

For Immediate Release
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ALSC announces 2004 Notable Children's Videos

CHICAGO - The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has selected its 2004 list of Notable Children's Videos. The list includes videos for children 14 years of age and younger of especially commendable quality that demonstrate respect for a child's intelligence and imagination and that reflect and encourage the interests of children in exemplary ways. The list includes distributor and an annotation.

The videos selected are:

"Bark, George," Weston Woods.

John Lithgow narrates the story of George, a puppy who meows, quacks, oinks and moos. Based on the book by Jules Feiffer, this animated film follows George's strange sounding problem to its farcical solution.

"Bread Comes to Life: A Garden of Wheat and a Loaf to Eat," Informed Democracy.

From the sowing of the seeds to George Levenson's shaping and baking of the bread dough, Lily Tomlin beautifully narrates each step while George Winston provides the music on this engaging live action presentation. Bring on the fresh baked bread!

"Chiefs," Active Parenting Publishers.

This documentary follows the Wyoming Indian High School basketball team through two seasons of adversity and perseverance. Each young man faces tough choices including finding his place on the "rez." Voted Best Documentary, 2002 Tribeca Film Festival.

"Come On, Rain!" Weston Woods.

In this iconographic presentation of Karen Hesse's and Jon J. Muth's picture book, Tess's soft whisper of "come on, rain" soon turns into a joyful dance as the rain DOES come accompanied by Jerry Dale McFadden's swing music.

"Coral Seas (Blue Planet: Seas of Life)," Discovery Channel.

Vivid cinematography takes viewers to the ocean's coral reefs teeming with life in this two-part Emmy Award-winning video. Richard Attenborough's narrative combined with the powerful musical score portrays the battle for life in this fragile habitat.

"Dem Bones," Weston Woods.

Bob Barner's book is brought to bone-shaking life in this animated musical that connects song to information. Raul Malo's toe-tapping music makes this skeleton band rattle and tickles the funny bone.

"Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa," Weston Woods.

A cool cat celebrates the life and music of Ella Fitzgerald in this adaptation of the book by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney. Billy Dee Williams' narration and music by Joel Goodman and Dan Rosengard with original recordings by Ella Fitzgerald provide an outstanding soundtrack for this animated tale of how Ella found her voice.

"Everyday Signs (Signing Time!; v. 3)," Two Little Hands Productions.

Alex, who can hear, and Leah, who is deaf, invite other young children to share everyday ASL signs. Sister team Emilie de Azevedo Brown and Rachel Coleman created this DVD with an interactive mix of live action and animation.

"Giggle, Giggle, Quack," Weston Woods.

Randy Travis narrates this animated down-home version of Doreen Cronin's and Betsy Lewin's picture book. Watch out for duck! He's trouble!

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