MEET YOUR TEACHER: LAURA ZINGER OF 20K FILMS

I have been producing feature length documentaries for the last 10 years. My first feature length documentary, Proceed and Be Bold! was accepted into 6 national film festivals and 1 international film festival, the St. John's International Women’s Film Festival in Newfoundland, Canada. In 2012, I was awarded the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation’s On Screen/In Person grant which sent me to 7 US cities as well as the US Virgin Islands to screen and present Proceed and Be Bold! to live audiences.

I most recently produced a pitch video for the Detroit Printing Plant that was presented on the national online crowdfunding site, Indiegogo. Indiegogo picked this pitch video as one of the top 12 pitch videos on their site for 2012.

I created 20K Films so I could produce socially conscious documentaries and have a good time.

ICEBREAKER!

WHAT 3 THINGS DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS?

1. __________________________

2. __________________________

3. __________________________

* FOR IDEAS, CHECK OUT THIS REDDIT AMA (ASK ME ANYTHING)

ICEBREAKER REVIEW!

1. WHICH INTERVIEWS DID YOU FIND THE MOST INTERESTING AND WHY?

2. DOES CAMERA WORK MATTER? WHY? HOW DOES THE CAMERA WORK FOR THE DIFFERENT INTERVIEWS MAKE YOU FEEL? WHAT FEELS RIGHT?

3. WOULD YOU WATCH A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ANY OF YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS? WHICH ONES AND WHY?
WEEK ONE COURSE WORKSHEET

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

1895  ● Lumière Brothers filmed nonfiction scenes from the daily lives of those around them and began showing 50-second movies.
1920  ● First feature length documentary, Nanook of the North and Dziga Vertov makes, Man with the Movie camera establishing “film as language.”
1930  ● Luis Bunuel creates travelogue film, Land Without Bread, an ethnographic film with a deeply social message.
1955  ● Alain Renais pushed the documentary medium even further with his essay film, Night and Fog, juxtaposing images from the Holocaust with modern day footage and voiceover narration.
1950s-1970s  ● Observational and Participatory documentary filmmaking emerge as the two main approaches/methods to this art form.
1980s  ● 1980s to today reveal a trend in more “eclectic” styles for documentary filmmaking: documentary noir, diary, advocacy and ambush, interactive and archive footage.

DOCUMENTARY APPROACHES/METHODS

PARTICIPATORY (CINÉMA VÉRITÉ):

BY ACKNOWLEDGING DOCUMENTARY AS A COLLABORATION WITH PARTICIPANTS, RATHER THAN AN OBJECTIVE OBSERVATION OF THEM, THE DIRECTORS OF PARTICIPATORY CINEMA COULD NOW CATALYZE OR EVEN PROVOKE EVENTS, AND PROBE FOR TRUTH RATHER THAN SIMPLY AWAIT ITS APPEARANCE.

OBSERVATORY (DIRECT CINEMA):

SHOT UNOBSTRUSIVELY AND BY AVAILABLE LIGHT, AIMING TO CAPTURE THE SPONTANEITY AND UNHIBITED FLOW OF EVENTS AS PEOPLE WERE LIVING THEM.

DOCUMENTARY GENRE

● BIOGRAPHY
● HISTORICAL
● TRAVELOGUE
● ESSAY
● ECLECTIC
  ● NOIR
  ● DIARY
  ● ADVOCACY/AMBUSH
WEEK ONE COURSE WORKSHEET

COURSE RULES!

1. Failure is OK! “To try and fail is not laziness.” African Proverb

2. Respect for others’ ideas, comments, and opinions is mandatory.

3. Filmmaking is like a sport! You only get better by lots and lots of practice and hard work, so please work hard here!

4. Participation in the Facebook group page for this course is mandatory. I will clearly explain what the coursework expected of you is every week.

PLEASE KNOW:
Constructive criticism is necessary to build your talent and skill set. It is not meant to make you feel badly about yourself or your work.

COURSE WORK TO DO:

ON OWN:

- Decide which Documentary Genre and approach you are most interested in.
  - Genre: ______________
  - Approach: ______________

- Come up with 4 topics you are interested in making a documentary about:
  1. ______________
  2. ______________
  3. ______________
  4. ______________

ON FACEBOOK GROUP:

- Join Facebook group
- Watch the camera video tutorial posted to the Facebook group
- Watch this documentary: The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters.
- Post response to documentary to FG:
  1. What did you like the most about the documentary and why?
  2. What did you like the least and why?
PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY, *THE KING OF KONG*

1. In your own words, what is the story being told in *The King of Kong*?

2. Who were the main characters in the documentary?

3. Which characters did you like the most and why?

4. What specifically did you like the most about this documentary?

5. Did you notice the camera work or images on the screen at all? If so, what did you notice?