

October 18, 2007

Website of the week

NFB-ONF



Across Cultures

Through the lens of a camera, discover some of the NFB collection that documents the contribution made to Canada by different ethno-cultural communities.

About this site

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Goals

The **Across Cultures** website is designed to fulfill three goals:

- To **celebrate Canadian cultural diversity** by highlighting the extraordinary contributions that different communities have made to Canada, as well as the many challenges they have had to face, while acknowledging the less praiseworthy moments in Canadian history regarding cultural diversity.
- The site is also intended as a **tribute to filmmakers** from various cultural and ethnic communities who have made it their work to show the Canadian population the great richness of their cultures.
- To **help teachers** present the issues around Canadian multiculturalism in a dynamic and inviting way that also matches the goals of their academic programs.

Films and film clips

The site features 120 films from the NFB collection (60 in English; 60 in French in the French part). Of those, 48 (24 in English; 24 in French in the French part) include an audio description for the blind and visually impaired; and 49 films (27 in English; 22 in French in the French part) are available with closed-captioning. Users will also find 164 film clips (80 in English; 84 in French in the French part).

These 120 films are only a fraction of NFB productions on Canada's ethnic and cultural communities; however, they are representative of communities from all over the country, and altogether more than 60 years of film production are covered. NOTE: The selection does not include films on Aboriginal peoples, since another site – *Aboriginal Perspectives* – is devoted entirely to them. You can find it these at <www.nfb.ca/aboriginalperspectives>.

How the Site is Organized

The **Across Cultures** Web site — www.nfb.ca/acrosscultures — is divided into five sections:

- **Themes to Explore:** This section covers 6 themes formulated as questions. Each theme includes film clips with accompanying questions, original articles



and interviews with experts, public opinion polls, archival materials and classroom activities.



- **Cinema and Representation**: This section considers the ways in which ethnic and cultural communities have been represented in NFB documentaries. In it, you will find film clips, archival materials, original articles by NFB experts, interviews with filmmakers and a classroom activity.
- **Points of View**: The third section, *Points of View*, addresses issues of racism, identity and social integration in Canada. It comprises original articles by Canadian experts in the field, film clips and discussions
- **See Everything, Hear Everything**: The *See Everything, Hear Everything* section gives users access to all the complete films, film clips, archival artefacts and other types of audiovisual content available on the site
- **For Teachers**: Designed specifically for use in Canadian classrooms, this section offers lesson plans, web links and bibliographic resources. It contains a Glossary of Terms (also available on the Tools menu) to familiarize users with the language of cultural diversity. Our main focus is on the complete films, but we also include film clips as an easy introduction to each section. The clips allow teachers, students and other users to quickly pinpoint specific content – the issues raised in each theme, expert viewpoints, or aspects of ethnic and cultural representation, for example. Of course, the complete films are always available and easily accessed for viewing.

Across Cultures provides an excellent introduction to the area for anyone interested in multiculturalism and the issue of cultural diversity in Canada.

We encourage users to visit two other sites our team has built with support from the Canadian Memory Fund, which also deal with issues of cultural diversity: **Documentary Lens** <www.nfb.ca/doclens> and **Aboriginal Perspectives** <www.nfb.ca/aboriginalperspectives>.



For a free 'Across Cultures' poster, send an email to education@nfb.ca. Just write "Poster" in the subject line and provide a Canadian mailing address. Offer good through November 2007, while supplies last.

To access more of the NFB's educational resources, visit www.nfb.ca/education.

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