mary:**  
[www.aboutfacefilm.org](http://www.aboutfacefilm.org) and [www.affinityfilms.org](http://www.affinityfilms.org)

for Day in Our Bay which I thought may be of interest as we produced and directed this monstrous undertaking: [dayinourbay.org](http://dayinourbay.org)

the current project- trying to get a TV series written, set in and produced in Alaska: [www.alaskatvpilotproject.com](http://www.alaskatvpilotproject.com)

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**See you Spring 2013 Semester. More great films to come!**  
**Spring session will be 4-weeks on Fridays from 10:45 to noon (April 5, 12, 19, and 26th),**  
**Eugene Short Hall, Room 203 (same as this semester)***

**DELIGHT ROSE**  
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