



CHAPTER

Introduction to Documentary

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Resource Guidance (read alongside the Powerpoint presentations)

This resource is the outline for a one to five-week Introduction to Documentary course, designed to be delivered alongside screenings of up to four Welsh documentaries. The overall aim for the course is for participants to learn about the medium of documentary and encourage them to develop a critical eye for watching documentary films.

The resource contains two Powerpoint presentations, that can be adapted to suit your audience.

- **Part One** – This is delivered at the start of the course and introduces the documentary genre. This session, which should take about one hour, outlines the main types of documentaries, and highlights some of the techniques that are used to make them.
- **Part Two** can be amended and delivered after each film screening and is intended to encourage discussion.

The resource also contains an edited interview with Steve Sullivan, the director of *Being Frank: The Chris Sievey Story*, which is the first film in the course. This interview will give you some background to the production of the film, providing some insight into the stylistic choices made by the filmmaker.

How to use this resource

The first of the two Powerpoint presentations introduces different types of documentaries. You can deliver this presentation in the week before the screening of the first film to start to get your course participants thinking critically about the documentary genre. The presentation contains some links to clips that you can use to illustrate each type. You don't have to use these specific clips but make sure whichever ones you do use are illustrative of the relevant type. The final part of the session gives some information about the different elements that make up a typical documentary and provides a lead into the next week.

The second presentation is to be delivered after each film that you watch as part of the course. The first slide in this presentation refers back to the types of documentaries that you covered in the first session. It will help the participants think about the style of the film that they have just watched. The remaining slides run through some of the elements of documentary and give some suggestions of questions that you can ask your audience to encourage discussion.

Both presentations contain presenter notes which expand on information in the slides.

The interview with Steve Sullivan is to give you some more information about *Being Frank: The Chris Sievey Story*. Read this interview before delivering the screening of the film and use it to guide your questioning to the audience afterwards.

Suggested titles for the course:

Week 1 – Being Frank: The Chris Sievey Story

Week 2 – Sleep Furiously

Week 3 – Dark Horse

Week 4 – American Interior

Wider documentary list:

[Search the Film Hub Wales catalogue](#) and select the documentary filter to find more examples of Welsh docs.