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DOCUMENTARIES

With the advent of television and the end of the cinema newsreel, feature documentaries have become a rarity. However, long after the 1950s, industry continued to make promotional films, and governments continued to issue public information films, and some of these titles will be of direct interest to the archive.

The bulk of the material here, of course, will be television current affairs material, and this is produced in such quantities that it really requires a whole archive to itself. Every week that passes sees at least a dozen relevant documentary programmes on the five channels of British terrestrial television alone, and the same will be true for every other country. The archive could not conceivably reflect such a megatsunami of broadcast material, even though it would be fair to say that the television documentary is a far more accurate barometer of society's preoccupations and neuroses about childhood than the cinema itself. The feature film, nevertheless, enjoys a far longer half-life than the TV documentary, and will be far more widely seen, and for that reason the primary focus of the archive is on fictional interpretations of the trends and social concerns pored over by the documentary format.

The titles below must be taken as a random sampling from that tidal wave of information, disinformation, propaganda and cultural auto-analysis.

Abenteuer Wildnis	
Albion Boys	
Aligermåas Äventyr:	
I Vildhästarnas Dal	Denmark 1998 : Film of a young Asian (Mongolian?) girl crossing the steppes to take part in a horserace.
Amazonie – les Indiens Wayanas	France 1996 : Second of a two-part film accompanying a party of French schoolchildren on a fact-finding voyage to the Amazon. Here they meet the children of the Wayan Indians. See “ OCEAN – EN ROUTE VERS L’AMAZONIE ”
Anna ot Shesti do Vosemnadsati	1994 : “Anna from 6 to 18”. Feature documentary by Nikita Mikhalkov showing his daughter’s developing awareness as their society is undergoing a traumatic change of its own. Each year the director poses the same five questions to his daughter, and the change in her responses reflects her priorities and sensitivities as she grows. Unseen, but nevertheless, as a telling psychological experiment, <i>Recommended</i> .
As Seen On TV	UK TV series 1996-97 : BBC children’s Vox Populi camcorder series, in which kids make short 10-minute films on their own hobbies, concerns and preoccupations.
Bambini in Citta	Italy : “Children in the City” : Post-war study of poor inner city children.
Body by Garret	US 1981 : Short portrait of 12-year old bodybuilder Garret Walsh in training for a guest appearance at the 1981 Mr Olympia contest.
Body Without Soul	Czech Republic 1996: Wiktor Grodecki’s film on teen homosexual prostitution and pornography in Prague, interviewing youths and porn film-makers.
Broken Bonds – the Jon-Michael Story	US 2001: Profile of boy, 9, institutionalised with severe behavioural disorder.
The Children of Theatre Street	US 1977: The Kirov Ballet School, Leningrad, its history and teaching techniques.

A Child's Guide to Blowing Up a Motor Car

The Child Who's Older than her Mother UK TV 2003 : Sensitive but harrowing portrait of a four-year old girl stricken with progenia, a very rare degenerative condition which replicates all the physical symptoms of old age. The average life expectancy of sufferers is 13.

Circus Boys

Russian Fed. 2002 : Film following two boys growing up in the post-Cold War, cash-starved Russian circus.

Correspondent: "America's School
Kid Soldiers"

UK TV 2003 : Timed uncomfortably with the US invasion of Iraq, Charles Wheeler looks at why the US military is "expanding its role" in public high schools.

Cutting Edge: "Boys Alone"

Dickens' London

Driving Mum Crazy

End to End

The Eton of Africa

BBC c1991: Former headmaster of Westminster school visits the elite Kamuzu Academy.

Farrebique

40 Minutes: "Knickerbockers in Knightsbridge"

40 Minutes: "Many Happy Returns"

Horizon: "The Boy Who Was Turned into a Girl"

Horizon - "Taming the Problem Child"

In the Blood

Into the Arms of Strangers

J.K. Rowling and the Harry Potter Express

Katie and Eilish

Kelly and her Sisters

Kid Gloves [?]

The Long Summer

Mama I'm Crying

Modern Times: "Family Values"

UK TV 1998 : BBC report on two middle class families in difficulties with their offspring - the one an advocate of "conservative family values" unable to restrain their own boisterous 11-year old son, the other putting their two younger children through an American-run "new learning centre" to curb their "inappropriate impulses". *Recommended.*

The Mountain People

My Son, Kevin

Nachruf auf eine Bestie

Oded the Wanderer

L'Or des Anges

Palestine 1932 : Semi-documentary about a Jewish boy, +/-12, living on a settlement
Fr / Belg / UK / Austria 1998: Feature documentary on world famous boy choirs, among them the Worcester Cathedral Choir, Knabenchor Hannover, Wiener Sängerknaben and Les Petits Chanteurs a la Croix de Bois

Paying the Price: Killing the Children of Iraq

Poto and Cabengo

US 1979 : Follow-up to press reports on young twin girls who appeared to have developed their own unique language.

Pride of Place

Public Enemy Number One: "The Man Who Killed a Hundred Boys"

Public School

QED - "On his Own Two Feet"

UK TV 1991 : Follow-up to 1990 profile of 11-year old cerebral palsy sufferer Emmett de Monterey, undergoing gruelling corrective surgery on his legs.

The Quiet One

US 1948 : No further details available

Real Crime: "Mr Nice Guy"

Remedial Reading Comprehension

See it Now - "The Secret World of Danny Kaye"

Sex B.C. - "The Greeks"

Tomas: Et Barn Du Ikke Kan Nå

The Violin

The Visit: "The Boy David"

UK TV 1983-85, including three films following a Scottish surgeon's attempts to reconstruct the face of a Peruvian boy wasted by disease, and his wife's campaign to adopt the boy before a change in the law that would have prevented it.

What Kids Want.. And How They Get It

Who Killed Tutankhamun?
Who's Looking After Your Child?

UK 2003 : Gratuitous scaremongering report employing covert camera footage of nannies and child-minders maltreating their charges. Follow-up to a 1998 Yorkshire TV documentary.

Witness: "The Face of Evil"
Yani's Monkeys

~ 58 titles ~