



Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative

Fair Trade Films & Videos



Available on loan from Jane Dow - janedow@hickorytech.net - 507-625-5092

GENERAL

A Thousand Fibers – Binding Together through Fair Trade (2009), 33 mins. General

“This video is most useful for showing the impact of Fair Trade on producers’ lives. It also is one of the few films that introduces how Fair Trade works in the world of commodities (like chocolate and coffee) as well as in handcrafts, with a special focus on the lives of handcraft artisans in Peru.”

“This film shows real life examples of the Fair Trade Federation’s principles for Fair Trade Organizations. A second version on the same DVD can be used with a Bible study program.”

Buyer, Be Fair (2006), 55 mins. General

“This high quality documentary offers a balanced look into product certification – of Fair Trade coffee and timber – and the essential role it plays in today’s global economy.” (FTRN)

“Buyer Be Fair takes viewers to Mexico, the Netherlands, the UK, Sweden, the USA and Canada to explore how conscious consumers and businesses can use the market to promote social justice and environmental sustainability through product labeling, with a focus on Fair Trade coffee and Forest Stewardship Council certified wood. This television special reaches beyond the choir to present the promise of product certification to a wide audience.

<http://www.buyerbefair.org/index.html>

Fair Trade - The Story (2008), 9 mins. General

Basic primer on Fair Trade from US labeling agency TransFair (now Fair Trade USA). Still a very useful, short introduction to Fair Trade certification and its aim to empower farmers and farm workers to lift themselves out of poverty by investing in their farms and communities, protecting the environment and developing the business skills necessary to compete in the global marketplace.

Islas Hermanas (2000), 28 mins. Grade 7-12 and above

“Filmed on Ometepe Island in Nicaragua, and Bainbridge Island near Seattle, ISLAS HERMANAS [Sister Islands] celebrates a 13 year relationship between people on the two islands. Shade grown organic coffee, produced on Ometepe, is imported to the U.S., and profits are returned to Nicaragua to fund clean water and school building projects.

Each year Ometepe families welcome Bainbridge High students into their homes for two weeks. An enterprising third grade class on Bainbridge creates and sells calendars to support community projects on their sister island.

In an era of many negative impacts of globalization, this program, filled with inviting Nicaraguan music by the Mejia Godoys, conveys a positive story of international friendship.”

<http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/islas.html>

Quality Taste for You, Quality of Life for Farmers (Transfair, 2004). 10 mins. General.

This video illustrates the work of TransFair (now Fair Trade USA) in promoting “Fair Trade Certified” as an ethical product label found on a range of commodities and products in the USA, starting with coffee

(overwhelmingly the most significant back in 2004), fruit, tea, chocolate etc. Lively production featuring a range of voices – producers, retailers, certifiers and consumers – but inevitably dated through the prominence of the old TransFair logo and references to Transfair being part of an international system governed by ‘FLO’ that FTUSA left at the end of 2011.

The Fair Trade (2008), 57 mins. General

The Fair Trade movie recounts the story of successful fair trade entrepreneur Tamara Johnston. Devastated by the tragic death of her fiancé, Tamara makes a bargain with God to postpone suicide in exchange for a meaningful life. She, her twin sister and brother-in-law quit their jobs in California in order to make soap for their start up fair trade skincare company Anti-Body. Tamara becomes an activist for human rights and social justice causes, but despair over her loss remains unabated for several years. As she nears the deadline of her bargain, a trip to Kenya for Heifer International allows her to visit the fair trade co-op in Togo, Africa, from which Anti-Body buys its organic shea butter. There, she finds a surprising answer to what is required of her in exchange for a sustainable life.

<http://www.thefairtrademovie.com/>

The Power of Trading Fairly (Ten Thousand Villages, 2006), 18 mins. General

The video depicts three stories of artisan partners of Ten Thousand Villages that produce palm handicrafts in Bangladesh, bead work in Guatemala and stone carvings in Kenya. Each story is told separately and lasts 5-6 minutes.

WOMEN and FAIR TRADE

A Powerful Noise (2009), 80 mins. General

“This film focuses on women’s issues in the developing world, which are an important part of the Fair Trade issue. One of the three women protagonists in the film starts a Fair Trade agricultural cooperative to provide employment to widows of the Bosnian War. An inspirational and empowering film .” (FTRN)

“Hanh is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam. Nada is a survivor of the Bosnian war. Jacqueline works the slums of Bamako, Mali. Three very different lives. Three vastly different worlds. But they share something in common: Power. These women are each overcoming gender barriers to rise up and claim a voice in their societies. Through their empowerment and ability to empower others, Hanh, Nada and Jacqueline are sparking remarkable changes.”

Calcutta Hilton (2007), 23 mins. Grades 11-12 and above

“Sonagacchi is the largest, most infamous sex district in Calcutta. Everyday 20,000 men seek out the services of the 6,000 women who work there. Many of these women were stolen from their homes, some were tricked, others sold into prostitution by friends and family. It was in the midst of this despair that “Calcutta Hilton” presenter Evie Ashton discovered an inspiring group doing their best to make a difference.”

<http://www.calcuttahilton.com/>

BANANAS

Banana Split (2002), 46 minutes. Grades 7-12 and above.

An award-winning, entertaining and educational film that explores the North/South split between consumers of bananas and the people whose lives revolve around the “curvaceous fruit from the herbaceous plant”. Produced in Canada, the film was also shot in USA, Honduras (where the United Fruit Company/Chiquita is very active) and France. It tells the hidden story of how plantation bananas reach North American supermarket shelves at low prices and the financial, environmental and health-related costs incurred by banana workers and their families.

<http://shebafilms2.wordpress.com/films/>

Bananas! (2009), 87 mins. Grades 11-12 and above.

“Juan ‘Accidentes’ Dominguez is on his biggest case ever. On behalf of twelve Nicaraguan banana workers he is tackling Dole Food in a ground-breaking legal battle for their use of a banned pesticide that was known by the company to cause sterility. Can he beat the giant, or will the corporation get away with it? In the suspenseful documentary BANANAS! Swedish filmmaker Fredrik Gertten sheds new light on the global politics of food.”

<http://www.bananasthemovie.com/>

CACAO & CHOCOLATE

Chocolate Country (2007), 30 mins. General

“In the isolated hill towns of the Dominican Republic, cacao farmers have been fighting a losing battle with the global economy for as long as anyone can remember. But in Loma Guaconejo, things are about to change. If the farmers here can win organic certification and market their product directly to the United States, they just might manage to turn the system on its head. But to pull it off will take the effort of an entire community.”

<http://www.chocolatecountryfilm.com/>

The Dark Side of Chocolate (2010), 45 mins. Grades 7-12 and above.

“This video is most useful for showing the horrors of child labor and trafficked children in W. African cocoa farms that supply major corporations and brands. It also demonstrates the lack of interest by major corporations to solutions like Fair Trade.” (FTRN)

“This film goes undercover to Mali and Ivory Coast to document child trafficking, forced labor and other worst forms of child labor that should have been eliminated under the Cocoa Protocol signed by major chocolate industry groups in 2001. It also shows footage of major chocolate company executives in Europe uninterested in the transgressions and solutions presented by the film.

<http://thedarksideofchocolate.org/>

Pa Pa Paa (2005) 35 mins + 30 mins. Children

This DVD accompanies a series of educational tools and photographs produced for British schoolteachers to aid in teaching primary school children about Fair Trade and Ghanaian cocoa growers.

“Pa Pa Paa” contains:

- 35 minute modular DVD film explaining how cocoa is harvested, traded, processed and retailed; and how one school used Fairtrade chocolate to launch an awareness campaign.

- 30 minutes of DVD extras - including harvesting, chocolate production, nutrition and Fair Trade

“Recommended for its appeal to audiences of all levels, including children.” (FTRN)

COFFEE

After the Harvest (2011), 20 mins. General

“Small-scale coffee farmers in Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua are often unable to maintain their normal diet for 3-8 months of the year. These are “The Thin Months”, when families make ends meet by eating less, eating less expensive foods, or borrowing against their future earnings from coffee.”

This film brings the day-to-day challenges of The Thin Months to life through the voices of coffee farmers themselves and shares the success of creative projects designed to eliminate this annual period of food insecurity.”

<http://aftertheharvestorg.blogspot.com/p/home.html>

Birdsong, A Wake Up Call (2005) 56 mins. General & academic

“Birdsong and Coffee is a high-quality, moving and informative documentary exhibiting the interdependence of producers, consumers, and the ecosystem.” (FTRN)

“Birdsong and Coffee uses a series of interviews to communicate the sincere, respectful relationship that exists through Fair Trade among the parties involved in coffee production. In this film we hear from experts and students, from coffee lovers and bird lovers, and-most importantly-from coffee farmers themselves. We learn how their lives and ours are inextricably linked, economically and environmentally.”

<http://olddogdocumentaries.org/?s=coffee>

Black Gold (2005), 77 mins. General

“This documentary has captured the dilemma of the coffee farmer: how to get a fair price for quality coffee in a market that is set up only to make money for powerful international traders in cities far from the farm.”

“Black Gold follows Tadesse Meskela, the leader of an Ethiopian coffee cooperative, on his travels through Africa and around the world seeking a fair price for the coffee grown by cooperative members before they are forced to declare bankruptcy. Meskela travels to London and Seattle in an attempt to find a coffee buyer willing to pay a fair price, while the film documents the enormous power of world coffee traders and the double-dealing of trade ministers during World Trade Organization talks.”

<http://blackgoldmovie.com/>

Coffee with the Taste of the Moon (2005), 27 mins. General

“This is a hopeful story about sustainability, and how our purchases reflect certain values. Shot on location in the USA, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, this film shows how coffee is an entry point for considering the impact of our consumption choices in the United States on social justice issues and ecological concerns across the Americas and around the world. Coffee is known as the most traded commodity in the world after oil. From the point of view of the narrator who one day wonders about the impact of his morning cup, this film introduces the promising concepts of fair trade and organic.”

<http://www.organicconsumers.org/films.htm#5>

Connected by Coffee (2014), 70 mins. General

“In January 2013, two North American coffee roasters set out with a small film crew on a 1000-mile journey across Central America. On the way they met with soldiers who had become growers, women who now own their own farms, and countless communities using coffee as a tool to create social change.

These growers are forging new ways of working together – cooperatively farming their land and managing their businesses. And these co-ops are partnering with visionary coffee roasters and consumers in the North who believe in a fairer way of doing business.

Yet while Fair Trade and ethical consumerism continue to grow, this growth raises as many questions as it does answers. To truly understand the subject, we must look at the historical injustices of global politics and international trade.

Though we often don’t realize it, every time any of us drinks a cup of coffee, we’re connected in a very real way to the people who produce it.”

<http://www.connectedbycoffee.com>

From Crop to Cup (LWR, 2009), 22 mins. General

"The Lutheran Coffee Project – by using Fair Trade coffee, Lutherans help farmers earn the income they need to feed their families, educate their children, seek medical care and improve their communities. Learn what it takes to create a great cup of coffee –from their crop to your cup – and see how the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project closes the gap between your church and the kinds of +communities where LWR works."

Peace Coffee (2013) 5 mins. Promotional

Short video describing the origins, vision and work of Minneapolis 100% Fair Trade, Organic, Shade-Grown coffee roaster.

Solidarity in a Cup (CRS, 2008), General

"This video will show you where our coffee comes from. It will introduce to some of the people who grow our coffee. It will tell you what Catholic Relief Services is doing in places like Nicaragua to help make the coffee trade fair for disadvantaged farmers."

The Coffee-Go-Round (2005) 26 minutes. Grades 7-12 and above

"Coffee is the second most traded commodity in the world - a major cash crop for many poor, developing countries trying to trade their way out of poverty. Coffee promises to increase developing countries' share of income from agricultural products on world markets - in line with Millennium Development Goal No 8's commitment to a global partnership for development. But for the last 10 years the international coffee industry has been in crisis - and many coffee-producing countries are facing disaster. The world's 25 million coffee farmers receive less than one per cent of the price of a cup of coffee sold in a coffee bar. The film maker visits Ethiopia, the cradle of coffee cultivation, and speaks to players in the international coffee trade to find out how individual coffee growers can survive the boom and bust of the global coffee market."

<http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/l4cof.html>

FLOWERS

Ecuador: Flower Power (PBS Frontline 2008), 10 mins. General

Ecuador's cut-flower industry supplies about one-third of America's roses, but the industry is notorious for dangerous pesticides, poor labor practices and corrupt management. This PBS report briefly exposes this history but focuses mainly on the alternative Fair Trade approach to flower production. Progressive rose farmer John Nevado explains some of the practices he has adopted that are not only raising standards of living of rose farm workers and improving their rights in the industry but also appealing, through the use of organic methods, to more green-conscious consumers abroad. "I think we're part of a global trend, from Al Gore to the yoga mom going to Whole Foods to buy organic vegetables," says Nevado. "We're all part of something bigger, [and] we're finally realizing there are finite resources. We need to take care of those and the planet."

http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2008/02/ecuador_a_rosie.html