

Delve Deeper into *Cameraperson*

A film by Kirsten Johnson

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Hanna Lee of Batesville Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Cameraperson*.

A boxing match in Brooklyn; life in postwar Bosnia; the daily routine of a Nigerian midwife; an intimate family moment at home: these scenes and others are woven into a tapestry of footage captured over the twenty-five-year career of cinematographer Kirsten Johnson. A work that combines documentary, autobiography, and ethical inquiry, Cameraperson is a thoughtful examination of what it means to train a camera on the world. Official Selection, 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

ADULT NONFICTION

Goldovskaya, Marina. *Woman with a Movie Camera: My Life as a Russian Filmmaker*. Translated by Antonina W. Bouis. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2006. The memoir of a Russian filmmaker, the first woman to direct and shoot her own documentaries in the Soviet Union, grapples with the philosophical questions underpinning the art and craft of documentary filmmaking.

Nevins, Sheila. *You Don't Look Your Age...: and Other Fairy Tales*. New York: Flatiron Books, 2017. Acclaimed HBO documentary producer Nevins, described as one of the most influential people in documentary filmmaking, brings her insights to the page in this collection of personal vignettes.

Quinn, James. *This Much is True: 14 Directors on Documentary Filmmaking*. London: Bloomsbury, 2013. A collection of insights and reflections from some of the most successful documentary filmmakers, this compilation explores the practice from all

angles, from the technical to the theoretical.

ADULT FICTION

Burnside, John. *Ashland & Vine*. London: Jonathan Cape, 2017. A grieving film student has begun to drink heavily. When she asks an elderly woman to participate in her documentary, she receives an unusual offer: if she can remain sober, the woman will share her story. The novel speaks to the transformative power of listening to others.

Spiotta, Dana. *Innocents and Others*. Simon and Schuster, 2016. *Innocents and Others* is about two women who grow up in LA in the 80s and become filmmakers. Meadow and Carrie have everything in common—except their views on sex, power, movie-making, and morality. Their friendship is complicated, but their devotion to each other trumps their wildly different approaches to film and to life.

Foster, Alyson. *God is an Astronaut: a Novel*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2014. Written as a series of emails to a colleague and former lover, in this novel a professor deals with the aftermath of a commercial space-shuttle disaster in which her husband's company is implicated. Attempting to salvage the company's reputation, the two invite a documentary filmmaking team into their home, transforming the relationships and trajectory of their family.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Jenks, Andrew. *Andrew Jenks: My Adventures As a Young Filmmaker*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2013. MTV documentary filmmaker Jenks shares his experiences behind the camera in this lively biography, complete with pictures, fun facts, and advice for aspiring young filmmakers.

Lanier, Troy and Clay Nichols. *Filmmaking for Teens: Pulling Off Your Shorts*. Studio City, CA: Michael Wiese Productions, 2010. Written with teens and students in mind, this guide provides a wealth of technical resources and recommendations for a beginning filmmaker.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Andrews, Jesse. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl: a Novel*. New York: Amulet Books, 2015. When high school students Greg and Earl suddenly find themselves spending time with a girl who has been diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia, they decide to make a film for her, which both does—and doesn't—change what happens next.

Calonita, Jen. *The Real Z*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2017. Selected to make a documentary film for a young filmmakers' contest, Z captures a lot of footage, but she finds that in order to make a film she can be proud of, she'll first have to capture her genuine self.

Castle, Jennifer. *You Look Different in Real Life*. New York: HarperTeen, 2013. Captured first as kindergartners and then again as eleven year-olds, five teens are again facing time in front of a documentary camera lens. But things have changed in the last five years. Relationships and identities aren't quite as simple as they once were, and the line between what's personal and public isn't so clear.

Viva, Frank. *Young Charlotte, Filmmaker*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 2015. In this picture book for young readers, Charlotte, a fan of black and white films, develops her own craft—despite parents and classmates who don't quite share her vision.

