Documentaries related to Immigration:

Crossing Arizona (2005)

A documentary presented at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, this film explores escalating tensions over illegal immigration at their epicenter – the Arizona / Sonora border. Human rights, national security, class, and culture are explored through the personal experiences of the locals on both sides of the border in this balanced look at the issues. Directed by Joseph Mathew.

DeNADIE (2005)

Presented in the World Documentary category at Sundance 2006, this film comes from Mexico and follows the path traced by many leaving South and Central America bound for freedoms and opportunities too basic to be rightfully exclusive. A filmmaking neophyte, Tin Dirdamal approaches the medium with the sensitivity and skill of a veteran, drawing us into the oft-told story of immigrant hardships, presenting it in a way that makes it more real and personal than we possibly could have understood before.

Lost Boys of Sudan (2003)

This award-winning documentary by Megan Mylan and John Shenk follows two of the many children who were among an estimated twenty thousand forced from their homes and families by the 1987 civil war in southern Sudan. Most were only six or seven years old when their journey began. Of those who survived to reach the refugee camp in Kenya, almost 4,000 were resettled in the U.S. to further their educations. This is the story of two of those boys.

God Grew Tired of Us (2006)

Won the jury prize and audience award for U.S. documentaries at Sundance 2006. The film follows three Sudanese boys, refugees from Sudan’s bloody civil war, as they try to adjust to life in the U.S. Coming from unspeakable conditions, young witnesses of unspeakable horrors, their honesty and goodness is unquestionable. And so the question raised is, “What conditions create a civilized society?” Directed by Christopher Quinn.

Golden Venture (2006)

Documentary by filmmaker Peter Cohn that traces the lives of passengers of a freighter, smuggling 286 immigrants, that ran aground near New York in 1993. Hoping their expensive journey (at least $30,000 each) from China’s Fujian Province would buy them entry into the U.S. and the anonymity necessary to merge unnoticed, the crash of the Golden Venture was the beginning of their experience in American bureaucracy, as the whims of the INS and the U.S. Department of Justice played out in the courts.

And the Pursuit of Happiness (1986)

French cum American director, Louis Malle, makes this loving documentary, which parallels his own experience, about modern-day immigrants with big dreams who are contributing to America.