

CONNECTIONS: THE DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES OF OLLI AT RINGLING COLLEGE

2:30-4:30 p.m. • Tuesdays: Jan. 29 and Feb. 19
 TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Moderator: Julie Cotton

Fees per film: \$11 Gold Member; \$12 Silver Member and General Admission

JAN. 29 (DOUBLE FEATURE)



“Dream Big: Engineering Our World” (2017) 42 minutes

Narrated by actor Jeff Bridges, “Dream Big” focuses on important technological innovations that propel us into the future. The film highlights working engineers from different backgrounds, most of them women, and celebrates those who build, design, and invent as pioneers who harness the “power of imagination in order to enhance the human experience.”

Filmed in large-screen format for IMAX theaters, “Dream Big” showcases gorgeous panoramas of natural and man-made wonders and provides intimate snapshots of men and women using their wits to achieve amazing feats. The film celebrates the creative minds concocting our future and serves as a rousing call-to-engineering-arms for future generations.



“Billions in Change” (2015) 43 minutes

Entrepreneur Manoj Bhargava unexpectedly became a billionaire with the worldwide success of his own concoction — a popular 5-hour energy drink. Possessing more money than he could ever hope to spend on himself, he set out to discover ways in which his wealth could assist him in making a meaningful and lasting difference in the world.

The inspiring documentary shows the fruits of these efforts. The film chronicles the journey to achieving his lofty goals starting with the recruitment of an eclectic team of designers, inventors, and innovative thinkers. Their collective mission is to create simple solutions to the world’s most pressing problems within three sectors: power, water, and health.

FEB. 19



“Planet Ocean” (2012) 90 minutes

This award-winning documentary takes us on a beautiful adventure exploring the relationship between the earth’s oceans and the entire planet’s ecosystem. “Planet Ocean” illustrates the way in which all life is intrinsically interconnected and asserts that the greatest threat to our oceans is humanity. It features spectacular aerial and undersea photography

illustrating the beauty of our planet, while also highlighting the dangers that threaten our marine environments. Its primary message is to encourage all humans to embrace conservation as a shared international responsibility. “Planet Ocean” is both a celebration of the earth’s incredible natural diversity and a reminder of its inherent fragility.

CONNECTIONS is an opportunity for OLLI students and others to connect to many of today’s pressing global issues via the penetrating perspectives of contemporary documentary films. As the series name implies, the themes for the films will showcase the CONNECTIONS humans have with one another, with our environment, and with other species that share our planet. After viewing the film, participants can engage in thoughtful discussions and forge deeper learning and social connections with one another.



Julie Cotton, a member of our Advisory Council’s Strategic Program Planning Committee, is the coordinator and host of this series. Julie has a doctorate in Human Development and is a former organizational development consultant and executive coach. She is an aficionado of documentary films and a skilled facilitator of group conversations.