



1. **El Norte, A Film by Gregory Nava.** Brother and sister Enrique and Rosa flee persecution at home in Guatemala and journey north, through Mexico and on to the United States, with the dream of starting a new life. It's a story that happens every day, but until Gregory Nava's groundbreaking *El Norte*, the personal travails of immigrants crossing the border to the U.S. had never been shown in the movies with such urgent humanism. (Original film, 1983.) Now available in a 20th Anniversary edition that includes "In the Service of the Shadows: The Making of *El Norte*" and other special features.
2. **When the Mountains Tremble.** Pamela Yates. Starring Rigoberta Menchú and Susan Sarandon. This groundbreaking film and Sundance award winner is a rare, firsthand account of the discrimination and repression that scars the face of Guatemalan life. *When the Mountains Tremble* is a documentary on the persecution of indigenous peoples in Guatemala. Originally released in 1983, the movie has been re-released both for its 10th year anniversary and more recently on DVD for its 20th year anniversary.

As the documentary film genres grow, and nonfiction filmmaking is scrutinized, filmmakers are faced with more and more complex ethical challenges. Thirty-two years after having made [When the Mountains Tremble](#), Pamela Yates met a Guatemalan man who said that she'd gotten one scene in the film completely wrong and he wanted her to set the record straight. So in May 2014, she went to Guatemala to investigate. Her filmmaking partners Peter Kinoy and Paco de Onís and she believes that establishing the truth about human rights violations committed during armed conflict is essential to the process of peace and reconciliation. Read and watch more at <http://www.pbs.org/pov/blog/povdocs/2014/12/our-ethical-dilemma-nuestro-dilema-tico/>

3. **Granito: How to Nail a Dictator.** Pamela Yates. 2011. Sometimes a film makes history; it doesn't just document it. "Granito" transports us back in time through a riveting, haunting tale of genocide and returns to the present with a cast joined by destiny- the quest to bring a malevolent dictator (Efraín Ríos-Montt) to justice.

Granito is a film about a film and its remarkable afterlife for a filmmaker, a nation and, most dramatically, as evidence in a long struggle to give a dictator's victims their day in court. It is an inside, as-it-happens account of the way a new generation of human rights activists operates in a globalized, media-saturated world. *Granito* shows how multiple efforts--the work of the lawyers, the testimony of survivors, a documentary film, the willingness of a Spanish judge to assert international jurisdiction--each become a granito, a tiny grain of sand, adding up to tip the scales of justice.

http://www.pbs.org/pov/granito/film_description.php

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/granito/granito-every-memory-matters.php>

For home use & for educational use: [New Day Films](#) 888-367-9154.

4. **Approach of Dawn.** Documentary on Maya women and human rights in Guatemala. 1997. Maryknoll NY 10545-0308. 1-800-227-8523.

5. **Precarious Peace - God and Guatemala: A case study of violence and hope.** Religion can motivate people to violence. But religion also represents a powerful force for reconciliation. However, effective peacemaking demands risky engagement with the issues and genuine dialogue with those who differ. Guatemala, as Martin Marty points out, is an ideal case study of how these complex and controversial issues can play out when religion and politics interact.

Precarious Peace, a documentary, explores the Guatemalan peace process, past and present, and the complicated role religion plays in that drama. Story-driven, the video focuses first on the brutal violence of the recent war, seen through the lives of a Mayan family in the rural highlands, then on today's more insidious levels of violence--economic, racial, and religious marginalization. Woven through these stories is frank commentary from a wide variety of perspectives, including a former military officer, a Roman Catholic bishop who faces constant death threats, a Mennonite educator, an internationally known poet/activist, and a Lutheran clergyman who was instrumental in getting the warring parties into dialogue. Over a dozen denominations and faith groups are represented in this ecumenical production. Featured at the heart of the documentary is an authentic Mayan fire ritual. 2006.

6. **Sin Nombre.** Seeking the promise of America, a young woman joins her father on an odyssey to cross the gauntlet of the Latin American countryside. Along the way, she crosses paths with a teenaged Mexican gang member who is maneuvering to outrun his violent past. Together they have to rely on faith, trust and street smarts if they are to survive their increasingly perilous journey towards the hope of new lives. 2009. Sundance Film Festival Winner: Excellence in Direction.
7. **Sleep Dealer.** Plug into the new American Dream. Mexico. The near future. Memo Cruz has always dreamed of leaving his tiny village and heading north to the big cities on the border. But when a bizarre tragedy strikes, and he's forced to go on the run, Memo discovers a brave new world far beyond his wildest dreams. The near future of Sleep Dealer is a world filled with killer drones, hi-tech factories, memory-sellers, and a wild war against "aqua-terrorists" broadcast on reality TV – a future so bizarre it could easily be reality tomorrow! Spanish with English subtitles. 2009.
8. **Innocent Voices.** Based on the true story of screenwriter Oscar Torres's embattled childhood in 1980's El Salvador, Innocent Voices is the poignant tale of Chava, an eleven-year-old boy. Chava suddenly becomes the "man of the house" in a time when the government's army is forcibly recruiting twelve year olds to battle against the peasant rebels of the FMLN. It is a story of the global problem of children caught up in their countries' wars. It is also a story of life, love, the hope of peace, and the ennobling power of the human spirit. 2004.
9. **Monseñor: The Last Journey of Óscar Romero.** A film by Ana Carrigan & Juliet Weber. In the 1970s, as El Salvador moved irrevocably closer to civil war, one man was known as the voice of the poor, the disenfranchised, the disappeared. Appointed Archbishop in 1977, Monseñor Oscar Romero worked tirelessly for peace, justice and human rights, while in constant personal peril. Using the power of the pulpit to denounce official corruption, he inspired millions with his nationally broadcast sermons, until, in March of 1980, he was shot dead at the altar. With rare recordings and film footage, and a wide range of interviews with those whose lives were changed by Romero, including church activists, human rights lawyers, former

guerrilla fighters and politicians, *Monseñor* is a timely portrait of one man's quest to speak the truth, though it cost him his life. (Includes Bonus Material Study Guide). Produced by the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame. 2011

10. **Gold Fever.** Educational DVD. Winner of the Rigoberta Menchú Grand Prix at the 2013 Montreal First Peoples Festival, *Gold Fever* is a hard-hitting documentary about the destructive and exploitative impacts of transnational mining in Guatemala and elsewhere.
11. **Even the Rain (2010)** Idealistic filmmaker Sebastian (Gael Garcia Bernal, *The Motorcycle Diaries*) and his cynical producer Costa (Luis Tosar, *The Limits of Control*) arrive in Bolivia to make a revisionist film about Christopher Columbus' conquest of the Americas. But as filming commences, the local citizens begin to riot in protest against a multi-national corporation that is taking control of their water supply. With the film shoot in jeopardy, both men find their convictions shaken. Inspired by the real-life Water Wars in Bolivia in the year 2000, *EVEN THE RAIN* explores the lasting effects of Spanish imperialism, still resonating some 500 years later in the continued struggle of indigenous people against oppression and exploitation.
12. **Guatemala: The Human Price of Coffee.** Coffee is second only to oil as the world's most valuable traded commodity, but small-scale producers rarely profit from it. This program reveals the hardship and uncertainty faced by coffee farmers in Guatemala, and how many are taking steps to obtain better prices and build better lives. Analyzing the country's traumatic history and the lingering effects of its civil war, the video sheds light on the reluctance of some citizens to organize for fear of persecution and murder. Part five in the *Fighting the Tide: Developing Nations and Globalization* series clearly demonstrates that behind every pound of coffee lies a story of human struggle. (2006. 26 minutes) Website: <https://ffh.films.com/>, or call 800/257-5126 or 609/671-1000.
13. **500 Years.** The third film in a trilogy about Guatemala, this installment explores the sweeping historical significance of the war crimes trial of General Ríos Montt and the toppling of corrupt president Otto Pérez Molina. Pamela Yates gracefully engages the indigenous Mayan population who experienced genocide at the hands of a long-standing repressive government. Silenced family members and eyewitnesses come forward to share their individual stories with the desire that their underreported, horrific treatment receive the attention it deserves. Spoken in Spanish and native Mayan languages, [500 Years](#) delicately weaves archival footage with new interviews and emotional courtroom scenes to shine light on a growing movement to fend off the systematic aggression toward an underrepresented people. Focusing on the recent events of a country that has suffered for generations at the hands of a ruling elite, the film hails the nation's citizens banding together on a quest for justice – and emerging as a beacon of hope. Watch Trailer: <https://youtu.be/ww7NwSgslc>
14. **Ixcanul.** Filmed almost entirely in the Kaqchikel dialect spoken in Guatemala's coffee-growing highlands, [Ixcanul](#) dramatizes the story of María, a young Mayan woman who is promised to the coffee plantation foreman, despite her desire for a lowly coffee cutter named Pepe. Dreaming of absconding with Pepe to a romanticized vision of the United States, María eventually has the encounter with modernity she so yearned for, but not for the reasons she had hoped. In addition to the impressive naturalistic performances from the film's non-professional cast, *Ixcanul's* visuals are extremely powerful, with radiant bronze skin tones,

textured interiors, and the requisite breathtaking landscapes. Available in Netflix, Amazon, iTunes.

- 15. Septiembre, un llanto en silencio.** Based on a real life story and drawing upon the director's own brother, Kenneth Muller's [Septiembre, un llanto en silencio](#) is a heart wrenching and heartwarming of the importance of family. After a terrorist attack in Guatemala, a baby is rendered deaf and motherless and her father is left to raise her alone. Available on [Netflix](#).
- 16. Resistencia: The fight for the Aguan Valley.** In 2009, the first coup d'état in a generation in Central America overthrows the elected president of Honduras. A nation-wide movement, known simply as The Resistance, rises in opposition. [Resistencia: The Fight for the Aguan Valley](#) centers on the most daring wing of the movement, the farmers of the Aguan. Not satisfied with just marching and blocking highways, 2000 landless families take possession of the palm oil plantations of Miguel Facusse, the country's largest landowner and a key player in the coup. The camera follows three farmers over four years as they build their new communities on occupied land, in the face of the regime's violent response, while waiting for the elections The Resistance hopes will restore the national democratic project.

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