

Delve Deeper into "Made In L.A."

A film by Almudena Carracedo & Robert Bahar

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul A. Bareño of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Made In L.A." that premieres on September 4, 2007 at 10 PM on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

"Made in L.A." follows the remarkable story of three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles sweatshops as they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from a trendy clothing retailer. In intimate verité style, "Made in L.A." reveals the impact of the struggle on each woman's life as they are gradually transformed by the experience. Compelling, humorous, deeply human, "Made in L.A." is a story about immigration, the power of unity and the courage it takes to find your voice. A co-production with the Independent Television Service (ITVS). A Diverse Voices Project co-production. A co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting.

ADULT NONFICTION

Bacon, David. *The Children of NAFTA: Labor Wars on the U.S./Mexico Border.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. Provides a close look at the impact of NAFTA on people working along the U.S.-Mexico border and details the emergence of cross-border organizing.

Bender, Daniel E. and Richard A. Greenwald (eds). *Sweatshop USA: The American Sweatshop in Historical and Global Perspective.* New York: Routledge, 2003. A collection that unites some of the best recent work in the interdisciplinary field of "sweatshop studies."

Bhagwati, Jagdish. *In Defense of Globalization.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. Bhagwati, an economist and former U.N. advisor, distills his thinking about globalization for the lay reader.

Bigelow, Bill. *The Line Between Us: Teaching About the Border and Mexican Immigration.* Rethinking Schools, 2006. Explores the history of U.S.-Mexican relations and the roots of Mexican immigration, all in the context of the global economy.

Bonacich, Edna and Richard P. Appelbaum. *Behind the Label: Inequality in the Los Angeles Apparel Industry.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000. An important study investigating the return of sweatshops to the apparel industry (especially in Los Angeles) and exploring efforts to eradicate them.

Daniels, Roger. *Coming to America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life.* New York: HarperCollins, 2002. Provides a study of the history of immigration, including statistics and demographics that date back to the colonial era.

Esbenshade, Jill Louise. *Monitoring Sweatshops: Workers, Consumers, and the Global Apparel Industry.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004. Challenges the rise of private monitoring of the global apparel industry, recommending independent monitoring instead.

Featherstone, Liza. *Students Against Sweatshops.* London: Verso, 2002. Student written record of a new mass campaign of anti-sweatshop organizing that has reached over two hundred college campuses.

Fung, Archon, et al. *Can We Put an End to Sweatshops?* Boston: Beacon Press, 2001. Proposes a program called Ratcheted Labor Standards "to ensure the most ambitious and feasible labor standards for workers" in apparel manufacture.

Gonzalez, Juan. *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America.* New York: Penguin, 2001. Gonzalez compares US border control to the Great Wall of China and praises Latino pioneers and the importance of their impact on US culture.

Gordon, Jennifer. *Suburban Sweatshops: The Fight for Immigrant Rights.* Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005. Gordon calls attention to the plight of the millions of undocumented workers in suburban America where violations of minimum wage, health, and safety standards are common.

Hapke, Laura. *Sweatshop: The History of an American Idea.* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004. Argues that sweatshops are as American as apple pie. Surveys over a century and a half of the language, verbal and pictorial, in which the sweatshop has been imagined and its stories told.

Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette (ed). *Gender and U.S. Immigration: Contemporary Trends.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003. A collection of essays from social scientists, young scholars and pioneers in the immigration studies field.

Louie, Miriam Ching Yoon. *Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory.* Cambridge: South End Press, 2001. Describes the exploitation of immigrant women in sweatshops. Louie has worked for more than three decades to improve the condition of the "underclass" of American labor.

Marchevsky, Alejandra and Jeanne Theoharis. *Not Working: Latina Immigrants, Low-Wage Jobs, and the Failure of Welfare Reform.* New York and London: New York University Press, 2006. Details the outcome of the devastating effects of the 1996 welfare reform legislation.

Pun, Ngai. *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005. Chronicles the struggles of the dagongmei, working girls from rural areas who migrate to urban factories enduring sweatshop conditions in the factories of post-Mao China.

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Rivoli, Pietra. *Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power and Politics of World Trade.* Indianapolis, IN: Wiley Publishing, Inc., 2005. An economics professor at Georgetown, Rivoli investigates the process involved with making a T-shirt. From cotton farmers in Texas to used clothing vendors in Tanzania, Rivoli provides readers with an in-depth examination of the global economy.

Rosen, Ellen Israel. *Making Sweatshops: The Globalization of the U.S. Apparel Industry.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002. A comprehensive historical analysis of the globalization of the U.S. apparel industry.

Ross, Andrew (ed). *No Sweat: Fashion, Free Trade, and the Rights of Garment Workers.* New York: Verso, 1997. Cutting-edge design and analysis of the global garment assembly line.

Ross, Robert J. S. *Slaves to Fashion: Poverty and Abuse in the New Sweatshops.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2004. Traces the 20th century fall and rebirth of sweatshop conditions in the American apparel industry. Also discusses the anti-sweatshop efforts of unions and students.

ADULT FICTION

Agosin, Marjorie and Nancy Abraham Hall. *A Necklace of Words: Stories by Mexican Women.* Fredonia, NY: White Pine Press, 1997. This is a collection of short stories from Mexican women writers from the Secret Weavers series.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Gourley, Catherine. *Good Girl Work: Factories, Sweatshops, and How Women Changed Their Role in the American Workforce.* Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 1999. Discusses the girls and women in the industrial workforce

of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the reforms and movements that changed their working conditions.

Lieurance, Suzanne. *The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and Sweatshop Reform in American History.* Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Pub., 2003. Explores the people and events connected with the 1911 fire in a New York City sewing factory that killed 146 people and led to reforms in legislation regarding workplace safety.

Manheimer, Ann S. (ed). *Child Labor and Sweatshops.* San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2005. Debate continues over the underlying causes and whether workplace exploitation is an inevitable step in economic development or an avoidable human rights violation.

Woog, Adam. *A Sweatshop During the Industrial Revolution.* San Diego: Lucent Books/Thomson Gale, 2003. Examines the daily lives of sweatshop workers and related issues, including the efforts made to reform substandard conditions.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Perez, Amanda Irma. *My Diary from Here to There/Mi Diario de Aqui Hasta Alla.* San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2002. (Grades 2-5) Amanda's diary begins with her anxieties about moving to the United States and chronicles her whole trip from Juarez, Mexico to Los Angeles.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising.* New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000. (Grades 6-9) Following the sudden death of her father, Esperanza and her mother flee their comfortable life in Mexico for a new, more difficult life as American immigrants.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Behind the Labels: Garment Workers on U.S. Saipan." A film by Tia Lessin. Witness, 2001. (46 min.) Powerful hidden camera

footage, along with the garment workers' personal stories, offers a rare, unforgettable glimpse into indentured labor and the workings of the global sweatshop where 14 hour shifts, payless paydays, and lock-downs are routine. www.witness.org

"China Blue." A film by Micha X. Peled. Bullfrog Films, 2006. (88 min.) A clandestinely shot account of how the clothes we buy are actually made. The film follows a pair of denim jeans from birth to sale, linking the power of the U.S. consumer market to the daily lives of a Chinese factory owner and two teenaged female factory workers. www.bullfrogfilms.com

"Maquilapolis: City of Factories." A Film by Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre. 2006. (60 min.) Just over the border in Mexico is an area peppered with maquiladoras: massive factories owned by the world's largest multinational corporations. Carmen and Lourdes work at maquiladoras in Tijuana, where each day they confront labor violations, environmental devastation and urban chaos.

"No Sweat." A film by Aimee Williams. Bal-Maiden Films, 2006. (55 min.) A fast-paced, behind-the-scenes documentary that follows two companies for one year, comparing their divergent business practices, interviewing workers, following a union drive, and zeroing in on the hopes and dreams of the garment workers themselves. www.balmaidenfilms.com