

25 Tracks

Dir. Fiona Cochrane (Australia, 2016)

with short film *Uncloud*

Dir. Guillaume Versteeg (Netherlands 2018)

4min 38s

Having moved NRFF audiences to tears with *All in Her Stride*, a tender portrait of a dying friend, and *Women are the Answer*, a thought-provoking look at the global birth control movement, in 2015, Fiona Cochrane returns with an infectious story of the 25 Tracks project – as two independent musicians set out to create and release a fresh song every two weeks for the course of a year. Despite the unorthodox bare-bones studio (a renovated train carriage) and the constant clash of the two musicians' styles (she wants jazz flute, he wants dirty guitar), the duo combine to create something unique and incredible. Most importantly though, the pair put together music not to find fame or

fortune, but to find new ways of expressing themselves, to draw out new happiness in audiences, and to provoke other humans listening in to engage in their own way – what could be a better motive for music or film than democracy through culture? - *Jack Brindelli*

25 Tracks.jpg 373 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

A Bridge Between Two Worlds

Dir. Pascal Gélinas (Canada/Indonesia 2018)

A Bridge Between Two Worlds relates how Muslim and Catholic farmers, on the Island of Flores, Indonesia, overcome poverty and enhance their environment with the support of North American and European families. This astonishing chain of solidarity was initiated by Gilles Raymond, a Canadian volunteer from Québec who has forged deep

bonds in Flores over the past 15 years. This is the beginning of a worldwide family, which distance cannot affect, a story that is punctuated by hard work, children's smiles and ancestor worship. This engaging adventure builds a living bridge between our two hemispheres, at a time when foreign aid is too often being questioned.

Bridge Between Two Worlds.jpg 709 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Acha Acha Cucaracha: Cucaño Strikes Again!

Dir. Mario Piazza (Argentina, 2017)

Cucaño founder [Guillermo Giampietro](#) will be at the screening.

In 1979, at time of a cruel dictatorship, Cucaño emerged in the city of Rosario, Argentina. A group of experimental art

integrated by very young people, their action gave some light to the ominous darkness of those times. Today, in their fifties, its former members reclaim those actions of their first youth and persist, each of them in his/her own way.

Acha_Acha_Cucaracha_1.jpg 303 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Amereki Kum, Escape From Dubai

Dir. Matt Johanning (USA, 2017)

You will not believe this true story!

The amazing true story of the Dutch-born Ted van der Zalm and his escape from captivity in Dubai is not one for the feint hearted. Having grown up in America, Ted was offered what he believed to be a once in a lifetime opportunity to join a real estate development team, an ill-fated search for financing led Ted to open an office in Dubai – a fragmented society where wealth and

glamour are leveraged to paper over the cracks of inequality and corruption. Suddenly imprisoned in a foreign land, Ted finds himself at the mercy of US foreign policy, as the American Government infuriates the region with a campaign of aggression against Iraq. In a new era of aggression, in part triggered by the war-mongering, trade-war triggering US administration of Donald Trump, this film is not only an uplifting tale of a man's incredible escape, or an essay of solidarity among the oppressed, but a damning indictment of the fast and loose game nations are willing to play with the lives of their citizens in times of geopolitical tension. - *Jack Brindelli*

Ameri Kum.jpg 88 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Back to the Origin

Dir. María José Glender de Mucha (Mexico, 2017)

A 60-year-old man, still dreaming of paradise, shuts himself away from civilization in the mountains to try living self sufficiently and to see what secrets underlie solitude. Having trouble finding a truly uninhabited place Lalo has to keep dealing with human contact, which confronts his utopia. He begins to question the viability of his undertaking, and then to experience how he really feels when he is finally left alone for a long period of time.

This life would be a dream for my father who often fantasized to live off the grid in his "paradise" in Southern New Mexico. While I find this Thoreau inspired lifestyle attractive, is living off the grid possible for everyone? Is there a way to step back a bit from the consumer capitalistic "Minotaur" as Yanis Varoufakis calls it? Or does one have to go completely off the grid and live the life of a hermit? This off the grid movement is gaining momentum around the globe and I think there should be a place for those who want to live in

harmony with nature without urban ills encroaching. But I also think we can live in the 21st Century and NOT have to live in a tent...which is why I am often cynical towards "technological progress" ...with all of our knowledge we can't do 100% sustainability?

Back to the Origin.jpg 150 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

beyond the red lines, system change not climate change

Dir. Luciano Ibarra (France, Germany, Netherlands, 2016)

From the lignite mines in the Rhineland to the port of Amsterdam or the streets of Paris during the World Climate Summit, the struggles for climate justice are fought at more and more fronts. Beyond the red lines is the story of a growing movement that says "Enough! Here and no further!" and commits civil disobedience taking the transition

towards a climate just society into its own hands.

The year 2015 was marked by human induced climate change increasingly spiraling out of control – and the struggle for climate justice taking place at ever more fronts. In Paris a global climate agreement was adopted. But was it really about saving the planet? While negotiations and greenhouse gas emissions are in full swing, there are worlds between what would be needed to avert runaway climate chaos and the measures actually being taken.

This film portrays three initiatives before and during the World Climate Summit. It shows 1,300 people entering a lignite open cast mine and putting their bodies in the way of giant coal excavators in order to paralyze Europe's largest source of CO₂ for one day (Ende Gelände). We hear the voices of people that block the import of fossil fuels at the harbour of Amsterdam (Climate camp „ground control“ & „Climate Games“). We

meet people on a 5,000 km bicycle ride to Paris, providing on their way a common voice for a climate just world to countless local initiatives (Alternatiba).

The film also documents how tens of thousands take the streets of Paris during the World Climate Summit despite the proclaimed state of emergency. Meanwhile the largest climate change mobilization recorded in recent history unites more than 785,000 people in 2,200 events in 175 countries.

In the midst of giant machines, raised voices and apocalyptic landscapes, the logic of a system based on endless growth and its "green" crisis management is questioned. Beyond the red lines is the story of a growing movement that says "Enough! Here and no further!" and commits civil disobedience taking the transition towards a climate just society into its own hands.

Beyond the Red Lines.jpg 749 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Boys School

Dir. Ric Acevedo (USA, 2017)

Director Statement: *Boys School* is the story of a group of men that passed through the halls of the controversial reform school known as the Dozier School for Boys. This project is very significant because it addresses various subjects from abuse of power, to the need for some kind reform in the American penal system. Several men were affected, scarred for life, and rendered powerless to lead normal lives. While some may say that these men deserved to be there, others will vehemently argue that they were victims of a corrupt, under policed, small town system. For over 111 years this school remained opened and for almost as long there was no real attention paid to what went on inside.

This film took over one year to complete, it was a difficult process as we often relied on limited resources and manpower.

Emotionally, this was a taxing journey for everyone involved.

This is indeed a hard documentary to watch, as it is so unbelievable to a decent person that something of this magnitude could happen in a "civilized" society. I believe it unveils the ugly underbelly of an over militant USA where might equals right. We don't rehabilitate people, we make them worse...

The extreme tragedy is that stories like these are not uncommon and not indigenous to the States, yet are so under the radar the general public is not even aware it is going on right under their noses. And those that do know choose to look the other way because it is easier to not get involved. I have more contempt for those people than those that committed the atrocities. - *Alexandra*

Nakelski

Boy's School.png 2.81 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

BURKINABÈ RISING: the art of resistance in Burkina Faso

Dir. Iara Lee (Burkina Faso, 2017)

A small landlocked country in West Africa, Burkina Faso is home to a vibrant community of artists, musicians, engaged citizens who carry on the revolutionary spirit of Thomas Sankara, killed in a coup d'état led by his best friend and advisor Blaise Compaoré, who then ruled the country as an autocrat for 27 years, til a massive popular insurrection led to his removal. Today, the spirit of resistance and political change is mightier than ever and it permeates every aspect of the Burkinabè life. It is an inspiration, not only to Africa, but also to the rest of the world

Burkinabe Rising.jpg 262 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Cairo Jazzman

Dir. Atef Ben Bouzid (Germany/Egypt, 2017)

"Music is the universal language, the element connecting human beings, regardless where they are from," says Atef Ben Bouzid in his director's statement, accompanying the film. "It's the perfect tool to provide a new perspective, to broaden our horizons. That's the goal of Cairo Jazzman."

But that by no means makes it easy to put on a jazz festival in the Egyptian capital. This political music documentary follows Amr Salah, an Egyptian jazz musician trying to create a new platform for the art he holds so dear; a risky undertaking – and one that the MFF can wholeheartedly relate to from our maiden outing in 2016 – not only because of his limited experience, but mainly also due to the increasingly intolerant social climate, and closed-shop mentality of local businesses and organizations alike. Which was one of the

main deciding factors in us migrating to the more welcoming Amsterdam! - *Jack Brindelli*

Cairo Jazzman.jpg 416 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Democracy Through the Looking Glass

Dir. Kevin Bowe (USA, 2017)

A film seemingly tailored to our 2018 theme, *Democracy Through the Looking Glass* highlights a year of both fear and loathing on the campaign trail of the 2016 US Presidential elections. What starts out as a fun story about a citizen who embeds himself with the media covering the 2016 presidential campaigns, turns into an eye-opening journey; where shiny objects hypnotize, truthiness empowers and paranoia runs rampant. Ultimately, the film examines the junction between media, politics and technology in the Post-Truth Era, with insights from veteran CBS journalist Bob Schieffer, Boston Globe Editor Brian

McGrory, Harvard University's Nicco Mele,
Larry Lessig and others. - *Jack Brindelli*

Democracy through the looking glass.jpg 61 KB [View](#)
[full-size](#) [Download](#)

Descent into the Maelstrom - The Radio Birdman Story

Dir. Jonathan Sequeira (Australia, 2017)

A group of outsiders get together in 1974 Sydney, and rock'n'roll band RADIO BIRDMAN is born with a mission - to keep compromise from their art. Birdman are shut down and kicked out of venue after venue. Their determination to do things their own way, against the industry and other bands, is unwavering. It drives them together and they become a family as much as a band. A 'New Race' of disaffected youth gain a rallying point when Birdman start their own venue, 'The Funhouse', and release their own

records, they are the prototype of the independent music scene. But the intensity that drives Radio Birdman causes their acrimonious break up. 20 years later they reform. Have they found peace with their struggle against the industry and each other?

Descent poster.jpg 222 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Erase and Forget

Dir. Andrea Luka Zimmerman (US/UK ,2017)

Using never before seen archive footage of covert US operations, and interviews filmed over a ten year period, is a new documentary which explores 'the deep bonds between Hollywood's fictionalized conflicts and America's hidden wars'. It charts the extraordinary life and times of Bo Gritz, one of America's highest decorated veterans and the 'inspiration' for Rambo and Brando's Colonel Kurtz. *Erase and Forget* is an inquiry into the nature of human conscience and the

limits of deniability, and embodies contemporary American society in all its dizzying complexity and contradictions.

Erase and Forget.jpg 790 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Goodwin's Way

Dir. Neil Vokey (Canada, 2016)

When compared to their much-maligned neighbours south of the border, it has historically been very easy for Canada to present itself as a light of liberal progression. Delve beneath that thin veneer, however, and you will uncover the nation's reactionary past, along with a hypocritical present. Almost a century after controversial labour activist Ginger Goodwin was shot, residents of Cumberland, B.C., find themselves at a crossroads when highway signs honouring his memory disappear. Coincidentally, just two kilometers from the road clouds loom

over the site of a newly-proposed coalmine, threatening to hamper efforts by the region's residents to escape the boom and bust fuel resource economy, and build a brighter future. Showing how a radical past can inspire and inform the actions of citizens today, *Goodwin's Way* is an excellent example of why preserving working class history is so important, and why governments would much rather have schools arbitrarily teaching the names long-dead imperial monarchs, instead. - *Jack Brindelli*

Goodwin's Way.png 1.58 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Hardcore Prophecy: The Trump of Doom

Dir. Dan Warren (Australia/Japan/USA, 2017)

This album tells the story of the US 2020 presidential election, in which Donald Trump is declared the Messiah. It ends poorly. The voice you hear is Dan Carlin, but he didn't say

any of this stuff; the story was built from thousands of short audio clips from his podcasts (Common Sense and Hardcore History). Dan Carlin is not responsible for any of the content. The imagery is sourced from newscasts, film, and television, as well as some original illustration and other art sourced from volunteers on the Internet.

Phenomenal editing, seamless audio trickery to create a mesmerizing, warped pseudo history just in line enough with reality to be real, but absurd enough not to just be depressing prophecy. - Jack Brindelli

Hardcore Prophecy.jpg 64.2 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Letter on the Blind

Dir. Stephane Levy (France, 2018)

'Letter on the Blind' by Diderot was one of the earliest works to address blindness, not simply as a missing sense but rather as a

different way of perceiving the world. Published in 1749, in the days of the Encyclopedia, it immediately caused a public scandal. As a result, Diderot was imprisoned in the Bastille. Today, in the Wikipedia era, the blind have new tools and new ways of reading also exist: BigFish, a Natural Language Processing tool and a research subject in the Data Science field, makes it possible to visualize any text, in space. Re-reading the 'Letter on the Blind' digitally, using BigFish, highlights certain words as well as links between words that are meaningful for those who can't see, revealing what is not visible within the text. Following in Diderot's wake, we went to meet blind people, so they could explain their world and put into words something that cannot be expressed otherwise.

Letter onthe Blind.png 1.12 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Life is Waiting: Referendum and Resistance in Western Sahara

Dir. Iara Lee (USA/Western Sahara, 2015)

Forty years after its people were promised freedom by departing Spanish rulers, Western Sahara remains Africa's last colony. This film chronicles the everyday violence experienced by Sahrawis living under Moroccan occupation and voices the aspirations of a desert people for whom the era of colonialism never ended.

With a UN ceasefire halting all armed opposition in 1991 the Sahrawi have adopted a non-violent approach to resistance; defying their occupiers through art and music in the hope that a cultural revolution will bring them the freedom they so desire.

Life is Waiting.jpg 40.6 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)
May I Be Happy

Dir. Eric Georgeault and H el ene Walter (USA/
France, 2017)

This film follows a collection of California schools that have chosen to introduce mindfulness as part of the core curriculum for students of varying grade levels. It is beautifully executed through the experience of students and teachers. Each story explores a different mindful technique, demonstrating a multitude of benefits that transcend the classroom and impact these kids' daily lives. In a world shaped by the fast-paced information exchange via news and social media, students are finding it harder to focus on their studies and on being present in the classroom.

I identify with the challenge of being present in my own life. Watching this film made me feel calmer. The tone of the film and the pace at which the stories are presented lines up perfectly with the messages being taught.

It was heartwarming to hear these success stories and see happy teenagers equipped with tools to manage their emotions. This film gave me hope for the next generation. - Amy Peterson

May I be Happy.jpg 78.6 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)
Small Town Rage: Fighting Back in the Deep South

Dir. Raydra Hall and David Hylan (USA, 2016)

Thanks to films such as the heavily sanitized Dallas Buyers Club, the fight for LGBT+ rights, as well as the rights of those suffering from HIV+ and AIDS, has been heavily mythologized in recent years. This brilliant, hard-hitting independent documentary goes a long way to putting that right – in that advancing this cause was not solely the doing of swashbuckling, maverick businessmen, but rather it was progress built on the back of

the blood, sweat and tears of ordinary people forced into lives of activism in the face of death itself. *Small Town Rage* covers the hypocrisy of a Republican representative handing death sentences to AIDS sufferers to distract his voting base from his homosexuality – as well as the LGBT+ sponsors of his campaign who in turn had used his stance to hand themselves legitimacy – and shows how even small bands of activists in the most ideologically hostile environment can make all the difference in the history of humanity. - *Jack Brindelli*

Small Town Rage.jpg 137 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

State of Exception

Dir. Jason O'Hara (Canada/Brazil, 2017)

Last season our country of focus was Brazil to highlight the ramifications of the 2016

Olympics and World Cup on people in the city who could use the spread of tourism wealth and the displacement of those without enough money or power to push back. We think it is an issue still worth examining. The following doc took 6 years to complete. As Rio de Janeiro prepares to host the 2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Olympics, a community of self-described "urban Indians" is threatened with forced eviction to make way for a stadium named after the original indigenous inhabitants of the territory. As the mega-events begin threatening a number of other communities with displacement, residents unite to fight back in defense of their constitutional rights, temporarily suspended under a "state of exception". This character driven story was filmed over the course of 6 years, utilizing production protocols that combine observational verité with participatory documentary practices and citizen journalism.

State of exception.jpg 128 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

The Canadian Delegation

Dir. Greg Elmer (Canada/UK/US, 2018)

In the summer and fall of 1989 the world witnessed a string of revolutionary movements and challenges to state authority, ending in one of the most profound geopolitical realignments of the 20th century. From the end of the military dictatorship in Chile, to the nascent yet ultimately crushed democracy movement in China, to the fall of the Soviet bloc and Berlin Wall, 1989 ushered in a new era for citizens around the world. In the midst of the tensions, uncertainty and confusion wrought by these geopolitical events, organizers of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students pressed ahead with their plans for an audacious celebration of global solidarity in Pyongyang, North Korea – one of the very few states that remains

defined by the terms of the Cold War. In Canada, long time activist Chris Frazier was handed the task of assembling a Canadian delegation to North Korea. The film follows Frazier and a number of other delegates as they recount their participation in the Festival as world events continued to unfold around them.

Twenty-five years after the fall of the Berlin wall, The Canadian Delegation reminds us of a pre-9-11 world, a point in history where political contradictions thrived and uncertainty was embraced.

Canadian Delegation.png 2.42 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

The Mayor's Race

Dir. Lorraine Blumenthal (UK/Germany, 2017)

Marvin, a mixed-race child, grew up with his single mother in Bristol's ghettos in the UK

with prostitution, violence and poverty witnessed on a daily occurrence. Ever since, Marvin had the desire to go against the injustices he experienced and decided to run for mayor.

Despite his charisma and intellect, his biggest battle is believing anyone would take this black guy from the ghetto seriously. In a tight race, he must accept his loss in front of rolling cameras. Though feeling personally ashamed, losing for him has a greater significance as the city has a history of treating its black immigrants like no other. Bristol was part of the slave trade, was struck by a civil rights movement in the 1960's inspired by Martin Luther King and had the black youth revolting in the 1980's, which caused a nationwide riot. Today it is the increasing fear of Muslims that shatters the city. Despite his doubts, Marvin decides to run once again. Now more professional, stronger and with the vital support of the Muslim-Somali community. Will he manage to

break the cyclical pattern of discriminatory history and become the first mayor of African decent for a city in Europe?

The Mayor's Race.png 1.66 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

The Spider's Web: Britain's Second Empire

Dir. Michael Oswald (UK, 2017)

The Spider's Web: Britain's Second Empire, is a documentary film that shows how Britain transformed from a colonial power into a global financial power. At the demise of empire, City of London financial interests created a web of offshore secrecy jurisdictions that captured wealth from across the globe and hid it behind obscure financial structures in a web of offshore islands. Today, up to half of global offshore wealth may be hidden in British offshore jurisdictions and Britain and its offshore jurisdictions are

the largest global players in the world of international finance. How did this come about, and what impact does it have on the world today? This is what the Spider's Web sets out to investigate.

With contributions from leading experts, academics, former insiders and campaigners for social justice, the use of stylized b-roll and archive footage, the Spider's Web reveals how in the world of international finance, corruption and secrecy have prevailed over regulation and transparency, and the UK is right at the heart of this

spidersweb-poster.jpg 146 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

They Heard Voices

Dir. Jonathan Balazs (Canada/UK, 2016)

A film offering multiple perspectives: is schizophrenia hard science or an arbitrary, catch-all term with no real meaning? What

does it mean for those experiencing psychosis? The film is a series of wide-ranging interviews with voice hearers, medical historians, anthropologists and psychiatrists from Britain and America.

THEY HEARD VOICES.jpg 275 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Tunnel Vision

Dir. Ivan Hextor (Australia, 2016)

Tunnel Vision is the story of a remarkable citizen's movement where lawful, civil disobedience, savvy social media strategies and direct action undermined a government spin campaign, challenged vested interests, excited mass media, confronted police and won the campaign to stop an \$18 billion toll road. People from all echelons of society came together to question the dubious politics and flawed processes of the EW Link Project, as

well as the narrow focus on roads, at the expense of public transport and livability. The East West Link campaign demonstrated that a healthy democracy is one in which citizens contribute to decision making, and have a role to play in meaningful discussions about our future.

Through interviews with key activists and unique footage recorded over the 18 months of the campaign, Tunnel Vision gives insight as to why the community was so opposed to this project and how they won the campaign. All over Australia and the world, community groups are fighting similar projects that threaten the equity, progress and sustainability of our cities and cultures.

Tunnel Vision - the extraordinary story of a community that stood up, found its voice and made history.

Stand up. Be heard. Make History.

Tunnel Vision.jpg 247 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Voces De Guerrilla (Guerrilla Voices)

Dir. Sjoerd Van Grootheest (Netherlands/
Colombia ,2018)

From December 2016 a group of 220 guerrilleros of the FARC's 6th front entered a Transition and Normalizacion Zone in Monteredondo, Cauca. The filmmaker entered the camp in January 2017 and followed several guerilleros in the process of demobilization. The guerrilleros talk about their experiences in the guerrilla, the reasons for entering, and their dreams for the future. Throughout the documentary we see how the guerrilleros prepare themselves for a life without arms. But insecurities arise when armed groups get closer to the demobilization camp, and the government seems unable to fulfill its promises.

War Crime

Dir. Gopal Shivakoti (Nepal, 2017)

An intriguing examination of a little discussed topic in the West, *War Crime* summarises exactly what the limitations of liberal freedom are. During a decade long conflict (1996-2006) in Nepal, Maoist rebels recruited children as spies, cooks, porters and even frontline guerrillas. After the signing of a comprehensive peace accord, some 4000 combatants were classified as being minors and or new recruits. Having matured into 'adults' before their release, these former child soldiers were effectively abandoned by the Nepalese Government, who utterly failed to integrate them into society. The victims of war depicted in *War Crime* go through the same problem freed slaves had in US – that without reparation via the redistribution of private property, they find themselves in almost as much trouble as before, and forced back into servitude, albeit for chickenfeed pay instead. - *Jack Brindelli*

War_Crime_-_Poster.jpg 93.9 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

We Weren't Given Anything for Free

Dir. Eric Esser and Caro Krugmann (Germany/Italy, 2014)

Annita Malavasi was just 22 when the Germans occupied Italy, their former allies, in 1943. As a partisan in the Italian resistance named "Laila", she moved throughout the Apennines with and between fighting units, delivering information, transporting weapons, and taking part in battles. She spent over a year in the Apennines, fighting against the German occupation. At the same time, she had to assert herself against the men of the mountain villages. By the end of the war, Laila had risen among the ranks to become one of the few female commanders in the Italian resistance.

This film chronicles the story of a lifelong struggle for emancipation that began with the battle for Italy's liberation from fascism. Laila and her two comrades, Gina "Sonia" Moncigoli and Pierina "Iva" Bonilauri talk about their time in the Resistenza and what it meant to them and many other women.

An hour of interesting old women debating dialectics and violent revolution over cake.

These people are amazing and have amazing stories to tell. In fact it almost becomes an anti-documentary, passing comment on the fidgeting imagination of the modern audience who find it hard to listen to the most amazing tales without cut-away shots and contextual photographs. - Jack Brindelli

We weren't given anything.png 986 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)