



BLUEPRINT
for Social Justice

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BLUEPRINT

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Note from editor:

Movies and documentaries are an important part of our culture. They entertain and instruct. I sent out emails asking people to suggest social justice movies and documentaries for inclusion in an edition of Blueprint. The following movies and documentaries were suggested. Space precluded including all nominations and comments. The initial brief description of each movie is from Netflix unless otherwise indicated. www.netflix.com The person who nominated the movie and their reasons for doing so follow the brief description. Where the film is not generally available I suggest where you might find it.

You are strongly encouraged to nominate your favorite social justice movies, documentaries, books, and music to be included next time Blueprint publishes an issue on any of these subjects. Send nominations to Bill Quigley c/o duprestars@yahoo.com.

Enjoy!

Social Justice Movies

"The Battle of Algiers." (1965 - 125 minutes - unrated- French with English subtitles). One of the most influential films in the history of political cinema, Gillo Pontecorvo's *The Battle of Algiers* focuses on the events of 1957, a key year in Algeria's struggle for independence from France. Shot in the streets of Algiers in documentary style, the film vividly re-creates the tumultuous Algerian uprising against the occupying French. The violence soon escalates on both sides in this war drama that's astonishingly relevant today. Denise LeBoeuf: "This film is about the price of violence and the hard truth about oppression and so-called "terrorism" in the face of overwhelming military might."

"Bloody Sunday" (2002 - 110 minutes - R) On Sunday, Jan. 30, 1972, in the Catholic Bogside district of Derry, Northern Ireland, 13 unarmed civilian demonstrators were shot and killed by members of the British Parachute Regiment. Director Paul Greengrass's documentary-style drama -- nominated for an Independent Spirit Award -- depicts the massacre blamed for turning relatively peaceful dissent into two decades of civil war and inspiring thousands of young Irish men to join the IRA. Chris Byrd: "Best work about "the troubles." You feel as if you're right in the middle of it."

"City of God." (2002 - 130 minutes - R- Portugese with English subtitles)

Busca-Pe (Alexandre Rodrigues) lives in Cidade de Deus (City of God), a housing project reputed to be one of the most dangerous parts of otherwise magical Rio de Janeiro. He's frightened he'll end up like the countless others around him -- troubled, violent or dead. But his saving grace is his photographer's eye, through which the stories of several people who live in this forsaken "city" unfold. ...

"Cry Freedom." (1987 - 159 minutes - PG). In a segregated South Africa, black nationalist Steven Biko (Denzel Washington) and white newspaper editor Donald Woods (Kevin Kline) are unlikely friends with a common goal: ending apartheid. When Biko's beliefs land him in prison and he's covertly murdered by South African authorities, Woods rallies to expose the injustice. Based on Woods's books *Biko* and *Asking for Trouble*, the film earned Washington his first Oscar nomination.

"Dead Man Walking." (1995 - 122 minutes - R- nominated for several Academy Awards, Susan Sarandon won best actress). Scheduled to be put to death for brutally slaying two teens, Matthew Poncelet (Sean Penn) seeks the aid of activist nun Sr. Helen Prejean (Susan Sarandon), a death-penalty opponent. She becomes Matthew's spiritual adviser and tries to halt the execution, even though Matthew's professed innocence is dubious. As the execution date draws ever closer, Sister Helen works to save Matthew's soul by getting him to confess -- and to ask divine forgiveness. Chenoa Allen: "I watched this thinking I was going to get to see Sr. Helen Prejean speak at a nearby college and wanted to know her background. I am so glad I saw the movie. I recently bought it to watch again, though I want to watch it with someone. It's so sad, but it definitely strengthened my convictions against capital punishment."

"Dirty Pretty Things." (2002- 107 minutes-R). Okwe (Chiwetel Ejiofor), an illegal immigrant working as a night porter at a posh London hotel, stumbles across evidence of a bizarre murder. He and Senay (Audrey Tautou), a Turkish chambermaid -- and fellow undocument-

ed worker -- venture into the city's seedy underworld to find out what happened. Stephen Frears directs this gritty urban thriller. Mary Baudoin, Debbie and Bill Quigley: "Put us right into the dangerous world of the undocumented worker."

"El Norte." (1983 - 139 minutes - unrated- Spanish with English subtitles) Summary by Ed Cannon at IMBD.com: "Mayan Indian peasants, tired of being thought of as nothing more than "brazos fuertes" ("strong arms", i.e., manual laborers) and organizing in an effort to improve their lot in life, are discovered by the Guatemalan army. After the army destroys their village and family, a brother and sister, teenagers who just barely escaped the massacre, decide they must flee to "El Norte" ("the North", i.e., the USA). After receiving clandestine help from friends and humorous advice from a veteran immigrant on strategies for traveling through Mexico, they make their way by truck, bus and other means to Los Angeles, where they try to make a new life as young, uneducated, and illegal immigrants." Available only on VHS so far. Chris Byrd, DC

"Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story." (1996 - 110 minutes - PG13). Review by Paulist Press: "Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story, is a movie that traces the spiritual journey of Dorothy Day. The founder of The Catholic Worker, Dorothy Day was a great servant of the poor, a battler for justice and a champion of non-violent conflict resolution. Starting from her days as a feisty Marxist journalist and through several affairs and an abortion, she eventually undergoes a religious transformation, which turned her into the American Mother Teresa. The phrase "entertaining angels" comes from the New Testament, Hebrews 13:2, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it," which expresses Dorothy Day's attitude about hospitality to the poor." "Everyone I have showed it to has been touched by her story"- Robert Waldrop. "A look at the inspiring life of Dorothy Day, starter of the Catholic Worker movement. This film is an hon-

est and humanistic portrayal of an incredible, but also flawed, social justice guru” - Lisa O'Neill.

“Erin Brockovich.” (2000 - 132 minutes - R) A stirring, funny and unconventional drama based on true events, Erin Brockovich stars Julia Roberts as a twice-divorced mother of three children who sees an injustice, takes on the bad guy and wins. Desperately needing a job, Erin goes to work for her attorney (Albert Finney) and comes across some medical records describing awful illnesses clustered in one nearby town. She starts investigating and soon exposes a monumental cover-up. Bill & Emilie Griffin.

“Gandhi.” (1982- 190 minutes -PG). Epic and unforgettable, Gandhi swept the 1983 Oscars, winning eight awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Ben Kingsley), Best Screenplay and Best Director for Richard Attenborough. The awe-inspiring story of Mahatma Gandhi, the diminutive lawyer who stood up to the British in India and became an international symbol of nonviolence and understanding, brilliantly underscores the difference one individual can make. “A really wonderful film” - Emilie & Bill Griffin.

“Gridlocked.” (1997 - 91 minutes - R). After a friend's drug overdose, junkie musicians Spoon and Stretch (Tupac Shakur and Tim Roth) decide to kick their drug habits and attempt to enroll in a government detoxification program. Dark humor punctuates their attempts to get clean (which are hampered by the seemingly endless amount of red tape), as they're repeatedly referred from one office to another while being chased by drug dealers and the police. Mark Mossa, SJ: “I recommend this as a social justice film, however, the language in this film is graphic, and there are scenes of actual drug usage. This is not a film for children, teenagers. or those who might be offended by harsh language.”

“Hotel Rwanda.” (2005 - 122 minutes-PG13). Amid the holocaust of internecine tribal fighting in Rwanda that sees the wanton and savage butchering of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, one

ordinary man (Don Cheadle) musters the courage to save more than 1,000 helpless refugees by sheltering them in the hotel he manages. Sophie Okonedo, Nick Nolte and Joaquin Phoenix co-star in this powerful film (sort of an African version of Schindler's List) directed by Terry George. Debbie and Bill Quigley: “Powerful film that should be seen by all people interested in human rights, war, and peace. Should have won the academy award. Even though the subject is a series of horrendous atrocities, do not let that keep you from seeing this. The director keeps scenes of carnage to a minimum - it is not nearly as gory as the average action movie. Also, on the DVD, there is a post-movie interview with the real courageous person who is profiled in the movie - that alone is worth it. Makes you want to learn much more about this overlooked part of world history.”

“In America.” (2002 - 103 minutes - PG13). Academy Award-winning director Jim Sheridan brings authenticity and grit to this drama about an Irish family starting life anew in early-1980s America. With their two daughters in tow, Johnny (Paddy Considine) and Sarah (Samantha Morton) leave Ireland and head to New York so Johnny can pursue an acting career. Mark Mossa, SJ: “Trying to run away from their grief, they move (illegally) to a junkie-infested apartment building in New York City with their two daughters, Christy and Ariel. Though they struggle with meager jobs and suffocatingly hot weather, a friendship with an artist in an apartment below them becomes a catalyst that allows them to rebuild their family.”

“Inherit the Wind.” (1960 - 128 minutes - unrated). Spencer Tracy (in one of his best roles) as legendary lawyer Clarence Darrow and Frederic March as William Jennings Bryan square off as opposing attorneys in this blistering courtroom drama about the famed 1930s "Scopes Monkey Trial," where a Tennessee teacher was taken to task for teaching Darwinism in the schoolroom. Gene Kelly co-stars as newspaper reporter H.L. Mencken. Emilie & Bill Griffin: “This has to do with a struggle against narrow-minded religious bias. A classic!”

“In the Time of the Butterflies.” (2001 -92 minutes- PG13). Salma Hayek steps out in a weighty, serious role as Minerva Mirabel, a resistance fighter against the popular dictatorship of Leonidas Trujillo (Edward James Olmos) in the Dominican Republic. The tempestuous Minerva leads her sisters Mate (Mia Maestro) and Patria (Lumi Cavazos) into the burgeoning resistance movement after the dictator murders their father. Marc Anthony plays Hayek's radical boyfriend. Recommended by Amnesty International.

“In This World.” (2003 - 88 minutes-R). Two Afghan cousins (16-year-old Jamal and his older cousin Enayet) become refugees and embark on a clandestine overland odyssey that takes them from Pakistan to London in this gripping documentary film from director Michael Winterbottom. The highlight of the tough, mean journey is when Jamal and a friend stow away underneath the chassis of a French truck that links up with a freight train headed for the U.K. Debbie and Bill Quigley: “This movie immediately puts you into the world of refugees.”

“Iron Jawed Angels.” (2004 - 124 minutes - unrated). From 1912 to 1920, a group of fiery young suffragettes led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) band together to wheedle the United States into adopting a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. Along the way, they incur the wrath of President Woodrow Wilson (Bob Gunton) and anger other suffragette leaders (Anjelica Huston and Lois Smith). Directed by Katja von Garnier.

“John Q.” (2001- 112 minutes - PG13). Denzel Washington plays John Q, a luckless blue-collar workingman without the insurance needed to cover his son's emergency heart transplant. Driven to desperation, he holds a hospital's emergency room hostage until doctors agree to perform the operation. Robert Duvall and Anne Heche are a couple of stubborn hospital staffers, and Ray Liotta is a gung ho police chief in this gripping story about

the possible consequences of real social ills. Mark Mossa, SJ.

“Johnny Got His Gun.” (1971 - 111 minutes - PG). In World War I, young American soldier Joe Bonham (Timothy Bottoms) lost his arms, legs, sight and hearing in a landmine explosion. Now, he lies in a military hospital unsure whether he's awake or dreaming, remembering his life in colorful flashbacks that include scenes with his girl (Kathy Fields), his dad (Jason Robards) and even Jesus Christ (a scene-stealing Donald Sutherland). Dalton Trumbo adapted his own 1939 novel of the same name. Cynthia Banas: “One of the best anti- war works available.”

“Lone Star.” (1996 - 134 minutes- R). When two men discover a human skull and an encrusted badge buried near a small Texas border town, the investigation of lawman Sam Deeds (Chris Cooper) reveals a 40-year-old murder in director John Sayles' acclaimed drama. Sam's late father, the former sheriff (Matthew McConaughey, in flashbacks), is a town legend, and Sam's discoveries threaten to tarnish his dad's reputation and touch the lives of nearly everyone in the community. Chris Byrd.

“The Long Walk Home.” (1990 - 98 minutes - PG). Sissy Spacek stars as Miriam Thompson, a Montgomery, Alabama, housewife who finds herself in the midst a civil rights revolution when she helps her black maid, Odessa (Whoopi Goldberg), during the infamous bus boycott of the 1950s. When Miriam discovers Odessa is forced to walk the 9 miles to her house and back, she volunteers to give Odessa a ride -- much to the dismay of Miriam's husband and social circle. Kathy McGinnis: “The story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, from the perspective of the Black citizens and the kind of decisions they had to make. Also, gives a sense of the decisions white Montgomery citizens had to make. Good for junior high and up.”

“Malcom X.” (1992 - 201 minutes - PG13). Few lives are so ideally suited to a film

biography as that of Malcolm X (Denzel Washington, who earned an Oscar nomination for the role). Spike Lee directs this look at the courageous life of a man who began life as a low-level gangster. A stay in prison led to his conversion to Islam; but when he turned against the Nation, he became a murder target. Chris Byrd.

"Maria Full of Grace." (2004 - 101 minutes - R- Spanish with English subtitles). Maria Full of Grace is the harrowing story of an atypical drug-running "mule." Maria Alvarez (Catalina Sandino Moreno, whose portrayal earned her an Independent Spirit Award for Best Female Lead) is a smart, independent 17-year-old girl from Colombia who agrees to smuggle a half-kilo of heroin into the United States for a shot at a normal existence in the magical land of "El Norte" -- where she imagines the city streets must be paved with gold. Debbie and Bill Quigley.

"Matewan." (1987 - 142 minutes - PG13). Well-intentioned labor leader Joe Kenehan (Chris Cooper) arrives in Matewan, West Virginia, intending to unionize the men and women of this company town. But his efforts to organize the workers of the Stone Mountain Coal Company ignite a powder keg of racial hostility, corruption and betrayal -- and touch off one of the most violent incidents in the history of the Coal Wars of 1920-21.

"Men With Guns." (1997 - 128 minutes - R- Spanish with English subtitles). A distinguished Latin American doctor (Federico Luppi) is on a quest to locate his former students, whom he trained and deployed throughout the disease-ridden rural regions of their country. Soon, he realizes the depths of despair villagers face, as gun-toting guerrillas ransack the countryside. Stripped of his former idealism, he collects a group of pilgrims in search of a legendary village untouched by men with guns. John Sayles directs. Chris Byrd: "Civil war in Latin America."

"Milagro Beanfield War." (1988- 120 minutes- R). Based on John Nichol's book set in a tiny New Mexican town, Robert Redford's comedy-drama pits the little guys against big development. When a local resort owner wants to expand, farmer Joe (Chick Vennera) takes a stand. The eccentric locals divide on the issue, but organized action mixed with a little magic unites them to fight for their rights. John Heard, Christopher Walken, Sonia Braga, Ruben Blades, Daniel Stern and Melanie Griffith costar. Celia Rumann: "It is a classic tale about abuses of power and the struggle to survive on the margins of society. This fable is about land developers, coordinating with government, to take over desirable land that is in the hands of the working poor. It shows the challenges and triumphs of community coordination. Though this description makes it sound cliché, the movie presents this story in a way that avoids being too earnest. It also helps that it is well written, well acted and set against the gorgeous backdrop of northern New Mexico."

"Missing." (1982 - 123 minutes - PG - won academy award). Constantin Costa-Gavras helmed this thriller based on a true story. John Shea plays Charles Horman, an American expatriate living with his wife, Beth (Sissy Spacek), in a South American country in the midst of a coup. When Charles vanishes, Beth turns to his father (Jack Lemmon) for help. But the conservative businessman is about to learn a lesson in political reality ... and the ugly facts about the United States' involvement in Latin America. Kathy Kelly: "This film is based on a true story. The bereaved wife and father try to learn more about the disappearance of "Charlie," a young free-lance reporter who was killed during the CIA-sponsored overthrow of Salvador Allende. Charlie's father cannot believe that the US government would lie to him or engage in cover-ups regarding the tragic loss of his son. Eventually, he recognizes that Charlie's commitment to human rights and his readiness to critique the crooked maneuvers that undermined Chile's government were heroic. The father sustains a loss of innocence himself as he learns that he

cannot rely on the government structures he had trusted.”

“Mission.” (1986 - 125 minutes - PG). A Jesuit missionary (Jeremy Irons) establishes a church in the hostile jungles of Brazil (circa 1750) and then finds his work converting the Rain Forest Indians threatened by greed and political forces among his superiors. Rodrigo Mendoza (Robert De Niro) is a heartless soldier who kills his own brother and then convinces Irons's missionary to oversee his penance and conversion to the clergy. Won the 1987 Oscar for best cinematography. Robert Waldrop: “This is about the Jesuit settlements in South America, and their eventual destruction. I have only watched this one once. It's not a movie I would consider seeing twice, that I guess is how powerful it was for me.” Bob Collins: “Its about globalization 18th Century style but it deals with the issue of Justice as a religious concept and violence, vs.. non- violence as a way of achieving it.”

“Motorcycle Diaries.” (2004 - 128 minutes - R - Spanish with English subtitles). This film tells the incredible true story of a 23-year-old medical student from Argentina, Che Guevara (played here by Gael Garcia Bernal), who motorcycled across South America with his friend Alberto Granado (Rodrigo de la Serna) in 1951-52. The trek became a personal odyssey that ultimately crystallized the young man's budding revolutionary beliefs. Based on Che's own diaries of the trip. Kathy McGinnis: “The story of Che's beginning of consciousness that all was not well. Some beautiful scenes of indigenous South American people.”

“On The Waterfront.” (1954 - 107 minutes - unrated). Terry Malloy (Oscar-winner Marlon Brando) is a washed-up boxer turned longshoreman who finds he has one fight left in him when he dares to take on corrupt union boss Johnny Friendly (Lee J. Cobb). A landmark "issue" picture, *On the Waterfront* is distinguished by great performances and excellent use of New York locations. It's also the winner of eight Academy Awards, including

Best Picture and Best Director (Elia Kazan). Michael O'Connor: “On the Waterfront, may be more thought-provoking than inspirational. I would only use this as a teaching vehicle if you are prepared to have more in depth conversations about issues pertaining to social justice. This movie, when judged just by what projects on the screen, is an excellent vehicle for discussing a wide range of issues relating to social justice. Symbolically, it deals with the conflict between totalitarian forms of government (and their depersonalizing effects), and liberal democracies (where individualism may flourish). But, the film is not easy to pigeon-hole, and has layers of meaning about social & economic justice, loyalty, responsibility, family and faith. Plus, the acting, directing and cinematography are all superb. The film becomes even more complicated when one considers the social and political forces which gave birth to it. The director, Elia Kazan, testified before HUAAC and named people who were subsequently blacklisted as communists. Many view the film as Kazan's attempt to justify his actions before HUAAC. If you are using this in a class be prepared to have in-depth discussions about the nuances of social justice.”

“Pay It Forward.” (2000 - 123 minutes - PG13). Haley (Joel Osment) is riveting as a young student who responds to a social studies assignment with a plan to unselfishly help three strangers ... who will then help three more, and so on, in an ever-widening circle. Helen Hunt provides fine support as his abused mother, as does Kevin Spacey as a teacher with a painful secret. Kathy McGinnis: “Good for junior-high and above, about the difference one person can make, as well as the cost of standing up for others.”

“Rabbit-Proof Fence.” (2002 - 93 minutes - PG). Australia's aboriginal integration program of the 1930s broke countless hearts -- among them, those of young Molly (Evelyn Sampi), Gracie (Laura Monaghan) and Daisy (Tiana Sansbury), who were torn from their families and placed in an abusive orphanage. Without food or water, the girls resolve to make the 1,500-mile trek home. New York Times critic Steven Holden says:

“Its portrait of people who see themselves as decent, self-righteously trying to eradicate another culture, has the impact of a swift, hard slap in the face.”

“Romero.” (1989 - 102 minutes - PG13). Archbishop Oscar Romero (Raul Julia) stands between 1980s El Salvador's ruling military elite and a band of Marxist guerillas as a man with simple demands: freedom and justice for all people. He braces for violence from both factions with quiet resolve, but in a tragic twist, Romero's words fall short of delivering true change during his lifetime. The film, based on real events, was shot on location in Mexico. Marie A. Failinger: “First, the movie illustrates graphically how what one knows about the instruments of power like the police and the military, can be perceived and experienced so differently by those in power and those who are not. Second, it shows the gruesome extent of inhumanity that ordinary people are capable of in support of political and economic institutions, and the ways in which they justify even the most evil behavior to themselves. Third, it shows the ability of the human spirit to struggle for justice and hope for a future in the most dangerous and discouraging situations. And finally, it reminds Americans that many, many times, what are communicated to us as perhaps well-intended policies have resulted in horrible evil when we have not been willing to monitor our foreign policy initiatives closely.”

“To Kill a Mockingbird.” (1962 - 130 minutes - NR). Southern comforts abound in this zesty adaptation of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Gregory Peck won an Oscar for his role as Atticus Finch, a widowed lawyer who takes on the task of defending an innocent black man (Brock Peters) against rape charges, only to wind up in a maelstrom of hate and prejudice that threatens to invade the lives of his children.

“Veronica Guerin.” (2003 - 98 minutes - R). Veronica Guerin (Cate Blanchett), a real-life reporter for Dublin's Sunday Independent, delved into the netherworld of drug lords in pursuit of a great story -- but her zeal put her

life in grave danger. Colin Farrell and Brenda Fricker co-star in this Joel Schumacher-directed drama based on events in the acclaimed Irish journalist's life.

“Z.” (1969 - 127 minutes - PG - French with English subtitles). Based on true events, director Costa-Gavras's Oscar-winning film chronicles the overthrow of the democratic government in Greece. The edge-of-your-seat action closely parallels the real-life assassination of Gregorios Lambrakis, a Greek doctor and humanist whose murder in 1963 led to an abortive public scandal. Part mystery and part thriller, Z made its mark as a groundbreaking political roman à clef, and it resonates even today. Roger Ebert writes: “There are some things that refuse to be covered over. It would be more convenient, yes, and easier for everyone if the official version were believed. But then the facts begin to trip over one another, and contradictions emerge, and an "accident" is revealed as a crime. The film "Z" is about one of these things: about the assassination, six years ago, of a leader of the political opposition in Greece. It is also about all the rest of them. For Americans, it is about the My Lai massacre, the killing of Fred Hampton, the Bay of Pigs. It is no more about Greece than "The Battle of Algiers" was about Algeria. It is a film of our time. It is about how even moral victories are corrupted. It will make you weep and will make you angry. It will tear your guts out.”

Social Justice Documentaries

"Amandla! A Evolution in 4-Part Harmony." (2003 - 103 minutes - PG13). The struggle to eradicate apartheid in South Africa has been chronicled over time, but no one has addressed the vital role music plays in this challenge. This documentary by Lee Hirsch recounts a fascinating and little-known part of South Africa's political history through archival footage, interviews and, of course, several mesmerizing musical performances. Denise LeBoeuf: “This is one of my favorite music movies, about the singers and writers whose art fueled and reflected the fight to end apartheid in South Africa. This is worth it for just one or two performances, but there are dozens.”

“American Dream.” (1991- 102 minutes- PG13). Documentarian Barbara Kopple weighs in with an unsettling account of the months-long strike of employees at the Hormel meatpacking plant in Austin, Minn., in 1984. Juxtaposed against the Reagan administration's demolition of the nation's air traffic controllers' union, the Hormel strikers found themselves picketing during the worst climate for organized labor since the 19th century. Oscar winner for Best Documentary in 1991. Scott Mathern-Jacobson: “We just watched American Dream last night. I felt I learned a lot about that struggle and about the Union struggle in general. A pretty depressing ending, but many ending are in this world. I highly recommend this movie.”

“Bonhoeffer.” (2003 - 90 minutes - unrated). This poignant documentary traces the life of German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was one of the first to speak up against Adolph Hitler throughout Hitler's rise to power. Bonhoeffer organized the Confessing Church, the only structured revolt against Hitler, and turned to his roots as a devout Christian for the strength to take a political stand for Jews everywhere. Debbie and Bill Quigley: “Portrait of a real hero who stood for pacifism but ended up trying to kill Hitler - a challenging story.”

“Bowling for Columbine.” (2002 - 119 minutes -R). Famed filmmaker and left-wing political humorist Michael Moore tackles America's obsession with firearms in this Oscar-winning documentary. Focusing mainly on the Columbine massacre in April 1999, Moore also visits a Michigan bank that gives new customers a free gun, recites statistics for gun deaths in the United States and interviews folks ranging from National Rifle Association spokesman Charlton Heston to shock rocker Marilyn Manson. Margo Baum.

“Control Room.” (2004 - 83 minutes - notrated). This documentary peers into the controversial and often dangerous operations of the 7-year-old Al Jazeera news network. Although it often enrages its own people, the news outlet has become the most accepted informational resource in the Arab community.

Filmmaker Jehane Noujaim gains extraordinary access to Al Jazeera journalists and examines the risks they confront on a daily basis. Cynthia Banas.

“Convictions: Prisoners of Conscience.” (2004 - 20 minutes). Prisoners of Conscience focuses on some of the 200 School of Americas - Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation protesters who collectively have received 80 years of prison time for their non-violent civil disobedience. Latest in a series of short videos from School of Americas Watch. www.soaw.org

“The Corporation.” (2004 - 145 minutes - unrated). This documentary charts the spectacular rise of corporations as a dramatic, pervasive presence in our lives. Filmmakers March Achbar and Jennifer Abbott present a timely, entertaining critique of global conglomerates as they chronicle the origins of corporations, as well as their inner workings, controversial impacts and possible futures. The pros and cons are weighed via interviews with social critics such as Noam Chomsky and Michael Moore. Lisa O'Neill: “This documentary takes a look into what a corporation would look like if it was a human being- namely psychopathic. The movie is spun off of the corporation's "legal person" status in the U.S. A long and heavy film, the movie does use humor interspersed with a checklist of what is wrong with corporations- inability to feel guilt, and complete disregard for all other beings.”

A Day's Work A Day's Pay (2001 - 57 minutes) follows three welfare recipients in NYC from 1997 to 2000 as they participate in the largest welfare to work program in the nation. When forced to work at city jobs for low wages and deprived of the chance to go to school, they decide to fight back and demand programs that will help them get off welfare and into real jobs. www.mintleafproductions.org

Democracy University DVDs. Ralph Cole is a West Coast social justice activist who attends many live progressive political events

and records them on VHS and DVD. He offers copies of these events for very modest cost and provides opportunities for people to see and hear progressive social justice activists who do not often get out into the rest of the US. For individual events or subscription information go to: <http://justicevision.blogspot.com>

The Farm: Life Inside Angola Prison, (1998 - 100 minutes - notrated). Grand Jury Prize Sundance Film Festival. Angola Prison in Louisiana is the biggest maximum security prison in the country. This is where the most dangerous criminals go and where parole hearings are a mere formality. A small video crew was given unprecedented access to the inmates, of which six were chosen from 5,000 to give a portrait of life in the facility, also known as "the Farm." Two of the men continue the fight to prove their innocence. Two veterans have found redemption in personal transformations, one man as a prison activist, the other as a preacher. Two men prepare for death--one faces execution, the other is being eaten away by cancer. It's unlikely any of them will emerge from prison alive. What begins as a traditional documentary transforms into an investigation of the human spirit, of hope in the face of hopelessness. We see the parole board pass judgment before the applicant even makes his case and make their decision before the door has closed behind him. Yet this is not so much a work of investigative journalism as a cultural study. --Sean Axmaker

"Farmingville POV:" (2004 - 78 minutes - notrated). Paul Sonn: The late 1990s saw a large population of illegal Mexican immigrants desert their home country and take root in the unusual location of Farmingville, New York, in Long Island. Taking menial jobs that were shunned by the local community, the transition was an uneasy one, with rising tensions between the locals and the immigrants resulting in some unpleasant skirmishes. The problems raced to a sad, yet inevitable, conclusion when two Mexican laborers barely escaped an attack with their lives intact, leading to some brutal scenes of protest and violence.

Local residents and filmmakers Carlos Sandoval and Catherine Tambini document the sad events in this compelling documentary, offering a startling portrait of a community in peril, which also serves as a damning indictment on the treatment meted out to immigrants in the USA." Won a Sundance Special Jury Prize in 2004.

"Fast Food Women." (1991 - 28 minutes - unrated). Fast Food Women takes an inside look at the lives of the women who fry chicken, make pizzas, and flip burgers at four different fast food restaurants in eastern Kentucky. These women, mostly middle-aged and raising children, are often the sole income source for their families. They work for wages barely above the minimum wage, have trouble getting full-time hours because of their employers' scheduling policies, and are without health care and other benefits. Bill Quigley: "This is one of the very best teaching videos I have ever seen. Though a little dated, it never fails to prompt serious discussion about work, living wages, the roles of women, and economic justice. \$25 from www.appalshop.org

"Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara." (2003 - 107 minutes - PG13). Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara worked for both Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, playing a key role in shaping both administrations' approaches to the Vietnam War. This Oscar-winning documentary directed by Errol Morris traces McNamara's career from government to the World Bank; but it's his work during the Vietnam years that's highlighted in this film, which features extensive archival footage and interviews.

Free Speech Network. "Shocking and Awful" is a 13 part series of half-hour programs on the results of the invasion of Iraq. These programs and many, many more can be viewed on-line for free or purchased at very little cost for showing on DVD for groups or on local cable stations. The Free

Speech Network is available for those with Deep Dish TV or on the internet at: www.deepdishtv.org

"4 Little Girls." (1997 - 102 minutes - unrated). Director Spike Lee uses this feature-length documentary to tell the story of the 1963 bombing of an Alabama African-American church -- an event that took the lives of four young girls and became a pivotal moment in the civil rights struggle. Lee's film examines the crime and its perpetrators as well as the four young victims (as described by friends and families). It also includes interviews with noted civil rights activists and journalists. Chris Byrd: "The child martyrs of the civil rights movement."

A Force More Powerful: A Century of Nonviolent Conflict (2000 - 180 minutes - unrated) This tells one of humanity's most important and least understood stories - how, during a century of extreme violence, millions chose to battle brutality and oppression with nonviolent weapons - and won. Video of struggles in India, Nashville, South Africa, Poland, Denmark and Chile illustrate the power and potential of nonviolent struggle. Cynthia Banas.

"Hearts and Minds." (1974 - 112 - R). An Academy Award-winning documentary that casts a sharp eye toward the U.S. government's costly -- in terms of lives, budget and honor -- all-out effort during the Vietnam War. Director Peter Davis uses his own war footage, newsreels, presidential speeches and interviews with the likes of Robert Kennedy, Gen. William Westmoreland and Daniel Ellsberg to provide a compelling argument against war. Alice Budge: "Great anti-war film."

"The Hidden Face of Globalization." (2003 - 34 minutes - unrated). Filmed in Bangladesh in the summer of 2003, this film documents not only the lives & working conditions of the Bangladeshi factory workers producing apparel for well-known US companies like Walt Disney Company, but discusses the economic conditions of corporate globalization that led to the

situation. The box cover notes: "In the global economy, corporations demand enforceable laws - intellectual property and copyright laws- backed up by sanctions to protect their products. However, when we ask these same companies, "Can't we also protect the rights of the 16-year-old who made the product?," the companies respond: "No. That would be an impediment to free trade!" So we live in a society where the label, the trademark, the logo, the product- all are protected, but not the human being who made it. This is morally & ethically wrong." Available for \$20 from National Labor Committee, www.nlcnet.org Bill Quigley: "This film lives up to its name."

"Hijacking Catastrophe: 9-11, Fear and the Selling of the American Empire." Narrated by Julian Bond. (2004 - 64 minutes - unrated) Anita Gates of the New York Times says: "Openly polemical but also sobering ... You don't hear phrases like 'take over the world' often these days without a James Bond movie review attached, but Hijacking Catastrophe makes a convincing case with simple methods ... The filmmakers are definitely playing hardball." Val Fillenwarth: " This isn't as fun as Michael Moore's 9/11 film, but it is very informative, fascinating and infuriating."

"Life and Debt." (2001 - 86 minutes - not rated). This searing documentary examines how the policies of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other aid organizations have changed the Jamaican economy over the past quarter of a century, leaving the local people to struggle in poverty and work in sweatshops. Author Jamaica Kincaid narrates with Belinda Becker to a reggae soundtrack that includes songs by Bob Marley, Ziggy Marley, Mutabaruka and Peter Tosh. Leah Wise: "One of the most useful films in our work for making connections between economic globalization and racism. It is a documentary about the collapse of the Jamaican economy due to neo-liberal policies of the IMF and World Bank." Megan Hasser: "Really powerful and well made."

"The Lost Boys of Sudan." (2003 - 87 minutes - unrated). This award-winning documentary follows two Sudanese refugees throughout their intense journey from their native Africa to the United States. As orphans living in the middle of a brutal civil war, Peter and Santino dealt with dangers like lion attacks and gunfire from militia. But even more daunting are the challenges they face in suburbia after they're chosen to start a new life in America. Mary Baudoin: "Highly recommend this film."

"Manufacturing Consent." (1993 - 167 minutes - notrated). Funny and provocative, this 1992 documentary explores the political life and ideas of Noam Chomsky, a world-renowned linguist, intellectual and political activist. Chomsky illustrates how the media tacitly manipulates public opinion to further the agendas of the powerful. A compelling examination of the suppression of news about the U.S.-supported Indonesian invasion and subjugation of East Timor brings home the point.

"The Murder of Emmett Till." (2003 - 53 minutes - notrated). Considered a catalyst for America's civil rights movement, the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till (and the events after his death) is explored in this documentary. While visiting the Deep South, Till whistled at a white woman, an act for which he was brutally killed. Activists got organized after Till's mother let national newspapers run pictures of her mangled son, the trial ended in acquittal, and the federal government failed to intervene. Jacqueline Berrien.

"Night and Fog." (1955 - 31 minutes - notrated). This landmark documentary -- one of the first cinematic reflections on the Holocaust's horror -- is as lyrical as it is graphic and has influenced movies up to and including Schindler's List. Director Alain Resnais contrasts 1955 footage of Auschwitz's quiet, empty buildings with black-and-white footage shot there in 1944. The film's haunting images, such as a hill of human hair or a pyramid of shoes, stand on their own as mute testament. Alice Budge: "A "never forget" film."

"Outfoxed." (2004 - 77 minutes - notrated). A no-holds-barred documentary on Rupert Murdoch's Fox News, which has been criticized in some quarters as running a "race to the bottom" in television news. Offering an in-depth look at the dangers of burgeoning corporations that take control of the public's right to know, the film explores Murdoch's ever-expanding media empire and its impact on society. Liz Scott: "People should see this because it demonstrates vividly how FOX news--and that's the only news many people watch-- is an insult to the profession of journalism, and worse yet, is largely responsible for destruction of our country, both physically and morally."

"Panama Deception." (1992 - 91 minutes- not rated). This documentary details the case that the 1989 invasion of Panama by the US was motivated not by the need to protect American soldiers, restore democracy or even capture Noriega. It was to force Panama to submit the will of the United States after Noriega had exhausted his usefulness. Jack Neis: "One of the key pieces in my educational motivation on social justice."

Persons of Interest, (2004 - 63 minutes - unrated). In the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, more than 5,000 Arab or Muslim immigrants were taken into custody by the U.S. Justice Department and held indefinitely on the grounds of national security. This documentary consists of a series of interviews with 12 detainees and family members, conducted in a bare room that functioned variously as interrogation room, prison cell and home. Humanitarian Award, 2004 Amnesty International Film Festival.

"Pote Mak Sonje: the Raboteau Trial." (2003 - 57 minutes - unrated). Barnard College says: "On April 22, 1994, three years after a military coup overthrew democratically elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide, members of the Haitian Army and of the paramilitary group FRAPH (National Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti) surrounded the coastal community of Raboteau and committed what

has come to be known as “the Massacre at Raboteau.” Soldiers and FRAPH members beat and tortured over 200 residents and pursued victims who sought medical assistance in hospitals as far away as Port-au-Prince. Although eight deaths were documented, estimates of the number killed during the Massacre range up to 50, but cannot be firmly established. Pote Mak Sonje: The Raboteau Trial explores how a community marked by a long history of impunity, corruption, extreme poverty, and illiteracy overcame such obstacles and mobilized to bring about the most successful criminal prosecution in Haiti, and one of the most significant human rights trials in the Western hemisphere in the last 20 years.” Brian Concannon: “This is a must-see for anyone trying to understand recent events in Haiti. Even before the 2004 coup d'etat, the Raboteau victims had been subject to retaliation. Most have been in hiding since December, two victims and the chief prosecutor have had their houses burned. Pote Mak Sonje places the Raboteau victim's fight squarely within the broader context of the struggle of Haiti's poor majority for freedom and self determination, against powerful forces in Haiti and abroad.”

“Prison Ball.” (2004 - unrated). Jacqueline Berrien: “This movie tells the story of a basketball tournament involving inmates in four Louisiana prisons. It includes a powerful critique of the criminal justice system - especially mandatory minimum sentencing for drug-related offenses - and it also addresses the impact of incarceration on the families (especially the children) of prison inmates.” For more information, check out <http://www.prisonballthemovie.com>.

“The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.” (2003 - unrated). On April 12, 2002, the world awoke to the news that Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez had been removed from office and replaced by a new interim government. Documentarians Kim Bartley and Donnacha O'Briain, in Venezuela making a film about the left-leaning democratic president, suddenly found themselves in the heart of a coup d'état and captured those frightening moments and days in which a nation's political future hung in the balance.

America.” (2004 - 240 minutes - notrated). Morgan Freeman narrates this four-part series that chronicles American slavery from its 1619 inception to the realities of emancipation. The series emphasizes the economic importance of slavery, examines how slaves from various cultures dealt with their environments, and uncovers the horrors that slaves experienced during the Civil War. Expert scholars offer fresh perspectives, and re-creations depict the true stories of individual slaves.

“Supersize Me.” (2004 - 98 minutes - PG13). Two out of three Americans are overweight or obese, but where does personal responsibility end and corporate responsibility take over? On the heels of recent lawsuits against McDonald's, director Morgan Spurlock takes a hilarious and often terrifying look at the effects of fast food on the human body. Spurlock spends a month of eating nothing but McDonald's food, ordering everything on the menu at least once and "super-sizing" his order if asked. Consumerism gone nuts.

“The Thin Blue Line.” (1988 - 88 minutes - notrated). Errol Morris's gripping investigation into the murder of a Dallas police officer was responsible for freeing the man originally -- and erroneously -- charged with and convicted of the crime. Through archival footage, interviews and stylized reenactments, Morris skillfully makes a case for the innocence of a man who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Widely acclaimed, this breakthrough documentary captured numerous awards. Bianca Jagger: “One of the most powerful arguments against the death penalty.”

“The Tuskegee Airmen: They Fought Two Wars.” (2003 - 60 minutes - not rated). The Tuskegee Airmen were known for their heroics during World War II; away from the front, they fought a different battle, one that was less bombastic but just as insidious: racism. These pioneering African-American soldiers proved to America and the rest of the world that one's race has no bearing on one's ability to protect, serve and defend one's country. This PBS documentary recounts the challenges the men faced at home and abroad.

“Slavery and the Making of

“Unconstitutional.” (2004 - 66 minutes - notrated). Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Congress passed a series of laws known as The Patriot Act, which is designed to assist law enforcement in preventing future terrorist attacks. Take an inside look at this controversial bill through the eyes of legal analysts and constitutional experts as they examine the possible dangers The Patriot Act poses to our civil liberties and individual freedoms. Joe Cook.

"Weapons of Mass Deception." (2004 - 90 minutes - notrated). Investigative reporter and filmmaker Danny Schechter's documentary focuses on how the media shaped people's views of the Iraq War through their intense coverage from the war's inception through February 2004. Schechter's film examines provocative theories such as the Pentagon's involvement in media messages, how new methods such as satellites and embedded journalists affected media coverage, and the competition between media outlets. Mollie Babize: "This film documents the ways in which corporate-governed media have controlled and manipulated the flow of news from and about Iraq, and silenced those who dared speak out about it. Really well done, and quite disturbing."

The Weather Underground Documentary. (2002 - 92 minutes - unrated). A sobering documentary about a group of 1960s "committed freedom fighters" known as The Weather Underground. A radical offshoot of the Students for a Democratic Society, the Weathermen didn't just march or sit in; they rioted and bombed -- not to change the American political scene but rather to destroy it. The organization was part of a global trend of revolution that sprang from the belief that not acting against violence is violence. Erica Smith.

When Did I See You Hungry? (2003 - 37 minutes - unrated). From the producer: This short film by documentary filmmaker and award-winning author Gerard Thomas Straub is a photographic meditation on the plight of the poor and our responsibility to help. The film features more than 250 powerful and poignant

black and white photographs from Mr. Straub's new book, *When Did I See You Hungry?* Straub spent months living among the poor in the impoverished sections of 29 cities in nine nations: India, Brazil, Kenya, Jamaica, the Philippines, Mexico, Italy, Canada and the United States. His photographs document the life of the poorest of the poor in a startling and disquieting series of intensely personal, black-and-white photographs. Straub uses the camera as an instrument of contemplation, and his photographs, with wordless gentleness, allow us to see more closely things we know about but are not attentive to. More than just capturing the agony of life in the slums, these photographs reveal the hidden humanity of the poor, their spirit of joy and their will to survive. \$29.95 from Www.sandamianofoundation.org

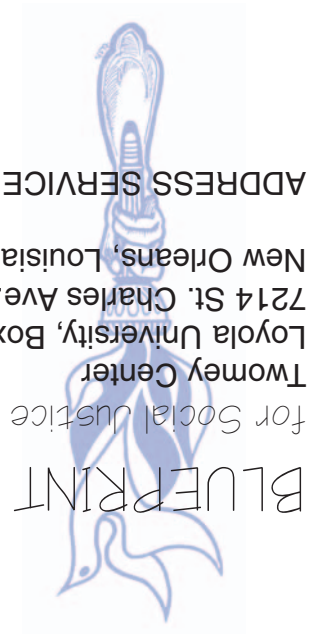
“The Yes Men.” (2004 - 80 minutes - R). This humorous documentary monitors the exploits of a group of jokester liberals who make names for themselves as they mimic members of the World Trade Organization at various venues across the globe. The absurd facade gets started when two members of The Yes Men create a web site that looks quite similar to the WTO site, resulting in the group being invited to high-level meetings and being mistaken for WTO officials. Bill Quigley: "Pranksters goofing on the World Trade Organization."

In this Issue

Movies are a very big part of contemporary culture. Bill Quigley, editor of *Blueprint*, asked a number of people to nominate favorite social justice movies and documentaries to share with readers. This year-end double issue contains dozens of brief descriptions of social justice movies and documentaries suggested by people across the country. Enjoy the summer!

Bill Quigley
edited by

Social Justice Movies and Social Justice Documentaries: Double Issue



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