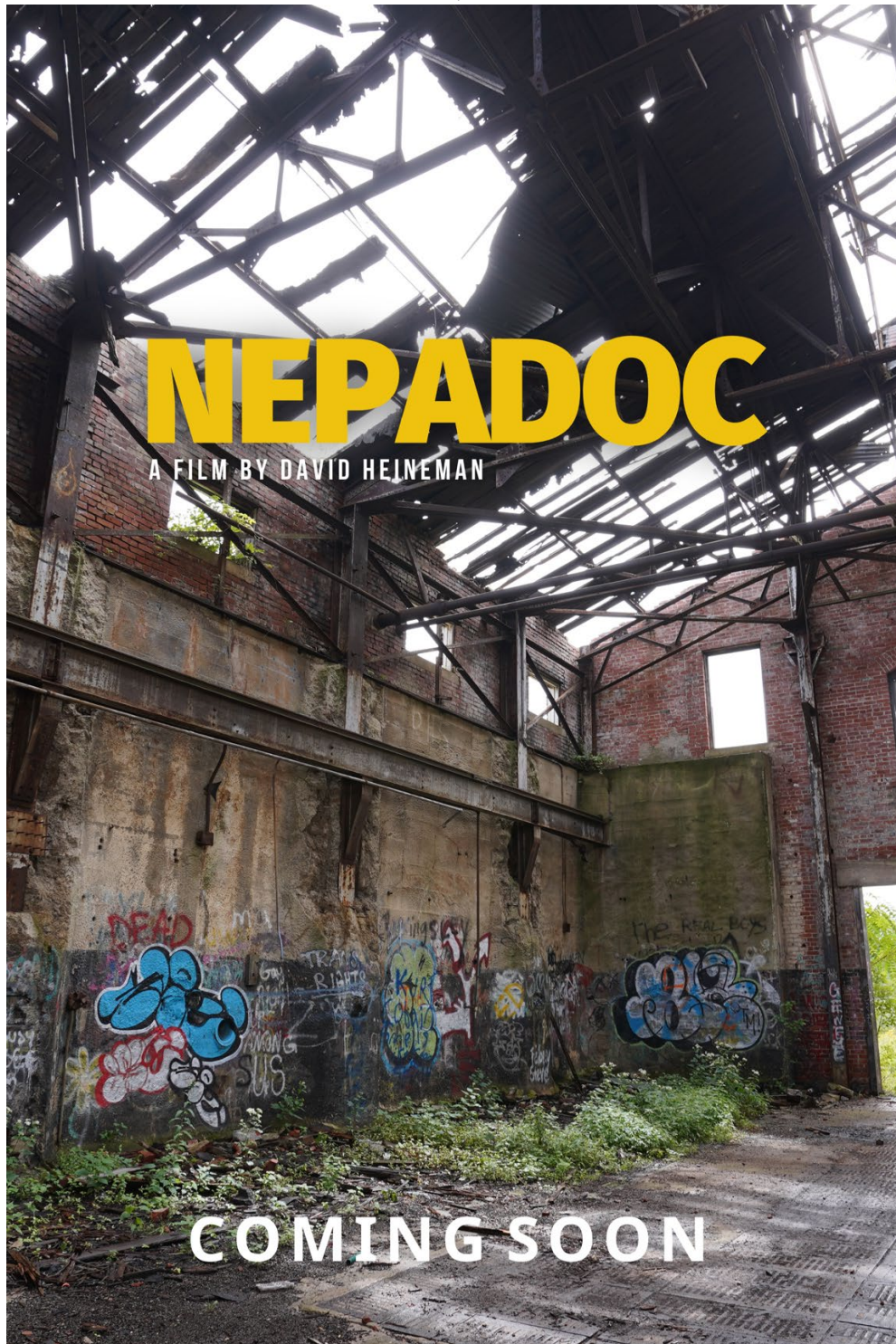


NEPADOC Press Kit

v1.1



Contact: David Heineman; Dweebland Productions
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01. Basic Information

Film Title: NEPADOC

Year: 2023

Runtime: 86 minutes

Language: English

Genres: Documentary, Experimental, Environmental, Nonverbal

Budget: \$10,000 USD

Available Formats:

4K Digital Video (3840x2160), Stereo Audio – MP4 file or BD-R disc

HD Digital Video (1920x1080), Stereo Audio – MP4 file or DVD-R disc

Request Festival Screener: <https://filmfreeway.com/DavidHeineman>

Contact Information

Studio: Dweebland Productions

Location: Bloomsburg, PA; United States

Director: David Heineman

Email: dsheinem@gmail.com

Phone: 570-389-4188



02. Synopsis

Brief Synopsis: *NEPADOC* is a new feature-length documentary about intersections of environment, industry, and identity in Northeastern Pennsylvania over the past 300 years. Inspired by non-verbal documentary film landmarks such as *Koyaanisqatsi* and *Baraka*, *NEPADOC* blends 4K cinematography, local historical footage, and a sweeping score into a dizzying and contemplative meditation on culture, place, and public memory. The story of this place is the story of many places.

Medium Synopsis: *NEPADOC* is a new feature-length documentary about intersections of environment, industry, and identity in Northeastern Pennsylvania over the past 300 years. The idea for *NEPADOC* was borne out of more than a decade of research into the history and culture of the Northeastern region of Pennsylvania (often abbreviated as “NEPA”). Filmed over a period of eight months across more than a dozen Pennsylvania counties, *NEPADOC* is the first feature film by director David Heineman. *NEPADOC* highlights the resilience of a people who, surrounded by the insular beauty of Appalachia, maintain a well-earned mistrust of authority, a fierce sense of independence, and an often-tenuous relationship with their own past. Drawing inspiration from nonverbal documentary landmarks such as Godfrey Reggio’s *Koyaanisqatsi* (1982) and Ron Fricke’s *Baraka* (1992), the filmmakers focused the camera’s attention on the many beautiful natural landscapes found throughout the region, on ruins of the bygone lumber and coal industries that defined the region’s history, on the hustle and bustle of contemporary life, and on the many faces of those who continue to define NEPA’s character and community. *NEPADOC* combines these gorgeous new 4K images, remastered and rarely seen archival footage of the region, and a sweeping synth-driven score into a dizzying and contemplative meditation on culture, on place, and on how we choose to remember the past. In this way, the film showcases the cyclical nature of life, death, and rebirth in the region, revealing that the story of this place is a story one shared by many places across the globe.

Long Synopsis: *NEPADOC* is a new feature-length documentary about the intersections of environment, industry, and identity in Northeastern Pennsylvania over the past 300 years. Home to cities such as Williamsport, where the Little League World Series is held annually, and Scranton, birthplace of the sitting US president, Northeastern PA (often abbreviated “NEPA”) has long been an important industrial and cultural region of the country, and its story is one that mirrors much of the larger narrative of America itself.

The idea for *NEPADOC* was borne out of more than a decade of research into the history and culture of the Northeastern region of Pennsylvania (often abbreviated as “NEPA”). Filmed over a period of eight months across more than a dozen Pennsylvania counties, *NEPADOC* is the first feature film by director David Heineman, whose previous work addressing the first year of life during COVID-19 (the short film *The Pandemic Nature Project*) has been screened at juried film festivals and international academic symposia.

Northeastern Pennsylvania is a region that has been significantly shaped by the imprint of the lumber industry in the 18th and 19th century, the anthracite coal industry in the 19th and early 20th century, and the natural gas and renewable energy industries in recent decades. In each of these periods, discovery of energy resources resulted in a series of boom-bust cycles that saw enormous wealth and wealth disparity, newly flourishing immigrant cultures tempered by hateful rhetoric and violence, and significant industrial undertakings with long-lasting environmental and economic impacts. Across these cycles, *NEPADOC* highlights the resilience of a people who, surrounded by the insular beauty of Appalachia, maintain a well-earned mistrust of authority, a fierce sense of independence, and an often-tenuous relationship with their own past. In this way, the film showcases the cyclical nature of life, death, and rebirth in the region, revealing that the story of this place is a story shared by many places across the globe.

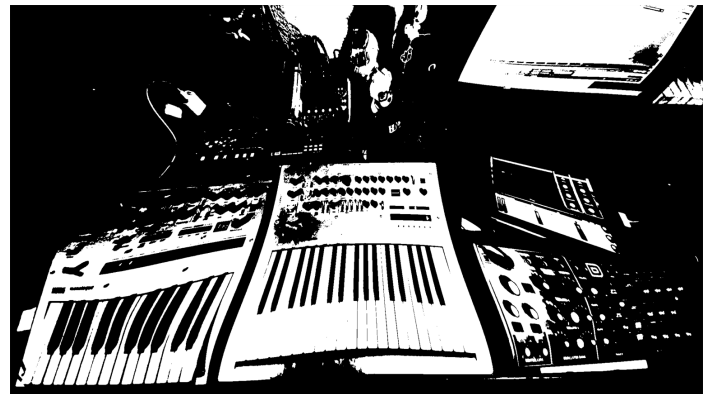
NEPADOC draws inspiration from nonverbal documentary landmarks such as Godfrey Reggio’s *Koyaanisqatsi* (1982) and Ron Fricke’s *Baraka* (1992), both of which highlight themes of global connectedness through ingenious and artful uses of time-lapse, slow-motion, aerial, and experimental cinematography. For *NEPADOC*, the filmmakers focused the camera’s attention on the many beautiful natural landscapes found throughout the region, on the ruins of the bygone lumber and coal industries that defined the region’s history, on the hustle and bustle of contemporary life, and on the many faces of those who continue to define NEPA’s character and community today. *NEPADOC* combines these gorgeous new 4K images, remastered and rarely seen archival footage of the region, and a sweeping synth-driven score into a dizzying and contemplative meditation on culture, on place, and on how we choose to remember the past.

03. About the Making of the Film

NEPADOC was created by a small team of filmmakers with a passion for beautiful cinematography, regional identity, analog-synth soundscapes, and critical engagement. By working closely with state museums, local historical societies, and regional cultural groups, the production travelled to many heritage sites, to remote areas of the Pennsylvania Wilds, to abandoned and active energy production operations, and across more than a dozen counties in the Northeast region of Pennsylvania.

NEPADOC's soundtrack features an analog synth score that places an eerie electronic sheen over the rugged and mechanical imagery that comprises much of the film. Marked by repeating arpeggios, improvisational keywork, textured drone, and bass-driven industrial tracks, the film's score punctuates its major themes and puts a new spin on its historical imagery.

Production of the film was funded in part through a small grant from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania's Center for Community Research and Consulting. A microbudget film, *NEPADOC* offers a compelling example of the creative possibilities and artistic potential for modern documentary film.



04. About the Director



NEPADOC is the debut feature film by director David Heineman whose previous work, the 35-minute short *The Pandemic Nature Project* (2021), was exhibited at several juried festivals and academic conferences prior to its distribution by the literary and arts magazine *The Autoethnographer*. Heineman, who's family roots in Northeastern Pennsylvania date back several generations, is a professor of Communication Studies at Bloomsburg University, where he teaches courses in media studies, criticism, and public advocacy.

05. Director's Statement

"The original inspiration for NEPADOC springs from my years of living and teaching in Northeast Pennsylvania. The juxtaposition of the region's beautiful landscapes against some of its economically and environmentally decimated communities create striking visual parallels between NEPA's own unique story and those of many other communities across the globe. I was interested in using the techniques available to nonverbal documentary filmmaking to create a historical narrative of the region that offers an argument about how industry, environment, and identity have intersected in ways that are recognizable by any audience that has spent time in places like those showcased in the film. Films like Godfrey Reggio's *Koyaanisqatsi* (1982) and Ron Fricke's *Baraka* (1992) are noted for their ability to artfully bring global perspectives to localized audiences, and *NEPADOC* tries to do this in reverse, highlighting the universal themes found in the localized story of this one region of the world."



06. Crew Bios

Noam Maymon - Cinematography/Editing



Noam is a gifted cinematographer with a sharp eye for texture, light, and focus. A recent graduate of Bloomsburg University's Media and Journalism Department, where he was president of the campus' National Broadcasting Society chapter, Maymon has also done work in advertising, local media production, and telecommunications. As an emerging artist with an abundance of creative talent, he is a new filmmaker to watch.

David Crago – Music



A musician with a passion for electronic and improvisational work, Crago's skill with analog synths and arpeggiating keys shines through on the film's score. Inspired by artists like Oneohtrix Point Never and Boards of Canada, his work regularly juxtaposes carefully crafted compositions with found sounds, samples, and glitchy production.

Jeremy DePrisco - Audio Mastering



A native of the Hazleton area who grew up playing on former mine lands and traveling through coal patch towns, DePrisco is a multi-talented musician, producer, and educator. His interests in combining algorithmic music, spoken word art, and AI creation tools with abstract imagery and sonics can be seen across much of the work on his home page and YouTube site. DePrisco is an innovative sound artist with an eye towards future collaboration.

08. Links

Official Website: www.nepadoc.com

Film Freeway Site: <https://filmfreeway.com/NEPADOC>

Teaser Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzVhLj6k8J0>

Festival Trailer: [coming soon]

09. Credits

Starring (in alphabetical order):

Evelyn Aquino
Desiree Brown
Emily Burget
Adam Waterbear DePaul
Gina Gibbon
Tristan Haraschak
Albra Heineman
Alyssa Kobal
Joseph Kost
David Matsinko
Angie Rabbitz
Russ Rentler
Mary Sabol
Kasia Stewart
Jose Tatis
Jesus Torna
Norm Williams

Production

Sound Mastering - Final Mix
Jeremy J. dePrisco

Drone Operator
Brett McLaurin

Gunshot Effects
Izaiah Gordon

Ending Credits Animation
David J. Heineman

Shot entirely in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in:

Bradford County
Carbon County
Clinton County
Columbia County
Lackawanna County
Lycoming County
Monroe County
Montour County
Northumberland County
Pike County
Potter County
Schuylkill County
Snyder County
Sullivan County
Susquehanna County

Tioga County
Union County
Wayne County

With the assistance of:

Andruss Library Special Collections, Bloomsburg
University of Pennsylvania
www.library.bloomu.edu

Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned
Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)
www.epcamr.org

Eckley Miners' Village
www.eckleyminersvillage.com

Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour
www.coalminetournepa.com

Lenape Cultural Center
www.lenape-nation.org

Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum
www.anthracitemuseum.org

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation &
Natural Resources
www.dcnr.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Lumber Museum
www.lumbermuseum.org

Peter Herdic House
www.hedrichouse.com

Schuylkill County Historical Society
www.schuylkillhistory.org

Thomas T. Taber Museum of the Lycoming
County Historical Society
www.tabermuseum.org

Archival footage

"1920s Mining Executives, Reel 1"
circa 1920, archive.org, Periscope Film (dist.)

"Agnes at Fifty: Nixon's visit to Wilkes-Barre"
c2022, WBRE-TV
filmed in Wilkes-Barre, PA

"Anthracite Coal-a-Thon"
c1977, WETV-10
filmed in Shamokin, PA

"The Austin Flood"
c1911, Thanhouser Company
filmed in Austin, PA

"Biden Shows Childhood Scranton Home to
Clinton"
c2016, Associated Press
filmed in Scranton, PA

"Black Diamonds"
c1954, Paul Alley Productions for Glen Alden
Coal Company
filmed primarily in Lackawanna County

Black Lung Disease: Illness on the Rise in the U.S.
c2018, Al Jazeera English

"Black Sunlight"
circa 1920, Bray Pictures Corp
filmed in the Anthracite region

"Central PA Logging: Sheffield, Warren County
1926"
c1926, YouTube

Centralia Home Movies
circa 1960s-2000s,
filmed in Centralia, PA

"Coal and Anthracite"
circa 1920s, archive.org, Periscope Film (dist.)
filmed in the Anthracite region

"Coal Dust: Hazards and Controls"
c1980, Mine Safety and Health Administration

"Coal's Deadly Dust"
c2019, Corporation for Public Broadcasting

"The Curse of the Forest"
c1916, Vitagraph Company and PA Dept. of
Forestry

"Emigrants, Landing at Ellis Island"
c1903, Thomas A. Edison

"Faces of Black Lung"
c2008, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

"The Forest Produces"
c1949, Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc for the NY Zoological Society

"From Stump to Ship"
c1930, directed by Alfred Ames & Howard Kane, Northeast Historic Film (dist.)

"Harry E. Coal Breaker Demolition"
c1995, WNEP-TV 16
filmed in Swoyersville, PA

"Her Fractured Voice"
c1917, US Motion Picture Corporation, Black Diamond Comedies
filmed in Wilkes-Barre, PA

"Illegal Immigration Forum at the University of Notre Dame"
c2007, C-SPAN

"Immigration: An Instructional Film"
c1946, Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc.

"Joe Biden in Scranton on Election Day"
c2020, WYOU-TV
filmed in Scranton, PA

"The Last Raft: A Modern Saga of a Once Famous Industry"
c1938, archive.org, Periscope Film (dist.)
filmed in Muncy, PA

"Mining Anthracite Coal"
c1922, Ford Motor Company
filmed in the Anthracite region

"Mining and Preparation of Anthracite Coal"
circa 1934, Delaware and Lackawanna Coal Company
filmed in the Anthracite region

"Mining Operations, Pennsylvania Fields"
c1904, Thomas A. Edison
filmed in Drifton, PA

"Obama at Society of Irish Women's St. Patrick's Day Dinner"
c2008, WNEP-TV 16
filmed in Scranton, PA

"One Wonderful Wandering"
circa 1920s, directed by Calvin Myles Kershner
filmed in Shamokin, PA

"The Price of Carelessness"
c1915, The Edison Company for the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad
filmed at Truesdale Colliery, Nanticoke

"Queeriosities: Tree Toppers"
c1920s; archive.org

"Rail fan scenes of 1960 Pennsylvania"
c1960, archive.org [home movie]
filmed in Tamaqua, PA

"Road to the White House – Trump/Pence Town Hall in Scranton, PA"
c2020, C-SPAN 2
filmed at Lackawanna College

"A Romance of the Rail "
c1903, directed by Edwin S. Porter of Edison Manufacturing Company for the Lackawanna Railroad
filmed primarily in Lackawanna County

"Senator Casey's Remarks at Wilkes University"
c2022, Senator Bob Casey (YouTube)
filmed in Wilkes-Barre, PA

"The Story of Coal"
circa 1920, Bray Pictures Corp
filmed in the Anthracite region

"The Story of Coal"
c1920, US Bureau of Mines, Dept. of the Interior, and National Coal Assoc.
partially filmed in the Anthracite region

"This is Little League"
c1950, produced by the United States Rubber Company, Keds Sports Department

filmed in Williamsport, PA

"Timber in the Northeast"
c1946, directed by Victor Beaudoin for Brown Paper Company

"Trees for Tomorrow"
c1930s, directed by Leslie Roush for American Forest Production Industries

all footage is in the public domain or has been incorporated under fair use copyright

Equipment

Visuals:

Apple iPhone 12
Apple iPhone 14
GoPro Max
Sony A7iii
Tamron lenses

Audio:

Behringer Model D
Korg Minilogue, Monologue, &Volca Beats
Moog Software
H5 Zoom

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Bode Morin
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Joshua Roth
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Paul A. Shackel

10. Production Stills













