



# Books, Films and Music about Refugees and US Resettlement

Updated January 2012

## Academic Resources

- [\*Bosnian Refugees in America\*](#). By Reed Coughlan and Judith Owens-Manley
- [\*Global Changes in Asylum Regimes: Closing Doors\*](#). By Daniele Joly (editor)
- [\*Homecomings: Unsettling Paths of Return\*](#). By Fran Markowitz and Anders Stefansson (editors)
- [\*Paving the Way: A Handbook on The Reception and Integration of Resettled Refugees\*](#), International Catholic Migration Commission, focused on refugee resettlement in Europe.
- [\*Problems of Protection: The UNHCR, Refugees, and Human Rights\*](#). By Niklaus Steiner, Mark Gibney, and Gil Loescher (editors)
- [\*Resilience of Refugee Children After War\*](#). American Psychological Association Task Force
- [\*UNHCR: The Politics and Practice of Refugee Protection in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century\*](#). By Gil Loescher

## Books

### Autobiography

- [\*A Long Way Gone\*](#). By Ishmael Beah
- [\*Achieving Against the Odds\*](#). By Helene Ramazani
- [\*Alek: My Life from Sudanese Refugee to International Supermodel\*](#). By Alek Wek
- [\*Autobiographical Notes: A Centennial Edition\*](#). By Albert Einstein
- [\*The Bite of the Mango\*](#). By Mariatu Kamara and Susan McClelland (Voices of Courage Honoree by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children)
- [\*Burma Chronicles\*](#). By Guy Deslisle
- [\*Child Soldier\*](#). By China Keitetsi
- [\*The Day of the Pelican\*](#). By Katherine Paterson
- [\*The Eaves of Heaven: A life in Three Wars\*](#). By Andrew X. Pham
- [\*Escaping North Korea: Defiance and Hope in the World's Most Repressive Country\*](#). By Mike Kim
- [\*Escape from slavery the true story of my ten years in captivity--and my journey to freedom in America\*](#). By Francis Bok
- [\*From the Land of Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey\*](#). By Pascal Khoo Thwe
- [\*From There to Here: 16 Tales of Immigration to Britain, The Second Decibel Penguin Prize Anthology\*](#). By Arts Council England (editor)
- [\*God Grew Tired of Us: A Memoir\*](#). By John Bul Dau and Michael S. Sweeney
- [\*I Live Here\*](#). By Mia Kirshner, J.B. Mackinnon, Paul Shoebridges, and Michael Simons
- [\*I Love You's Are for White People: A Memoir\*](#). By Lac Su
- [\*In The Land of The Magic Soldiers\*](#). By Daniel Bergner
- [\*Little Daughter: A Memoir of Survival in Burma and the West\*](#). By Zoya Phan and Damien Lewis
- [\*The Middle of Everywhere\*](#). By Mary Pipher, PhD
- [\*My Land and My People: The Original Autobiography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet\*](#). By The Dalai Lama
- [\*No Dream Beyond My Reach: One Woman's Remarkable Journey from Cambodian Refugee to American MD\*](#). By Sopheap Ly
- [\*Notes From My Travels\*](#). By Angelina Jolie
- [\*Nowhere Man\*](#). By Aleksandar Hemon
- [\*Refugee\*](#). By Adnan Mahmutovic
- [\*Refugees and Rescue: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald, 1935-1945\*](#). By Richard Breitman, Barbara McDonald Stewart, and Severin Hochberg

- [\*The Shan: Refugees without a Camp - An English Teacher in Thailand and Burma\*](#). By Bernice Koehler Johnson
- [\*Slave\*](#). By Mende Nazer and Damien Lewis
- [\*So Many Things I Could Have Written\*](#). By Asha Mohamed
- [\*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down\*](#). By Anne Fadiman
- [\*Standing On My Own Two Feet\*](#). By Faizia Zaman,
- [\*Storming the Court: How a Band of Law Students Fought the President and Won\*](#). By Brandt Goldstein
- [\*From The Land of Green Ghosts\*](#). By Pascal Khoo Thwe
- [\*They Poured Down Fire on Us from the Sky\*](#). By Alphonsian Deng, Benson Deng, Benjamin Ajak, and Judy A. Bernstein
- [\*This Flowing Towards Me: A Story of God Arriving in Strangers\*](#). By Marilyn Lacey and Helen Prejean
- [\*Under the Persimmon Tree\*](#). By Suzanne Fisher Staples
- [\*United Stress of America \(in Serbo-Croatian language only\)\*](#). By Dalibor Bilic
- [\*The Unwanted: A Memoir of Childhood\*](#). By Kien Nguyen
- [\*What is the What\*](#). By Dave Eggers
- [\*When Broken Glass Floats: Growing Up Under the Khmer Rouge\*](#). By Chanrithy Him
- [\*White Pearl and I: A Memoir of a Political Refugee\*](#). By Svetlana Kim

### Biography

- [\*Andy Grove: The Life and Times of An American Business Icon\*](#). By Richard Tedlow
- [\*The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Fled Hitler and Changed the World\*](#). By Kati Marton
- [\*The Night Trilogy: Night, Dawn, Day\*](#). By Elie Wiesel
- [\*My Flag Grew Stars: World War II Refugees' Journey to America\*](#). By Kitty Coggins
- [\*Strength in What Remains\*](#). By Tracy Kidder

### Fiction

- [\*By the Sea\*](#). By Abdulrazak Gurnah, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2002 (Zanzibar)
- [\*Call Me By My True Names\*](#). By Thich Nhat Hanh
- [\*Good Scent from a Strange Mountain\*](#). By Robert Olin Butler
- [\*Kite Runner\*](#). By Khaled Hosseini
- [\*Little Bee\*](#). By Chris Cleave. Story of a Nigerian asylee in England.
- [\*Minaret: A Novel\*](#). By Leila Aboulela
- [\*Refuge Cove\*](#), by Lesley Choyce
- [\*When the Stars Fall to Earth: A Novel of Africa\*](#). By Rebecca Tinsley. Story of 5 young Darfuri refugees as they flee their villages.

### Non-Fiction

- [\*Artists in Exile: How Refugees from 20<sup>th</sup> Century War and Revolution Transformed the American Performing Arts\*](#). By Joseph Horowitz
- [\*Asylum Denied: A Refugee's Struggle for Safety in America\*](#). By Philip G. Schrag
- [\*Becoming a Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada\*](#). By Irene Bloemraad
- [\*Becoming a City of Sanctuary\*](#). By Craig Barnett and Inderjit Bhogal
- Website: [\*Bhutanese Refugees: The Story of a Forgotten People\*](#).
- [\*Buddha is Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, the New America\*](#). By Aihwa Ong
- [\*Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees\*](#). By Deborah Ellis
- [\*Coming Home? Refugees, Migrants, and Those who Stayed Behind\*](#). By Lynellyn Long and Ellen Oxfeld (editors)



Project SOAR is supported by the US Office of Refugee Resettlement under Cooperative Agreement #90RB0033/02. Contact [SOAR@theIRC.org](mailto:SOAR@theIRC.org) with questions or suggestions.



- [\*Courageous Journey: Walking the 'Lost Boys' Path from Sudan to America\*](#). By Barbara Youree, Ayuel Leek, and Beny Ngor
- [\*Darfur Diaries Stories of Survival\*](#). By Marlowe, Jen, Aisha Bain, and Adam Shapiro
- [\*The Empire Trauma: In Inquiry into the Condition of Victimhood\*](#). By Didier Fassin, Richard Rechtman, and Rachel Gomme
- [\*End of Hell: One Woman's Struggle to Survive Cambodia's Khmer Rouge\*](#). By Denise Affonco and Jon Swain
- [\*First they Killed my Father\*](#). By Loung Ung
- [\*For Us Surrender is Out of the Question: A Story from Burma's Never-Ending War\*](#). By Mac McLelland
- [\*Give Refuge to the Stranger: The Past, Present and Future of Sanctuary\*](#). By Linda Rabben
- [\*Half the Sky\*](#). By Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
- [\*Healing Invisible Wounds: Paths to Hope and Recovery in a Violent World\*](#). By Richard F. Mollica
- [\*Hmong in Minnesota\*](#). By Chia Vang
- [\*Human Cargo\*](#). By Caroline Moorehead
- [\*Iraqi Refugees: The New Crisis in the Middle East\*](#). By Joseph Sassoon
- [\*The Journey of the Lost Boys: A Story of Courage, Faith and the Sheer Determination to Survive by a Group of Young Boys Called "The Lost Boys of Sudan."\*](#) By Joan Hecht
- [\*Landscape of Hope and Despair: Palestinian Refugee Camps\*](#). By Julie Peteet
- [\*Lost Boys of Sudan\*](#). By Mark Bixler
- [\*New Londoners: Reflections on Home\*](#). Photo Voice, UK
- [\*Mathematicians Fleeing from Nazi Germany: Individuals Fates and Global Impact\*](#). By Reinhard Siegmund-Schultze
- [\*Nuer Journeys, Nuer Lives: Sudanese Refugees in Minnesota\*](#). By Jon D. Holtzman and Nancy Foner
- [\*New Mainers: Portraits of Our Immigrant Neighbors\*](#). By Pat Nyhan
- [\*Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard\*](#). By Mawi Asgedom
- [\*One Day the Soldiers Came: Voices of Children in War \(P.S.\)\*](#) by Charles London
- [\*Out of Iraq: Refugees' Stories in Words, Paintings, and Music\*](#). By Sybella Wilkes
- [\*Outcasts United: An American Town, A Refugee Team and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference\*](#). By Warren St. John
- [\*The Politics and Ethics of Asylum: Liberal Democracy and the response to Refugees\*](#). By Matthew Gibney
- [\*Precious Pills: Medicine and Social Change among Tibetan Refugees in India\*](#). By Audrey Prost
- [\*Protracted Refugee Situations: Political, Human Rights and Security Implications\*](#). By Gil Loescher, James Milner, Edward Newman, and Gary Troeller
- [\*Purity and Exile: Violence, Memory, and National Cosmology Among Hutu Refugees in Tanzania\*](#). By Liisa H. Malkki
- [\*Refugee Rights: Ethics, Advocacy, and Africa\*](#). By David Hollenbach
- [\*Refugees in a Global Era\*](#). By Philip Marfleet
- [\*Refugee Women\*](#). By Susan Forbes Martin
- [\*Rejecting Refugees: Political Asylum in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century\*](#). By Carol Bohmer and Amy Shuman
- [\*Rescuing Regina: The Battle to Save a Friend from Deportation and Death\*](#). By Josephe Marie Flynn. A powerful account of the long and painful journey toward asylum for two Congolese refugees
- [\*Safe Haven?: A History of Refugees in America\*](#). By David Haines
- [\*Selling Olga: Stories of Human Trafficking\*](#). By Louisa Waugh
- [\*Silent Exodus: Portraits of Iraqi Refugees in Exile\*](#). By Khaled Hosseini and Zalmi
- [\*Survivors: Cambodian Refugees in the US\*](#). By Sucheng Chan
- [\*The Economic Life of Refugees\*](#). By Karen Jacobsen



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Nationalities Service Center

- [\*The History of Ethiopian Immigrants and Refugees in America, 1900-2000\*](#). By Solomon Addis Getahun
- [\*The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to Our Town\*](#). By Mary Pipher. How Lincoln, NE was transformed by refugee resettlement.
- [\*The Price of Indifference: Refugees and Humanitarian Action in the New Century\*](#). By Arthur Helton
- [\*Where the Rivers Meet: A Tibetan Refugee Community's Struggle to Survive in the High Mountains of Nepal\*](#). By Clint Rogers
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### Titles for Children & Youth

- [\*Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees\*](#). By Deborah Ellis
- [\*The Clay Marble\*](#). By Minfong Ho
- [\*Drita, My Homegirl\*](#). By Jenny Lombard
- [\*Four Feet Two Sandals\*](#). By Karen Lynn Williams, Khadra Mohammad, and Doug Chayka
- [\*Gervelie's Journey: A Refugee Diary\*](#). By Anthony Robinson, Annemarie Young, and June Allan
- [\*How I Learned Geography\*](#). By Uri Shulevitz
- [\*How Many Days to America: A Thanksgiving Story\*](#). By Eve Bunting and Beth Peck
- [\*Kiss the Dust\*](#). By Elizabeth Laird
- [\*Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War in Sudan\*](#) by John Dau and Martha Akech
- [\*Mai Ya's Long Journey\*](#). By Sheila Cohen
- [\*Making it Home: Real-Life Stories from Children Forced to Flee\*](#). By Beverly Naidoo
- [\*Muktar and the Camels\*](#). By Janet Graber and Scott Mack
- [\*My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary\*](#). By Nadja Halilbegovich
- [\*The Other Side of Truth\*](#). By Beverly Naidoo
- [\*Refugee Boy\*](#). By Benjamin Zephaniah
- [\*The Silence Seeker\*](#). By Ben Morley
- [\*The Silver Sword\*](#). By Ian Serraillier
- [\*Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba\*](#). By Margarita Engle
- [\*When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit\*](#). By Judith Kerr
- [\*Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo\*](#). By Zlata Filipovic
- [\*When Elephants Fight\*](#). By Eric Walters and Adrian Bradbury

### Films

- [\*\*24 Days in Brooks \(2007\)\*\*](#), Dana Inkster, 42 min  
In a decade, tiny Brooks, Alberta has been transformed from a socially conservative, primarily Caucasian town to one of the most diverse places in Canada. Immigrants and refugees have flocked here to work at Lakeside Packers - one of the world's largest slaughterhouses. Centering on the 24 days of the first-ever strike at Lakeside, this film is a nuanced portrait of people working together and adapting to change. As 24 Days in Brooks shows, people from widely different backgrounds can work together for respect, dignity, and change - even though getting there is not easy.
- [\*\*3 Points \(2009\)\*\*](#), Josh Victor Rothstein, 62 minutes  
When NBA star Tracy McGrady (T-Mac) heard about the massive challenges children from Darfur were facing in the refugee camps in Chad, he decided to travel there, discovering the ravaging effects of the recent ongoing genocide. 3 Points follows McGrady's journey in Chad and his return to the U.S.
- [\*\*Afghan Stories \(2002\)\*\*](#), Taran Davies and Walied Osman, 58 minutes



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Filmmakers Taran Davies and Walied Osman set out to gain an understanding of how a generation of war has affected the Afghan people, spending time with families in Queens, New York, the frontline in Afghanistan, and points in between.

- **[Against Wind and Tide: A Cuban Odyssey \(1981\)](#)**, *Jim Burroughs, 57 minutes*  
In spring 1980, Fidel Castro opened the Cuban port of Mariel to thousands of refugees to cross to Key West, Florida and the promise of a new life in the U.S. Director Jim Burroughs and his crew boarded a flotilla vessel bound for Mariel to film the exodus. Burroughs charts the lives of three individuals during their first years in the U.S.
- **[A.K.A. Don Bonus \(1995\)](#)**, *Spencer Nakasako and Sokly Ny, 55 minutes*  
After escaping the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, the Ny family became one of thousands of refugees faced with resettlement in the U.S. Their lives unfold through the lens of this stirring video diary, which sees 18-year-old Sokly Ny (Don Bonus) struggling to graduate from high school.
- **[Asylum \(1998\)](#)**, *Garry Beitel, 78 minutes*  
This film allows you to follow three refugee claimants through the legal process that decides their status in Canada: Marnus Chowdhury from Bangladesh, Tatiana Linco from Kazakhstan, and Cristian Ghitecu, a stowaway from Romania. Their stories show the questions that have to be answered to determine who is a refugee.
- **[Asylum \(2003\)](#)**, *Sandy McLeod and Gini Reticker, 20 minutes*  
Baaba Andoh fled Ghana in fear for her life, when her long-lost father tried to force her to undergo female genital mutilation. Arriving in the U.S. with a phony passport, she was imprisoned by the INS for one year while her asylum case was tried. Her story ends in victory, but she refuses to forget the thousands of asylum seekers who remain in detention today.
- **[Babylon Illusion \(2009\)](#)**, *Karim Bah and Chester Yang, 54 minutes*  
The film is produced and directed by Freetown resident Karim Bah, who says his film is the first attempt by an African to show the reality of life in Europe to an African audience. The film tells the story of young Sierra Leoneans in the UK, and shows their experiences, hardships and loneliness.
- **[Baghdad USA \(2010\)](#)**, *Alex Famsley and Kevin King, 30 minutes*  
A documentary film about the thousands of Iraqi Christian immigrants and refugees who have settled in California.
- **[Beautiful People \(2000\)](#)**, *Jasmin Dizdar, 107 minutes*  
In London, during October 1993, England is playing Holland in the preliminaries of the World Cup. The Bosnian War is at its height, and refugees from the ex-Yugoslavia are arriving. The lives of four English families are affected in different ways by encounter with the refugees, and one of the families improbably becomes involved with a Balkan refugee through the England vs. Holland match.
- **[Becoming American \(2003\)](#)**, *Ken Levine and Ivory Waterworth Levine*  
Becoming American records the odyssey of Hang Sou and his family, as they travel from Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand to a new home in Seattle.
- **[Being Hmong Means Being Free \(2000\)](#)**, *NEWIST/CESA #7 and Wisconsin Public Television, 56 minutes*  
Focusing on a Hmong immigrant community in Wisconsin, this documentary offers a comprehensive look at fundamental practices of the ancient Hmong culture and investigates how these have framed Hmong culture and community. "Being Hmong Means Being Free" explores how life has changed for Hmong in the U.S. in the space of a generation.
- **[The Betrayal: Nerakhoon \(2008\)](#)**, *Ellen Kuras, co-directed by Thavisouk Phrasavath, 96 minutes*  
During the Vietnam War, the US government waged its own secret war in the neighboring country of Laos. When the US withdrew, thousands of Laotians who fought alongside American forces were left behind to face imprisonment or execution. One family, the Phrasavaths, made the courageous decision to escape to America. Hoping to find safety, they discovered a different kind of war.
- **[Blue Collar and Buddha \(1986\)](#)**, *Taggart Siegel, 57 minutes*



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A Laotian community in Rockford, Illinois survives terrorist bombings and drive-by shootings at its local Buddhist temple.

- **[Breaking the Silence: Inside Burma's Resistance \(2009\)](#)**, Pierre Mignault & H el ene Magny, 52 or 75 minutes  
Pierre Mignault and H el ene Magny secretly enter one of Burma's most dangerous zones, penetrating to the very heart of the Karen Nation, where civil war has been waging for 60 years. This film reveals the extent to which the Burmese people are prepared to fight to regain their freedom and institute democracy.
- **[Broken Dreams \(2011\)](#)**, Fathia Absi  
Documentary film about the Vanishing Somali youth of Minneapolis, MN home to the nation's largest Somali immigrants. Most of these boys left Somalia as refugees when they were very young. Some of them came here in the United States as toddlers while some of them were born outside Somalia in refugee camps and elsewhere.
- **[Brothers and Others \(2003\)](#)**, Nicolas Rossier, 54 minutes  
This film follows a number of immigrant and American families in the U.S. following September 11, 2001. In interviews with Arab and Muslim immigrants, government representatives, and legal and historical experts, this film explores how America's fear of terrorism has negatively impacted many U.S. residents.
- **[Bui Doi: Life Like Dust \(1994\)](#)**, Ahrin Mishan & Nick Rothenberg, 28 minutes  
This film takes us inside the mind of Ricky Phan, once a gang leader in Southern California and now serving an 11-year sentence for armed robbery. We are forced to ask ourselves which is more violent: fleeing from a war-ravaged nation or trying to survive in an alien western culture?
- **[Burma Soldier \(2010\)](#)**, Nic Dunlop, Annie Sundberg, Ricki Stern, 70 minutes  
Tells the story of a Burmese soldier turned pro-democracy activist, who is now living as a refugee in the United States.
- **[Burma VJ \(2008\)](#)**, Anders Ostergaard 86 minutes  
Armed with video cameras, a tenacious band of Burmese reporters face down death to expose the repressive regime controlling their country. Academy Award Nominee Best Documentary Feature.
- **[Cattfish in Black Bean Sauce \(1999\)](#)**, Chi Muoi Lo, 119 minutes  
Dwayne and his older sister Mai are adults: Mai is married to Vinh, Dwayne is about to propose to Nina. Twenty-two years ago, when Mai was 10, she and Dwayne were refugees in Vietnam, adopted by Harold and Dee Williams, African-Americans from Los Angeles. When Mai locates their birth mother, Thahn, and she arrives in Los Angeles, tensions reach the breaking point.
- **[Children of Congo: From War to Witches \(2009\)](#)**, Dan Balluff, 66 minutes  
This 67 minute film documents the plight of thousands of street children living in Kinshasa, the capital and largest city of the Congo, and confirms the wide-spread accusations of child witchcraft, torture and child prostitution.
- **[Crossing Midnight \(2009\)](#)**, Kim A. Snyder, 29 minutes  
This documentary tells the story of a remarkable group of refugees from Burma working against incredible odds to help their own.
- **[Darfur Now \(2007\)](#)**, Theodore Braun, 98 minutes  
This acclaimed, inspiring documentary follows six people who are striving to end the suffering in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur. The six – an American activist, an international prosecutor, a Sudanese rebel, a sheikh, a leader of the World Food Program, and Don Cheadle, who traverses the globe with fellow actor George Clooney to pressure world leaders – demonstrate the power of one individual to make extraordinary changes. Be an eyewitness to the tragedy and the triumphs, the fear and the pride. Meet the refugees, determined to return to their beloved homeland. And discover how you too can make a difference.
- **[Darfur Diaries: Message From Home \(2004\)](#)** Jen Marlowe and Adam Shapiro, 55 minutes  
The documentary features interviews with many victims of the devastating genocide taking place in Darfur. The filmmakers seek to shine some light on this dark chapter in human history, encouraging people to make a great effort for humanitarian relief in besieged Darfur.



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- [\*\*Enemies of the People \(2009\)\*\*](#), [Thet Sambath](#), [Rob Lemkin](#), 94 minutes  
The film charts the ten year quest of co-director Sambath to find truth and closure in the Killing Fields of Cambodia. The film features frank and detailed confessions by former Khmer Rouge officials from the most senior surviving leader to the men and women who slit throats during the regime of Democratic Kampuchea between 1975 and 1979.
- [\*\*A Family Crisis: The Elian Gonzales Story \(2000\)\*\*](#), [Christopher Leitch](#), 90 minutes  
This film is based on the true story of the five-year-old Cuban boy who is the sole survivor of a refugee boat that sunk in a storm on its way to the U.S.
- [\*\*Fire Dancer \(2002\)\*\*](#), [Jawed Wassel](#), 79 minutes  
The film follows Haris, an Afghan-American artist who shows his work at a downtown Manhattan art gallery. His story explores the ramifications of leaving Afghanistan and living as a refugee in America. Haris embarks on a journey through the world of Afghan-Americans to learn more about their culture, finding humor and tragedy.
- [\*\*First Person Plural \(2000\)\*\*](#), [Deann Borshay](#), 56 minutes  
In 1966, at the age of nine, Deann Borshay came to the U.S. from South Korea as one of tens of thousands of children adopted by white American families after the Korean War. In this extraordinary personal documentary she chronicles her struggle to reconcile the demands of two families, two cultures and two nations.
- [\*\*Flygtningene fra Kosova \(2000\)\*\*](#), [Per Wennick](#)  
This three-part documentary follows two families on their way from Kosovo to the primitive conditions in a refugee camp in Macedonia to resettlement in Randers, Denmark.
- [\*\*The Fortress \(La Forteresse\) \(2008\)\*\*](#), [Fernand Melgar](#), 104 minutes  
This documentary takes a look at a Swiss registration and processing center for asylum seekers. It follows the lives of the residents and the staff and immerses us into the heart of this “daily sorting process of human beings”.
- [\*\*From Burma to New York \(2011\)\*\*](#), [Karen Zraick](#), [Lam Thuy Vo](#), and [Maureen Aung-Thwin](#)  
This multimedia documentary chronicles the challenges and triumphs of Burmese refugees as they adjusted to life in an alien culture.
- [\*\*From Refugee to Immigrant: A Story of Three Kosovar Albanian Americans \(2003\)\*\*](#), [Ellen Friedland](#) and [Curt Fissel](#), 60 minutes  
This film traces the lives of three refugees from Kosova who arrived at Fort Dix, New Jersey in 1999. With footage from the U.S. and Kosova, the documentary examines the process of assimilation into American society.
- [\*\*Ghosts of Rwanda \(2004\)\*\*](#), [Greg Barker](#), 120 minutes  
This two-hour documentary to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rwandan genocide examines the social, political, and diplomatic failures that converged to enable the genocide to occur. Through interviews with key government officials, diplomats, soldiers, and survivors of the slaughter, Ghosts of Rwanda presents groundbreaking, first-hand accounts of the genocide from those who lived it.
- [\*\*God Grew Tired of Us \(2006\)\*\*](#), [Christopher Quinn](#), 89 minutes  
Winner of the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, *God Grew Tired of Us* explores the spirit of three Sudanese young men who leave their homeland, triumph over adversities, and move to America.
- [\*\*Goodbye Hungaria \(2004\)\*\*](#), [John Nealsen](#), 56 minutes  
John Nealsen’s documentary chronicles the lives of Abed Al-Sahli a Palestinian refugee, and Charu Newhouse, an American volunteer. The film traces their unlikely love story from the hopelessness of the camp, to New York City where they start a new life, together.
- [\*\*Gran Torino \(2008\)\*\*](#), [Clint Eastwood](#), 116 minutes  
Walt Kowalski is a widower who holds onto his prejudices despite the changes in his Michigan neighborhood and the world around him. Kowalski is a grumpy, tough-minded, unhappy old man, who can't get along with either his kids or his neighbors, a Korean War veteran whose prize possession is a 1972 Gran Torino he keeps in mint condition. When his neighbor Thao, a young Hmong teenager under pressure from his gang member cousin, tries to steal his Gran Torino,



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Kowalski sets out to reform the youth. Drawn against his will into the life of Thao's family, Kowalski is soon taking steps to protect them from the gangs that infest their neighborhood.

- [\*\*A Great Wonder: Lost Children of Sudan \(2004\)\*\*](#), *Kim Shelton, 61 minutes*  
This film documents the difficult transition of three of the "Lost Boys and Girls" of Sudan to lives in Seattle, Washington.
- [\*\*Heavy Metal in Baghdad \(2007\)\*\*](#), *Suroosh Alvi and Eddy Moretti, 84 min*  
In the late summer of 2006, filmmakers Eddy Moretti and Suroosh Alvi traveled to Baghdad to meet and interview the only heavy metal band in Iraq, Acrassicauda. "Heavy Metal in Baghdad" is the story of the band and its members, young Iraqis whose lives have been distorted and displaced by years of continual warfare in their homeland. The filmmakers have collected glimpses into the struggles of Acrassicauda as they try to stay together and stay alive. The International Rescue Committee has been working to resettle the members of Acrassicauda since last summer. Nearly three years after fleeing Iraq and living as a refugee in Syria and then Turkey, heavy metal drummer Marwan Riyadh stepped off an airplane at Newark Liberty International Airport on January 30, 2009.
- [\*\*Home Across Lands \(2008\)\*\*](#), *John Lavall*  
The film chronicles the work of the International Institute of Rhode Island as it guides and empowers a group of Kunaman refugees making the transition from life in the Shimelba Refugee Camp in Northern Ethiopia to their new home in America.
- [\*\*Il Volo \(The Flight\) \(2010\)\*\*](#), *Wim Wenders, 30 minutes*  
Documentary drama in 3D about the Italian town of Riace, which has been revived by refugees. See segment [here](#) (in Italian).
- [\*\*In This World \(2002\)\*\*](#), *Michael Winterbottom, 88 minutes*  
This film is the story of two Afghan cousins who trek from a refugee camp in Pakistan to London, where relatives await them.
- [\*\*Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport \(2000\)\*\*](#), *Mark Jonathan Harris, 122 min*  
In 1938 and 1939, about 10,000 children, most of them Jews, were sent by their parents from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia to the safety of England where foster families took most of them in for the duration of the war. Years later, eleven children, one child's mother, an English foster mother, a survivor of Auschwitz who didn't go to England, and two of the kindertransport organizers remember: the days before the Nazis, saying farewell to family, traveling to England, meeting their foster families, and trying to find families after the war ended.
- [\*\*Journey to Kapasseni: A Refugee's Gift \(2001\)\*\*](#), *Bill Weaver, 51 minutes*  
Joseph and Perpetua Alfazema are refugees from Mozambique who live in Victoria, Canada. They are determined to start a school in Joseph's home village and, against all odds, they raise money for the school and begin a long journey.
- [\*\*Kelly Loves Tony \(1998\)\*\*](#), *Spencer Nakasako, 57 minutes*  
Seventeen year-old Kelly Saeteurn has a dream – an "American dream." Just out of high school and on her way to college, Kelly envisions a rosy future. Kelly is the first in her family of Lu Mien refugees from Laos to have accomplished as much as she already has, but she encounters grave obstacles in the course of pursuing her dream.
- [\*\*The Last Survivor \(2010\)\*\*](#), *Michael Pertnoy and Michael Kleiman, 84 minutes*  
Following the lives of survivors of four different genocides and mass atrocities - The Holocaust, Rwanda, Darfur, and Congo - the film presents the stories of Survivors and their struggle to make sense of the tragedy by working to educate, motivate and promulgate a civic response to mass atrocity crimes.
- [\*\*The Letter: An American Town and the 'Somali Invasions' \(2003\)\*\*](#), *Ziad H. Hamzeh, 76 minutes*  
In the wake of 9/11, a firestorm erupts when the mayor of Lewiston, Maine sends a letter to 1,100 newly arrived Somali refugees advising that the city's resources are strained to the limit and asking that other Somalis not to move to the city. Interpreted as racism by some and a rallying cry



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by white supremacist groups across the U.S., *The Letter* documents the crossfire of emotions and events.

- [\*\*Letter Back Home \(1994\)\*\*](#), *Nith Lacroix and Sang Thepkaysone, 14 minutes*  
This film is a compelling look at life in San Francisco's Tenderloin district for Laotian and Cambodian youth.
- [\*\*The Longest Struggle: The Karen of Burma \(1993\)\*\*](#), *John Shephard and Tom Shehan, 52 minutes*  
The Karen of Burma have been fighting a war for nearly half a century against the Burmese, whilst attempting to retain their traditional way of life. Sons and daughters who have never known peace follow parents and grandparents against one of the most repressive regimes in the world.
- [\*\*The Lost Boys \(2002\)\*\*](#), *Clive Gordon, 77 minutes*  
Orphaned by the war in Sudan and raised in a desert refugee camp, Moses and his young friends are one day invited by the U.S. government to start a new life in Boston.
- [\*\*Lost Boys of Sudan \(2003\)\*\*](#), *Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk*  
This is an Emmy-nominated feature-length documentary that follows two Sudanese refugees from Sudan and Kenya to the U.S. Winner of an Independent Spirit Award and two Emmy nominations.
- [\*\*Moving to Mars \(2009\)\*\*](#), *Matt Whitecross*  
Moving to Mars charts the epic journey made by two Burmese families from a vast refugee camp on the Thai/Burma border to their new homes in the UK. At times hilarious, at times emotional, their travels provide a fascinating and unique insight not only into the effects of migration, but also into one of the most important current political crises - Burma.
- [\*\*Mrs. Goundo's Daughter \(2009\)\*\*](#), *Barbara Attie and Janet Goldwater, 60 minutes*  
An official selection of the Human Rights Watch Film festival, the documentary is a moving story of a West African mother's fight for asylum in the US to protect her two-year-old daughter from female genital cutting.
- [\*\*New Year Baby \(2006\)\*\*](#), *Socheata Poeuv, 80 minutes*  
New Year Baby is a personal documentary of a woman born in a refugee camp in Thailand and eventually resettled to the United States. It is her search for the truth about how her family survived the Khmer Rouge genocide and why they buried the truth for so long.
- [\*\*Nickel City Smiler \(2011\)\*\*](#), *Scott Murchie, 103 minutes*  
A documentary film about refugee resettlement in Buffalo, NY, particularly profiling a Karen family. The film is critical of local refugee resettlement agencies.
- [\*\*North Korea - Shadows and Whispers \(2000\)\*\*](#), *Kim Jong-Eun, 52 minutes*  
This documentary, filmed in the remote northeast mountains of China, captures the dire circumstances of North Korean refugees who journey to China.
- [\*\*Not My Life \(2012\)\*\*](#), *Robert Bilheimer*  
A documentary film that depicts the horrifying and dangerous practices of human trafficking and modern slavery on a global scale. It was filmed on five continents over a period of four years.
- [\*\*One Family, Voices & Visions: The Documentary Project for Refugees Youth\*\*](#), *10 minutes*  
"One Family" tells the story of twelve youth from Sierra Leone, Bosnia, Burundi, and Serbia who have weathered war and long journeys to America and New York City. Weaving their voices into a shared story, they reflect their views on themselves and the whole world, joined as one family.
- [\*\*A Place In The World\*\*](#), *Chautauqua Films*  
This documentary focuses on a school right outside Atlanta in Clarkston, GA, "The International Community School", that teaches refugee children alongside local American children so that they can learn from one another. *A Place In The World* follows three families with ties to the school, a first year teacher, and the new principal of the school over the course of two years, as they adapt to, and learn from, this diverse and complex social environment.
- [\*\*Pushing the Elephant \(2010\)\*\*](#), *Beth Davenport and Elizabeth Mandel*  
This documentary looks at the experiences of refugees, the long-term effects of war and one woman's experience as an advocate for forgiveness and reconciliation aired nationwide on the Emmy award-winning PBS series Independent Lens.



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- [\*\*Rain in a Dry Land \(2006\)\*\*](#), Anne Makepeace, 82 minutes  
An official selection of the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival 2006, the film chronicles two years in the lives of two Somali Bantu families who leave Kakuma refugee camp for Springfield, Massachusetts and Atlanta, Georgia.
- [\*\*Reflections: Returning to Vietnam\*\*](#), Producer: KCSM TV60, 30 minutes  
Vietnamese refugees speak about the loss of family and friends, migration and feelings about their war torn homeland. The program offers three individual perspectives from the Vietnamese Diaspora.
- [\*\*Refugee \(2003\)\*\*](#), Spencer Nakasako, 63 minutes  
In this film, three young refugees who are raised in San Francisco's Tenderloin district, journey to Cambodia.
- [\*\*Relocated Mountains \(2008\)\*\*](#), Matthew Metcalfe and Julia Parnell, 52 minutes  
This film tells the story of Sirwan Namu. As a child, Sirwan and his family escaped the Kurdish genocide under Saddam Hussein's regime and settled as refugees in New Zealand. Sirwan risks his life by traveling back to Iraq to keep a promise- to visit his grandmother before she dies. This is a compelling story of a man in search of his past and promise made to family.
- [\*\*Roosevelt's America \(2004\)\*\*](#), Roger Weisberg and Tod Lending, 30 minutes  
An inspirational story of a Liberian refugee, Roosevelt Henderson, who resettles in Chicago from Liberia attempts to reunite with his wife and young daughter, who are still in Liberia. Winner of numerous awards at the Columbus International Film and Video Festival, the San Francisco Black Film Festival, the Cleveland Film Festival, and other venues.
- [\*\*Shadow Over Tibet: Stories in Exile \(1994\)\*\*](#), Rachel Lyon, 57 minutes  
This film is a personalized account of Tibetan refugees attempting to maintain their ancient culture in exile while using nonviolent means to bring peace and freedom to their homeland. "Shadow Over Tibet" investigates the personal odyssey of Norbu Samphell, a Tibetan immigrant now living in the U.S., who is determined to become part of the American social fabric without abandoning his cultural heritage; and the Dalai Lama, religious and secular leader of Tibet-in-exile, who seeks to create a "zone of peace" in Tibet.
- [\*\*Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars \(2005\)\*\*](#), Zach Niles and Banker White, 78 minutes  
This film chronicles a band of six Sierra Leonean musicians living in a refugee camp in Guinea. Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars chronicles the band over three years, from Guinean refugee camps back to war-ravaged Sierra Leone, where they realize the dream of recording their first studio album.
- [\*\*The Split Horn: Life of a Hmong Shaman in America \(2001\)\*\*](#), Taggart Siegel, 60 minutes  
This film follows the emotional saga of Paja Thao, a Hmong shaman and his family in the U.S. who were transplanted from the mountains of Laos during the Vietnam War to America's heartland. For over seventeen years, Siegel has chronicled the intimate and private lives of Paja Thao, his wife, and their thirteen children. This intimate family portrait explores universal issues of cultural transformation, spirituality and family. It is a rare close-up view of one Hmong family's resettlement and acculturation in America.
- [\*\*Stealing a Nation \(2004\)\*\*](#), John Pilger, 56 minutes  
A film about the plight of people of the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean – secretly and brutally expelled by their homeland by British governments in the late 1960's and early 1970's, to make way for an American military base. The base, on the main island of Diego Garcia, was a launch pad for the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.
- [\*\*The Story of Vinh \(1990\)\*\*](#), Keiko Tsuno, 60 minutes  
This documentary focuses on one child refugee from the streets of Saigon who arrives with no English language skills and little tolerance for the foster care system. Vinh is one of 100,000 'Amerasian' children left in Vietnam when the American troops pulled out, or the group of Vietnamese immigrant children of U.S. servicemen and Vietnamese mothers. This is a story about transition – youth to manhood, Vietnamese to American, and dreams to reality.



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- [\*\*\*A Stranger in My Homeland \(2005\)\*\*\*](#), *Chloe Traicos, 45 minutes*  
This film tells the story of the Zimbabwean refugees who spoke out against the regime of terror under which they lived. These brave people were tortured electrocuted and left for dead.
- [\*\*\*TL Xmas, School Daze, and Home\*\*\*](#), *Spencer Nakasako in collaboration with the Vietnamese Youth Development Center (VYDC), 50 minutes*  
"TL Xmas" follows Cambodian youths as they attend a "Gift Giveaways" program and experience the holiday for the first time. "School Daze" humorously breaks down a day in the lives of six students from different San Francisco high schools. "Home" closes the package with nine youths' tender, poetic dedication to their family, friends, and San Francisco.
- [\*\*\*The Valley \(2000\)\*\*\*](#), *Dan Reed, 70 minutes*  
A real-time war documentary made in the middle of the Kosovo ethnic conflict, the piece was filmed in 1998 in Drenica Valley where the Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) had its base. The film documents interviews with people on both sides of the conflict.
- [\*\*\*A Village Called Versailles \(2009\)\*\*\*](#), *67 minutes, with also 54 minute and 15 minute versions*  
In a New Orleans neighborhood called Versailles, a tight-knit group of Vietnamese Americans overcame obstacles to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, only to have their homes threatened by a new government-imposed toxic landfill. The empowering story of how the Versailles people, who have already suffered so much in their lifetime, turn a devastating disaster into a catalyst for change and a chance for a better future.
- [\*\*\*War Child \(2008\)\*\*\*](#), *Christian Karim Chrobog, 94 minutes*  
The film documents the story of Emmanuel Jal, a former child soldier of Sudan's civil war. He is now an emerging international hip hop star sharing a message of peace for his war-torn land and beloved Africa.
- [\*\*\*War/Dance \(2006\)\*\*\*](#), *Sean Fine and Andrea Nix, 105 minutes*  
Set in civil war-ravaged Northern Uganda, this Best Documentary Oscar nominee follows the lives of three youngsters who attend school in a refugee camp and find hope through song and dance. Coming from a world in which children are abducted from their families and forced to fight in the rebel army, these kids give it their all when they travel to the capital city to take part in the prestigious Kampala Music Festival.
- [\*\*\*Welcome to Shelbyville, \(2010\)\*\*\*](#), *Kim A. Snyder, 60 minutes*  
*Shelbyville* follows a small Southern town as they grapple with rapid demographic change and issues of refugee and immigrant integration.
- [\*\*\*Where We Live, \(2011\)\*\*\*](#), *Fady Hadid*  
Within a day and a night, everything changed for the Hamad family. Once living peacefully alongside relatives in Baghdad, they fell victim to kidnappings and the violence tearing their homeland apart. Forced to flee and seek asylum in America, the Hamads now find themselves far from home, largely friendless and facing the struggles of the immigrant experience.
- [\*\*\*Yodok Stories, \(2008\)\*\*\*](#), *Andrzej Fidyk, 83 minutes*  
This film follows Jung Sung San through the process of organizing a controversial play about his experiences in a North Korean concentration camp called Yodok. He inspires eight other refugees to recreate the past, and together they work together to develop a musical about concentration camps.

## Music

- [\*\*\*Acrassicauda\*\*\*](#) – Iraqi thrash metal band formed in 2001 and resettled to the US. First album released in 2010. Subject of documentary, *Heavy Metal in Baghdad*.
- [\*\*\*TIMZ\*\*\*](#) – Award-winning rapper who is a San Diego native of Iraqi descent. Work includes 2011 song/video "Refugee," viewable on his website or [\*\*\*You Tube\*\*\*](#).
- [\*\*\*Sierra Leone Refugee All Stars\*\*\*](#) - a band of six Sierra Leonean musicians.



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