



WoodstockVermont Film Series 2011-2012



Billings Farm & Museum
November 2011 – March 2012

PROGRAM

Woodstock Vermont Film Series

The Billings Farm & Museum gratefully acknowledges our sponsors for their generous support of the Woodstock Vermont Film Series.

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There are places around the world that are etched in our minds and imaginations because of their natural beauty and the memorable, or sometimes forgotten people who occupy them. Such authentic places lift our spirits and offer perspective on what it means to be engaged citizens of the planet. Inspired by the surrounding unspoiled countryside, the Woodstock Vermont Film Series transports viewers to distinctive cultures and destinations that share a strong sense of place, deeply felt by local inhabitants and visitors alike. Through the medium of cinematography, we celebrate the diversity and joy of humanity and the powerful influence of place in our lives.





November 12 • 3:00 P.M.

Buck

(USA, 2011, 88 min.) PG

Buck, follows Buck Brannaman – an American cowboy who travels the country “helping horses with people problems” – from his abusive childhood to his phenomenally successful approach to horses. Buck possesses near magical abilities as he dramatically transforms horses – and people – with his understanding, compassion, and respect.

2011 Sundance Film Festival: U.S. Documentary Audience Award; 2011 Full Frame Doc Film Festival: Audience Award; 2011 Crossroads Film Festival: Best Documentary; 2011 HotDOCS Film Festival: Top Ten Audience Favorite.



November 26 • 3:00 P.M.

The Secret of Roan Inish

(Ireland, 1994, 103 min.) PG

10-year-old Fiona is sent to live with her grandparents in a small fishing village in Donegal, Ireland, and learns the local legend that an ancestor of hers married a Selkie – a seal who can turn into a human. Years earlier, when her baby brother washed out to sea in a cradle shaped like a boat, some believed he was being raised by the seals. When Fiona catches sight of a naked little boy on the abandoned Isle of Roan Inish she takes an active role in uncovering the “secret of Roan Inish.”

1996 Independent Spirit Awards: Nominated: Best Feature, Director, Screenplay; an additional win and four nominations.



December 3 • 3:00 P.M.

The Last Mountain

(USA, 2011, 95 min.) PG

A town in West Virginia is resisting a major open-pit coal mining operation that will devastate it and its environs and generate significant “downstream” environmental damage. This film poignantly depicts the loss of nature and culture where extensive mining occurs.

2011 Sundance Film Festival and Full Frame Documentary Film Festival.



December 17 • 3:00 P.M.

Beethoven's Hair

(UK, 2005, 90 min.)

The unlikely journey of a lock of hair cut from Beethoven's corpse unravels the mystery of his tortured life and death. The film begins in modern times, when two Beethoven enthusiasts purchase the hair at a Sotheby's auction. The story examines the lock's previous owners and culminates in the science that reveals Beethoven's “medical secret.” Set to a lush score of Beethoven's most glorious music, the film explores the world of forensic testing, in sharp relief against the romance of 19th-century Vienna and the horrors of 20th-century Nazi Germany.

2005 Gemini Awards: Best Direction, Best Sound, Best Writing.



December 31 • 3:00 P.M.

Troll Hunter (Trolljegeren)

(Norway, 2010, 90 min.) PG-13

A group of Norwegian film students set out to capture real-life trolls on camera after learning their existence has been covered up for years by a government conspiracy. *Troll Hunter* is a fascinating adaptation of traditional Scandinavian folklore into the modern format of the “found footage” phenomenon. Subtitled.

*2011 Newport Beach Film Festival:
Outstanding Achievement in Filmmaking; an
additional two wins and four nominations.*



January 7 • 3:00 P.M.

House of Sand

(Brazil, 2005, 115 min.) R

This Brazilian tale explores the passage of time and prolonged isolation of a mother and daughter relationship over several decades. Three generations of women struggle to make lives for themselves and their families in the desert wastes of Northern Brazil. Subtitled.

*2006 Sundance Film Festival: Alfred P.
Sloan Prize; an additional nine wins and 29
nominations.*

January 21 • 3:00 P.M.

Nomad's Land – In the footsteps of Nicholas Bouvier

(Switzerland, 2008, 90 min.)

This film of immense power and beauty documents how little some parts of the world have changed over time, while the “civilized world” changes at breakneck speed. With Swiss traveler Nicolas Bouvier’s writings as a guide, Gaël Métroz set off on a self-guided tour of the Middle East and Asia – a trip that nearly killed him, but also provided an intimate understanding of humanity. Subtitled.

2009 Golden Gate Award: Best Feature.

February 4 • 3:00 P.M.

In My Father's Country

(Australia, 2007, 80 min.)

In remote North East Arnhem Land, Australia, a small homeland community is fighting for its future, as the community elders see their culture in decline. This is the story of a family struggling to mediate the demands of a richly complex traditional culture and a globalised 21st-century world, while hoping to raise their children with the dignity, insight, and self-respect necessary to succeed in both. Subtitled.

*2007 Australian Directors Guild Awards:
Best Direction in a Feature Documentary.*



February 11 • 3:00 P.M.

The Music Tree

(Brazil, 2009, 78 min.)

Found only in the remnants of Brazil's devastated Atlantic Rainforest, Brazilwood (pernambuco/pau brasil) has been vital in the manufacture of fine violin, cello, and viola bows since the time Mozart was composing his masterpieces. From the search for the wood in the forests of Brazil, to their use by the world's greatest symphony orchestras, the film explores a path to saving the trees and the music that depends on them. Subtitled.

*2009 Festival Internacional De Cinema Do Algarve:
Best Documentary Film.*

March 3 • 3:00 P.M.

The First Beautiful Thing

(Italy, 2010, 122 min.)

The First Beautiful Thing begins with a summer beauty contest in 1971, when Anna is named "Miss Summer Mama," much to the chagrin of her son Bruno. Thirty years later, dragged to see his dying mother, Bruno flashes back to his childhood, focusing on a father in conflict and his mother, who struggles to raise Bruno and his sister. Anna enables her family to rise above the rubble with a mixture of fantasy and fortitude. The film is a colorful, cinematic reward of trouble and vulnerability, strength and hope. Subtitled.

*2010 Italy Golden Globes: Best Film Director,
Best Actress, Best Actor; an additional 11 wins and 28
nominations.*



March 17 • 3:00 P.M.

The Visitor

(USA, 2007, 104 min.) PG-13

As Professor Walter Vale begrudgingly makes his way from his comfort zone in Connecticut to his longtime-empty New York City apartment, he discovers that illegal immigrants Tarek and Zainab unknowingly have rented the place. Rather than put them out on the street or call the police, Walter lets them stay until they've made other arrangements. His compassion and the little effort it took to exert it, catches him completely off guard and it isn't long before an odd couple friendship develops with the outgoing Tarek. Suddenly, Vale who had grown complacent in his solitary existence, finds himself sharing his home and his life with other people for the first time since his wife passed away years before.

2007 Academy Awards: Best Actor Nomination; additional 13 wins and 15 nominations.





March 31 • 3:00 P.M. • Guest Speaker, Grace Guggenheim

The Making of Liberty

(USA, 1986, 58 min.)

The *Making of Liberty* tells the story of America's most famous symbol – from its conception by her creator, August Bartholdi, through her construction in 1868, and the restoration for her rededication in New York Harbor on July 4, 1986. It is the story of the building and rebuilding of a monument, which embodies the American experience, as seen through the eyes of artisans and laborers whose tasks are separated by a hundred years, but whose vision transcends time.

Island of Hope, Island of Tears

(USA, 1989, 28 min.)

This film is a tribute to the 18 million men, women, and children who made the torturous journey from the Old World to the New between 1890 and 1920, in the single largest migration in human history. The film tells the immigrants' stories as they braved the unknown: from the time they left their homelands, their journey across the ocean, to the moment the doors of Ellis Island opened, revealing the great promise of America.

1990 CINE: Golden Eagle Award; 1990 Columbus International Film and Video Festival: Chris Award; 1991 Earthwatch Institute Film Award; 1991 National Educational Film and Video Festival: Bronze Apple.



GRACE GUGGENHEIM has been a producer and executive producer with Washington-based Guggenheim Productions for the past 20 years and has produced numerous documentaries for both television and theatrical release. *The Johnstown Flood* won an Academy® Award; *A Place in the Land* and *D-Day Remembered* were both Academy Award nominees. A graduate of Carleton College, Guggenheim is president of Guggenheim Productions, founded in 1956 by her father, the late filmmaker Charles Guggenheim.



Billings Farm & Museum

The Billings Farm is an operating dairy farm that continues a long tradition of agricultural excellence, established by Frederick Billings in 1871, and continued through the stewardship of his granddaughter Mary French Rockefeller and her husband, conservationist Laurance Spelman Rockefeller. The Farm & Museum offers interactive programs and historical exhibits that explore Vermont's rural heritage and values. Since opening to the public in 1983, we have hosted over one million visitors and 100,000 school children.

Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc., a charitable, non-profit institution founded by Mary French and Laurance Spelman Rockefeller.

The Woodstock Inn & Resort

The Woodstock Inn & Resort is a full-service AAA Four Diamond resort offering award-winning dining, newly renovated guestrooms, a new 10,000 square foot Spa, a renowned Robert Trent Jones Sr. golf course, downhill skiing at Suicide Six, and a variety of enrichment programming. A scenic half mile from the Billings Farm.

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The Woodstock Inn & Resort is owned by The Woodstock Foundation, Inc. Proceeds from Resort operations support Woodstock Foundation and Billings Farm & Museum education and conservation programs.

