

Conversing with Aotearoa

by Corrie Francis, a 2005 US Fulbrighter to New Zealand (14.5 min)
In an age of technological integration and urban life, people turn to the natural world for a wilderness experience. What draws us to the remote corners of land and sea when we realize something in our lives is missing? *Conversing with Aotearoa/New Zealand* uses unique visual imagery to take the viewer into the physical and mental wilderness encompassed in the diverse landscapes of New Zealand. In this animated documentary, New Zealanders attempt to fathom their deep, personal connection with their land. Among the interviewees are hunters, fishermen, farmers, artists, adventurer-racers, ecologists, urban and rural dwellers, Maori and tourists. The thread that ties them all together is a passion and love for the wild places in New Zealand. www.corriefrancis.com

Paradise

by Enrique Rivero Borrell, a 2005 Mexican Fulbrighter to USA (represented at the festival by César Romero). (10 minutes)
This short film portrays the extent of damage and corruption of natural habitat and indigenous cultures that humanity is capable of when in pursuit of expansion, comfort and wealth. Extrapolating our current technology growth rate, disregard of nature's balance and lack of respect for any other living creatures other than ourselves this scenario could become a horrible reality in the near future. www.aquelarrestudio.com

Alagados

by Sylvia Johnson, a 2005 US Fulbrighter to Brazil (23 minutes)
This film documents a fascinating Brazilian community through the eyes of 23-year old Renato. Despite being born into a society that marginalizes him and his peers, Renato defies his criminal background and engages in the development of his own identity. Drawn to a percussion drumming group, Renato is offered an incredible opportunity and struggles to make new choices for his future. www.alagados.com

The Bet (on a DVD titled Uncommon Heros. Common Good).

by Michael Schwarz, a 1986 Fulbrighter to Asia (7 minutes)
Twenty-five years ago, the term social entrepreneurship was hardly known. Today, it defines a growing movement of people who have the common goal of using their entrepreneurial talents to change the world. This video introduces some of the ideas and the people at the heart of that movement, including Dr. Mohammed Yunus, the 1965 Fulbright scholar to Vanderbilt University and subsequent Nobel Prize winner for his work with the Grameen Bank. www.Kikim.com

Project GreenHands

Varsha Mathrani, a 2009 Fulbrighter to India assisted with the interviews (12 minutes)
Project GreenHands is a grassroots ecological initiative established by Isha Foundation in Tamil Nadu, India. Drawing on community involvement and large scale volunteer participation, it aims to plant 114 million trees state-wide - providing an additional 10% to the existing level of tree coverage in Tamil Nadu. www.projectgreenhands.org

Shamans of Siquijor: The Healers

by Rosanna Brillantes a 2004 US Fulbrighter to the Philippines (27 minutes)
Over 300 miles south of the Philippine capital lies the tropical island of Siquijor, famous for its traditional healers, sorcerers, and witches. This film follows three healers to learn about their practices and beliefs. With guidance from the supernatural world, these healers cure illnesses using medicinal herbs, incantations, a magical prayer wheel, and other means. Is folk healing still valuable for the social and spiritual life of the community or just a dying relic of old traditions? The documentary is an introduction to this healing culture. <http://shamansofsiquijor.blogspot.com>

Charcoal Traffic

by Nathan Collett, a 2006 US Fulbrighter to Nairobi, Kenya (7 minutes) (he is not present at the festival)
Charcoal Traffic tells a dramatic story of two brothers trapped in a murderous cycle of environmental and cultural devastation in Somalia. The brothers' story shows the other war in Somalia - pitting the fragile environment and the pastoral way of life against charcoal producers - out to make money whatever it takes. The Somali pastoral way of life faces extinction because of massive destruction of trees to make charcoal. It was the first fictional film shot in Somalia in over 15 years. All local cast, no previous acting experience, in Somali with English subtitles. www.sunfirecooking.com or www.hotsunfilms.com

Montana Fare

by Dawson Dunning, a 2008 US Fulbrighter to New Zealand (20 minutes) (he is not present at the festival)
Montana Fare is about how Americans decide what food to eat. What is more important: quantity or quality, taste or price? "Montana Fare" examines contemporary food culture in rural Montana through the eyes of two women, a farmer/rancher and a Native American tribal elder Minerva Allen, who try to feed their families while living 50 miles from the nearest grocery store. <http://3bearsmedia.blogspot.com>

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