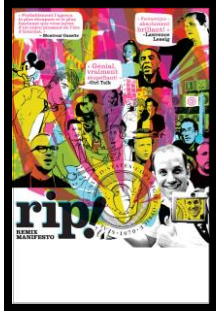


Movie Reviews



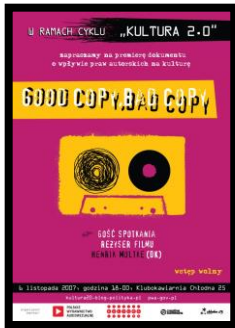
RiP! A Remix Manifesto (review by Sarah Nicholson)

Aung-Thwin, M., Baulu, K., Ying Gee Wong, G. (Producers), & Gaylor, B. (Director). (2008). *RiP! A Remix Manifesto* [Motion picture]. Canada: National Film Board of Canada.

Director Bruce Gaylor's passion is evident in this NFB documentary that focuses on the emergence of remix culture and the cultural and legal issues that remixers frequently face. Featuring well-known contributors to remix culture such as Girl Talk and Canada's own Cory Doctorow, *RiP!* examines the struggles remix artists face while trying to create something new from the works of others. Remix and mashup artists are restrained by copyright laws that compromise their creative expression.

While the film grabs and holds the viewer's attention, and contains a lot of relevant information, it should also be noted that *RiP!* offers a somewhat one-sided depiction of remix culture. Little consideration is given to artists who have been struggling with Internet piracy since the early days of Napster and do *not* support remixing. Gaylor's presentation of the war against copyright gives the impression that the issues surrounding it are black and white, with mega industries on one side and artists on the other. Despite this bias, *RiP!* remains a relevant resource for teens who are interested in learning more about the ideas and people who are leading remix culture and pushing the reform of copyright laws.

With some mature themes and content, it is suggested that this film be reserved for high school students. It is also a great watch for librarians and others who are interested in learning more about remix culture.



Good Copy Bad Copy (review by Emily LeGrand)

Rosforth (Producer), & Johnsen, A., Christensen, R., & Moltke, H. (Directors). (2007). *Good Copy Bad Copy* [Motion picture]. Denmark: Retrieved from <http://www.goodcopybadcopy.net/>

A great documentary presents all sides of a situation, takes the viewer to the inside perspective of an issue, and talks to all the key players. It should also be engaging, making the topic relevant and interesting even to people who had not before considered the issues at hand.

The 2007 Danish documentary *Good copy bad copy* does all these things in its presentation of copyright issues in the internet era. *Good copy bad copy* focuses on mashup and remix culture, an increasingly popular trend with teens. The film portrays remix culture as a way for teens to engage with and interpret their cultural world. The issue is that mashups infringe on traditional copyright laws – unless of course the mashup creator has gone through the painstaking legal process of securing copyright permissions. As the music mashup artist Girl Talk, who opens and closes the film, points out, this process is logistically impossible. He estimates that clearing copyright for one of his songs could take fifty years or more.

Throughout the documentary, we hear from an impressively wide cast of characters, such as professors of music copyright law, Brazilian mashup artists, Russian pirated music sellers, Nigerian filmmakers, Creative Commons founder Lawrence Lessig, Swedish file-sharing service providers called the Pirate Bay, lawyers, and owners of small record labels. Through interviews with each of these people, the film explores questions such as the freedom artists have to obtain compensation for their work, how this freedom will be protected as copyright evolves, and how current artists can continue to create without constant threat of legal persecution. Through the film, Lawrence Lessig's Creative Commons licenses emerge as an answer to some of these questions, though they are not the only solution.

Good copy bad copy is essential for all teen librarians to watch for their own professional benefit. The film's hip and engaging tone is perfect inspiration for librarians to create mashup programs of their own, or copyright-themed workshop for interested teens. *Good copy bad copy* could also form the basis for a great discussion group or debate activities for teens.