

**War & Truth.** color. 74 min. Michael Samstag, Under Fire Films, dist. by Cinema Libre Studio, 8328 De Soto Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91304; 818-349-8822; [www.cinematolibrestudio.com](http://www.cinematolibrestudio.com). 2007. DVD ISBN 978-1-59587-056-8. \$24.95. COMM

This documentary examines the role of the photojournalist in war, looking at how the news media have portrayed war visually from World War II through Iraq. Dozens of cameramen and reporters talk onscreen about editorial decisions in choosing images and the personal risks they face. Between and over their comments, the film intercuts their sometimes graphic photos and footage. While these professionals discuss how the media have covered the war in Iraq—many of them say the depiction of violence has been too sanitized—the overall impact of the documentary is to make the viewer think about the sacrifice and commitment of journalists covering conflicts. The reasonable price and thought-provoking message make this highly recommended for most libraries and essential for journalism collections. The superb but pricey *War Made Easy* (Video Reviews, *LJ* 12/07) is a more focused look at the lack of media scrutiny of the Iraq war. Both are highly recommended.—Lawrence R. Maxted, Gannon Univ. Lib., Erie, PA

**Creative Cakes: Basic Techniques.**

**Creative Cakes: Beyond the Basics.**

ea. vol: color. 30 min. VEA, Suite 135, 980 Broadway, Thornwood, NY 10594; 866-727-0840; [www.veavideo.com](http://www.veavideo.com). 2006. DVD \$129.95. Public performance. COOKERY

Both of these instructional programs entertain as they highlight the making of some very serious cakes. Taking a sensible approach, they discuss what tools are needed to create various designs but limit themselves to decorating techniques over the baking aspects of cake making. For many of us, the simple task of baking a cake from scratch may seem Herculean. *Basic Techniques* takes us through the definitions of some major players in the icing world, including fondant, royal icing, and butter cream. Some icings are denser and more pliable, easier to work with for fine designs and piping along edges; others are softer and creamier, making for a delectable children's birthday cake that may not look as fancy. *Beyond the Basics* includes transfers, colored piping, and collars. Unfortunately, the pro-

grams proceed ultrafast and require a lot of rewinding in order work on the techniques while watching. Still, both productions are highly recommended for public or academic culinary arts libraries that would like to add to their cake techniques collection.—Claire Schaper, Franklin Inst. Lib., Philadelphia

**Beading: 8 Easy Projects.** color. 40 min.

Larry Withers, dist. by On Air Video, Inc., 8203 Westminster Rd., Elkins Park, PA 19027; 215-885-2828; [www.onairvideo.com](http://www.onairvideo.com). 2007. DVD \$14.95. CRAFTS

A logical integration of visual and straightforward narration makes this crafts title a promise fulfilled. Sharyn Pak, an experienced beader, repeats crucial steps enough times that the eight projects—bracelet, earrings, necklace, zipper doodle, bibber, wineglass chain, ankle bracelet, and eyeglass holder—are clearly demonstrated and seem amazingly easy. Pak also offers neat design tips, including how to weight pieces effectively. A few quibbles: Pak offers a good introduction to the tools and materials needed but calls beading wire by one particular brand name, which is confusing for those who have used other brands. She also crimps with pliers, not a specific crimping tool, but does get the job done. Recommended for all collections.—Lynn Blumenstein, *Library Hotline*

**What Did You Say? A Guide to Speech Intelligibility in People with Down Syndrome.** color. 59 min. with tchr's. guide.

Will Schermerhorn, Blueberry Shoes Prods., dist. by Woodbine House, 6510 Bells Mill Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817; 800-843-7323; [www.woodbinehouse.com](http://www.woodbinehouse.com). 2006. DVD ISBN 978-1-890627-78-2. \$29.95. Public performance.

**DISABILITIES**

Many children who have disabilities, including Down syndrome, find being understood is one of the greatest challenges they face. *What Did You Say?* provides invaluable insight and help to these students, their families, and educators. In a no-nonsense, talking-head lecture format punctuated with actual student examples, Libby Kumin (speech/audiology, Loyola Coll.) provides an extensive look into the reasons behind communication difficulties and how they can be overcome. She also describes how an Individual Education Plan should be drawn up to improve real-life communications skills. Pragmatic and

inspirational, *What Did You Say?* would be helpful for anyone facing communication obstacles, regardless of the underlying disability. It should be part of the core collection of any library serving people with disabilities, parents, educators, and other professionals.—Courtney Deines-Jones, Grimalkin Group, LLC, Silver Spring, MD

**Solar Energy: Saved by the Sun.** color.

56 min. letterboxed. Steven Latham, NOVA, WGBH-Boston, 800-949-8670; [shop.wgbh.org](http://shop.wgbh.org). 2007. DVD ISBN 978-1-59375-721-2. \$19.95. Closed-captioned. ENERGY

This episode of the PBS *NOVA* series surveys solar power use today. Harnessing the sun's energy is the best hope for a power source to replace fossil fuels, i.e., coal, oil, and natural gas. While solar is still a very minor power source in America, the tech-



A restored "treasury" of films with a message features DeMille's *The Godless Girl*, p. 122

nology is rapidly becoming more efficient and affordable. *NOVA* tours an impressive solar thermal power plant in California, then shifts to Germany, where financial incentives have created major demand along with a new industry manufacturing solar panels. Back in the United States, experts explain how scientific research, including nanotechnology, is improving solar panel performance. The challenge is in increasing solar power enough to reduce coal use significantly. There is a nod to solar applications at work in developing countries. Recommended for all libraries needing an update on solar energy technology.—David R. Conn, Surrey P.L., BC

**Midsomer Murders, Set 9.** 4 vols. color. 400 min. Peter Smith & others, A&E Networks, dist. by Acorn Media, 8515 Georgia Ave., Suite 650,

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