

fascinating fly-on-the-wall view of small city politics and the frequent lapses into pettiness and tribalism that result in polarized communities. Presented in the full-length version and a 57-minute abridgement, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (P. Hall)

RiverBlue ★★★

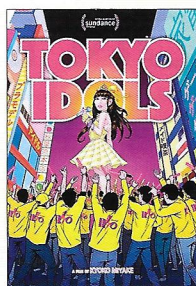
(2016) 95 min. DVD: \$50 (\$125 w/PPR): public libraries; \$295 w/PPR: colleges & universities. DRA. Collective Eye Films. Closed captioned.

Jason Priestley narrates this documentary by Roger Williams and David McIlvride centered on the high environmental cost of producing fashionable but inexpensive clothes like pre-distressed jeans. The film follows activist Mark Angelo as he visits various countries—India, China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and locales in Africa—where tanneries and textile factories use toxic chemicals in garment production and pour the waste into rivers, resulting in severe pollution. Angelo talks with owners and workers who usually deny that processes they employ are doing ecological damage, although the visual evidence indicates otherwise, as do witnesses who testify to the harmful impact that the pollutants have had on nearby residents, including children. *RiverBlue* also includes interviews with some designers who were instrumental in concocting the chemical cocktails used in producing the clothing (and now regret the result), researchers who are devising safer (if more expensive) means of achieving the same effects, and supporters of a Greenpeace campaign to detoxify polluted rivers. The question the film inevitably raises is whether consumers will be willing to spend more for clothes in order to protect the environment—laying down a challenge to viewers to join a crusade to save the planet. Presenting both the full-length version and a 52-minute abridgement, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (F. Swietek)

Stopping Traffic: The Movement to End Sex Trafficking ★★1/2

(2017) 79 min. DVD: \$50 (\$125 w/PPR): public libraries; \$295 w/PPR: colleges & universities. DRA. Collective Eye Films. Closed captioned.

Who knew that action movie star Dolph Lundgren is a real-life activist trying to help curb the international monstrosity of sex trafficking of children? That is one of the more minor revelations in the documentary *Stopping Traffic*, an amateurish production which nevertheless serves up a great deal of shocking, sickening facts about the enslavement of boys and girls in the sex trade. Filmmaker and Jain monk Sadhvi Siddhali Shree brings both clarity and tempered emotions to her own on-camera discussions about the estimated number of child sex slaves in the world (27 million, probably an underestimate), whose typical day could include being raped 30 or more times. Viewers meet several young people who escaped their



Tokyo Idols ★★★

(2017) 88 min. In Japanese w/English subtitles. DVD: \$29.99 (\$280 w/PPR from www.kimstim.com). KimStim (avail. from most distributors).

Filmmaker Kyoko Miyake takes a dive into Japanese teen idol culture in this discomfiting documentary. These teens are like pop stars elsewhere except that their fans are particularly intense. Nineteen-year-old Rio, one of 10,000 such young women, makes her living as an idol. She performs shows, appears in videos, attends handshake events (similar to meet and greets), and sells branded merchandise. Koji, a 43-year-old fan, saw his relationship with his girlfriend disintegrate as he attended hundreds of Rio's shows. When Rio embarks on a bike tour through the countryside, Koji and a few other fans follow her from town to town. Mitacchi, another middle-aged fan, admits that he's obsessed with 22-year-old Yuka, who he describes as "energetic and cheerful." He spends \$2,000 a month on his habit, and can no longer afford to visit his parents. Naoyamumu, a college student, is particularly fond of 14-year-old Amu, who doesn't find it strange that many fans are twice her age. "They're like fathers," her mother says. "They protect her." Naoyamumu says he doesn't have any interest in the work that a real relationship would require, so this fantasy version suits him just fine (he makes no mention of his favorite idol's minor status). The men claim that they are just recapturing their youth, but the performers' sexy moves tell another story. As journalist Minoru Kitahara puts it, "The society will stop at nothing to protect male fantasies," although Miyake's clear-eyed approach here lets audiences form their own conclusions. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

captive existence and here provide gruesome details about the hell they experienced. Shree takes her camera to Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand, and Iraq (and also focuses on Dallas and New Orleans) to offer visual proof of the marketing of kids, sometimes at risk of being discovered while clandestinely filming. Unfortunately, the haphazard narrative here deflates the issue's urgency. And while the film does try to present some solutions to the global problem (such as finding ways to shut down demand), these ideas don't sound like nearly enough. Still, Shree's mission and passion are commendable. A strong optional purchase. Aud: C, P. (T. Keogh)

Trump: The Art of the Insult ★★

(2018) 95 min. DVD: \$19.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).

Joel Gilbert is a right-wing filmmaker whose specialty is in-your-face documentaries that are often based on crude conspiracy theories. Here, Gilbert celebrates the coarse, bombastic rhetoric that Donald Trump used so effectively against opponents in the 2016 presidential campaign. Much of the running time is devoted to excerpts of Trump's rants from debates, news conferences, and rallies, but also included are infamous tweets, preceded by obviously staged inserts of a guy wearing a red Trump hat and working a cell phone. Further visual inserts show what Trump is referring to (like Marco Rubio's notorious lunge for a water bottle while giving a speech), or they feature responses from hapless foes to his outrageous charges (such as Ted Cruz complaining about Trump's suggestion that his father was engaged in the Kennedy assassination). Toward the close, as Gilbert trains his eye on the race with Hillary

Clinton, he includes footage that he shot for a featurette about Danney Williams, a black man whose claims to be Bill's illegitimate son (by a drug-addicted prostitute) have been widely debunked. Trump supporters who applaud his outlandish tactics will no doubt find this amusing, while others will be revolted by the ugly barrage that Gilbert has so gleefully assembled. Extras include the Williams short, and trailers for Gilbert's other efforts, mostly conspiracy-based assaults on Barack Obama's paternity. Except for die-hard Trump fanatics, this is not a necessary purchase. Aud: P. (F. Swietek)

Trumping Democracy ★★1/2

(2017) 69 min. DVD: \$19.95. Cinema Libre Studio (avail. from most distributors). Closed captioned.

Filmmaker Thomas Huchon's documentary on the 2016 presidential election—originally broadcast in France under the title *Unfair Game*—focuses only peripherally on the Russian interference that is the subject of so much hullabaloo in this country. Instead, it concentrates on the methods used by reclusive American billionaire Robert Mercer both to influence the outcome and to place his own people in the Trump inner circle. After interviews with Paul Horner, who produced admittedly phony stories for the Internet, and Scott LoBaido, a Trump supporter who feasted on such fake news, the film pivots to Mercer's expenditures benefitting conservative outlets like the Heritage Foundation and Breitbart as well as presidential candidate Ted Cruz. After Cruz faltered, Mercer switched his support to Trump and inserted Steve Bannon, Kellyanne Conway, and David Bossie into the campaign. Even more important, he was behind the campaign's employment of an English firm,