

From Real to Reel: A Selection of Documentary Films

Study Leader: Steve Solomon

Tuesdays, 1:30–4:00 p.m.

5 weeks beginning April 15

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 40



Steve Solomon

The medium of documentary film depicts real situations and people for the purpose of educating, informing, persuading and communicating.

Originally, documentary films were a novel experience, giving the public, for the first time, the ability to see images of places and hear the voices of people that were previously inaccessible. Today, documentaries are an important way we learn about our world.

We will view the following films, a small sample of the extensive subjects explored in documentary film:

Five Came Back (2017): World War II through the eyes and lenses of five famous Hollywood directors – Frank Capra, John Huston, John Ford, William Wyler and George Stevens – and the effect of their wartime experiences on their post-war work.

***This film is about three hours long. We will see the first two hours on the morning of April 15 and the last hour that afternoon, followed by discussion.*

Kedi (2016): The heartwarming story of the relationship between the people and feral cats of Istanbul.

51 Birch Street (2005): A revelation about the secret life of the filmmaker's mother by his posthumous discovery of her diaries.

The Fog of War (2003): A revealing interview with Robert McNamara, secretary of defense during the Vietnam War.

Joan Rivers, A Piece of Work (2010): A close-up encounter with the famous comedienne revealing her wit and grit and the hard work of show business.

Steve Solomon is a retired lawyer who now gives tours of the Frank Lloyd Wright houses at the Currier Museum in Manchester. He has given two previous courses at ALL: *Appreciating and Understanding the Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright* and *Five Formidable Femmes Fatales on Film*.

His interest in film started in elementary school, watching old movies on TV, and continued through law school as a member of the board of the student-run film society at the University of Michigan.