



# VERNON FILM SOCIETY

**DOCS PLUS  
09**

**7<sup>th</sup> Documentary  
Film Festival**

**Oct. 19-22  
2009**

**(Mon.—Thurs.)**

**VERNON TOWNE THEATRE  
2910—30th Ave**

**ADMISSION  
\$6.00/film  
5 film pass \$25**

**www.vernonfilmsociety.bc.ca**

## THE COVE



**MON., Oct. 19 5:15 PM**  
**United States - 90 min**  
**PG (Scenes of animal slaughter)**

"There are many documentaries angry about the human destruction of the planetary peace. This is one of the very best -- a certain Oscar nominee." -Chicago Sun-Times

In the 1960s, Richard O'Barry was the world's leading authority on dolphin training, working on the set of the popular television program Flipper. Day in and day out, O'Barry kept the dolphins working and television audiences smiling. But one day, that all came to a tragic end. The Cove, directed by Louie Psihoyos, tells the amazing true story of how Psihoyos, O'Barry and an elite team of activists, filmmakers and freedivers embarked on a covert mission to penetrate a hidden cove in Japan, shining light on a dark and deadly secret. The mysteries they uncovered were only the tip of the iceberg.

**2009 Sundance Film Festival  
Audience Award**

**2009 Hot Docs Canadian Inter. Documentary Film Festival  
Best Documentary**

## EVERY LITTLE STEP



**MON., Oct. 19 7:30 PM**  
**United States - 96 min**  
**PG (Coarse language)**

"A thrilling combination of documentary and musical dazzler." - Rolling Stone

Every Little Step explores the incredible journey of A Chorus Line from ambitious idea to international phenomenon. It compares and contrasts the original musical with the current revival. It investigates the societies in which they've debuted, and why the themes are so timeless and universal. Finally, it goes behind the scenes with exclusive interviews and footage of the revival's audition process, revealing the dramatic journey of the performers, and unfolding a story of life imitating art.

## ACT OF GOD



**TUE., Oct. 20 5:15 pm**  
**Canada - 75 min**  
**G (Coarse language)**

"Act of God fearlessly approaches the natural and the supernatural, and the result is visceral, intellectual, heartbreaking, delightful and instructive, all at once." - Toronto Sun

Act of God is a feature documentary about the metaphysical effects of being struck by lightning. The event represents the paradox of being singled out by randomness, and so precipitates questions about chance, fate and meaning in life. The film explores seven stories from around the world that raise and respond to these questions, while keeping the sky and what comes out of it as a central visual metaphor and thread. Paul Auster, who was struck as a teenager, philosophically anchors the film, along with Fred Frith, the improviser, who both imaginatively underpins it and personally demonstrates the ubiquity of electricity in our bodies and the universe.

## MAN ON WIRE



**TUE., Oct. 20 7:30 pm**

**UK/USA - 91 min**

**"Thorough, understated and altogether enthralling documentary."**  
- New York Times

On August 7, 1974, a 24-year-old French high-wire artist named Philippe Petit committed one of the most astonishing performance stunts of the late 20th century: he strung a thin cable in between the two towers of the World Trade Center and not only walked across, from one building to another, but did a nerve-wracking series of knee-bends and acrobatic movements on the cable, some 1,350 feet above the ground, before turning himself in. This occurred to the consternation and chagrin of Port Authority policemen, who immediately arrested Petit for the act -- prompting many to dub Petit's stunt "the artistic crime of the century."

**2009 Academy Awards  
Best Feature Documentary**

**2009 Sundance Film Festival**

## FOOD, INC.



**WED., Oct. 21 5:15 pm**

**United States - 94 min  
G (No advisory)**

**"A mind-boggling, heart-rending, stomach-churning expose on the food industry."**  
- San Francisco Chronicle

This film uses reports by Fast Food Nation author Eric Schlosser and The Omnivore's Dilemma author Michael Pollan as a springboard to exploring where the food we purchase store really comes from, and what it means for the health of future generations. By exposing the comfortable relationships between business and government, Kenner gradually shines light on the dark underbelly of the American food industry. Why is it that government regulatory agencies have been complicit in allowing corporations to put profit ahead of consumer health, the American farmer, worker safety, and even the environment? Perhaps if the general public knew how corporations use exploited laws and subsidies to create powerful monopolies, the outrage would be enough to make us think more carefully about the food we put into our bodies.

## UNMISTAKEN CHILD



**WED., Oct. 21 7:30 pm**

**Israel - 102 min  
G (No advisory)**

**"Unmistaken Child: adorable, moving, bewildering, sad and, ultimately, peaceful."**  
- Washington Post

"Unmistaken Child" follows a shy and devoted disciple, Tenzin Zopa, as he searches for the reincarnation of his beloved teacher, the world renown master, Lama Konchog. Unexpectedly appointed by the Dalai Lama, Tenzin set off on a quest by foot, mule and even helicopter, through breathtaking landscapes and remote traditional Tibetan villages. In the course of his search Tenzin listens to stories about young children with special characteristics and performs rarely seen ritual tests designed to determine the likelihood of reincarnation. After embarking on this quest of faith, rife with sensitivity and humor, Tenzin eventually brings the child he believes to be his reincarnated master to the Dalai Lama so that he can make the final decision.

**2009 Boston Independent Film Festival  
Special Jury Prize  
Best Feature Documentary**

## FIERCE LIGHT: WHEN SPIRIT MEETS ACTION



**THUR., Oct. 22 5:15 pm**  
**Canada - 90 min**

"...Ripper celebrates the best of being alive with shots of people and places that are often gobsmacking in their beauty and power." - Toronto Sun

In these times of crisis, there is an electric charge in the air, a burgeoning renewal amongst both the people who have focused their lives on spirit, and those whose lives are centered around the struggle for change. This exciting movement of Spiritual Activism is exploding around the planet, and the powerful personalities that are igniting it. Fueled by the belief that "another world is possible," acclaimed filmmaker Velcrow Ripper seeks out today's stories of what Martin Luther King called "Love in Action," and Gandhi called "Soul Force"—what Ripper is calling "Fierce Light." It is the way of the Sacred Warrior, uncompromisingly nonviolent, with a power that radiates from the heart and outwards. It is that same spirit that swept Barack Obama into the White House—undeniably hopeful, and full of possibility.

**2008 Vancouver International Film Festival**

## PROM NIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI



**THUR., Oct. 22 7:30 pm**  
**United States - 90 min**  
**Not rated**

"Totally inspiring."  
- Now Magazine

In 1997, Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman offered to pay for the senior prom at Charleston High School in Mississippi under one condition: the prom had to be racially integrated. His offer was ignored. In 2008, Freeman offered again. This time the school board accepted, and history was made. Charleston High School had its first-ever integrated prom—in 2008. Until then, blacks and whites had had separate proms even though their classrooms have been integrated for decades. Canadian filmmaker Paul Saltzman follows students, teachers, and parents in the lead-up to the big day.

**2009 AFI Dallas International Film Festival**  
**Best Documentary**

**2009 Oxford Film Festival**

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5:15 pm THE COVE  
7:30 pm EVERY LITTLE STEP  
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**The Vernon Film Society gratefully acknowledges  
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Advance tickets and passes on sale  
at the Towne Theatre and  
Bean Scene Coffee House  
*1 week prior to the festival*