

Eight shorts vie for doco Oscar

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The assassination of Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez's grape boycott, gay men in China and historian David McCullough are among the subjects of the films vying for Oscar nominations for best documentary short subject.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences overnight released a shortlist of eight titles, culled from 31 submissions.

Three to five of them will be named when nominees in all the categories are announced on January 22.

The films that have made the the cut are:

- The Conscience Of Nhem En, directed by Steven Okazaki - a study of Cambodia 30 years after the reign of the Khmer Rouge.
- David McCullough: Painting With Words, by Mark Herzog - a documentary offering a portrait of the historian who wrote John Adams, the basis for HBO's Emmy-winning miniseries.
- Downstream, by Leslie Iwerks - a nominee for 2006's Recycled Life that looks at Canada's oil sands industry and its effects on aboriginal natives.
- The Final Inch - Irene Taylor Brodsky's account of efforts to eradicate polio.
- Smile Pinki - Megan Mylan's portrait of a young girl in India who is treated for a cleft lip.
- Tongzhi In Love, a film about gay men in China by Ruby Yang.
- Viva La Causa, Bill Brummel and Alonso Filomeno Mayo's study of the grape strike and boycott led by Chavez and Dolores Huerta.
- The Witness From The Balcony Of Room 306, by Adam Pertofsky - an account of the King assassination as witnessed by Reverend Samuel "Billy" Kyles.

- **Reuters**