

Booklist

The Witness. Tribe of Heart. 2000; rel. 2001. 43min. \$20 (pp) (1-882979-12-5). 607-275-0806. 179.

At first glance Brooklyn architectural contractor Eddie Lama seems like an unconventional spokesperson for animal rights issues. With his New York accent and street-savvy comments, Lama initially sounds more like comic Billy Crystal than an activist who is fighting the fur and meat industries. Once a heavy smoker and drinker and now a vegetarian and animal rights advocate who believes that food- and fur-bearing animals share the same fears, feelings, and intelligence as our treasured pets, Lama speaks passionately about his cause. Disturbing undercover footage of slaughterhouses and animal ranches is woven throughout the thoughtful comments. Taking his message to the streets, Lama is shown passing out flyers in New York City to promote his message. Effective and never overly sensationalized, this thought-provoking production will move both adult and teen viewers. —*Candace Smith*

JUNE 1 & 15, 2001
VOLUME 97 NUMBER 19 & 20
ISSN 0006-7385

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

"The Witness is one man's truth that cries out for mass exposure... a unique, indelible 43-minute documentary that may be the most important and persuasive film about animals ever made."

—Howard Rosenberg,
Los Angeles Times

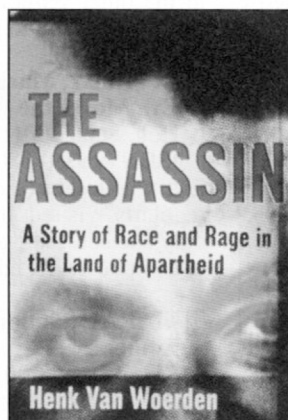


Eddie Lama, whose life journey is the subject of the documentary *The Witness*, received the Peace Abbey's Courage of Conscience Award on June 17, 2001. Past recipients of this award have included Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Dr. Patch Adams, Maya Angelou, Ramsey Clark and Muhammad Ali.

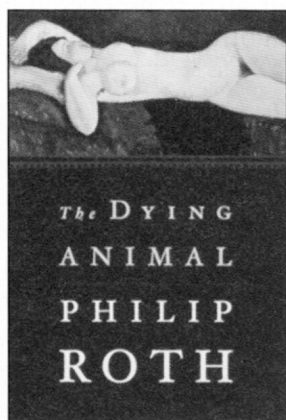
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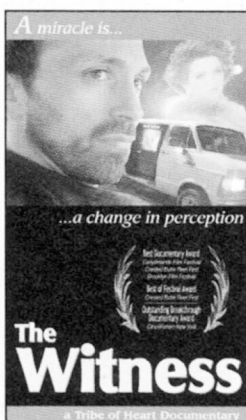
LIBRARY JOURNAL REVIEWS



BEHIND the scenes of a murder and a society —p. 108



A PROFESSOR is broken by love in Roth's latest —p. 128



ONE MAN stands up for animal rights —p. 142

The Witness

color. 43 min. Jenny Stein, Tribe of Heart, PO Box 149, Ithaca, NY 14851; 607-275-0806; www.tribeofheart.org. 2000. ISBN 1-882979-12-5. \$20 + \$4 s/h. Public performance. SOC SCI

This powerful documentary relates the story of a construction contractor's reaction to the plight of abandoned animals in Brooklyn and how these circumstances eventually led to his becoming an activist in the fight to end the use of animal fur in the fashion industry. The viewer learns the process by which Eddie Lama grew to respect and love abandoned cats, which fostered his interest in the treatment or maltreatment of all animals. In particular, he began to research and document various methods used in obtaining fur for the clothing industry. His claims are supported by the undercover video footage he displays in a media station within his work van, which he drives throughout Manhattan for all those passing by to view. Not for the faint of heart, the video includes shots of the tortured animals and the horrified faces of the spectators. This award-winning video, endorsed by the Humane Society of the United States, should be considered a tool to promote kindness toward animals. Recommended for upper-level school, academic, and public libraries.—*Marianne Eimer, SUNY Coll. at Fredonia Lib.*

THE WITNESS • 43 minutes • DVDs \$15 + \$5 s/h

To learn more or place an order, visit

www.tribeofheart.org or call (607) 275-0806

Library orders can also be placed through Instructional Video, (800) 843-3620, or the AV Café, (877) 228-2233.