

Films about Food (in alphabetical order)

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Black Gold

- About coffee growing and global coffee markets (TW)
- Promo says “As westerners revel in designer lattes and cappuccinos, impoverished Ethiopian coffee growers suffer the bitter taste of injustice. In this eye-opening expose of the multi-billion dollar industry, Black Gold traces one man's fight for a fair price.”
- <http://www.blackgoldmovie.com/>

Botany of Desire

- DVD Based on the book by Michael Pollan.
- Promo says “Featuring Michael Pollan and based on his best-selling book, this special takes viewers on an eye-opening exploration of the human relationship with the plant world -- seen from the plants' point of view. Narrated by Frances McDormand, the program shows how four familiar species -- the apple, the tulip, marijuana and the potato -- evolved to satisfy our yearnings for sweetness, beauty, intoxication and control.”
- All sorts of extras available on the website, <http://www.pbs.org/thebotanyofdesire/>. See especially, <http://www.pbs.org/thebotanyofdesire/video-michael-pollan.php>

Community Supported Agriculture

- There are some great YouTube CSA docos. The one I love the most (and students respond to really well) features this wonderfully warm and infectious farmer (JC):
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUBf_a3EtQU
- Another good one is:
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J1iMOvWwJo>

Dan Rather Reports: Hardwick Vermont

- Great report on a local interconnected food system (KW)
- It's brilliant (JC)
- <http://vimeo.com/7729181>

Dirt

- Haven't seen it - looks great! (KW)
- It's fantastic, very high production value (SH)
- Great quotes from promo, “Dirt might be more alive than we are” “We are dirt”. Includes stories of hope!
- <http://dirthemovie.org>

The End of the Line

- A film about fisheries (TW)
- “The inconvenient truth about the oceans” “Imagine a world without fish”
- <http://endoftheline.com/>

Farm

- “A short documentary about Georgia's next generation of organic and sustainable farmers. "FARM!" was shot entirely on the Flip Ultra.”
- <http://vimeo.com/1937663>

A Farm for the Future

- Great BBC doc about the food industry's dependence on oil and what we might do about it, including some nice permaculture examples. (KW)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xShCEKL-mQ8>

Fast Food Nation

- Half- documentary, half-narrative based on Schlosser's book. (KW)
- <http://www.foxsearchlight.com/fastfoodnation>

Food Fight

- Promo says “FOOD FIGHT is a fascinating look at how American agricultural policy and food culture developed in the 20th century, and how the California food movement has created a counterrevolution against big agribusiness. Nowadays we call it the New American Cuisine. It is a new food chain, one that honors the farmer and the local community, one that is sustainable, seasonal, and organic, tastes better, and is healthier.”
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/FoodFightTheDoc#p/a/u/1/MVwxANELftg>

Food Inc.

- Fantastic (JC)
- Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature
- <http://www.foodincmovie.com/>

Fresh

- Excellent interviews with Michael Pollan, Joel Salatin, and others (KW)
- Promo says “New thinking about what we’re eating”. “FRESH celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system.”
- <http://www.freshthemovie.com>

Fridays at the Farm

- A beautiful story of a city family’s connection with a CSA filmed in the majority with a time lapse camera. (RP)
- Promo says “Feeling disconnected from their food, a filmmaker and his family decide to join a community supported organic farm. As he photographs the growing process, the filmmaker moves from passive observer to active participant in the planting and harvesting of vegetables. Featuring lush time-lapse and macro photography sequences compiled from nearly 20,000 still images, this personal essay is a father’s meditation on his blossoming family and community.”
- <http://www.coyopa.com/fridays-at-the-farm.html>

The Future of Food

- Promo says “a groundbreaking documentary released in 2004, distills the complex technology and key regulatory, legal, ethical, environmental and consumer issues

surrounding the troubling changes happening in the food system today ... into terms the average person can easily understand. It empowers consumers to understand the consequences of their food choices on our future.”

- <http://www.thefutureoffood.com/>

The Garden

- Promo says “The fourteen-acre community garden at 41st and Alameda in South Central Los Angeles is the largest of its kind in the United States. Started as a form of healing after the devastating L.A. riots in 1992, the South Central Farmers have since created a miracle in one of the country’s most blighted neighborhoods. Growing their own food. Feeding their families. Creating a community. But now, bulldozers are poised to level their 14-acre oasis ... If everyone told you nothing more could be done, would you give up? ... The Garden has the pulse of verité with the narrative pull of fiction, telling the story of the country’s largest urban farm, backroom deals, land developers, green politics, money, poverty, power, and racial discord. The film explores and exposes the fault lines in American society and raises crucial and challenging questions about liberty, equality, and justice for the poorest and most vulnerable among us.”
- Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature
- <http://www.thegardenmovie.com/>

Genetically Modified Foods: Panacea or Poison?

- Scary stuff, completely untested (KW)
- <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7727700015953778314>

The Gleaners and I

- Interesting doc on waste and resourcefulness, directed by Agnes Varda (TW)
- Read the reviews from Rotten Tomatoes (which is doesn’t get), http://au.rottentomatoes.com/m/gleaners_and_i/

Good Food

- Produced by Netflix: Media that Matters
- It contains sixteen mini docos on food related issues, including classics like the Meatrix. The first video gets into agriculture, colonialism, first world farm subsidy structures and heavily indebted countries like Senegal by focusing on peanuts. (SH)
- Very clever, amusing and succinct. (SH)
- http://www.netflix.com/Movie/Media_That_Matters_Good_Food/70107145

Good Food

- Promo says “Official Selection 2008 Seattle International Film Festival - A stronger, more sustainable food system is beginning to emerge in the Pacific Northwest, one that contributes to consumers' health, to the health of the environment, and to regional food security. GOOD FOOD, to be released in September 2008, celebrates what has been achieved so far and presents some of the innovative small farmers who remain as stewards of the land by developing these sustainable practices.”
- www.goodfoodthemovie.org

The Greenhorns

- A film in development about the rise of young farmers (KW)
- Promo says “The Greenhorns documentary film, now in post-production, explores the lives of America's young farming community - its spirit, practices, and needs. It is the filmmaker's hope that by broadcasting the stories and voices of these young farmers, we can build the case for those considering a career in agriculture - to embolden them, to entice them, and to recruit them into farming.”
- <http://www.thegreenhorns.net/>
- From YouTube, the film looks fantastic (JC), <http://vimeo.com/5309127>

Grow your Own (2007)

- Described as “a gentle sweet-smelling comedy that is blessed with plenty of British charm, but isn't likely to bother the box office in a hurry. Set in the North of England, a bunch of grumpy old men spend their days nurturing their beloved allotments, while passing comment on their neighbours' vegetables. They're less than happy when a family of asylum seekers move in on their precious patch.”
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/films/2007/06/11/grow_your_own_2007_review.shtml

Growing Power

- Great little YouTube doco about Growing Power Urban Farm in Milwaukee (JC)
- <http://vimeo.com/4264325>

Homegrown

- About the Dervaes family, remarkable urban gardeners (KW)
- Promo says “HOMEGROWN follows the Dervaes family who run a small organic farm in the heart of urban Pasadena, California. While "living off the grid", they harvest over 6,000 pounds of produce on less than a quarter of an acre, make their own bio diesel, power their computers with the help of solar panels, and maintain a website that gets 4,000 hits a day. The film is an intimate human portrait of what it's like to live like "Little House on the Prairie" in the 21st Century.”
- <http://www.homegrown-film.com>

Intervention

- Primarily about the compulsory income quarantining in Australian Indigenous communities (in the Northern Territory), it is also about the impacts of this for food access (KL)
- Promo says “Produced by award-winning *film* maker Tom Zubrycki, (with ABC's David Jowsey as Commissioning Editor) and written and directed by Julie Nimmo, The *Intervention* was shot over a an 8-month period and features the lives of ordinary community residents as they experience the *Intervention* first hand, as well as the various government and business workers who all come together to implement it.”
- <http://www.roninfilms.com.au/feature/1087.html>

King Corn

- I love this film. The two guys are so personable; the farmers they meet, terrific; and what they tell us about the corn industry, amazing. I couldn't believe that they can't actually eat the corn they grow, it is so modified for corn syrup etc. (JC)
- <http://www.kingcorn.net/>

The Left Overs: A documentary about people who eat trash

- Promo says “A group of five diverse people have challenged themselves to drive 2000 km down the east coast of Australia in a veggie oil powered van, living on nothing but waste. With zero money but plenty of passion they put both themselves and society to the test.”
- <http://theleftovers.net/about.html>

Life and Debt

- About Structural Adjustment IMF/World Bank in Jamaica. Has some powerful segments on how imported foods destroyed the market for local agricultural products. (TW)
- <http://www.lifeanddebt.org/>

The Meatrix series

- Powerful cartoons about factory farming (KW)
- <http://www.themeatrix.com>

No Impact Man

- Interesting tale of a guy who decides to make close to no impact for a year - in New York! (KW)
- <http://www.noimpactdoc.com>

2009 Organic Film Trailer Competition

- You can see all the trailers at <http://views.newhope.com/organicfilm/Videos/tabid/79/Default.aspx>
- Includes The Greenhorns and Farm (see above).

Our Daily Bread

- A strange film. It's pretty far outside the norm, but worth a look. For starters, it has no dialogue, and no experts to deliver it. Instead, it's a series of well-crafted segments with still cameras looking out onto chicken processing plants, feed lots, etc. The film's lack of verbal commentary seems to leave a lot of open questions about its subject matter, and it encourages viewers to come up with their own. What you get (or at least what I got) is a tense but weirdly calm meditation on food. (NG)
- In any case, I don't know how well it would work in a classroom, but it's definitely worth checking out, if only for a change in the way we watch documentaries. (NG)
- <http://www.ourdailybread.at/jart/projects/utb/website.jart?rel=en&content-id=1130864824947>

Peak Moment Conversations, on:

- The Heart of Permaculture
- Suburban Backyard Gardens: Cultivating Abundance
- Transforming Communities Through Local Business
- <http://www.peakmoment.tv>

The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil

- About Cuba's "green" revolution post USSR oil imports. Lots of investigation of organic farming and urban gardening and a pretty upbeat grassroots group of people. (TW)
- <http://www.powerofcommunity.org/cm/index.php>

Squeezed: The Cost of Free Trade in the Asia Pacific

- <http://www.squeezedthefilm.com/>

Super Size Me:

- A humorous but scathing look at McDonaldization/the culture of gluttony and its opponents (TW)

TED Segments (Technology, Entertainment, Design)

- Don't forget the brilliant 20 minute gems on TED.com. Here are the ones tagged with "Food": (<http://www.ted.com/talks/tags/id/111>) (KW)
- And these are some favorites from KW:
 - Carolyn Steel: How food shapes our cities
http://www.ted.com/talks/carolyn_steel_how_food_shapes_our_cities.html
 - Dan Barber: How I fell in love with a fish
http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_barber_how_i_fell_in_love_with_a_fish.html
 - Paul Stamets: Six ways mushrooms can save the world
http://www.ted.com/talks/paul_stamets_on_6_ways_mushrooms_can_save_the_world.html
 - Mark Bittman: What's wrong with what we eat
http://www.ted.com/talks/mark_bittman_on_what_s_wrong_with_what_we_eat.html

Think Global Eat Local: A Diet for a Sustainable Society

- “A film celebrating & exploring local food systems, farmers markets, food boxes, food cooperatives, community farms & community gardens, edible school gardens. 15 years of footage over 15 countries.”
- In two parts on YouTube,
- <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7156195379871111821>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFfE9TUwCZk>

Truck Farm

- I just love this! – an old dodge converted into a truck farm in Brooklyn, NYC. Done with great humour and extremely high professional quality. (JC)
- Episode 1 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGGUfYFdFrc&feature=related>
- Episode 2 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSFJPqzJp8M&feature=related>

Urban Food Growing in Havana, Cuba

- From the BBC series “Around the World in 80 Gardens” (2008) showing some of the urban food gardening in Havana, Cuba. Presented by Monty Don.
- I love this (and so it seems do my students). Monty is infectious, the music is great, and the examples inspiring. (JC)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRz34Dee7XY>

The World According to Monsanto

- Long French film about the evil that is Monsanto (KW).
- Promo says “a new documentary was aired on French television - a documentary that Americans won’t ever see. The gigantic bio-tech corporation Monsanto is threatening to destroy the agricultural biodiversity which has served mankind for thousands of years.”
- <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6262083407501596844>

Extras

- Excellent list of food-related films:
<http://www.filmsforaction.org/films/?Subject=16&SubjectName=food>
- Another film list is at <http://www.transitionus.org/resources/films>

Contributors

JC – Jenny Cameron

NG – Nate Gabriel

SH – Stephen Healy

KL – Kristen Lyons

RP – Robert Pekin

KW – Karen Werner

TW – Ted White