

## *Films about the Experiences of Newcomers in America*

**I**n these films, released in the past several years, immigrant families—and those with whom they work, go to school, and interact—describe their experiences in their own words. To help the readers consider ways to utilize documentaries as educational tools, we've included some comments from grantmakers about how they are using these films at their foundations and in their communities.

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION: THE NEWCOMER'S PERSPECTIVE</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>JOURNEY TO HOMELAND</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>PROFILES</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>NEW &amp; COMING ATTRACTIONS</b>	<b>216</b>



## INTRODUCTION

Independent filmmakers have been capturing the stories of immigrants in the United States for decades, but the exponential growth of the immigrant population over the past 15 years has generated a surge of high-quality documentaries in recent years.

Putting a human face on complex immigration issues, these films are powerful tools to educate foundations, policymakers, business and civic leaders, and the general public. They bring today's rich and varied immigrant integration experiences to life and illustrate the human consequences of policy decisions in a way that statistics and words alone can never do.

This filmography, curated by the talented staff of Active Voice, highlights nearly 40 films that can open the hearts and minds and set the stage for productive discussions on immigration and immigrant integration. This list is, by no means, comprehensive, and we invite you to let us know about other high-quality titles that can inform community discussions on immigrant issues.

Clips from many of these films, along with discussion questions, are available on the enclosed DVD-ROM to help you engage foundation colleagues and others in your communities in productive discussions. And if you agree that these clips help build understanding, we strongly encourage you to consider acquiring the full-length documentaries. All the distribution information is available in this filmography.

As your foundation considers immigrant issues, let us know how we at GCIR and Active Voice can help you use these film and video resources to inform your discussions and deliberations. We invite you to tell us what you're learning and whether and how these resources are making a difference in your foundation's response to the immigration-driven demographic, social, and economic changes taking place in your communities.

---

## SPECIAL THANKS

---

Active Voice played the lead role in producing the filmography, and we extend our deepest appreciation to its entire staff but especially to Ellen Schneider, Grace Eng, and Steve Bartz. We also thank Grantmakers in Film and Electronic Media (GFEM) and David Haas for their early support of the filmography and for sharing their expertise with us. We look forward to partnering with both Active Voice and GFEM in the future!

Our thanks go to all the curators, distributors, and funders who brought many of these films to our attention and who share our excitement for this body of work. Finally, we salute all of the filmmakers working on immigrant-related issues—whether or not their works appear in this filmography—for their creativity and for bringing these powerful stories of today's immigrants to the public's attention.

---

## ABOUT ACTIVE VOICE WWW.ACTIVEVOICE.NET

---

Active Voice is a team of strategic communication specialists who put powerful media to work for personal and institutional change in communities, workplaces, and campuses across America. Through its practical guides, hands-on workshops, stimulating events, and partnerships nationwide, Active Voice moves people from thought to action. By highlighting compelling personal stories and perspectives seldom found in mainstream media, Active Voice offers a much-needed outlet to people across America to speak out, listen up, and take the initiative for positive change.

2601 Mariposa Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Tel: 415.553.2841 Fax: 415.553.2848

## IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION: THE NEWCOMER'S PERSPECTIVE

In these films, released in the past several years, immigrant families—and those with whom they work, go to school, and interact—describe their experiences in their own words. We've included some comments from grantmakers about how they are using these films at their foundations and in their communities.

### CALIFORNIA AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

Producers/Directors: Paul Espinosa  
and Lyn Goldfarb

[www.beyondthedream.org](http://www.beyondthedream.org)

*The Price of Renewal*, produced and directed by Paul Espinosa, examines community development, philanthropy, and civic engagement as an inner-city neighborhood is redeveloped through a public-private partnership. Set in City Heights, the Ellis Island of San Diego, the film explores the challenges of creating a vibrant urban village from an ethnically, culturally, and economically diverse population.

*The New Los Angeles*, produced and directed by Lyn Goldfarb, explores the complexities of inclusion in America's largest majority-minority city and the new political empowerment of Latinos and immigrants. This portrait of a city in transition, begins with the multiracial coalition which elected Tom Bradley as Mayor in 1973 and ends with the 2005 election of Antonio Villaraigosa, the first Latino Mayor in more than 130 years.

*"...a coming of age story, where the intersection of electoral politics, grassroots organizing and coalitions have transformed a city... foreshadows the choices that cities across the nation will face when increased immigration, the proliferation of low-wage jobs, and a shrinking middle class force city leaders to rethink their priorities. It is a hopeful story about ordinary people changing their lives and their city..."*

— Peter Dreier, Director  
Urban & Environmental Policy program  
Occidental College



### DISTRIBUTED BY

Berkeley Media  
510-486-9900  
[www.berkeleymedia.com](http://www.berkeleymedia.com)

### FUNDED BY

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
PBS  
The Ford Foundation  
The Independent Television Service (ITVS)  
Native American Public  
Telecommunications  
The Skirball Foundation  
Latino Public Broadcasting  
Center for Asian American Media  
The California Council for the  
Humanities



### CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE: ARAB-AMERICANS IN WARTIME

Directors: David Van Taylor  
and Brad Lichtenstein

[www.pbs.org/itvs/caughtinthecrossfire/](http://www.pbs.org/itvs/caughtinthecrossfire/)

Before 9/11, Arab-Americans were an immigrant group like any other. Now, many feel as if their "Arab" and "American" identities are at war. *Caught in the Crossfire* chronicles three diverse Arab New Yorkers—a beat cop, a minister, and a high-level diplomatic correspondent—as they wrestle with their place in wartime America.

*"In its acute eye and ear for quotidian detail, and in its compassion for innocents, the film proves undeniably affecting."*

— *The New York Times*

**DISTRIBUTED BY**

First Run/Icarus Films  
[www.frif.com/new2002/cau.html](http://www.frif.com/new2002/cau.html)

**FUNDED BY**

Independent Television Service  
 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
 Public Broadcasting Service  
 Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
 Center for Asian American Media  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Metropolitan New York Synod

**DESTINATION AMERICA**

Producers: David Grubin Productions

[www.pbs.org/destinationamerica/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/destinationamerica/index.html)

They left all that they knew to make perilous journeys to a country shrouded in myth and legend. Some came to escape religious persecution and political tyranny. Some came to escape poverty, to make a new beginning, to provide support for families they left behind. They have come for two hundred years, and they still come today, for many reasons, but with one common bond: their destination... America... *Destination America* explores this remarkable mass migration from throughout the world in four one-hour episodes.

*"...takes in, among many others, migrant workers from south of the border; modern dancers from Taiwan; and women who flee second-class citizenship or servitude in Guatemala, the Middle East, and even Italy. This is the sort of television that puts faces on stats, but it's also almost elegiac: these are the doors we are bolting behind us."*

— John Leonard, *New York Magazine*

**DISTRIBUTED BY**

PBS  
[www.ShopPBS.org](http://www.ShopPBS.org)

**FUNDED BY**

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
 PBS

**FARMINGVILLE**

Producers/Directors: Carlos Sandoval and Catherine Tambini

[www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/farmingville/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/farmingville/)  
[www.FarmingvilleTheMovie.com](http://www.FarmingvilleTheMovie.com)

The shocking hate-based attempted murders of two Mexican day laborers catapult a small Long Island town into national headlines, unmasking a new frontline in the border wars: suburbia. For nearly a year, the filmmakers lived and worked in Farmingville, New York, so they could capture first-hand the stories of residents, day laborers, and activists on all sides of the debate.

*"Farmingville is a primer for anyone—whether lawmaker or citizen—who cares to better understand the usually unseen cost of America's appetite for cheap labor."*

— Carolyn Curriel, *The New York Times*

**DISTRIBUTED BY**

Docurama  
 212-206-8600  
[www.docurama.com](http://www.docurama.com)

In Mexico:  
 Cineteca Nacional  
[www.cinetecanacional.net](http://www.cinetecanacional.net)

**FUNDED BY**

ITVS  
 The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
 The Sundance Institute Documentary Fund



Latino Public Broadcasting  
 The Horace and Amy Hagedorn Foundation  
 New York State Council for the Arts  
 The Bishop John R. McGann Fund  
 The Soros Documentary Fund  
 The Long Island Community Foundation  
 The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation  
 Avid Technologies  
 Generous individual donors

**HOLD YOUR BREATH**

Director: Maren Grainger-Monsen

<http://medethicsfilms.stanford.edu>

*Hold Your Breath* follows the dramatic journey of Mohammad Kochi, a refugee from Afghanistan. An intensely religious man with a limited understanding of English, Mr. Kochi is diagnosed with cancer in his late fifties. As he struggles to cope with his progressing illness, he must navigate his way through the colliding cultures of Islam, with its deep faith in Allah, and western medicine, with its steadfast belief in science. Through the intimate emotional experiences of the Kochi family and the well-intentioned efforts of the medical practitioners, *Hold Your Breath* illuminates the pivotal role of cross-cultural communication in one man's battle with cancer.

*"...a lovely and moving meditation on the clash between religion, culture, and modern medicine. I was touched as an Afghan. And as a physician, I was reminded once again of the difficulties of bridging cultural chasm."*

— Khaled Hosseini  
 Author of best-selling novel,  
*The Kite Runners*

**DISTRIBUTED BY**

Transit Media  
 1-800-343-5540

#### FUNDED IN PART BY

The California Endowment  
 The Commonwealth Fund  
 The Greenwall Foundation  
 The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation

#### LOST BOYS OF SUDAN

Producers/Directors: Megan Mylan  
 and Jon Shenk

[www.LostBoysFilm.com](http://www.LostBoysFilm.com)

*Lost Boys of Sudan* follows two Sudanese refugees on their journey from Africa to America. Orphaned in one of Africa's cruelest civil wars, Peter Dut and Santino Chuor survived lion attacks and militia gunfire to reach a refugee camp in Kenya. From there, they were chosen to come to America. Safe at last from physical danger and hunger, they confront the abundance and alienation of America.

*"Fascinating! Getting an audience so caught up is no small feat; it is a tribute to the directors' storytelling."*

— Elvis Mitchell, *The New York Times*

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

Actual Film/Principe Productions  
 415-575-9988  
[info@LostBoysFilm.com](mailto:info@LostBoysFilm.com)

#### FUNDED BY

Sundance Documentary Fund  
 Pacific Pioneer Fund  
 Fleishacker Foundation  
 Den-Mat, Inc.  
 Nu Lambda Trust

Produced in association with American Documentary, Inc. and ITVS with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting



#### MAID IN AMERICA

Producers: Kevin Leadingham and  
 Anayansi Prado  
 Director: Anayansi Prado

[www.impactofilms.com](http://www.impactofilms.com)

They clean other people's homes and raise other families' children, often leaving their own families behind. *Maid in America* offers an intimate look into the lives of three Latina immigrants working as nannies and housekeepers in Los Angeles—three of the nearly 100,000 domestic workers living in that city today. A rare view into an increasingly common scenario, this film explores the globalization of motherhood and offers insight into the immigrant experience.

*"They might mostly be invisible people in our society but not underappreciated (and not overpaid at about \$5 an hour). What's vital to know is that they, too, keep their eyes on that elusive prize called the American Dream."*

— Irv Letofsky, *Hollywood Reporter*

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

Women Make Movies  
 212-925-0606  
[www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)

#### FUNDED BY

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

#### THE DIVIDE (FROM MATTERS OF RACE SERIES)

Executive Producer: Orlando Bagwell  
 Program Producer: John Valadez

[www.pbs.org/mattersofrace/prog1.shtml](http://www.pbs.org/mattersofrace/prog1.shtml)

Ten years ago, Siler City, North Carolina was a black and white town of segregated communities with a shared geography and an unsettled history. This quiet, rural southern town is a "laboratory" for the national transformation

that is fundamentally altering America's sense of itself. What happens when white people and white culture no longer dominate? This film explores power and identity in small-town America.

*"The questions raised are powerful; the answers provided are few. The only remedy is an ongoing discussion. Clearly, this is the American story: It's what we were talking about before 9-11, it's what we'll be talking about long after."*

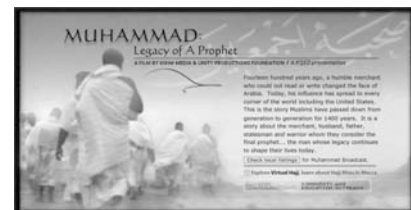
—The Sun-Sentinel

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

PBS  
[www.ShopPBS.org](http://www.ShopPBS.org)

#### FUNDED BY

National Black Programming Consortium  
 Latino Public Broadcasting  
 Pacific Islanders in Communications  
 Center for Asian American Media  
 Native American Public  
 Telecommunications, Inc.  
 Corporation of Public Broadcasting  
 Minority Fund  
 CPB Challenge Fund  
 PBS  
 The Fannie Mae Foundation  
 The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur  
 Foundation  
 The Ford Foundation  
 The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
 The Nathan Cummings Foundation  
 The Independent Television Service



#### MUHAMMAD: LEGACY OF A PROPHET

Producers: Kikim Media and Unity  
 Productions Foundation

[www.kikim.com/xml/  
 projects.php?projectId=4](http://www.kikim.com/xml/projects.php?projectId=4)

[www.upf.tv/projects/muhammad.php](http://www.upf.tv/projects/muhammad.php)

*Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* tells the story of the seventh-century prophet who changed the world history in 23 years and continues to shape the lives of more than 1.2 billion people. The film

takes viewers not only to ancient Middle Eastern sites where Muhammad's story unfolds, but into the homes, mosques, and workplaces of some of America's estimated seven million Muslims to discover the many ways in which they follow Muhammad's example.

*"...the documentary is well worth watching both as the first serious attempt to tell the story of Muhammad on television and also as a testimony to the hypersensitivity of our times."*

— **Alessandra Stanley, *The New York Times***

#### **DISTRIBUTED BY**

Kikim Media/Unity Productions  
888-786-0444

#### **FUNDED BY**

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
Arabian Bulk Trade  
Sabadia Family Foundation  
The El-Hibri Foundation  
The Irfan Kathwari Foundation  
Mir Imran

Additional funding was provided by many other organizations and individuals.

---

#### **RECALLING ORANGE COUNTY**

*Producer/Director: Mylène Moreno*

Reflecting on her experience growing up as the daughter of immigrants in California's Orange County, documentary filmmaker Mylène Moreno follows a fierce battle against a controversial immigrant rights activist there. She discovers as much division within the Latino community as between the traditional establishment and the county's increasingly vocal newcomers.

*"...stimulates a lot of rich discussion about how structure shapes agency or who has the power to determine educational policy and, more importantly, what it means to be American in our country... Very provocative..."*

— **Gordon Suzuki, Ed.D.**  
**Graduate School of Education  
and Information Studies  
University of California, Los Angeles**

#### **DISTRIBUTED BY**

Souvenir Pictures, Inc.  
323-512-4677  
info@souvenirpictures.com  
www.souvenirpictures.com

#### **FUNDED BY**

Independent Television Service  
Latino Public Broadcasting



---

#### **TEENS IN BETWEEN**

*Producer/Director: Debbie Brodsky*

[www.mhznetworks.org/teensinbetween/](http://www.mhznetworks.org/teensinbetween/)

*Teens in Between* takes an intimate look at the challenges and triumphs of recent immigrant teens. This documentary follows the stories of five students from Somalia, Honduras, Egypt, and Vietnam, as they struggle to make it through a year of high school in America.

*"A fascinating and candid look at America's newest teens."*

— **Patricia Brennan,**  
***Washington Post TV Week***

#### **DISTRIBUTED BY**

MHz NETWORKS  
800-343-5540  
www.mhznetworks.org

#### **FUNDED IN PART BY**

The Verizon Foundation

---

#### **THE NEW AMERICANS**

*Executive Producers: Steve James  
and Gordon Quinn*  
Series Producer: Gita Saedi

[www.pbs.org/independentlens/  
newamericans/newamericans.html](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/newamericans/newamericans.html)

*The New Americans* follows four years in the lives of a diverse group of contemporary immigrants and refugees as they journey to start new lives in

America. The detailed portraits—woven together in the seven-hour miniseries—present a kaleidoscopic picture of immigrant life and a personal view of the new America.

*"Always compelling and frequently heart-wrenching..."*

— **Jabari Asim, *The Washington Post***

#### **SERIES DISTRIBUTED BY**

PBS  
www.ShopPBS.org

Image Entertainment  
818-407-9100

#### **ENGAGEMENT MODULES DISTRIBUTED BY**

www.activevoice.net

#### **FUNDED BY**

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur  
Foundation

ITVS

CPB

PBS

BBC

Annie E. Casey Foundation

VPRO - The Netherlands Television  
Woods Foundation

SBS - Australia Television

Asian Women United Fund/NAATA

Soros Documentary Fund

Sundance Documentary Fund

Latino Public Broadcasting

Illinois Humanities Council

Kansas Humanities Council

California Council on the Humanities

Individual Donors





---

### **RAIN IN A DRY LAND**

---

Producer/Director: Anne Makepeace

*Rain in a Dry Land* is a portrait of two remarkable families, refugees from Somalia, who find new homes in urban America. The film captures their struggles, their triumphs, their poetry, their humor, and their amazing resilience as they show us our world through new eyes. It was nominated for the Social Justice Award at the 2006 Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

*"Rigorously intimate and disarmingly affectionate, Rain in a Dry Land is in the forefront of the current crop of immigration chronicles... Makepeace never reduces [the families] to devices or symbols or anything less than human beings caught in the cross-hairs of global politics."*

— John Anderson, *VARIETY*

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Anne Makepeace  
Makepeace Productions  
917-674-1933

[RaininaDryLand@aol.com](mailto:RaininaDryLand@aol.com)

#### **FUNDED BY**

The Ceil and Michael Pulitzer Foundation  
Sundance Documentary Fund  
ITVS/CPB  
Ford Foundation  
P.O.V.

---

### **THE SIXTH SECTION**

---

Producer/Director: Alex Rivera

[www.sixthsection.com](http://www.sixthsection.com)

*The Sixth Section* tells the story of how immigrants in America are organizing—and finding political and economic power in the places they've left behind. *The Sixth Section* is the first film to depict the transnational "hometown association" movement.

*"This is a deftly choreographed, startlingly personal film...an important first look at a whole world that is still too invisible to those outside it."*

— Angela Jamison, *UCLA Labor Center*

#### **DISTRIBUTED BY**

SubCine  
212-253-6273  
[info@subcine.com](mailto:info@subcine.com)

#### **FUNDED BY**

P.O.V.  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
The Rockefeller Foundation

---

### **WORLDS APART**

---

Producers: Maren Grainger-Monsen, M.D. and Julia Haslett

<http://medethicsfilms.stanford.edu/>

*Worlds Apart* is a series of four short films that explore cultural conflicts over medical treatment. Each film follows one patient and his or her family—Afghan, Laotian, African-American, and Puerto Rican—faced with critical medical decisions as they navigate their way through the U.S. health care system.

*"Worlds Apart is unique among films on cross-cultural health because it is a film showing real people. Real people are so much more powerful than actors; it is much more believable and emotionally charged."*

— Suganya Sockalingam, *National Center of Cultural Competence*

#### **DISTRIBUTED BY**

Fanlight Productions  
800-937-4113  
[www.fanlight.com](http://www.fanlight.com)

#### **FUNDED IN PART BY**

The California Endowment  
The Commonwealth Fund  
The Greenwall Foundation  
The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation



## JOURNEY TO THE HOMELAND

These films, which follow immigrants or the children of immigrants back to their homelands, can be wonderful catalysts for exploring issues of identity, transnationalism, and our increasingly global lives. They can help connect U.S. immigration to the international phenomenon of migration.

---

### DAUGHTER FROM DANANG

---

*Producer: Gail Dolgin  
Directors: Gail Dolgin and Vicente Franco*

[www.daughterfromdanang.com](http://www.daughterfromdanang.com)

In 1975, as the Vietnam War was ending, thousands of orphans and Amerasian children were brought to the United States as part of "Operation Babylift." *Daughter from Danang* tells the story of one of these children and her Vietnamese mother, reunited after 22 years.

*"Quite simply one of the best and most profound documentaries I have seen in years....splendid!"*

— John Petrakis, *Chicago Tribune*

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

Balcony Releasing  
781-209-2030  
[www.ShopPBS.org](http://www.ShopPBS.org)

#### FUNDED IN PART BY

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
Open Society Institute  
Zellerbach Family Fund  
Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation  
Film Arts Foundation

---

### DISCOVERING DOMINGA

---

*Producer/Director: Patricia Flynn  
Co-producer: Mary Jo McConahay*

[www.discoveringdominga.com](http://www.discoveringdominga.com)

Living in Iowa, Denese Becker was haunted by memories of her Mayan childhood. A quest for her lost identity in Guatemala turns into a journey of political awakening that reveals a genocidal crime and the still-unmet cry for justice from the survivors.

*"History can be especially compelling when it's personal. Witness the latest film in the P.O.V. series, the story of an Iowa woman's return to the scene of a 1982 Guatemalan massacre that claimed her parents."*

— Josh Friedman, *Los Angeles Times*

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

Berkeley Media  
510-486-9900  
[www.berkeleymedia.com](http://www.berkeleymedia.com)

#### FUNDED BY

Major Funding provided by:  
Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Additional Funding Provided by:

Wallace Alexandra Gerbode Foundation  
Humanities Iowa  
Hannah Kranzberg  
Maya Miller  
Kit Miller  
Carol Bernstein Ferry  
Pamela Krasney  
Unitarian Universalist Services Committee  
M. Brinton Lykes

---

### THE FLUTE PLAYER

---

*Producers: Jocelyn Glatzer and  
Christine Courtney  
Director: Jocelyn Glatzer*

[www.thefluteplayer.net](http://www.thefluteplayer.net)

Arn Chorn-Pond was just a boy when the Khmer Rouge regime overran Cambodia and turned his country into a ghastly land of "killing fields." Now, after living in the United States for 20 years, Arn journeys back to Cambodia as he seeks out surviving master musicians and faces his war-torn past.

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

Center for Asian American Media  
415-552-9550  
[www.centerforasianamericanmedia.org](http://www.centerforasianamericanmedia.org)

#### FUNDED BY

Independent Television Service  
Center for Asian American Media  
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
Sundance Documentary Fund  
Roy W. Dean Fund  
The Wellspring Foundation  
The LEF Foundation  
The Peter S. Reed Foundation  
The Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund

---

## MY JOURNEY HOME

---

*Executive Producers: Jeff Bieber and Renee Tajima-Pena*  
*Producers: Renee Tajima-Pena and Lourdes Portillo*

[www.pbs.org/weta/myjourneyhome/journey/](http://www.pbs.org/weta/myjourneyhome/journey/)

*My Journey Home* traverses the conflicted, cultural landscape of the United States through the perspective of new American voices known and unknown. Traveling back to Nigeria, Vietnam, Mexico, and the American Southwest, they delve into their personal histories of buried pasts, a missing father, and mixed heritages.

*"Journey looks at more than cultural identities; it's interested in personal and family ones as well. This all-encompassing approach is what gives it its bite."*  
— **TV Guide**

### DISTRIBUTED BY

WETA  
703-998-2802

### FUNDED BY

Corporate funding provided by Farmers Insurance

Additional funding was also provided by:  
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
Latino Public Broadcasting  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

---

## PASAJERO, A JOURNEY OF TIME AND MEMORY

---

*Producer: Eugene Rodriguez*  
*Director: Ricardo Braojos*

[www.pasajero.info](http://www.pasajero.info)

*Pasajero, A Journey of Time and Memory* is the story of a group of young Mexican-American musicians who accompany their mariachi maestro on his homecoming to Mexico. Together they perform a forgotten style of roots mariachi music and dance and meet people who embody the spirit of old Mexico.

*"Pasajero successfully combines music with storytelling, creating a tale of a forgotten Mexican tradition told by the folks who lived it and the young people struggling to reclaim their heritage."*

— **Les Blank, documentary filmmaker**



### DISTRIBUTED BY

LCMAC  
510-233-8015  
[www.pasajero.info](http://www.pasajero.info)

### FUNDED BY

The James Irvine Foundation  
Cultural Contact



---

## REFUGEE

---

*Producer/Director: Spencer Nakasako*

[www.refugeethemovie.com](http://www.refugeethemovie.com)

For Mike Siv, the trip begins innocently enough. "Me and my homies, David and Paul, we're going to Cambodia. We'll see the sights, visit family, have some fun." These three young refugees, raised on the streets of San Francisco's tough Tenderloin district, head back to Cambodia for the first time, and they will never be the same.

*"...a vivid sense of personal adventure . . . sports considerable dynamism, narrative oomph and emotional directness."*

— **Dennis Harvey, VARIETY**

### DISTRIBUTED BY

Center for Asian American Media  
415-552-9550  
[www.centerforasianamericanmedia.org](http://www.centerforasianamericanmedia.org)

### FUNDED BY

ITVS  
Center for Asian American Media  
Rockefeller Foundation  
Film/Video/Multimedia Fellowship  
Creative Capital  
San Francisco Art Commission Cultural Equity Grant



---

## SENTENCED HOME

---

*Producers/Directors: David Grabias and Nicole Newnham*

*Sentenced Home* tells the personal stories behind the ongoing deportations of Cambodian-Americans as a result of post-9/11 U.S. immigration policy. The documentary follows three deportees' sagas full-circle—from birth in the Killing Fields, to their youth on America's mean streets, to an unwilling return decades later—while exploring the social, cultural, and historical reasons for the deportees' fate.

*"...a bracing account of three Cambodian Americans—'children of the Khmer Rouge'—who came to this country as refugees and have now, under new rules enforced by the callous Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, been deported to a nation they do not remember."*

—**Anthony Kaufman, The Village Voice**

### DISTRIBUTED BY

Sentenced Home Productions  
323-661-4700  
[sentencedhome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sentencedhome@sbcglobal.net)

### FUNDED BY

Center for Asian American Media  
The Sundance Documentary Fund  
ITVS  
Generous individual donors

## PROFILES



We asked colleagues in the media field to recommend other films about the contemporary immigrant experience. This section contains many of their suggestions—new stories about the contributions, challenges, and individual journeys of immigrants to the United States.

---

### 90 MILES

---

*Producer/Director: Juan Carlos Zaldivar*

*90 Miles* is a feature documentary about how the relationships within a Cuban family are shaped by the rift between the United States and Cuba and the immigration process. It is a film about the effects of immigration, a struggle for identity, and what happens to people around the world because of politics.

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

Frameline  
415-703-8650  
[www.frameline.org](http://www.frameline.org)

#### FUNDED IN PART BY

Jerome Foundation  
The Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund  
The New York Foundation for the Arts  
The Cuban Artist Fund  
New York State Council on the Arts  
Public Broadcasting Service  
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
National Endowment for the Arts



---

### MAI'S AMERICA

---

*Producer/Director: Marlo Poras*

A spunky, mini-skirted daughter of Ho Chi Minh's revolution leaves cosmopolitan Hanoi on a high-school exchange program and finds an America she never dreamt existed when she lands in rural Mississippi.

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

Women Make Movies  
212-925-0606  
[www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)

#### FUNDED BY

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
The Lef Foundation  
The Women in Film Foundation Film Finishing Fund/Dockers Khakis for Women Independent Vision Grant

---

### LOS TRABAJADORES

---

*Producer/Director: Heather Courtney*

Through the stories of two men, Ramon and Juan, and through the controversy surrounding the relocation of a day-labor site from downtown to a residential neighborhood, *Los Trabajadores* examines the misconceptions and contradictions inherent in America's paradoxical history of both dependence on and discrimination against immigrant workers.

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

New Day Films  
888-367-9154  
[www.newday.com](http://www.newday.com)

#### FUNDED BY

Texas Filmmakers Production Fund  
Texas Council for the Humanities  
City of Austin Cultural Contracts

---

### SEARCHING FOR ASIAN AMERICA

---

*Series Producer: Donald Young*

[www.pbs.org/searching/](http://www.pbs.org/searching/)

Through intimate profiles of individuals and communities from across the country, this 90-minute program serves up a taste of what it's like to be Asian American in today's ever-changing United States. Hosted by popular *Today* show host Ann Curry.

#### DISTRIBUTED BY

Center for Asian American Media  
415-552-9550  
[www.centerforasianamericanmedia.org](http://www.centerforasianamericanmedia.org)

#### FUNDED BY

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting

## NEW & COMING ATTRACTIONS

In this section, we identify documentaries currently in production that tackle wide-ranging immigration and immigrant integration issues. Keep an eye out for these works-in-progress suggested by colleagues in immigration, filmmaking, and philanthropy.

---

### **A DREAM IN DOUBT**

---

*Producer: Tami Yeager*

**A Dream in Doubt** is a one-hour documentary about post 9/11 hate crimes against Sikhs in Phoenix. Balbir Singh Sodhi was the first American killed in the backlash against “Arab-looking” Americans after 9/11. This program tells the story of his murder and other recent hate crimes.

**For more information:**

718-388-9258  
projectbacklash@yahoo.com

---

### **CROSSING ARIZONA**

---

*Executive Producer: Joel Pomeroy*

**Crossing Arizona** is an up-to-the-moment look at the hotly debated issues of illegal immigration and border security on the U.S.-Mexico border.

**For more information:**

Rainlake Productions  
212-343-0777  
joel@rainlake.com  
www.rainlake.com  
www.crossingaz.com

---

### **DASTAAR**

---

*Producer/Director: Kevin Lee*

**Dastaar:** Defending Sikh Identity presents the struggle of the Sikh American community against discrimination and violence caused by ignorance of the dastaar, the turban which is an essential symbol of the Sikh faith.

**For more information:**

alsolikelife@yahoo.com  
www.alsolikelife.com/Filminformation/  
dastaar.html

---

### **FRUITS OF WAR**

---

*Director: Josiah Hooper*

**Fruits of War** tells the story of three young men—Alex, Bullet, and Weazel—who were deported to El Salvador for crimes committed while involved in Los Angeles street gangs. The film chronicles

their lives as child refugees fleeing a violent civil war and as social pariahs after they are sent back to El Salvador. They find acceptance among poor Salvadoran youth who idolize them and form new branches of Los Angeles’ two most violent gangs. Alex, Bullet, and Weazel reform their lives and try to help halt the spread of gang violence in Central America, but this work puts them in the line of fire of warring gang members and reemerging death squads.

**For more information:**

josiah@therake.com  
www.fruitsofwar.com

---

### **GOLDEN VENTURE**

---

*Producer: Peter Cohn*

**Golden Venture** tells the story of four Chinese immigrants who came to the United States on the freighter Golden Venture, which ran aground off New York City in 1993. The INS rounded up the survivors and locked them in prisons where some languished for four years. *Golden Venture* is a global epic played out in the shadow of national politics.

**For more information:**

Hillcrest Films  
212-799-6788  
pccohn@yahoo.com  
www.goldenventuremovie.com

---

### **GRASSROOTS RISING**

---

*Executive Producer: Linda Mabalot  
Producers: Leslie A. Ito & Robert C. Winn*

**Grassroots Rising** is an evocative exploration of Asian Pacific Islander working families in Los Angeles. The film weaves together powerful interviews, live-action footage, and the voices of low-wage Asian immigrants at the forefront of worker-led movements to build a just community in Los Angeles.

**For more information:**

213-680-4462  
leslie@vconline.org  
www.grassrootsrising.com

---

## THE GUESTWORKER

---

*Producers/Directors: Cynthia Hill and Charles Thompson*

*The Guestworker* profiles 66-year-old Candelario Gonzales Moreno who has been coming to the United States from Mexico for 40 years to harvest our crops and provide for his family. Without benefits, without retirement, he battles against the elements, his own age, and the backbreaking work, returning to the same farm year after year as *The Guestworker*.

**For more information:**  
919-682-6795  
filmworks@docsouth.com  
www.docsouth.com



---

## LETTERS FROM THE OTHER SIDE

---

*Producer/Director: Heather Courtney*

*Letters from the Other Side* interweaves video letters carried across the U.S.-Mexico border by the film's director with the personal stories of women left behind in post-NAFTA Mexico. The filmmaker speaks directly with her subjects through her unobtrusive camera, providing a look at the lives of the people who are most affected by today's immigration and trade policies.

**For more information:**  
512-565-1628  
heathercourtney@earthlink.net  
www.sidestreetfilms.com

---

## MADE IN L.A.

---

*Producers: Almudena Carracedo and Robert Bahar*  
*Director: Almudena Carracedo*

*Made in L.A.* documents the lives, struggle, and personal transformation of three Latina immigrants working in garment factories in Los Angeles. Through their stories, filmed over three years, *Made in L.A.* artfully reveals the challenges facing immigrants and explores the ever-changing impact of globalization on their lives.

**For more information:**  
rbahar10@yahoo.com  
www.madeinla.com

---

## MAQUILAPOLIS

---

*Producer/Director: Vicky Funari*

*Maquilapolis* is a documentary by and about workers in Tijuana's assembly factories, the maquiladoras. The project is a collaboration among the filmmaker, artist Sergio De La Torre, and Tijuana women's organization Grupo Factor X.

**For more information:**  
707-557-0946  
vixfunari@earthlink.net  
www.maquilapolis.com/project\_eng.html

---

## MY AMERICAN DREAM

---

*Producers/Directors: Michael Camerini and Shari Robertson*

Demographics, globalization, and global terrorism all have turned the process of shaping U.S. immigration policy into a unique, and in many ways profound, national drama. *My American Dream* will be a multipart television series following a wide-ranging group of participants in the struggle to reshape immigration policy in post-9/11 America.

**For more information:**  
The Epidavros Project, Inc.  
postmaster@epidavros.org  
www.wellfoundedfear.org

---

## NEW YEAR BABY

---

*Producer/Director: Socheata Poouv*

Born in a Thai refugee camp on Cambodian New Year, Socheata grew up in the United States never knowing that her family had survived the Khmer Rouge genocide. In *New Year Baby*, she embarks on a journey to Cambodia in search of the truth and why her history had been buried in secrecy for so long.

**For more information:**  
917-538-9644  
soch@roguish.com  
www.newyearbaby.net

---

## STRUGGLE & FLOW: IN NINE TRACKS

---

*Producer/Director: Mike Siv*

The film portrays Prach Ly's life from his birth in a concentration camp in Cambodia, to his escape to Thailand, to his growing up in the housing projects of Long Beach, and ultimately, to his trying to make it as a Cambodian rapper.

**For more information:**  
tongsiv@yahoo.com

---

## WHOSE CHILDREN ARE THESE?

---

*Producer/Director: Theresa Thanjan*

*Whose Children Are These?* provides a glimpse into the post 9/11 world of three youngsters affected by the federal policy of Special Registration and prejudice. The film tells the stories of three Muslim youth: an honors student whose father was put into a detention center, a popular high-school athlete who confronts pending deportation, and a youngster who finds a new life's calling to combat bias crimes in New York City as a youth activist.

**For more information:**  
NYC Maharani Productions  
917-549-3481  
T\_thanjan@yahoo.com  
www.nycmaharanifilms.com

