



Explorations

By Kylie Outten

Poetic Documentaries

Documentaries were originally called “actuality films”

Expository documentaries are the most popular documentary type

One of the first poetic documentaries was *Rain (1929)*

Bill Nicholas discovered the modes of documentary in 1991

Goal is to create an emotional impact



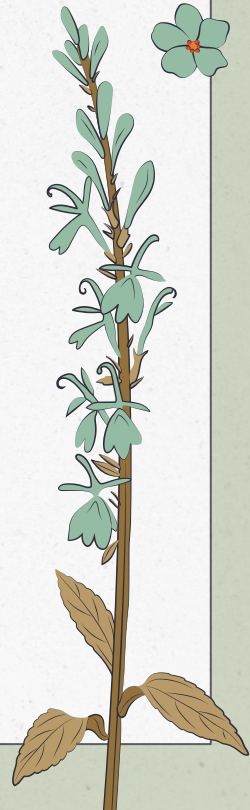
History

⇒ Started in the 1920s from the City Symphony film movement which was against the predominant fiction film genre. This was the combining of elements of experimental, documentary, and narrative filmmaking.

⇒ Rain (1929) is one of the most famous poetic documentaries and considered the first poetic documentary. This was made by Joris Ivens, and portrays what it feels like to be in a rainstorm in Amsterdam.

⇒ The term “poetic documentary” was coined by Bill Nicholas in his book *Introduction to Documentary*.

⇒ Are often abstract and contain experimental elements, and have an unstructured narrative form.



Origins of Poetic Documentaries



France—A branch of poetic documentaries emerged as poetic realism in France in the 1940s. (Similar to poetic except focuses more on capturing reality, while still depicting certain moods or emotions.)



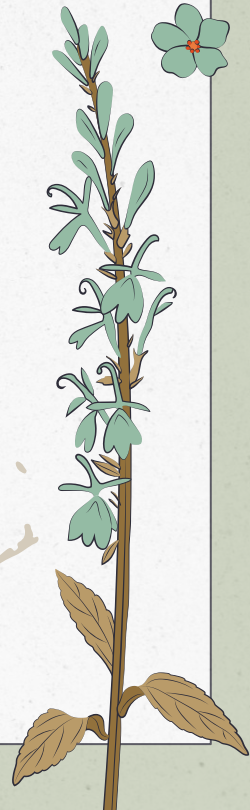
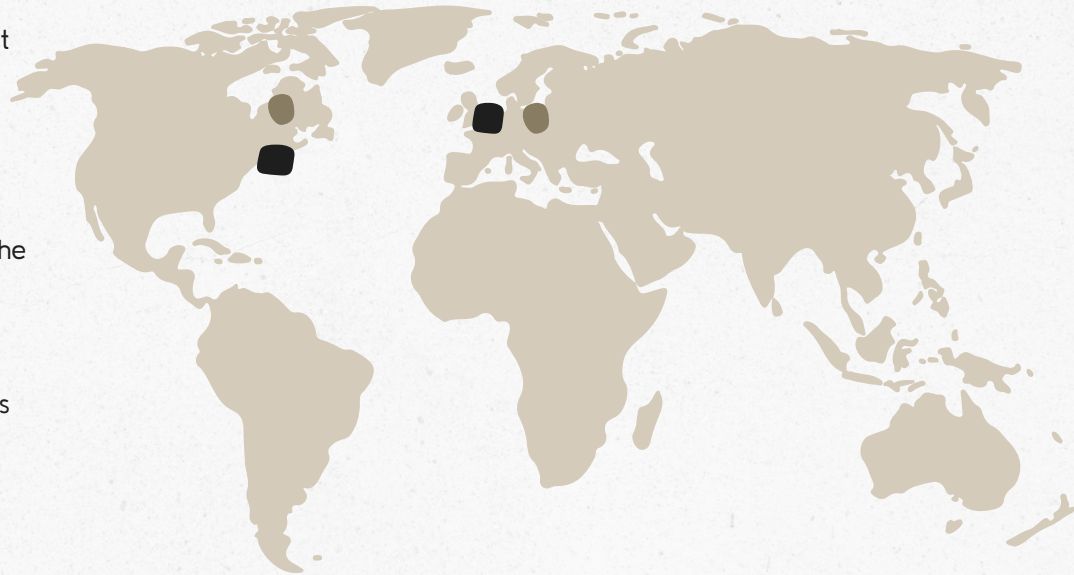
Latvia— Many poetic films were made in the 1960s in the Riga Film Studio.



Netherlands—One of the first poetic documentaries *Rain* (1929) was filmed in Amsterdam.



Canada—A film known for being the first documentary *Nanook of the North* (1922) was filmed in Quebec.



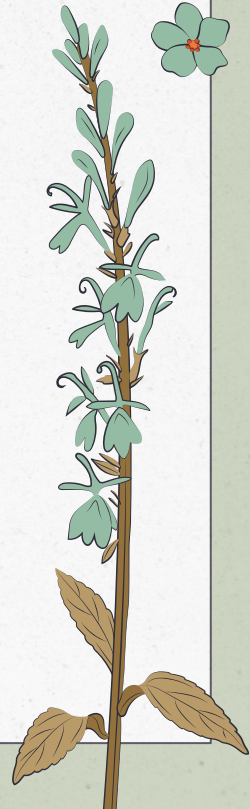
Important Filmmakers

⇒ Theo Angelopoulos

⇒ Yasujiro Ozu

⇒ Joris Ivens

⇒ Barbara Kopple



Theodoros Angelopoulos

One of the most respected filmmakers. His work oftentimes focused on themes of immigration.



From *Voyage to Cythera*



His most famous works are:

Voyage to Cythera (1984)

The Beekeeper (1984)

Landscape in the Midst (1988)

Eternity and a Day (1998)

He had a distinct visual style and created a mesmerizing atmosphere of films. He used lengthy tracking shots, slow pans, and put an emphasis on locations.



From *Landscape in the Midst*

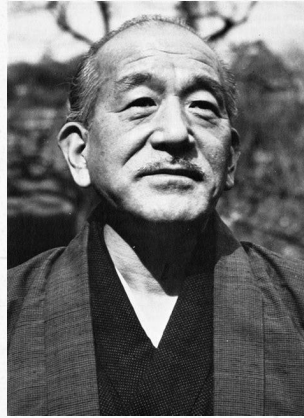


Yasujiro Ozu

His usual theme was families and differences between generations which made his audience connect to his work.



From *Late Spring*

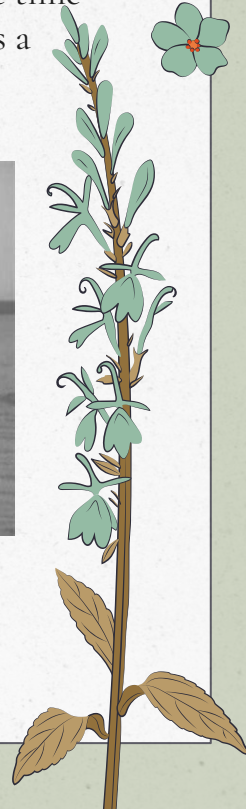


His most famous works are:
Late Spring (1949)
Early Summer (1951)
Tokyo Story (1953)
Tokyo Twilight (1957)
An Autumn Afternoon (1962)

He used the 50mm lens most of the time and used the “tatami shot” which is a low and still camera angle.

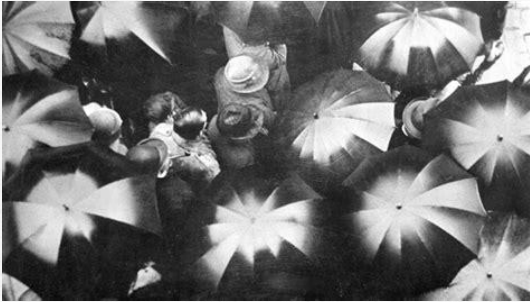


From *Late Spring*



Joris Ivens

He lived through the World War II era, so some of his work reflected this time. Some of his work featured propaganda and anti-fascist sentiment.



From *Rain*

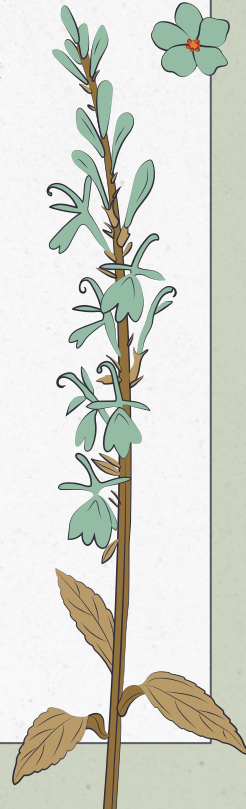


His most famous works are:
Tail of the Wind
(1988)
The Spanish Earth
(1937)
Rain (1929)
Song of Heros (1931)

He work focused on technique especially in his film rain which took over two years to make.

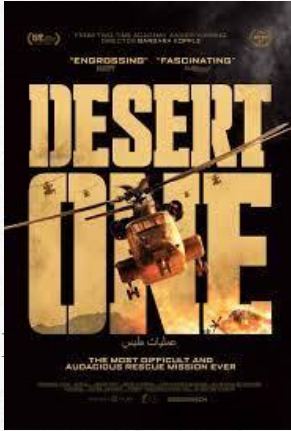


From *Rain*



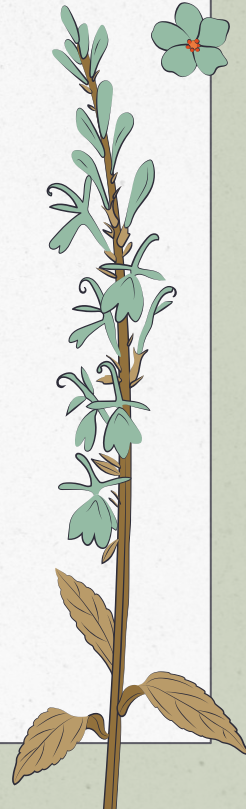
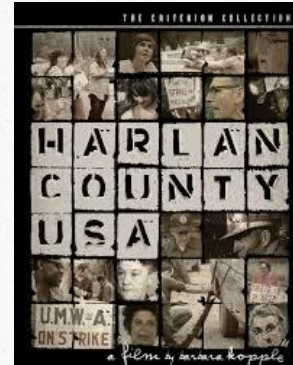
Barbara Kopple

She is the first woman to win two Oscars for the best documentary category.



Her most famous works are:
Harlan County USA
(1976)
American Dream
(1990)
(Both Oscar Award
Winning)

She is known for adding a historic French style to a primarily American audience. She had a ciné vérité style which is a style that avoids artificiality and typically uses simple equipment.

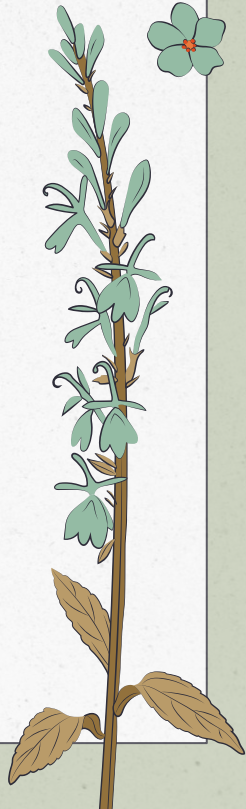


My Poetic Documentary

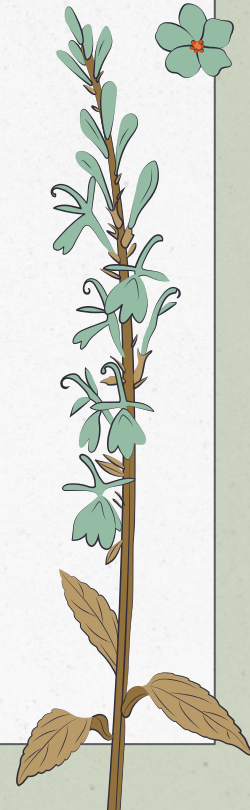
⇒ I utilized different locations and camera techniques to make a film that is supposed to portray the emotion of being calm.

⇒ My idea changed a little because the first version I made was really boring.

⇒ I went to more locations and wrote down all the shots I wanted to make the film more interesting, and better planned out.



Video



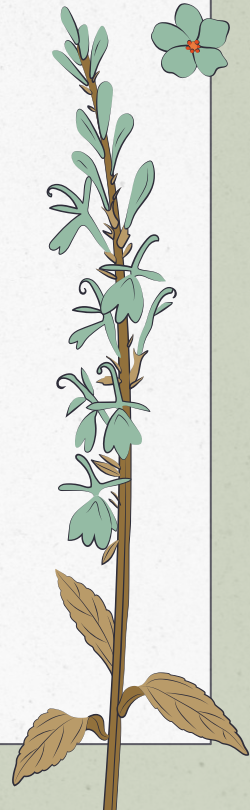
Reflection

⇒ I am glad that I changed my film slightly because I think it made a big difference in making the film have more interesting and colorful shots.

⇒ I think it was a good portrayal of a poetic documentary, but it could have used a clearer purpose, but I think the emotion of being calm was very prevalent. (If the film made you want to fall asleep that was the goal!)

⇒ If I could have changed anything about my film I would have continued to get a stronger variety of shot types.

⇒ Overall, I am happy with how the project turned out.





Thank You
