

FILMS FOR DIALOGUE

Short (1 hour or less)

Detained: The New Bedford Immigration Raid (half hour)

On March 6, 2007, US Immigration officials raided a New Bedford, MA factory that makes vests and backpacks for US soldiers. Many of the 361 undocumented immigrants who were detained in the raid were women with small children.

A news report about the raid: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/17/AR2007031701113.html>

Cartas del Otro Lado (three 20-minute shorts)

"Letters from the Other Side" captures the circumstances, doubts, struggles and hardships that Mexican families must endure when their husbands, sons, and male relatives migrate to the United States in search of work. Told from the perspective of several women, the daily effects of migration to the North and post-NAFTA trade policies between the US and Mexico on families left behind in Mexico are central to this documentary. It highlights the inhumanity and danger that the journey to the US poses for both the individuals who endure it and the families that are left behind.

Echando Raices / Taking Root (Three 20-minute segments)

In the three 20-minute segments of *Echando Raices*, immigrants from diverse countries tell their stories of the struggle to seek new futures in the United States. The film focuses on immigrants and the communities in which they live in California, Texas, and Iowa. Stories and reflections from immigrants and refugees are woven together with scenes of community life. Also included are perspectives from scholars, union and community activists, local officials, displaced workers, and more. The film features a vibrant soundtrack.

Welcome to Shelbyville (1 hour)

This documentary produced in collaboration with Welcoming America tells the story of how the movement that Uniting NC is a part of began in Tennessee. It will be available for use at events after May 24, 2011.

People in the small town of Shelbyville become concerned when a large group of Muslim Somali refugees moves in to work in the local chicken plant. Rumors start to spread that they are dirty or plotting terrorist attacks, and many of the allegations are published in the local paper. A diverse group of residents comes together to challenge the stereotypes. They hold meetings and community events that allow the Somalis to meet other residents and answer their questions.

The film is about Shelbyville, Tennessee, but it tackles an issue that has affected towns across the South. Shelbyville is the model for the kind of work that Uniting NC wants to do, and for the way that all of us in North Carolina can get involved.

The Guestworker (1 hour)

The Guestworker tells the story of Don Candelario Gonzalez Moreno, a 66-year old Mexican farmer who has been coming to the U.S. since the 1960s as a farm laborer. He is some twenty to forty years older than all the thousands of Mexican men who work in today's United States' H2A Guest Worker program started in 1986. Yet he is asked back, year after year,

because of his commitment to hard work, his “good attitude,” and his long-term service to Wester Farms in North Carolina. With revealing insight, filmmakers Cynthia Hill and Charles Thompson embark on an intimate exploration of Cande during one particularly grueling season while delving into this little-known guest worker program now already twenty years in existence.

The Guestworker comes at a time in American history where immigration policies are as relevant a discussion as they’ve ever been. As the U.S. engages in deliberations of who will do our farm work and how they will be employed, phrases such as “illegal aliens,” “closing the gate,” and “guest worker” have become essential to our national lexicon. *The Guestworker* offers some humanity to a debate that could otherwise be callous and bureaucratic.

Brother Towns / Pueblos Hermanos (1 hour)

Brother Towns is a story of two towns linked by immigration, family, and work: Jacaltenango, a highland Maya town in Guatemala; and Jupiter, a coastal resort town where many Jacaltecos have settled in Florida. Brother Towns chronicles a story of how and why people migrate across borders, how people make and remake their communities when they travel thousands of miles from home, and how people maintain families despite their travel.

Because we are all immigrants, this is a universal human story, and a quintessential American one. All of us understand family. Brother Towns is also a story of local and international controversy. News of undocumented immigrants is familiar in nearly every community across the U.S., and citizens must choose how they respond to this issue. Our story includes voices of those opposed to undocumented immigrants as well as advocates helping migrants who seek work and hope, whether documented or not.

Long (1.5 to 2 hours)

The Visitor (1 hour, 45 minutes)

A story about an American professor from Connecticut, whose life is changed and enriched by a chance encounter with an illegal immigrant couple. The man is a Syrian musician and the woman is a jewelry designer from Senegal. The Syrian man is eventually detained and deported, despite the professor’s attempts to block his removal. A revealing tale about the way immigrants, legal and illegal, have become woven into the fabric of the United States.