

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Here Come the Videofreex. color & b/w. 78 min. Jon Nealon & Jenny Raskin, dist. by Cinema Guild, www.cinemaguild.com. 2016. DVD ISBN 9780781515351. \$99.95; acad. libs. \$350. Public performance. FILM

In 1968, a portable, lightweight video camera was introduced to the mass market, capable of instant recording and playback. This innovation occurred at a time of great social change and upheaval, described here as like having “life leap on your back” whenever you ventured out onto the street. This documentary takes a look at the Videofreex “video collective,” a self-described motley group who were “radicals and proud of it.” They shot nonmusical vignettes at the 1969 Woodstock festival and then quickly scored interviews with Abbie Hoffman and Black Panther leader Fred Hampton only weeks before he was killed. The Videofreex had a brief, doomed relationship with CBS News, which, seeking to capture the reality of the youth rebellion, employed them, only to find their reality was perhaps too real for its mass audience. A five-year sojourn in rural upstate New York produced “pirate television,” anticipating the era of community access TV. **VERDICT** With commentary from former members, plus restored but still rough black-and-white video footage, the documentary is an engaging, insightful look at those confusing times. Recommended.—Stephen Rees, formerly with Levittown Lib., PA

Raiders! The Story of the Greatest Fan Film Ever Made. 93+ min. Tim Skousen & Jeremy Coon, dist. by Drafthouse Films c/o MVDvisual, www.mvdb2b.com. 2016. DVD UPC 760137844891. \$34.95. SDH subtitles FILM

In 1982, three preteens in Mississippi decided to remake Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* using storyboards drawn from memory and a budget limited mostly to their allowances. Seven years later, they premiered a version missing just one scene, then went off to college, and parted ways. *Raiders! The Story of the Greatest Fan Film Ever Made* documents the making of this film and tells how a copy surfaced in Austin, TX, more than a decade later, setting in motion a chain of events culminating in the cast and crew reuniting as adults to finish it. *Raiders!* had been touring the country with *Raiders: The Adaptation* (as it is now known) throughout 2016. Seeing them together underscores how well directors Skousen and Coon explain why the idea of kids re-creating a Hollywood blockbuster in their own backyards is compelling and how much footage from the remake their film contains. **VERDICT** Fan studies scholars and movie buffs will definitely want to see *The Adaptation* for themselves, but others will

find the documentary just as enjoyable.—Andrew Horbal, Univ. of Maryland Lib., College Park

A Place To Stand. 83+ min. Daniel Glick, dist. by Video Project, www.video-project.com. 2016. DVD \$24.95; acad. libs. \$295; public performance w/DSL \$395. Closed-captioned. LIT/BIOG

Abandoned by family, ten-year-old Jimmy Santiago Baca (b. 1952), his brother, and sister were placed in an orphanage. Jimmy escaped to a life on the streets, brawling and dealing drugs. Apprehended in New Mexico for smuggling drugs across the Mexico-Arizona border, Baca, a functional illiterate, stole a book from an Albuquerque County Jail guard just to be mean. With inspiration from a few pages of that book and encouragement from a pen pal and a few fellow prisoners, Baca taught himself to read and write in the brutal confines of the Arizona State Prison (ASP). Though about half of his six-year stay was in solitary confinement, Baca became a published poet. The ASP warden, hoping truly to punish Baca for his crimes, vowed never to allow him his freedom. The parole board, influenced by the literary community, overruled the warden, and Baca was released in 1978. **VERDICT** Based on Baca's 2001 memoir of the same name, this gutsy, graphic video is highly recommended.—Cliff Glaviano, formerly with Bowling Green State Univ. Libs., OH

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Truth Has Fallen. 60 min. Sheila M. Sofian, Dreamscape, www.dreamscapeab.com. 2016. DVD UPC 857063005950. \$24.99; public performance \$199.99. CRIMINOLOGY

Systemic failures in the criminal justice apparatus are explored in Sofian's documentary as she follows the work of James McCloskey's Centurion Ministries, an agency that reinvestigates cases in order to free the “convicted innocent,” individuals erroneously incarcerated for deadly crimes. Interviews with Joyce, Eddie, and James reveal the circumstances that led to their flawed convictions and what life in prison is like for those who are innocent. Their frank testimony runs against the backdrop of Sofian's haunting animated paintings, giving the film an innovative sensibility. McCloskey speaks of the efforts involved in freeing those wrongly imprisoned, and legal experts discuss how faulty identification procedures, forced confessions, “snitch testimony,” and overwhelmed court-appointed lawyers impact the delivery of just verdicts. **VERDICT** This compelling production offers a combination of effective treatment of the problems in the system with proposed solutions.—Joan Pedzich, formerly with Harris Beach PLLC, Rochester, NY

★**Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War.** color & b/w. 80+ min. Ken Burns & Artemis Joukowsky, dist. by PBS, shoppbs.org. 2016. DVD ISBN 9781627898324. \$24.99. SDH subtitles. HIST/BIOG

This compelling PBS production tells the story of Massachusetts-based Unitarian minister Waitstill Sharp and his wife, Martha, who risked their lives to rescue refugees and dissidents in Europe before and after the start of World War II. Although Burns (*The Civil War*) is listed as codirector, he has said that his role here was primarily in shaping the film in the editing room. Most of the interviews were conducted by Joukowsky, a grandson of the Sharps, who also wrote the 2016 book of the same name. In the making for ten years, this production features Tom Hanks voicing Waitstill Sharp and uses letters, journals, interviews with historians, and conversations with the now adult children whom the Sharps saved to relate the gravity of events. The production quality is top-notch, as one would expect of a PBS presentation. Perhaps as interesting as the role the Sharps played in world history is the effect it had on them as individuals, spouses, and parents. Just as they changed history, history changed them. **VERDICT** Highly recommended for World War II buffs and general historians.—Rod Bustos, Augusta Univ. Lib., GA

★**Dark Side of the Full Moon.** 74 min. Maureen Fura, dist. by Dreamscape Video, www.dreamscapeab.com. 2016. DVD UPC 857326006052. \$24.99; public performance \$199.99. PSYCH

Among the most common and dangerous pregnancy complications are mood and anxiety disorders, yet the 1.3 million mothers affected each year often suffer in silence as the medical community ignores their pleas. *Dark Side of the Full Moon* is a product of two mothers—director Fura and coproducer Jennifer Silliman—struggling through debilitating mental illness and traveling across the country to shed light on the need for stronger screening and treatment. It seeks to answer two questions: Is there a best system of care for mental maternal health? And if so, what does that look like and how do we get there? The film highlights policy, research, and treatment (and the corresponding omissions) and shares the personal side of mental health through interviews with survivors, family, psychologists, physicians, midwives, and a variety of other professionals. Visually the DVD picture is clear and attractive, with an engaging format. **VERDICT** Engrossing, informative, and emotionally charged, this film is a must-watch for a variety of audiences, bringing attention to a crucial issue regard-