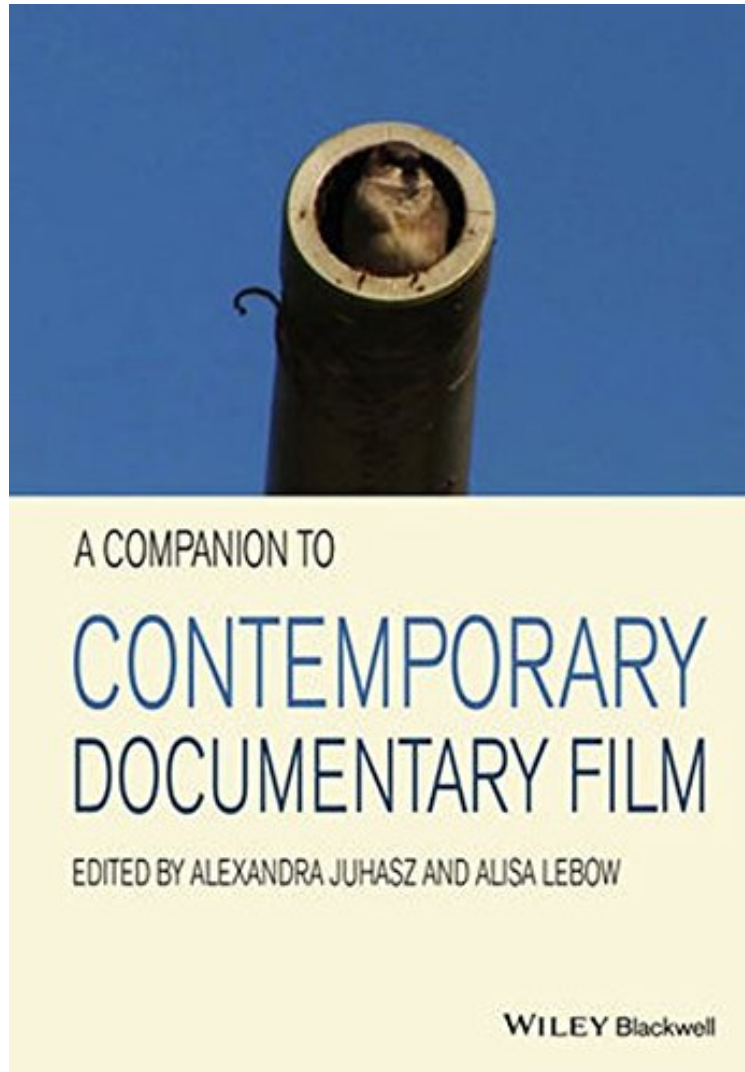


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A Companion to Contemporary Documentary Film

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A Companion to Contemporary Documentary Film presents a collection of original essays that explore major issues surrounding the state of current documentary films and their capacity to inspire and effect change. Presents a comprehensive collection of essays relating to all aspects of contemporary documentary films Includes nearly 30 original essays by top documentary film scholars and makers, with each thematic grouping of essays sub-edited by

major figures in the field Explores a variety of themes central to contemporary documentary filmmakers and the study of documentary film the planet, migration, work, sex, virus, religion, war, torture, and surveillance Considers a wide diversity of documentary films that fall outside typical canons, including international and avant-garde documentaries presented in a variety of media

This collection is the very best of companions to have on a journey through contemporary documentary film. Edited by two of the smartest thinkers/practitioners around, and with an equally lively cast of authors, this book is required reading. Faye Ginsburg, New York University

From the Back Cover

A Companion to Contemporary Documentary Film presents a comprehensive collection of original essays that examine the current state of the documentary film in the United States and around the world. Featuring contributions from top documentary scholars and makers, readings are grouped around thematic strands central to contemporary documentary filmmakers and the study of documentary film the planet, migration, work, sex, virus, religion, war, torture, and surveillance. A variety of issues relating to these topics are addressed as they are treated in a range of documentaries, including questions of form and formal traditions; the politics of documentaries and their real-world implications; the voice of the documentary filmmaker; regional, national, and international representations; and approaches to race, ethnicity, sexuality and gender in a fascinating array of films. A Companion to Contemporary Documentary Film offers thought-provoking insights into a film format that is rapidly achieving its powerful potential to inform, inspire, enlighten, and even change the world.

About the Author

Alexandra Juhasz is Professor of Media Studies at Pitzer College. She is the author of AIDS TV (1995), Women of Vision (2001), F is for Phony: Fake Documentary and Truths Undoing, co-edited with Jesse Lerner (2005), and Learning from YouTube (2011). Dr. Juhasz is also the producer of the fake documentary feature films The Watermelon Woman (1997) and The Owls (2010), as well as many real documentaries. Alisa Lebow is a Reader in Film Studies at the University of Sussex. Her publications include First Person Jewish (2008) and The Cinema of Me (2012) and numerous articles on aspects of documentary ranging from art and documentary to questions of the political in documentary. Lebow has also made several documentaries including Outlaw (1994), Treyf (1998), and For the Record: The World Tribunal on Iraq (2006).