

Larry Foley, Educator and Documentary Filmmaker

Larry Foley is a professor of journalism, Emmy winning documentary filmmaker and Chair of Lemke Department of Journalism at University of Arkansas. His productions have earned **seven Emmys from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences**, and 17 Emmy nominations in writing, journalistic enterprise, history, cultural history, special program and community service. His films have received four “Best of” honors at **Festival of Media Arts** from international Broadcast Education Association--judged most outstanding by his academic peers.

Foley wrote, produced and directed The First Boys of Spring, the story of the birth of baseball spring training. In 2016, the film aired on MLB Network and Fox regional sports networks, was screened at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, received Best of Competition award from Festival of Media Arts, and was awarded Mid-America Emmys for writing and cultural documentary. His PBS credits include The Buffalo Flows, Saving the Eagles, The Lost Squadron and When Lightning Struck: Saga of an American Warplane.

His documentary credits include After the Tsunami, The Art of Crystal Bridges, Up Among the Hills, Growing Hope, Bridge to War Eagle, Sacred Spaces-The Architecture of Fay Jones, The Greatest Coach Ever, Beacon of Hope-The Story of the University of Arkansas, Charles Banks Wilson-Portrait of an American Artist, The Forgotten Expedition, It Started Here: Early Arkansas and the Louisiana Purchase, 22 Straight, Arkansas' Natural Heritage, Out of the Woods, The Keetoowahs Come Home, The Black Swamp, The Governor from Greasy Creek, Arkansas-A Special Place, Hell on the Border, and Natural, Wild & Free.

His films have been narrated by Bill Clinton, Oscar winners Billy Bob Thornton, Mary Steenburgen and Ray McKinnon, Hall of Fame broadcaster Charlie Jones, country music star Joe Nichols and ABC News reporter T J Holmes, his former student.

Foley joined the faculty at U of A in 1993 and founded the campus television station, UATV. He is a member of the Lemke Department of Journalism Hall of Honor and the Fayetteville Public School Hall of Honor. He has received awards for research from the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and Arkansas Alumni Association, and is past winner of the Individual Artist Governor's Award from Arkansas Arts Council.

Before coming to the U of A, Foley spent nine years at the Arkansas Educational Television where he worked his way up the ladder to the network's number two position. He is a former reporter, morning news anchor, assignment editor and producer for KATV Channel 7, Little Rock.

Foley and his wife Susan live in an historic home on the northwest edge of the University of Arkansas campus.

Films by Larry Foley

2017

The Favored Strawberry: story of growing and picking strawberries in the United States, past and present. Filmed in 8 states, this documentary will premier in winter 2017.

2015-16

The First Boys of Spring: story of birth of Major League Baseball spring training, ca 1880s-1930s, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Aired MLB Network and Fox regional sports networks, screened twice at National Baseball Hall of Fame, winner of Best of Competition award from BEA Festival of Media Arts, and recipient of Mid-America Emmys for writing and cultural documentary.

2013

After the Tsunami: documentary on students funded by Bush-Clinton relief money that sent Indonesian students to American universities to learn and return home to rebuild the “human capitol” in their home country, following the 2004 Tsunami. Screened at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and Peace on Earth Film Festival. Gold Award for Best Documentary, Eureka Springs Indie Fest. Best Documentary, Off Shoot Film Festival, 2014. Mid-America Emmy nomination, writing. Distributed nationally to PBS stations by NETA.

2012

The Art of Crystal Bridges: documentary about the galleries and building of the first new museum of American art to be founded in a half a century. Narrated by Academy Award winning actress Mary Steenburgen. Premiered AETN November 9, 2012. Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Best of Festival Award, Festival of Media Arts (1,250 entries). Screened at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival. Distributed to PBS stations by NETA. Mid-America Emmy nominations for music and photography. Bronze Award-Eureka Springs Indie Fest.

Up Among the Hills, the Story of Fayetteville: one-hour documentary on the history of Fayetteville, AR. Narrated by President Bill Clinton. Premiered at Fayetteville Public Library, October 19, 2012. Screened at Hot Springs, Little Rock, Trail Dance and Offshoot Film Festivals (Offshoot Best Documentary Award) Nominated for three Mid-America Emmys. City of Fayetteville Historic Preservation Award. Winner of Mid America Emmy for Music; Nominations for photography and editing. Best Feature Documentary, Audience Choice and Director’s Choice nominations at Trail Dance Film Festival.

Growing Hope: 30-minute documentary film on the resurrection of Arkansas Baptist College. This historically Black school, located in a notorious Little Rock urban neighborhood, has come back from near bankruptcy, due to the leadership of its dynamic president, Fitz hill, a former football coach. Enrollment is up, crime is down and the neighborhood is being restored. Narrated by T.J. Holmes of BET Network. Winner of Mid-America Emmy, Special Program and

nominated for Writer/Program. Premiered at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, October 2012.

2011

Bridge to War Eagle. 30-minute documentary film on Arkansas stream, framed around historic bridge and grist mill—site of one of state's most picturesque and iconic scenes. Narrated by country music star Joe Nichols of Rogers, AR. Winner of Mid-America Emmy for best Cultural Documentary. Winner of War Eagle Steward Award. Aired on AETN. BEA Award of Excellence. Screened at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival.

2009

Sacred Spaces, The Architecture of Fay Jones (60 minutes). One hour documentary film on acclaimed Arkansas architect. Premiered April 2009 at dedication of Fay Jones School of Architecture at University of Arkansas. AETN broadcast premiere: March 2010. Broadcast Education Association Best of Festival Award, Mid-America Emmy nomination for Best Cultural Documentary. Aired on AETN, and nationally distributed by National Educational Telecommunications Association.

The Greatest Coach-Ever! 30-minute documentary film on the life and career of former University of Arkansas Track Coach John McDonnell. AETN Broadcast Premiere: March 2010.

2008

The Buffalo Flows, story of the nation's first national river (56:46). PBS national premiere: October 6, 2009. Mid-America Emmy for Best Writer-Program and Best Musical Score. Mid-America Emmy nominations: Cultural Documentary, Photography/Program. Broadcast Education Association Award of Excellence, 2009, 2010 Communicator Awards: Award of Excellence

2007

Beacon of Hope--The story of the University of Arkansas (52-minutes). 2008 Mid-America Emmy Nomination. Winner of 2008 BEA "Best of Festival" Award. AETN broadcast: fall 2007. Screened at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival.

2006

Charles Banks Wilson: Portrait of an American Artist. Premiere: Fall 2006, AETN and OETA. Screened at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa. Story of 88-year old artist, and the people he has known and painted. NETA national broadcast distribution to PBS stations: April 2007. (30-minutes) Mid-America Emmy Award for Best Cultural Documentary, 2007. Best Documentary Short award, Trail Dance Film Festival, 2008.

2005

Echoes of Inspiration. A film by Larry Foley and Dale Carpenter, produced for the University of Arkansas. Winner of BEA Award of Excellence and Special Technical Merit.

2004

22 Straight! 71 minute film about the stories surrounding the Arkansas Razorback football team's 22 game winning streak, 1963-66. Released on DVD in August 2004. Selected for screening at opening of William Clinton Library on November 17, 2004. Two DVD set also includes Foley interview with Frank Broyles, on Broyles' 46 years career at Arkansas.

The Flight of Glacier Girl: 52-minute film premiered on Arkansas Educational Television. This film is the story of the first flight of a P-38 WW II fighter plane dug out of Greenland ice cap in 1992.

2003

It Started Here, Early Arkansas and the Louisiana Purchase: 30-minute documentary that begins at initial survey point for Louisiana Purchase and tells story of Arkansas history, circa 1800-1836. AETN premiere: May 2003. National distribution: August 2003 by NETA. Presented at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival.

2002

The Forgotten Expedition: story of Dunbar and Hunter, two explorers hired by Thomas Jefferson to explore southern part of Louisiana Purchase in 1804. AETN premiere: Fall 2002. National: August 2003 by NETA. Presented at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival.

Imagine, Inquire, Impart: film documenting the traditions, teaching, research and future of the University of Arkansas.

2001

Sanatorium Hill: story of the survivors of the TB Sanatorium at Booneville, Arkansas, once among the largest in the world. Broadcast on Arkansas Educational Television Network. Presented at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival. Accepted for broadcast by South Carolina ETV for new series, Southern Lens, in 2004.

2000

When Lightning Struck, Saga of an American Warplane: 30-minute television documentary that tells the story of the rarest of all the WWII fighters, the P-38 Lightning, through the heroism of the men who flew the plane called the "fork-tailed devil." AETN Premiere: May 2000. PBS distribution: January 2001. Presented at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival.

1999

Arkansas' Natural Heritage: 30-minute public television documentary that explores prairies, rivers, swamps and waterfalls that have been preserved the way they appeared to the first European explorers, untouched by human hands. Narrated by former U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers. AETN Premiere: January 28, 1999. National broadcast premiere (NETA) May 8, 1999.

1998

Saving the Eagles: 30-minute public television documentary about the mystery of the largest die off of bald eagles in American history. Premiered on AETN, March 1998. National broadcast by PBS, The Public Broadcasting Service, November 8, 1998.

1997

The Lost Squadron: 30-minute public television documentary about a World War II squadron, lost in a fog, that crash landed on the Greenland ice cap in 1942. Fifty years later, one of the P-38 fighter planes was dug out of 268 feet of ice and is being restored in the Cumberland Gap of Kentucky. Premiered on AETN, October 1997. National broadcast by PBS, April 12 and May 31, 1999. Presented at Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival.

Out of the Woods: 30 minute public television documentary about the history and importance of the forest industry in Arkansas. Features industrial, private and public forests, and history of Ozark and Ouachita National Forests. Premiered on AETN, September 1997.

1995

The Black Swamp: 60-minute television documentary/video research program on east Arkansas wetland. Shot over four seasons on the Cache River in east Arkansas, the program takes a look at some of the most extensive research conducted at a bottomland hardwood forest. AETN broadcast: October 1995. Distributed nationally, via satellite, to PBS stations by Southern Educational Communications Association (SECA), March 31, 1996.

The Keetoowahs Come Home: 30-minute television documentary on Native American tribe attempting to leave Oklahoma and return to ancestral land in Arkansas. AETN broadcast: November 1995. National satellite distribution to PBS stations via SECA: April 1996.

The Governor from Greasy Creek: 60-minute documentary/interview with former Arkansas Governor Orval E. Faubus, infamous for attempting to block the desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School in 1957. Aired on AETN days before Faubus died.

1993

Amber Waves: 13-part public television series (30-minute programs) featuring some of the best human interest stories by producers from around the nation. Distributed to public TV stations nationally by SECA in 1993.

Other films by Larry Foley: Natural Wild and Free, The Ernie Deane Story, Hell on the Border, Arkansas-A Special Place, The Razorbacks-A Winning Tradition, Bend in the Big River, The Conway Story, The Little Rock Story and the Pine Bluff story.