



Films on the Death Penalty

“After Innocence.” This documentary tells the true life, compelling stories of exonerated prisoners. It examines the trials and tribulations waiting for them upon their release from prison. It also examines the U.S. justice system and the flaws that led to the wrongful conviction of these men. 2005. Check www.afterinnocence.com for screenings in your area.

“Dead Man Walking.” This acclaimed film traces the relationship between a death row inmate and the nun to whom he turns for spiritual guidance in the days leading up to his scheduled execution. 1995. 122 min.

“Deadline.” This documentary explores two of the most significant, yet unexamined, events in the history of American capital punishment - the abolition of the death penalty in 1972 and the momentous debate in Illinois in 2002 over clemency for all of the state’s death row inmates. The film reveals the inner workings of these events and leads to profound questions about America’s approach to crime and punishment. To purchase the DVD or to set up a screening, log onto www.deadlinethemovie.com. You can also download a discussion guide from the website. 2004. 90 min.

“The Empty Chair.” Four stories of murder victim’s families reliving the crimes and confronting the loss of loved ones. Reactions range from revenge and desire for punishment to searching for forgiveness and healing. With commentary by Sister Helen Prejean. 2003. 52 min.

www.justiceproductions.org

“The Exonerated.” Susan Sarandon and Danny Glover star in this film based upon the stage play of the same name. Actual court depositions, transcripts, letters, and interviews comprise the chilling and moving script that chronicles the stories of six wrongly convicted death row inmates. 2005. 90 minutes. This film can be purchased directly from AIUSA at

www.amnestyusa.org/abolish/index.do.

“The Green Mile.” Set on Death Row in a Southern prison in 1935, this is the story of the cellblock’s head guard, who develops a poignant, unusual relationship with one inmate who possesses a magical gift that is both mysterious and miraculous. 1999. 188 min.

“Interview with an Executioner.” This documentary goes behind the scenes in a Mississippi Penitentiary during the 14 days leading up to the execution of Edward Earl Johnson. Don Cabana, the executioner, recounts the chilling experience of the execution of Johnson, who maintained his innocence until the end with his final words - “I want you to know exactly



what you are doing when you execute me. I want you to remember every last detail, 'cause I am innocent." Copies of the video or DVD may be obtained from Terry McCaffrey, 11154 La Paloma Dr., Cupertino, CA 95014. Cost is \$12 including postage. Also available in Spanish.

"The Life of David Gale." David Gale, a respected death penalty opponent, finds himself on death row for the rape and murder of fellow activist Constance Hallaway. With only three days before his scheduled execution, Gale, in an effort to reveal the truth, agrees to give reporter Bitsey Bloom an exclusive interview that ends with a terrible discovery. 2003. 131 min.

"Monster." Actress Charlize Theron stars as serial killer Aileen Wuornos, who was executed in Florida on October 9, 2002. Director Patty Jenkins chronicles the love story between Wuornos

"Outside In." is a video documentary that looks at California's death row through the eyes of several people who regularly visit death row prisoners. Those featured include a woman who visits her son; another who visits the man who murdered her daughter; a death row attorney; a priest who witnessed an execution; a number of death-penalty activists; and the sister-in-law of an executed Viet Nam veteran. Interviewees paint a collective portrait of death row not as a den of monsters but as a place of remarkable humanity, where those considered irredeemable by society struggle to make meaningful lives inside the belly of the beast, with the support and love of people on the outside. 53 1/2-minute. To request a copy of this film, please contact Buff Whitman-Bradley. buph@igc.org