Uncovering connections between the experiences of women workers on a local level to broader economic patterns worldwide, this diverse collection tackles today’s most relevant issues from sex work to sustainable wages.

Globalization, Labor and Women’s Lives

A Collection from Women Make Movies

Buy 5 or more titles for $99 each.*
Transnational Tradeswomen

“Investigating current and historical roles of women in the construction industry worldwide, former construction worker Vivian Price uncovers several startling facts. Capturing footage that shatters any stereotypes of delicate, submissive Asian women, Price discovers that women in many parts of Asia have been doing construction labor for centuries. But conversations with these women show that development and the resulting mechanization are pushing them out of the industry. Their stories disturb the notion of “progress” that many people hold and show how globalization, modernization, education and technology don’t always result in gender equality and the alleviation of poverty.

Celebrating a range of women workers – from a Japanese truck driver, to two young Pakistani women working on a construction site in Lahore, to a Taiwanese woman doing concrete work alongside her husband – this film deftly probes the connections in their experiences. In a segment exploring the history of the Samsui women in Singapore (Chinese women who were recruited as construction laborers in the 1920’s until they lost their jobs to mechanization in the 1970’s) unique archival footage and interviews with surviving Samsui offer an importation perspective on the historical and global scope of women workers’ struggles.

- CINE Golden Eagle Award

Essential Viewing

Hammering It Out: Women in the Construction Zone

“A unique view of the experiences of women working in male-dominated construction industries across the globe. It provides a rich sense of women’s identities and agencies and... their strength in surviving the intersecting inequalities of patriarchy and economic marginalization. The film is a valuable teaching tool for anyone interested in questions regarding women’s rights, labor conditions and globalization.”

Leela Fernandes Associate Professor of Political Science, Rutgers University

“...a classic documentary in the tradition of The Global Assembly Line and Salt of the Earth. Excellent for classes in sociology, labor, and women’s studies.”

Raul Fernandez
UC Irvine

“This documentary is well done, covering important issues for women and men in the construction industry. I urge members of the labor movement to view it.”

Bob Balgenorth
AFL-CIO

“Framed by the story of a community initiated lawsuit resulting in hundreds of women getting trained to work on a billion-dollar freeway, this film evolves into a primer on the feminist issues of equality, identity, and changing gender roles in the work place. Powerful testimonials by women workers demonstrate the importance of providing opportunity, embracing equity, and abandoning sexist traditions that deny talented women workers the right to support their families on a par equal with men. It also serves as a cautionary tale that warns that unless laws, policies, and conventions are changed, women workers may be forced out of their chosen professions by bias and expediency.”

— Joseph Boles, Northern Arizona University
2006 Release

**Everyone Their Grain of Sand**

A film by Beth Bird  
2005  
87 minutes, Color  
Subtitled (Spanish)  
VHS, DVD  
Sale $295  
Rental $90  
Order # 06908

This award-winning documentary reveals the struggles of the citizens of Maclovio Rojas in Tijuana, Mexico as they battle the state government’s attempts to evict them from their homes to make way for multi-national corporations seeking cheap land and labor. Filmmaker Beth Bird followed the fiercely determined residents for three years as they persistently petitioned the state for basic services like running water, electricity and pay for their teachers, only to be met with bureaucratic stonewalling. Eventually, several community leaders are targeted for persecution, and one is arrested while others are forced into hiding. Balancing these stories of hardship, Bird also captures intimate scenes of daily life in Maclovio Rojas, revealing hard-won triumphs such as the building of a school by hand and the graduation of an elementary school class. This compelling and ultimately inspiring documentary is an eye-opening look at the human cost of globalization and a moving testament to the power of grassroots activism.

- Los Angeles Film Fest, Target Jury Award for Best Doc  
- San Diego Int’l Film Fest, San Diego Feature Film Award  
- Vienna Int’l Film Festival  
- One World Film Festival, Berlin  
- DocNZ Int’l Doc Film Festival, New Zealand  
- Puerto Vallarta Film Festival

“Unique and groundbreaking … strongly recommended for courses in Latin American Studies, economic development, social movements, and comparative politics.”  
Vivienne Bennett  
Latin American and Border and Regional Studies, California State University, San Marcos

“A return to unvarnished, passionate documentary filmmaking… An engrossing look at issues of corporate power and international politics as they bear down on the lives of ordinary citizens.”  
Los Angeles Film Festival Target Documentary Award Jury

“Stirring… a gorgeous demonstration of people power.”  
Chuck Wilson, LA Weekly

“Gritty… an excellent view of the way local politics and corruption work.”  
Nancy Postero, UC San Diego Anthropology Department

**Nalini By Day, Nancy by Night**

A film by Sonali Gulati  
2005, 27 minutes Color/BW  
India  
Subtitled (Hindi)  
VHS, DVD  
Sale $195  
Rental $60  
Order # 08901

In this insightful documentary, filmmaker Sonali Gulati explores complex issues of globalization, capitalism and identity through a witty and personal account of her journey into India’s call centers. Gulati, herself an Indian immigrant living in the US, explores the fascinating ramifications of outsourcing telephone service jobs to India—including how native telemarketers take on Western names and accents to take calls from the US, UK and Australia. A fresh juxtaposition of animation, archival footage, live action shots and narrative work highlight the filmmaker’s presence and reveal the performative aspects of her subjects. With fascinating observations on how call centers affect the Indian culture and economy, Nalini by Day, Nancy by Night raises important questions about the complicated consequences of globalization.

- Black Maria Film Festival, Director’s Choice Award  
- University Film & Video Association, Juried Screening for NextFrame, 2nd Prize  
- Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival  
- Independent South Asian Film Festival, Seattle  
- Asian Pacific American Film Festival, Washington DC  
- International South Asian Film Festival, NYC  
- Black Bear Film Festival

“Insightful and humorous. A wonderful hybrid form that combines documentary footage with more whimsical animation and archival footage in this examination of the complex phenomenon of outsourcing jobs to India.”  
Kathy Brew, Managing and Co-Director, Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival

“Unfold(s) with wit and humor on a subject of global importance that will keep you laughing all the way home and thinking thereafter. Definitely a documentary worth watching.”  
Maya Kulkarni  
South Asian Women’s NETwork

“Timely and telling.”  
Black Maria Film Festival
Señorita Extraviada, Missing Young Woman
A film by Lourdes Portillo
2001
74 minutes
Color, Video
Mexico/US
Subtitled
Rental $90
VHS Sale $295
Order # 05776

“A powerful depiction of the intertwining of immigration, work and family issues. Anayansi Prado captures personal sacrifices and collective struggles involved in maintaining our middle-class families lifestyles by globalizing care work.”
Mary Romero
Author of Maid in U.S.A.
School of Justice & Social Inquiry
Arizona State University

"Indispensable to courses that examine the contemporary issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and immigration. Shows how these women are empowering themselves through grass-roots strategies of collective reliance and economic self-determination in order to overcome the cultural and economic inequalities that impede their quest as women for social justice.”
Dr. Richard Santillan
Professor Emeritus
Ethic and Women’s Studies
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

They clean other people’s homes and raise other families’ children, often leaving their own families behind. Maid in America is an intimate look into the lives of three Latina immigrants working as nannies and housekeepers in Los Angeles—three of the nearly 100,000 domestic workers living in that city today. Judith hasn’t seen her four daughters in the two years since she left Guatemala, but hopes to give them a better future by sending half her income back home. Telma, from El Salvador, has cared for the now six-year-old Mickey since he was a baby, essentially becoming his “mom” so his mother can keep her career on track. Eva, one of the thousands of college-educated immigrants who have fled Mexico’s unstable economy, is attending night school to improve her skills, and views housekeeping as a necessary transition.

These women’s stories vividly reveal how immigrants are redefining their roles, and underscores the vital part they play in many American households. The issue of workers’ rights is introduced in the film through Dynamic Workers, a collective of women who have formed their own business, and Domestic Workers, a collective of women who have formed their own business, and Domestic Workers Association, a support organization providing information and advocacy. A rare view into what is becoming an increasingly common scenario, Maid in America offers insight both into the immigrant experience, labor issues and contemporary Latino culture.

• Cinequest Film Festival, World Premiere
• Puerto Rico Women’s Film Festival
• Los Angeles Film Festival
• Dallas Video Festival

Maid in America
A film by Anayansi Prado
Produced by Kevin LeEdingham
2004
57 minutes
Color, Video
Subtitled
Rental $90
VHS Sale $295
Order # 05875

"Touching and intelligent.”
Tean T. Kim-Trang
Art and History Department
Scripps College

“Essential Viewing”...a powerful film that bears witness to the humanity of the victims...Señorita Extraviada is a cry of outrage and a call to activism.”
Marcia Gillespie
Ms. Magazine
La Boda
(The Wedding)

In an intimate portrait of migrant life along the U.S.-Mexican border, Hannah Weyer’s film La Boda delves into the challenges faced by a community striving to maintain their roots in Mexico, while pursuing the “American Dream” across the border. Weyer’s camera follows Elizabeth Luis during the weeks before her marriage to Artemio Guerrero, interweaving the anticipation of the upcoming wedding with candid stories that explore the architecture of the Luis family. For 22-year-old Elizabeth, migrant life has meant shouldering responsibilities beyond those of an average young adult. Along with her seven siblings, she has contributed to the family income throughout her adolescence and young adulthood, often forced to sacrifice school for fieldwork, social life for travel as she and her family move between Texas, California and Mexico. La Boda tells the timeless story of a young woman’s coming of age, while also confronting negative stereotypes of the migrant community with the real life biography of a Mexican-American family bridging the gap between countries and culture.

**Essential Viewing**

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Escuela
(School)

There are over 800,000 students enrolled in migrant education programs in the United States and, of those, only 45-50% ever finish high school. Escuela, the sequel to Hannah Weyer’s critically acclaimed documentary La Boda, personalizes these glaring statistics through the honest portrait of a teenage Mexican-American farm worker, Liliana Luis.

“Escuela is a clear-eyed view into the lives of contemporary Mexican-American migrants and their struggles to educate their children while obtaining employment. Centered around the life of Liliana, a daughter entering her first year of high school, Hannah Weyer follows the back-and-forth movement of the family between their home in Texas near the borderlands and the California agricultural fields. Despite the best efforts of the school systems to accommodate students like Liliana, the social and emotional life of this young woman is constantly in flux.” —Joe Austin, Popular Culture Studies, Bowling Green State University

A 76-minute version is also available on video (Rental $75, Sale $250).

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Patricia Auferheide
American University

**Recommended…**

Offer(s) a thorough and nuanced portrait of the intersection of migrant life and secondary education.

A. Cantu
Video Librarian

“Weyer’s portrayal of a year in this young woman’s life offers a quiet look at a turbulent existence.”

Patricia L. Price
Journal of Latin American Anthropology

“Subtly critiquing the educational and economic systems that cause Liliana to fall behind despite her perpetual efforts to catch up, this documentary will be particularly useful in border studies and education classes.”

Cristina Ibarra
Criticas
Performing the Border

A video essay set in the Mexican-U.S. border town of Ciudad Juarez, where U.S. multinational corporations assemble electronic and digital equipment just across from El Paso, Texas, this imaginative, experimental work investigates the growing feminization of the global economy and its impact on Mexican women living and working in the area. Looking at the border as both a discursive and material space, the video explores the sexualization of the border region through labor division, prostitution, the expression of female desires in the entertainment industry, and sexual violence in the public sphere. Candid interviews with Mexican women factory and sex workers, as well as activists and journalists, are combined with scripted voiceover analysis, screen text, scenes and sounds recorded on site, and found footage to give new insights into the gendered conditions inscribed by the high-tech industry at its low-wage end.

- Toronto Int’l Human Rights Film and Video Festival
- Women in the Director’s Chair Film and Video Festival
- Biennale of the Image in Movement, St. Gervais, Geneva, Palmares Award

2004 Release

Europlex

A film by Ursula Biemann and Angela Sanders
2003, 20 minutes
Color, Video
Switzerland, Subtitled
Rental $60
VHS Sale $195
Order # 05827

This mesmerizing expose tracks the daily, sometimes illicit border crossings between Morocco and Spain—a rare intersection of the First and Third Worlds. Paying officials to look the other way, workers smuggle contraband across the border up to 11 times a day. Moroccan women work in North Africa to produce goods destined for European markets. “Domesticas” commute into a Spanish enclave in Moroccan territory, losing two hours in the European time zone. By uncovering this fascinating, often hidden layer in the cultural and economic landscape between Europe and Africa, the film reveals the new rules and profound implications of globalization.

- Biennale de l’Image en Mouvement, Geneva
- Nürnberg Human Rights Film Festival

Remote Sensing

A videotape by Ursula Biemann
2001
53 minutes
Color, Video
Switzerland
Rental $60
VHS Sale $195
Order # 05764

Remote Sensing traces the routes and reasons of women who travel across the globe for work in the sex industry. By using the latest images from NASA satellites, the film investigates the consequences of the U.S. military presence in South East Asia as well as European migration politics. This video-essay takes an earthly perspective on cross-border circuits, where women have emerged as key actors, and expertly links new geographic technologies to the sexualization and displacement of women on a global scale. By revealing how technologies of marginalization affect women in their sexuality, Remote Sensing aspires to displace and resignify the feminine within sexual difference and cultural representation.

- Duisburg Film Festival
- Museum of Modern Art, New York

Writing Desire

A videotape by Ursula Biemann
2000
25 minutes
Color, Video
Switzerland
Rental $60
VHS Sale $195
Order # 05731

“A compelling video essay on the new dream screen of the Internet and its impact on the global circulation of women’s bodies from the Third World to the First. Biemann provides the viewer with a thoughtful meditation on the obvious inequalities of the transnational exchange of sex by simulat- ing the gaze of the Internet shopper looking for the imagined docile, pre-feminist, but Web-savvy mate. This tape will promote lively discussion on third world women, the sex industry, racism, feminist backlash, women’s sexuality and new technologies.” —Gina Marchetti, Ithaca College

- Dallas Video Festival
- Women in the Director’s Chair
- DocFilm and Videofestival Kassel
The Peacekeepers and the Women

Winners of the Best German Documentary, this chilling investigation exposes the booming sex-trafficking industry in Bosnia and Kosovo, and boldly explores the disturbing role of the UN peacekeeping forces and the local military in perpetuating this tragic situation.

In 1995, the UN set up a free trade zone in Bosnia, hoping to bring peace to the troubled region. Instead it lured the thriving business of human trade, where women from villages in Moldova, the Ukraine and Romania are sold by the hundreds into prostitution. In a shocking indictment, the film reveals that affluent peacekeeping forces have been some of the most solvent customers, allowing the sex trade to get a foothold in the region and paving the way for its expansion. Jurschick confronts UN officials and aid workers, goes on a raid with international police, and reveals the tragic stories of the trafficked women themselves to unravel the many layers of this complicated crime scene.

- Adolf Grimme Award
- Award of the Moldovan Women’s League
- Sheffield International Documentary Festival
- One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival
- München Dokfilmfest
- European Documentary Film Festival
- Nyon Visions Du Réel
- Sheffield International Documentary Festival
- Award of the Moldovan Women’s League
- Adolf Grimme Award
- Mill Valley Film Festival
- IDFA, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam
- South by Southwest Film Festival
- Chicago International Documentary Film Festival
- Jerusalem International Film Festival
- Singapore International Film Festival
- Hamptons International Film Festival
- Denver International Film Festival
- Hawaii International Film Festival

2005 Release

Highway Courtesans

This provocative coming-of-age film chronicles the story of a bold young woman born into the Bachara community in Central India—the last hold-out of a tradition that started with India’s ancient palace courtesans and now survives with the sanctioned prostitution of every Bachara family’s oldest girl. Guddi, Shana and their neighbor Sungita serve a daily stream of roadside truckers to support their families. Their work as prostitutes forms the core of the local economy, but their contemporary ideas about freedom of choice, gender and self-determination slowly intrude on the Bachara way of life.

Highway Courtesans follows Guddi from the age of 16 through 23 as she turns her world upside down, incurring the wrath of her fathers and brother as she struggles with tradition, family and love in hopes of realizing her dreams. In probing beyond the surface of a world of paradoxes, Highway Courtesans resists easy moralizing and reveals the very real costs—financial, social and personal—for breaking with tradition. As a community hangs in the balance between traditional and contemporary values, this gripping documentary raises universal questions about sex, the roles of women, and the right of one culture to judge another.

- IDFA, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam
- South by Southwest Film Festival
- Chicago International Documentary Film Festival
- Jerusalem International Film Festival
- Singapore International Film Festival
- Hamptons International Film Festival
- Denver International Film Festival
- Hawaii International Film Festival
- Mill Valley Film Festival
**Essential Viewing**

### I Is a Long-Memoried Woman

**Produced by**
Ingrid Lewis

**A videotape by**
Frances-Anne Solomon

1990

50 minutes

Color, Video

England

Rental $90

VHS Sale $295

Order # 05313

This extraordinary video chronicles the history of slavery through the eyes of Caribbean women. A striking combination of monologue, dance, and song—griot-style—conveys a young African woman’s quest for survival in the new world. Based on award-winning poems by Guyanese British writer Grace Nichols, the evocatively rendered story charts abusive conditions on sugar plantations, acts of defiance and the rebellion which led to eventual freedom. Produced by a Black women’s collective, *I Is a Long-Memoried Woman* illuminates Black diasporic culture and heritage.

“...powerful and moving.”

Video Rating Guide for Libraries

“A passionate and powerful tribute. Captures the beauty, pride and sophisticated codes of survival of Black women.”

*Spare Rib*

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### Eternal Seed

**(Amrit Beeja)**

**A film by**
Meera Dewan

1996

43 minutes

Color, 16mm/Video

India, Subtitled

Rental $195/$30

VHS Sale $250

Order # 05566

With insightful interviews and rare footage from India’s agricultural industry, this keenly observed film depicts Indian women’s struggles to use traditional farming practices instead of chemically-based agriculture. Comparing the practices of women who consider seeds sacred with multinational companies’ use of sterilized hybrids, this evocative analysis celebrates the scientific basis of women’s native traditions in a provocative look at the evolving meanings of healthy land use.

- Indian National Film Festival, Best Environmental Film
- Okomedia Film Festival, Germany, Grand Prize
- Margaret Mead Film Festival

“With biting satire and a brutally truthful camera, **Eternal Seed** debunks popular misconceptions about technology and tradition, men and women, growth and decay.”

*Nikhat Kazmi*

*Sunday Times of India*

“Poetic... **Eternal Seed** has expanded the dimensions of a documentary film.”

*The Pioneer*

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### Troubled Harvest

**A videotape by**
Sharon Genasci and Dorothy Velasco

1990

30 minutes

Color, Video

Rental $50

VHS Sale $195

Order # 05185

This award-winning documentary examines the lives of women migrant workers from Mexico and Central America as they work in grape, strawberry and cherry harvests in California and the Pacific Northwest. Interviews with women farm workers reveal the dangerous effects of pesticides on their health and that of their children, the problems they encounter as working mothers of young children, and the destructive consequences of U.S. immigration policies on the unity of their families. Featuring an interview with Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union.

- Houston Int’l Film Festival, Silver Award

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### Amazon Sisters

**A videotape by**
Anne-Marie Sweeney

1992

60 minutes

Color, Video

England, Subtitled

Rental $75

VHS Sale $275

Order # 05222

Amazon Sisters portrays the vision and strength of women surviving in the hotly contested Amazon rainforests. Women are at the forefront of the struggle to save their environment and to rebuild a region suffering the effects of inappropriate development. “A film which beautifully expresses the strength, humor and ability of the women of the Amazon Region. It sharply reminds us, however, that simply feeling romantic about rainforests isn’t enough.”

Margaret Prosser

National Women’s Secretary

Transport and General Workers Union.

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*Sunday Times of India*

“Poetic... **Eternal Seed** has expanded the dimensions of a documentary film.”

*The Pioneer*
Essential Viewing

Made In India

“A powerful documentary… [SEWA’s] pioneering project, defying India’s male-dominated and economically rigid society, has grown into an internationally acclaimed model for rural development and women’s empowerment.”

“Beautifully made… true testimony to the power of women banding together to use their creativity to make a better world.”

Anuradha Mittal
Co-Director, Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy

This powerful documentary is a portrait of the now-famous women’s organization in India, the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), that holds to the simple yet radical belief that poor women need organizing, not welfare. It offers union membership to the illiterate street women who sell vegetables for 50 cents a day in the city markets, or who pick up paper scraps for recycling from the streets—jobs that most Indian men don’t consider real work.

Inspired by the political, economic and moral model advocated by Ghandi, SEWA has grown in its founding to a membership of more than 217,000 and its bank has now has 61,000 members, assets of $4 million and customers who walk in each day to deposit a dollar or take out 60 cents. Following the lives of six of the women involved in the organization, including Ela R. Bhat, its visionary founder, Plattner’s documentary is an important look at the power of grassroots global feminism.

- Margaret Mead Film Festival
- Recontres Media Nord-Sud, Geneva, First Prize
- Munich Documentary Film Festival
- Locarno Film Festival

“An eye-opener for many who see it, showing us striking images of Thai women factory workers that totally contradict prevailing stereotypes and present instead a picture of strong, courageous defenders of human rights.”

Michael Feinberg
Director, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition

“…a useful tool in educating young people about such as critical economic issues as child labor, sweatshops, and corporate responsibility.”

Laura McClure
Educators for Social Responsibility

“An excellent portrayal of the lives of working women in Thailand.”

Gydrey Pullman
Executive Director Institute for Labor & the Community

In Thailand women make up 90 percent of the labor force responsible for garments and toys for export by multinational corporations. This powerful, revealing documentary about women factory workers and their struggle to organize unions exposes the human cost behind the production of everyday items that reach our shores. Probing the profound impact of the New World Order on the populations that provide the global economy with cheap labor, Made in Thailand also profiles women newly empowered by their campaign for human and worker’s rights. Several of these women are survivors of the 1993 Kader Toy Factory fire, one of the worst industrial fires in history. Today they are highly effective leaders in the grassroots movement mobilizing workers in their recently industrialized country.

Eve-Laure Moros has worked for over ten years on independent film and video projects, and is currently a producer on a PBS arts series. Linzy Emery worked for years with poor rural communities in Thailand and Vietnam as well as with Thai and Laotian immigrants in California, before becoming a filmmaker.

- San Francisco Asian American Film Festival
- San Francisco Laborfest
- St. Johns’ International Women’s Film and Video Festival
- LaborMedia, Korea
New Directions

A 4-part series by Joanne Burke
1997-2002
55 minutes, 3 x 30 minutes
Color, Video
Subtitled
Rental $150
VHS Sale $395
Order # 05735

“Speaking Out is political art of a very high order…present[s] the story of AIDS with integrity, intellect and vision.”
Micky Riggs
Library Journal

“Women of Zimbabwe is inspiring. It offers lessons for all of us interested in women’s self-employment and gender equality. While the example is from Africa, the principles that emerge are widely applicable.”
Joanne Sandler
UNIFEM

“Women of Thailand is crafted with integrity and sensitivity. Here is a strong voice for children, women, community and culture. It holds our attention and earns our respect.”
Heather Thanos
Education Consultant, Australia

New Directions is award-winning documentary Joanne Burke’s series about women’s empowerment in developing countries. Each one spotlights the critical role of women as community based leaders: providing education, inspiration and practical assistance to other women in their countries.

Speaking Out: Women, AIDS and Hope in Mali (2002, 55 min) profiles Aminita, Oumou and Aissata, three inspiring Malian women who tirelessly work on behalf of the HIV infected community in Bamako, Mali through a model support project sponsored by the Center for Care, Activity and Council for People Living with HIV (CESAC).

Women of Guatemala (2000, 30 min) is a compelling portrait of Maria Del Carmen and Micaela Chavajay, two Mayan sisters who head the Health Promoter Group of San Pedro La Laguna, a group of seventy-five women that provide health education and social services to Mayan women in Guatemala.

Women of Zimbabwe (1997, 30 min) focuses on the work of Fatima Shoriwa, the first woman carpenter in Zimbabwe, and advocacy work on education, family planning, safe sex practices and economic self-sufficiency.

Women of Thailand (1998, 30 min) centers on Rotjana Phraesrithong, a remarkable young social worker known for organizing innovative programs that promote schooling for children and provide AIDS and health education.

Pain, Passion and Profit

A videotape by Gurinder Chadha
1992
49 minutes
Color, Video
England
Rental $75
VHS Sale $275
Order # 05360

Pain, Passion and Profit (by the acclaimed director of Bend it Like Beckham), is an inspirational look at women entrepreneurs through the eyes of Anita Roddick, the founder of the Body Shop. She questions several women in Africa who have developed small-scale business enterprises about how the role and status of women affects their enterprises and how those enterprises provide a means of community and economic development for women. It is an in-depth look at global feminism, economic development and a personal view of the connections between the women entrepreneurs in the First and Third Worlds.

Women Organize!

A videotape by JEB (Joan E. Biren)
Produced by the Union Institute Center for Women and Organizing Documentation Project
2000, 32 minutes
Color, Video
Rental $60
VHS Sale $195
Order # 05724

“Women Organize! portrays women organizers involved in activism for racial, social, and economic justice across the United States. The half-hour video gives a glimpse of a diverse group of women’s activists whose work ranges from working with high school girls in a low income neighborhood in the Northwest to working with Asian immigrant women factory workers organizing for decent working conditions. This video is an excellent resource for use in women’s studies, ethnic studies, service learning, and other social transformation courses.” —DiversityWeb.org

“…a refreshing, inspiring portrait…Pedagogically and analytically sharp, and deeply moving…”
—Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Hamilton College
**Some Real Heat**

A videotape by
Stefanie Jordan
2001
54 minutes
Color, Video
Germany/US
Rental $90
VHS Sale $275
Order # 05777

Some Real Heat explores the small and relatively new world of female firefighters in San Francisco and their upward climb to gain access to a male-dominated field. Armed with axes, chainsaws, muscle, heart and determination, six daring women demonstrate how they single-handedly turn gender roles upside down by putting their lives on the line everyday in one of the riskiest jobs around. As they passionately talk about the tools of the trade, overcoming their fears and helping others, they reveal the fascinating history of women fire fighters and the gender bias that barred them from officially entering the U.S. Fire Department until 1974. They also explain the important role women paramedics play in fire departments and the surprising number of medical emergencies that they attend to on a weekly basis—a number that far outweighs actually putting out fires. Uncovering the myth and reality of this dangerous profession, this inspiring piece intimately delves into the strength and character that distinguishes these women as true modern-day heroes.

- Hamburg Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, Audience Award
- Julianne-Bartel Award, Women's Media Award
- Hawaii Int'l Film Festival
- Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival
- San Francisco Int'l Lesbian and Gay Film Festival
- Outfest, Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Film Festival
- Inside Out, Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Fest
- Documentary Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art, NY
- Seattle, Portland, Austin, Tampa, Atlanta
- Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
- Women of Color Film Festival- Pacific Film Archives
- Vermont Women's Film Festival

**Hammering It Out:**

Women in the Construction Zone

A videotape by
Vivian Price
2000
54 minutes
Color, Video
Rental $60
VHS Sale $195
Order # 05708

This documentary is well done, covering important issues for women and men in the construction industry. I urge members of the labor movement to view it.

— Bob Balgenorth
AFL-CIO

“**A film about how affirmative action can, and should, work… a classic documentary in the tradition of The Global Assembly Line and Salt of the Earth. Excellent for classes in sociology, labor, and women's studies.**”

Raul Fernandez
UC Irvine

“***1/2 Highly recommended.***”

M. Tribby
Video Librarian

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Hammering It Out: Women in the Construction Zone

A videotape by
Vivian Price
2000
54 minutes
Color, Video
Rental $60
VHS Sale $195
Order # 05708

“**Framed by the story of a community initiated lawsuit resulting in hundreds of women getting trained to work on a billion-dollar freeway, this film evolves into a primer on the feminist issues of equality, identity, and changing gender roles in the work place. Powerful testimonials by women workers demonstrate the importance of providing opportunity, embracing equity, and abandoning sexist traditions that deny talented women workers the right to support their families on a par equal with men. It also serves as a cautionary tale that warns that unless laws, policies, and conventions are changed, women workers may be forced out of their chosen professions by bias and expediency.**”

— Joseph Boles, Northern Arizona University

- NY, SF, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh
- Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals
- Toronto and Vancouver Mayworks Labor Festivals
- Silverlake Film Festival
- Southwest Labor History Conference
- Working Women’s Conference
- Gurl.com Film Festival

**Trade Secrets**

A videotape by
Stephanie Antalocy
1985
23 minutes
Color, Video
Rental $60
VHS Sale $195
Order # 05654

In the 1980s, women broke into the traditionally male world of skilled crafts in unprecedented numbers. Trade Secrets profiles four women—an ironworker, a welder, a sprinkler fitter and an electrician—and reveals how they overcame physical, psychological and personal obstacles to find satisfaction in the trades and to achieve a greater sense of financial security.
Women of Steel

A videotape by Mon Valley Media
28 minutes (1984)
Order # 05395

For women who entered the nation's steel mills in the 1970s, the mill was a ticket out of traditionally low-paying "women's jobs" and in some cases, out of poverty. But any gains for women were short-lived. Women of Steel looks at a turning point in the history of American industry and the disastrous effects widesweeping layoffs and plant closings had on women and families, affirmative action plans, and the union movement. An important historical documentary which has an eerie relevance to women's place in the American economy in the 1990s.

Recommended… brings visions of African American women’s place in the American economy and labor studies.

Mama Wahunzi
(Women Blacksmiths)

A videotape by Lawan Jirasuradej
2001, 57 minutes
Color, Video
Thailand
Rental $60
VHS Sale $225
Order # 05794

In Kenya and Uganda, there is a staggering demand for more than 200,000 wheelchairs annually, and of the 250 produced, only one percent go to women. This uplifting film follows three disabled East African women who trained with an American organization and learned to build wheelchairs for themselves and their community. Their inspiring stories of courage and hard work reveal how they combated stereotypes of disability, gender and poverty, and became self-sustaining entrepreneurs by providing a local solution to an international development problem.

Recommended… brings visibility to the overall difficulties and rights of the disabled women...all over the world.

The Trickle Down
Theory of Sorrow

A film by Mary Filippo
2002
15 minutes
Color/BW, Video
Rental $60
VHS Sale $250
Order # 05823

Veteran experimental filmmaker Mary Filippo tackles issues of work, class and gender roles in this visually captivating and provocative autobiographical piece. At the core is an interview with Filippo’s mother, recounting incidents of exploitation and gender discrimination she experienced working in jewelry factories in the 1940s and ’50s. The filmmaker contrasts her mother’s quiet acquiescence with her own attitudes about social injustices through a striking montage of images and audio clips—moving the viewer to consider connections between consumerism and global labor practices, motherhood, money and happiness.

The Maids!

A videotape by Muriel Jackson
1985
28 minutes
Color, Video
Rental $60
VHS Sale $225
Order # 05118

Domestic service has long been branded as demeaning work, and not coincidentally, it has been one of the only occupations open to African American women. As African American women have begun to move away from domestic labor into other jobs, white-owned entrepreneurial maid services employing primarily white women have arisen. This articulate documentary looks at the history of domestic work since slavery and the ambivalence felt by African American women towards it. A sophisticated analysis of the racial and sexual division of labor in this country, The Maids! is an excellent resource for women’s, African American and labor studies.
For thirty minutes each day, they gather around mirrors to put on their makeup—stiletto shoes, family problems to September 11th, they dish on everything from sex scandals to divorce, single parenthood and domestic violence, leaving stereotypes at the door and surprising viewers with their straight-shooting wisdom.

In broaching such topics as divorce, single motherhood and domestic violence, Ferry Tales goes beyond the surface to show us the realities of life for working women. A rare and honest look at the intersections of race and class, this heartwarming film is a must for anyone with an interest in sociology, women's studies, gender studies, and communications technology. Refreshing and scientific management films produced in North America between 1903 and 1989 by Bell and Western Electric—and transforms them into a dreamlike montage documentary.

As the first agents of globalization, this invisible army of women offered a way for companies to feminize and glamorize what was a highly stressful, underpaid and difficult job. Not merely "Voices with a Smile," telephone operators were test pilots for new management systems, and shooting stars in a universe of infinite progress, diminishing role of human beings in a techno-driven world; it is must-viewing for anyone with an interest in communications, media studies, gender studies, sociology, and the future.”

Caroline Martel assembles a dazzling array of clips—more than one hundred secret sub-cultures of New York, rethinks class and race, relationships, and the future.

The Phantom of the Operator

This wry and delightful found-footage film reveals a little-known chapter in labor history: the story of female telephone operators’ central place in the development of global communications. With an eye for the quirky and humorous, Caroline Martel assembles a dazzling array of clips—more than one hundred remarkable, rarely seen industrial, advertising and scientific management films produced in North America between 1903 and 1989 by Bell and Western Electric—and transforms them into a dreamlike montage documentary.

As the first agents of globalization, this invisible army of women offered a way for companies to feminize and glamorize what was highly stressful, underpaid and difficult job. Not merely “Voices with a Smile,” telephone operators were test pilots for new management systems, and the face of shrewd public relations campaigns. As the work of operators has been eclipsed by the advent of automated systems, this artful piece of labor history also offers an insightful comment on women’s work, industrialization and communications technology. Refreshing and hilarious, The Phantom of the Operator provides a witty yet ethereal portrait of human society in the technocratic age.

"Martel’s excavation of Bell’s Laboratory training film footage highlights the proper performance of femininity as perennially pleasant, ever accommodating, sanguinely servile and, above all, invisible... reminds us that we can never fully exercise the ghosts in the machine." — Alexandra Stotts

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