

Memorial Grove is scarcely as famed as the vast AIDS quilt. Hoping to raise more awareness, the Grove's board of directors decides to hold a competition for a suitable monument to the hundreds of thousands of AIDS casualties. But even with a winner among the 261 entries, nobody seems satisfied, and arguments arise charging that the design violates the peaceful sanctity of the place. Squabbling Grove guardians look to Maya Lin's famed (and controversial) Vietnam Memorial as an example of what they would like to accomplish, but the goal remains out of reach by the end of this solemn sidebar to the AIDS saga, which suggests that any mere human construct will be inadequate to convey the attendant tragedy—or at least satisfy a picky committee. Filmmaker Andy Abraham Wilson's *The Grove* is a powerful tale that also reminds viewers of Lincoln's oft-quoted dictum about the impossibilities of pleasing all of the people all of the time. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

The Kingdom of Survival ★★★

(2011) 92 min. DVD: \$79; public libraries; \$299; colleges & universities. Seventh Art Releasing. PPR.

Categorizing 21st-century society as corrupt to the core and controlled by corporate agendas, disaffected filmmaker M.A. Littler here crosses the USA (to a twang-grunge soundtrack) seeking alternatives from the words of anarchists, liberal scholars, and others who would seem to be guiding lights for the Occupy Wall Street movement. Usual suspect Noam Chomsky is on hand here, but others are likely to be less familiar to viewers, including Idaho's underground (literally) home-building pioneer/author Mike Oehler, dawn-of-the-1960s dissident Bob Meisenbach (singled out as the San Francisco protester who toppled HUAC), and rural California singer-songwriter Will "the Bull" Taylor. Although the interviewees attack differing targets, some common themes recur: namely, that the ideals of '60s flower children—especially related to environmental concerns—remain relevant; materialism should be shunned; and personal spirituality should be embraced. Alt-broadcaster Sasha Lilley notes that for-profit media not only supports the current two-party political structure for monetary reasons, but also actually believes the big lies. Perhaps the most astringent and memorable nonconformist is one who sadly succumbed to cancer in 2011, Virginia author Joe Bageant, a product of "ignorant" working-class-community values who nonetheless makes his home among the Appalachians who don't even read his books. According to Bageant, elitist liberals have failed his people just as much as the right-wingers who send them out to die in mines or on battlefields. A thought-provoking portrait of wide-ranging discontent in contemporary America, this is recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

Locked Out ★★★1/2

(2010) 60 min. DVD: \$20; individuals; \$50 w/PPR; institutions. Alternavision Films.

Featuring narration by actor-activist Peter Coyote, filmmaker Joan Sekler's *Locked Out* tells an all-too-familiar story about a land-raping corporation that plunders with impunity and treats grunt workers like Ancient Egyptians (mis)treated slaves. Only in this case, the workers at the Borax mine located in the Mojave Desert city of Boron, CA, aren't about to be stomped on by their new arrogant bully of a boss—the infamous multinational mining company known as Rio Tinto. The new honcho has torn up the workers' longstanding contracts with demands that they sign a new contract that would strip away most of their rights. The local union refuses to sign the contract, prompting a three-month-plus lockout, during which viewers get a glimpse into the lives of these defiant workers and witness the creatively nonviolent ways they fight Rio Tinto. The film also serves up a disturbing history lesson on the legacy of Rio Tinto: the company's roots lie in helping the fascist cause during the Spanish Civil War, and in the late 1980s the corporation essentially instigated a full-scale civil war on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea with their unethical mining activities. But even a \$5-billion-a-year company has a lot to learn about American working-class solidarity, which they do in this powerful testament to the continued relevance of organized labor. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (M. Sandlin)

Lost in Detention ★★★

(2011) 60 min. DVD: \$24.99 (\$54.95 w/PPR). PBS Video. ISBN: 978-1-60883-589-8.

Written and directed by Rick Young and hosted by reporter Maria Hinojosa, this PBS-aired *Frontline* episode takes viewers to the heart of one of America's most divisive issues. When Barack Obama ran for President in 2008, he promised to fix America's immigration problem, combining increased security with a compassionate path to citizenship for those already in the country. However, several years later, Latino voters feel betrayed by what they consider to be an unnecessarily hard policy which divides families and deports undocumented individuals for trivial infractions (such as driving a car with a broken taillight). While critics call the immigration policy "enforcement on steroids," the target for many civil rights activists is the "Secure Communities" program, supposedly a dragnet to identify and deport criminals guilty of violent crimes. Unfortunately, some parents have been detained for fairly trivial offenses, with their children—many of whom have grown up in the U.S.—relegated to the status of collateral damage. If the undocumented adults are not quickly deported, many are warehoused

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Video Librarian 3 1/2 Stars

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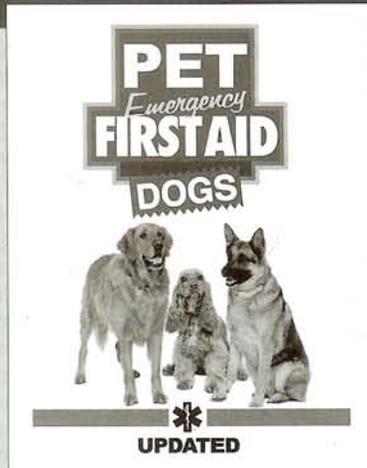
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