

Bay Area Documentary Filmmakers  
Tuesdays 1-3pm, Sept .25-Oct. 30, 2018

Instructor: Michael Fox  
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Sept. 25 special sneak preview (2018, 64 min)

The filmmakers have kindly agreed to show and discuss their film prior to its world premiere. So I'm keeping the title and all other details under wraps.

Oct. 2 **Erin Palmquist and Frances Reid** *From Baghdad to the Bay* (2018, 68 min)

Ghazwan Alsharif's comfortable yet constrained way of life ceased with the invasion of Iraq. His torturous journey from U.S. Army translator to Bay Area chef is the stuff that nightmares—and dreams—are made of. Erin Palmquist's loose-limbed, free-flowing and endlessly unpredictable character portrait movingly mirrors its subject's persistence and generosity. Jury Award for Best Documentary Feature at the Cinequest Film Festival (San Jose). [www.frombaghdadtothebay.com](http://www.frombaghdadtothebay.com)

Primarily a director of photography, Erin Palmquist has worked for Lucasfilm, Actual Films/National Geographic Explorer and PBS. She was the producer, editor and DP for *BDSM: It's Not What You Think!*, which premiered at Frameline in 2008 before traveling the world. She is the DP for *5 Blocks*, a feature-length work-in-progress chronicling the revitalization of San Francisco's Central Market St. neighborhood, and producer and DP for the doc shorts series "Oakland Originals." [www.erinpalmquist.com/index.html](http://www.erinpalmquist.com/index.html)

Frances Reid is a filmmaker, producer and cinematographer. She is a two-time Academy Award nominee for the doc feature *Long Night's Journey into Day* (2000, with Deborah Hoffman) and the doc short *Straight From the Heart* (1984, with Dee Mosbacher). Her numerous credits as a cinematographer include *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984) and *Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter* (1994).

Oct. 9 **Kevin White and Stephen Most** *Wilder than Wild: Fire, Forests and the Future* (2018, 58 min)

Fuel build-up and climate change have made Western wildlands vulnerable to large, high-intensity wildfires, while greenhouse gases released from these fires accelerate climate change. It's a vicious cycle that jeopardizes forests and generates extreme weather and more wildfires—some entering highly populated wildland-urban areas. The film spans the Rim Fire (2013) which burned 257,000 acres in the central Sierra to the wine country wildfires (2017) which killed 44 and destroyed 9,000 buildings. The proactive use of prescribed fire can reduce reliance on reactive fire suppression; stakeholders work with scientists and resource managers to build consensus on how to restore and manage the lands we love and depend on. [www.filmcollaborative.org/wilder-than-wild](http://www.filmcollaborative.org/wilder-than-wild)

Producer/director Kevin White is an Emmy Award-winning producer, director and writer who's worked in media since 1982. He founded Full Frame Productions (1984) and created the nonprofit [Filmcollaborative SF](http://www.filmcollaborative.org) (1988) with Michal Aviad. White's credits include *Not All Parents Are Straight*, *We Bring a Quilt*, *Speaking Up*, *A Land Between Rivers*, *Restoring*

*Balance, Returning Home, Return Flight, From the Ground Up, Freedom's Desert, A Simple Question* and *Return Flight*. His films have screened at the Berlin, San Francisco, Hot Springs, Wild & Scenic and International Wildlife Film Festivals, among many others. His work has received Emmys, CINE Golden Eagles and ACE Awards, and aired on PBS, National Geographic, Discovery, Bravo, BBC, ZDF, and Arte. White and David Donnenfield received the Harold Gilliam Award for Environmental Reporting from the Bay Institute in 2010 for their *How On Earth* video series. White and Most collaborated on the PBS projects *From the Ground Up* and *A Land Between Rivers*, among others. [www.fullframeprod.com](http://www.fullframeprod.com)

Producer/writer Stephen Most is an author, playwright and filmmaker with writing credits on four Academy Award-nominated and five Emmy-winning documentaries. His book, *Stories Make the World: Reflections on Storytelling and the Art of the Documentary* (Berghahn Books, 2017), includes a chapter about the making of *Wilder than Wild*. Most wrote and produced *River of Renewal* (Best Documentary Feature, American Indian Film Festival), and authored *River of Renewal, Myth and History in the Klamath Basin* (University of Washington Press, 2006). Most scripted the docs *Oil On Ice*, *A Land Between Rivers* and *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*. *Wonders of Nature* (1993), which he wrote for the "Great Wonders of the World" series, won an Emmy for Best Special Nonfiction Program. *The Bridge So Far: A Suspense Story*, won a Best Documentary Emmy. *Promises* (2001, consulting writer and researcher) won Emmys for Best Documentary and outstanding background analysis and research, and was nominated for an Oscar. Most co-wrote Mark Kitchell's Academy Award-nominated *Berkeley in the Sixties* (1990). He is writer/producer of *Nature's Orchestra*, which was broadcast in the KRCB/PBS series "Natural Heroes." <http://stephenmost.com>

**Oct. 16 Arthur Pratt / Lansana Mansaray / Banker White / Anna Fitch *Survivors* (2018)**  
*Survivors* portrays Sierra Leone through the eyes of filmmaker and pastor Arthur Pratt during the Ebola outbreak, exposing the complexity of the epidemic and the sociopolitical turmoil in its wake. The doc reveals the bureaucratic missteps that occurred during one of the most acute public health crises of the modern era, alongside stories of individual bravery and the humanity of those caught in the middle of the crisis. The filmmakers previously collaborated on the 2010 doc short, *Charity*. Note: *Survivors* (90 min.) airs in the "POV" series on Sept. 24 on KQED and other days that week. It may also be available to stream afterward at [www.pbs.org/pov/video/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/video/). Please watch the film prior to class, as I will only show clips interspersed during the discussion with the filmmakers. Also, some combination of the four filmmakers, but likely not all four, will be in attendance. [www.survivorsfilm.com](http://www.survivorsfilm.com)

Anna Fitch won the News and Documentary Emmy Award with David Allen for *Living With Bugs: War of Two Worlds* (2002). Banker White co-directed and co-produced *Sierra Leone's Refugee All-Stars* (2005), which won the Documentary Award at the AFI Festival and the audience award at the Miami Film Festival. Fitch and White co-directed *The Genius of Marian* (2013, Tribeca Film Festival), which traces White's collaboration on a book with his mother, who's in the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease. The duo are currently in production on *Heaven Through the Back Door*, a feature doc about 88-year-old feminist Yolanda Shae. [www.tfiny.org/blog/detail/never-forgetting-banker-white-and-anna-fitch-on-the-genius-of-marian](http://www.tfiny.org/blog/detail/never-forgetting-banker-white-and-anna-fitch-on-the-genius-of-marian)

[www.cca.edu/news/2014/02/20/family-matters-documentary-filmmaker-banker-white-reimagines-home-movie](http://www.cca.edu/news/2014/02/20/family-matters-documentary-filmmaker-banker-white-reimagines-home-movie)

**Oct. 23 Laurie Coyle** *Adios Amor: The Search for Maria Moreno* (2018. 59 min)

More than 50 years ago, before Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez, there was Maria Moreno. The discovery of forgotten photographs prompts a search for this tenacious, unsung heroine who sacrificed everything—except her 12 kids—to organize migrant workers. Her story emerges via a time-traveling journey through California’s agricultural belt. The first female farm worker in America to be hired as a union organizer, Moreno’s story was silenced and her legacy buried—until now. Cinequest Film Festival, SF DocFest [www.adiosamorfilm.com](http://www.adiosamorfilm.com)

Laurie Coyle is a veteran documentary producer, director and writer whose films include the American Masters primetime special *Orozco: Man of Fire* (2007, nominee for best television documentary at the NCLR Alma Awards and the Imagen Awards), which she co-directed and co-produced with Rick Tejada-Flores. She produced Jay Rosenblatt and Stacey Ross’s doc short *Four Questions for a Rabbi* and Lourdes Portillo’s narrative short *Columbus on Trial*. She has worked as Associate Producer and Chief Archival Researcher on numerous docs, including the PBS primetime specials *The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers’ Struggle* and *The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It*, as well as the American Masters special *Ralph Ellison: An American Journey*. Before gravitating to film, Coyle was an oral historian who co-authored the study of Mexican American garment workers on the border, *Women at Farah: An Unfinished Story*, included in the Prentiss-Hall series *Women and Power in American History*. [www.lauriecoylefilms.com/about.html](http://www.lauriecoylefilms.com/about.html)

**Oct. 30 TBD**