

Spring 2023 LLC
Behind the Lens:
Documentaries on Photographers and their Craft
Descriptions, Trailers, and Access

P = Amazon Prime

N = Netflix

K = Kanopy (streaming service thru your public library)

L = public library

The Automat (2021) P MBOmax Google Play
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWNkIsLEny4>

[The Automat will be used as an **icebreaker** in our first class. It is not available as a movie choice!]

Years ago, customers from every walk of life enjoyed The Automat in multiple locations in New York and Philadelphia. The background of this restaurant chain is covered from its beginning during the depression to its final store closing in 1991, with quite a few celebrities reminiscing about their happy days at Horn and Hardart Automats! For some of us, The Automat was possibly our first coin-operated fun!

Dorothea Lange: Grab a Hunk of Lightning (2014) P AppleTV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWn0ZlwxQWQ>

Directed by Lange's granddaughter, this film includes footage of Lange speaking about her body of work, the evolution of her style, and her very significant contributions to the early years of photography in America.

Bill Cunningham New York (2010) P Kanopy L HBOmax AppleTV Vudu YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkQklk_cfVs

"An intimate portrait," this film is funny, poignant, and delicate. Cunningham covered the formal fundraisers and glitterati of NYC for the NYT as well as presenting his own weekly take on daily fashion, "On The Street." Capturing the New York scene on his bicycle for five decades, Bill Cunningham was New York's special treasure.

[If you want "more Bill," here's **The Times of Bill Cunningham. (2018) No pressure to watch. Kanopy, Library, VUDU, Pluto**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7dUM0QcumE&t=21s>

Garry Winogrand: All Things are Photographable (2018) P AppleTV Roku channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmEj4bx-3XU>

Known as a poet and philosopher, Winogrand captured New York in the 1960s with his street photography and celebrity portraits. This is a retrospective view, with various contemporary street photographers commenting on Winogrand's work.

Faces, Places (Alice Varda) (2017) P L AppleTV Roku Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKbjnLpxv70>

Two artists, Alice Varda (88) and "JR" (33) travel around rural France in JR's mobile camera truck, involving the locals in creating giant photos to be affixed to large structures. This was Varda's second to last work before her death in 2019. It has been called "an unassuming masterpiece." She was well known in France as the *Grandmother of the New Wave* in Cinematography.

Free Renty: Lanier v Harvard (2021) Kanopy P Vudu YouTube

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/freerentylanierharvard>

This recent documentary on the hot topic of reparations to the Black community is timely. It takes us through the legal process of an aggrieved Black American's push to retrieve family photographs from the Peabody Museum at Harvard. These daguerrotypes had been commissioned in 1850 by acclaimed Harvard sociologist, Louis Agassiz, to support his belief that Africans were a separate and inferior race from caucasians. The case is still active. This movie will generate lively discussion.

Finding Vivian Maier (2013) P L AppleTV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2o2nBhQ67Zc>

This film has been called a documentary/mystery, as Vivian Maier died an Unknown. A "career nanny," she left behind an enormous number of photographs and unprocessed film. After her death in 2009, the mystery of her private life unfolded. Her work has now been exhibited all over the world and is regarded as top tier street photography material.

Your public library has many copies of this movie, just an FYI. Prime is offering a weeklong free subscription to other platforms. You can always cancel the new subscription after watching this movie! Check it out and make a plan.

The B-Side: Elsa Dorfman's portrait photography (2016) P Hulu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8s8HjtLow>

Errol Morris, cinematographer and good friend of Elsa Dorfman, collaborated with her on this film. Dorfman found fame through the use of her large-format Polaroid camera, capturing people in family portraits, dressed and accessorized as they chose. She moved from doing incidental photography in NYC to studio work in Cambridge with her enormous Polaroid camera. Over time, she established a very successful business, seizing the moment of an outgoing camera format and exploiting its capabilities with great enthusiasm.

Which way is the front line from here? (2013) Tim Hetherington P AppleTV Google Play

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEpliAL6y8M>

This documentary is a tribute to deceased war photographer Tim Hetherington, directed by his good friend, author Sebastian Junger. The two collaborated on "Restrepo" in 2010. They traveled the world documenting conflicts, focusing on individuals in the midst of surrounding violence.

The Way I see It - Pete Souza (2020) P AppleTV Vudu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7L4ktHbelhc>

Former White House Photographer to Presidents Reagan and Obama, Pete Souza was on duty for long hours and in locations all over the world. Having top secret clearance and full access to POTUS, he documented work from the inside, both formal and candid. His body of work provides extraordinary coverage of #40, and #44, reminding us of the **civility and dignity** of past presidents. Souza's work is truly exceptional.