

FILM & TV ANALYSIS

VII: DOCUMENTARIES

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Documentaries

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1. The Reality Factor?

Documentaries – Non-Fiction Film – Essayistic Film

2. Examples

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- Film is a highly constructed medium
- Documentaries purport to depict objective truth
- Documentaries – Non-Fiction Films – Essayistic Films
- „Mockumentaries“

- Documentary style in fiction film:
Law & Order, The Wire, Homicide etc.

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2. Examples

various stages of manipulation

2. Examples


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 *Walking With Dinosaurs*
(Prod. Tim Haines, 1999, BBC)

 **Ep. 4: Giant of the Skies**

Opening

protagonist / narration / epic character

 **Ep. 5: Spirits of the Ice Forest**

Last chapter, “image enhancement”

mimicking a „real“ documentary, thus exposing strategies of documentary-making

cf. [„Narrating the Dinosaurs“](#)

2. Examples

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„It's Tough to Be a Sardine“



The Blue Planet

(Prod. Alastair Fothergill, 2001, BBC TV documentary)



Ep. 1: Blue Planet: Sardine Bait Ball

00:12:10- 00:18:35

educational narrative / TV documentary



Deep Blue

(Prod. Alastair Fothergill, 2003, BBC Movie)



Sardine Bait Ball

00:05:24- 00:10:30

poetic narrative / cinematic production

2. Examples

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Koyaanisqatsi

(Geoffrey Reggio, 1982, M: Philip Glass)



“The Grid”

00:48:12-01:03:11

message?



Naqoyqatsi

(Geoffrey Reggio, 2002, M: Philip Glass)



“Primacy of Number”

00:08:00-00:16:08

message? --- highest degree of manipulation, interplay of music and images