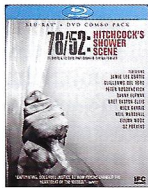


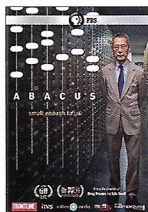


The following list, selected and compiled by *Video Librarian* staff, honors the best new documentaries reviewed in the magazine and online during 2018. Unless otherwise noted, titles are available from most distributors.

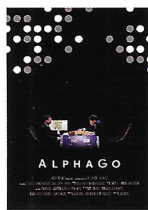
78/52: Hitchcock's Shower Scene (Shout! Factory, 92 min., Blu-ray/DVD Combo: \$29.99). Director Alexandre O. Philippe's documentary focuses on the infamous shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*. (VL-7/18)



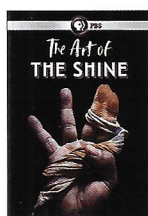
Abacus: Small Enough to Jail (PBS, 90 min., DVD: \$24.99 [\$54.99 w/PPR from www.teacher.shop.pbs.org]). Filmmaker Steve James's PBS-aired documentary centers on the Abacus Bank, founded to cater to NYC's Chinese-American community by Thomas Sung, whose American Dream became a nightmare when the bank was the only financial institution to face criminal charges after the 2008 economic meltdown. (VL-1/18)



AlphaGo (Ro*co [www.rocoeducational.com], 90 min., DVD: \$95; public libraries; \$295 w/PPR; colleges & universities). Director Greg Kohs's documentary on the ancient Chinese board game Go follows a nail-biting competition between the titular artificial intelligence program and Go master Lee Sedol. (VL-9/18)



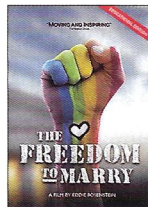
The Art of the Shine (PBS, 78 min., DVD: \$24.99 [\$54.99 w/PPR from www.teacher.shop.pbs.org]). Filmmaker Stacey Tenenbaum's PBS-aired documentary looks at the archaic world of the shoe shiner, from Mexican shoe shiners so embarrassed by their "lowly" status that they cover their faces with ski masks to a suit-wearing Japanese artisan. (VL Online-8/18)



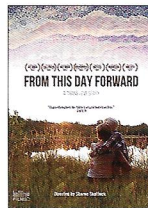
The Force (Kino Lorber, 92 min., DVD: \$29.95). Director Peter Nicks's documentary centers on the police department in Oakland, CA, which has a history of community relations problems, but also employs law enforcement officers who are trying to do their best. (VL-3/18)



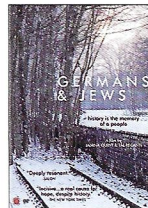
The Freedom to Marry (Ro*co [www.rocoeducational.com], 86 min., DVD: \$95; public libraries; \$350 w/PPR; colleges & universities). Offering tribute to same-sex marriage activist Evan Wolfson, the title of Eddie Rosenstein's documentary refers to the political advocacy nonprofit group founded by Wolfson and to its ultimately successful mission to ensure that gay and lesbian couples were able to receive marriage equality under U.S. law. (VL-7/18)



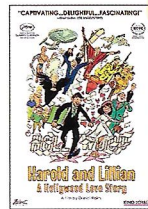
From This Day Forward (Bullfrog [www.bullfrogfilms.com], 76 min., DVD: \$350). Filmmaker Sharon Shattuck's documentary explores the ramifications when a loved one is transgender, focusing on how her father Michael's—now Trisha—revelation that she is transgender has affected their family over decades. (VL-1/18)



Germans & Jews (First Run Features, 76 min., in English & German w/English subtitles, DVD: \$24.95). Filmmaker Janina Quint's thoughtful documentary examines Germany's obligation to reflect upon and remember its responsibility for the Holocaust. (VL-1/18)

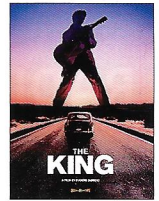


Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story (Kino Lorber, 94 min., DVD: \$29.99, Blu-ray: \$34.99). Hollywood art director and storyboard artist Harold Michelson and his wife Lillian—who ran a Hollywood research library that was an essential resource for hundreds of productions—are the subjects of this affectionate documentary from filmmaker Daniel Raim. (VL-1/18)

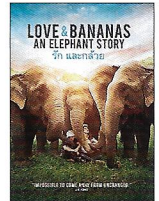


The King (Oscilloscope, 109 min., DVD: \$34.99, Blu-ray: \$39.99). Filmmaker Eugene

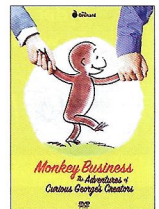
Jarecki's cinematic essay argues that the life and death of Elvis Presley can serve as a fitting metaphor for the original promise and sad decline of America, as Jarecki traverses America in a vintage Rolls Royce once owned by Presley. (VL-9/18)



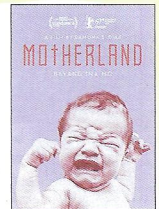
Love & Bananas (Cargo, 75 min., in English & Thai w/English subtitles, DVD: \$24.95 [\$495 w/PPR from www.loveandbananas.com/host-a-screening/]). Actress Ashley Bell directs and appears in this emotionally-charged documentary about the sad state of the Asian elephant, helping renowned conservationist Sangdean Lek Chailert transport a 70-year-old partially blind elephant to the latter's sanctuary in Thailand. (VL-11/18)



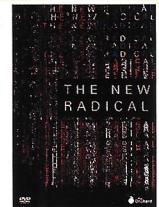
Monkey Business (Passion River, 82 min., DVD: \$24.95 [\$299 w/PPR from edu.passionriver.com]). Filmmaker Ema Ryan Yamazaki's documentary about the authors of the famed picture book series featuring mischief-making monkey Curious George tells the story of the German-Jewish married writing team of Hans and Margret Rey. (VL-1/18)



Motherland (FilmRise/MVD, 94 min., DVD: \$19.95, Blu-ray: \$24.95). Filmmaker Ramona S. Diaz's *cinema vérité* documentary captures the controlled chaos of Manila's Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital—the busiest maternity clinic in the world—which treats hundreds of young Filipino women struggling with poverty, a cultural bias toward large families, and lack of birth control. (VL-1/18)



The New Radical (Passion River, 109 min., DVD: \$59.95 [\$350 w/PPR from edu.passionriver.com]). Filmmaker Adam Bhala Lough's documentary turns the spotlight on a new breed of radical who gravitates to the extreme right, including Cody Wilson, who invented a plastic gun that can be made on a 3D printer. (VL-5/18)



Newtown (Passion River, 83 min., DVD: \$24.95 [w/PPR: \$95; high schools and public libraries; \$350: colleges and universities