COM 321, Documentary Form in Film & Television

Techniques—Part 1
4/12/10

1. Narration

Voiceover

Third person
Voice-of-God/omniscient narrator
-Why We Fight
-Night and Fog
VO—celebrity/recognizable voice (still omniscient)
-Times of Harvey Milk (Harvey Fierstein)
-Hollywood (James Mason)

First person
VO—known subject
-American Splendor (Harvey Pekar)
-Mr. Death (Fred Leuchter, Jr.)
VO—celebrity acting as subject
-The Civil War (Morgan Freeman as Frederick Douglass)
-Tales of the Rat Fink (John Goodman as Ed Roth; the Smothers Brothers as a car and trailer)
VO—documentarist
-L.A. Plays Itself

On-camera narrator

Naturally occurring subject dialogue
-Titicut Follies
-When We Were Kings
Documentarist
-Religulous (Bill Maher)
-Shine a Light (Martin Scorsese)
-An Inconvenient Truth (Al Gore)
-This Filthy World (John Waters)
Interviewee on location
-Times of Harvey Milk
-Faces of America
Interviewee in studio
-The Fog of War
-I Survived (limbo)
Interviewer/Interviewee on location
-Woodstock