

Documentary Educational Resources

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Documentary Educational Resources is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1968 and incorporated in 1971 for the purpose of producing and distributing cross-cultural documentary film for educational use; hence, early innovators in developing 16mm film and media based curriculum for classroom use and focused to embrace films with a wider aesthetic and audience appeal that support filmmakers who have long-term commitments to the people that they film based on the idea that filmmakers who work collaboratively with their subjects produce film with integrity. And furthermore, the focus is to distribute media that has the power to overcome barriers to cross-cultural understanding to recognize that media can be the first step in growing sensitivity and awareness of other cultures which may lead to tolerance and acceptance and eventually give way to appreciation and admiration of other cultures. The organization is funded in part by a generous grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and by Mass Humanities, which receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Changa Revisited

by Peter Biella and Leonard Kamerling (color, 61 min, 2016, in Maasai with English subtitles)
URL: <http://www.der.org/films/changa-revisited.html>



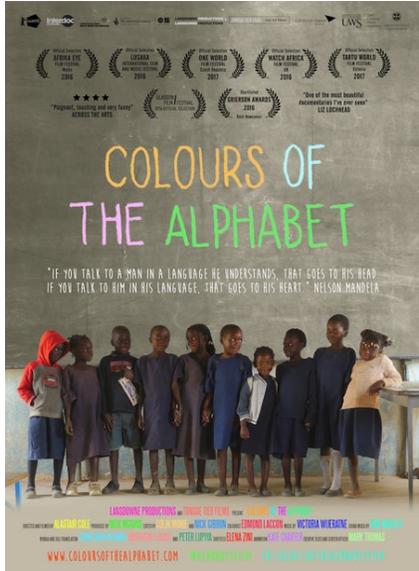
Changa Revisited is the story of Tanzania Maasai elder Toreto ole Koisenge and his family, seen from two points in time across a thirty year divides. His life has drastically changed since anthropologist Peter Biella first visited his home thirty years ago. Then he had six hundred cattle. Now disease has reduced his herd to twenty. The world of Maasai pastoralists has gotten smaller and smaller since the Tanzania government forced them to live in permanent villages and end the seasonal cattle migrations. “The world is upside-down...what can you do except change?” says Toreto. The

film draws on hundreds of photographs and audio recordings taken in 1980 by Peter Biella. These images, woven with contemporary video footage, create a deeply personal portrait of the unfolding of a family's life through three decades of tumultuous change.

Colours of the Alphabet

by Alastair Cole (color, 80 min, 2016)

URL: <http://coloursofthealphabet.com/>



Colours of the Alphabet is a new feature documentary film on language and childhood in Africa, telling the story of three Zambian children and their families over two school terms, and asking the question: does the future have to be in English? Steward, Elizabeth and M'barak are three first time school pupils in rural Zambia, struggling to make sense of an educational system where the language they speak at home is different from the language used in the classroom, and slowly discovering that their tongue is no longer their own. When nearly 40% of the world's population lack access to education in their own language, the film offers an intimate, moving and often humorous insight into a global phenomenon from the unique perspective of three innocent children.

A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake

by Michael Lessac (color, 101 min, 2014)

URL: <http://www.asnaketoasnake.com/>



A Snake Gives Birth to a Snake follows a diverse group of South African actors as they tour global war-torn regions to share their country's experience with reconciliation. As they ignite a dialogue among people with raw memories of atrocity, the actors find they must confront once again their homeland's complicated and violent past and question their own capacity for healing and forgiveness. The actors tour the war-torn regions of Northern Ireland, Rwanda, and the former

Yugoslavia to share their country's experiment with reconciliation.

China Remix

by Dorian Carli-Jones and Melissa Lefkowitz (color, 29 min, 2015 in English and Chinese with English and Chinese subtitles)

URL: <http://www.der.org/films/china-remix.html>



This short documentary explores China's burgeoning African entertainment industry through the lives of three African hip-hop artists who are trying to find success in the face of challenging labor and immigration laws in China's southeastern city of Guangzhou. The film follows the entertainers as they prepare for their shows, perform, and live their daily lives with their Chinese and African family members and friends.

Elephant's Dream

by Kristof Bilsen (color, 74 min, 2014; in Lingala, French with English, French, Dutch subtitles)

URL: <http://www.der.org/films/elephants-dream.html>



Elephant's Dream is a portrait of three state-owned institutions and their workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The interwoven stories of a female clerk in the dilapidated central post office, two colleagues at the railway station, and the group of firemen in the only fire station provide insight into their daily lives and survival in Kinshasa, the third largest city of Africa. Although these three government-owned institutions are running on their last legs, the film allows for a surprisingly poetic and empathetic look at a state in decline. Yet, it also bears witness to small but

powerful moments of change and revolution, while at the same time functioning as a mirror to what is happening in the Western world.

Jean-Michel Kibushi: Palabres Animées du Griot

by Jean-Michel Kibushi Ndjate Wooto (color & black and white, 72 min, 1991-2004 in French with English subtitles)

URL: <http://www.der.org/films/jean-michel-kibushi-palabres-animees-du-griot.html>



Jean-Michel Kibushi Ndjate Wooto (also known as Kibushi Ndjate Wooto and Jean-Michel Kibushi) is a pioneer of African animation, and is widely considered to be the first Congolese animator. This compilation DVD brings together five of his best-known works from 1991 to 2004. While all use stop motion animation, Kibushi draws widely on materials — from jointed paper cutouts, to clay, to puppetry to children's drawings — set against elaborate backgrounds to convey poignant social and political messages. Whether offering traditional wisdom or political critiques, these animated films capture the spirit and culture of the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo.