

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Cinema Series Examines Styles of Creating ‘The Documentary Experience’

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s University Cinema will highlight important films that demonstrate a variety of approaches to documentary filmmaking in the eight film series, “The Documentary Experience” beginning Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Bay Hall, Room 104.

Documentary topics range from a profile of the controversial artist Christo in “The Gates” to the search for the killer of a filmmaker in “Stranger with a Camera.” The films were selected by Dr. Bill Huie, professor of communication and TV-film, who will speak briefly about each documentary before its screening.

“These films are excellent examples of different approaches to documentary filmmaking,” said Huie. “Whether the filmmaker is simply recording events or asking questions to elicit truths that may have remained hidden, they provide new perspectives on our experience and open doors to new ways of looking at things.”

The films in the series are:

March 4: “The Gates” (2007, 87 minutes) – This film by Albert and David Maysles, Antonio Ferrera and Matthew Prinzing chronicles the artist Christo’s project to adorn New York’s Central Park sidewalks with orange “gates.”

March 25: “Third Avenue: Only the Strong Survive” (1980, 58 minutes) – Directed by Jon Alpert and Keiko Tsuno, this film examines the neighborhoods and residents along New York’s Third Avenue as documented by Downtown Community Television.

“No Lies” (1972, 16 minutes) – In this film by Mitchell Block, a student filmmaker’s relentless quizzing of his girlfriend leads to a shocking revelation.

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April 1: “Six O’ Clock News” (1997, 103 minutes) – This personal film essay by Ross McElwee looks more deeply into stories reported in the news, with reflections by the filmmaker, a new father, on the world his son will face.

April 8: “The Times of Harvey Milk” (1984, 87 minutes) – The profound social tensions surrounding the assassinations of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone are revealed in this film by Robert Epstein and Richard Schmeicher.

April 15: “Stranger with a Camera” (2000, 58 minutes) – Filmmaker Elizabeth Barret investigates the murder of another filmmaker in her hometown in Appalachia.

April 22: “Always for Pleasure” (1978, 58 minutes) – In this film, Les Blank celebrates the festive energy of New Orleans culture.

“Voices from Steeltown” (1983, 28 minutes) – Spicing his film with wit and humor, Tony Buba examines the economic decline of his hometown.

April 29: “El General” (2009, 83 minutes) – Family memory intersects with political and social history in Natalia Almada’s investigation of her great-grandfather, former Mexican President Plutarco Calles.

All movies will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Bay Hall, Room 104, and are free and open to the public. For more information, call 361.825.2316.

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