

ANALOGUE REVOLUTION

How feminist media changed the world

An
Educational
Resource Kit

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ABOUT THE FILM

From a then-illegal handbook on birth control, to the first women of colour film festival, *Analogue Revolution* offers a dizzying account of feminist media - newspapers, radio, video/film, and film festivals - in Canada from the 1970's to the 1990's. Drawing from interviews, archival footage, and ephemera, the film lovingly traces the shifting landscape of Canadian feminism, its successes, its faults, and the many spaces in between. It concludes with a resurgence of contemporary BIPOC feminist collectives picking up the mic. With narration by Canadian Rocker Carole Pope and music tracks from vintage women's bands, this film is a high-speed feminist rain journey across Canada that drops you off in the future.

Run Time: 93 minutes, Canada, 2023.

Eng/French, w. English subtitles

Director: Marusya Bociurkiw

Co-Producers: Marusya Bociurkiw, Eponine Young

Director of Photography: Vanessa Abadhir

Editor: Eugene Weiss

Sound Design: Robbie Teehan

Sound Editor: Deanna Marano

ANALOGUE REVOLUTION

How Feminist Media Changed the World



A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY BY MARUSYA BOCIURKIW

CO-PRODUCED BY MARUSYA BOCIURKIW, EPONINE YOUNG, DIRECTOR: VANESSA ABADHIR, EDITOR: EUGENE WEIS
COMPOSER: ROBBIE TEEHAN, GRAHAM CAMPBELL, SOUND EDITOR: DEANNA MARANO, NARRATOR: CAROLE POPE

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Statement from Filmmaker Marusya Bociurkiw

“This movement has never been documented before.”



I got my start in the media industry in a way that is not possible today - via feminist media. I got valuable mentorship, experience and co-directing credits with feminist video collectives Women's Media Alliance and Emma Productions. I published my earliest writing with Ottawa's Upstream Newspaper, and Toronto's Rites and Broadside newspapers. My first book was published by the lesbian feminist press Press Gang Publishers. Because of this network of support, I was able to begin an independent artistic career outside of corporate constraints. I am now the director of ten films and the author of five books.

This film is my homage to the intricate intersectional media networks that were created by feminists in Canada since the late 60's, the ways that those networks became a force to be reckoned with, how they anticipated digital networking and how they were targeted and closed down by right-wing governments and media in the 1990's.

Many of my university students believe that contemporary feminism began with the #MeToo movement in 2017; this film uncovers a lost civilization of networked communities that existed long before that. “This was our internet” as one of the subjects of the film states: we communicated – before the internet - via journals, magazines, newsletters, radio, film and literary festivals, and filmmakers like myself who traveled across the country, a reel of film under my arm. I imagined, at the time, that the swaths of celluloid from those films connected my body to the bodies of other women, like some sort of reverse umbilical cord. In all cases, we were birthing new aesthetics, new forms of communication, new technologies, new language, and even new words.

This movement has never been documented before.



The Press Gang Publishers.
Bottom Left: Nancy Pollock.

Curriculum Connect



Grade 12
Canadian
History + Politics

Grade 11
Media Studies



Analogue Revolution has broad application within the Ontario high school curriculum for upper-level students. The film will be a valuable resource, both as a primer on the history of feminism in Canada, and under the broader scope of the media studies curricula, as a way of understanding how orphaned or obsolete technologies provided social movements with sophisticated forms of networking, raising questions about uses of social media, AI, and other digital practices.

We also encourage the use and adaptation of this resource for post-secondary students, community groups, or anyone who wishes to engage with the history of Canadian feminist media production.

Grade 12 Canadian and International Politics

Unit D: Non-Governmental Action on Canadian and International Political Issues

This unit focuses on Civic Awareness and Responsibility. *Analogue Revolution* analyses the role that Canadian women played in cultivating a feminist community that produced democratic and interactive forms of citizenship. Through their advocacy, Canadian feminists played a key role in securing the rights and freedoms heretofore denied to Canadian women, such as reproductive rights, and equal pay.

Students can analyze the strategies used by these groups, discuss the different challenges women faced in their fight for justice, and what it means to be a responsible citizen.

Analogue Revolution also highlights the significant role played by technology and media – and the ways in which creating new democratic forms of communications contribute to civic awareness and democracy. Teachers and students can use the film to discuss the role of media production in the dissemination of ideas related to political activism, and civic engagement, and social change.

Grade 12 Canadian History, Identity, and Culture

Unit E-E3: Canada Since 1945
Diversity & Citizenship

This unit focuses on the historical significance and context of a variety of reform movements in the post-war period. Alongside civil rights, gay liberation, and disability rights movements, the women's movement in Canada was directly related to the shifting cultural norms that began to bear fruit following the conclusion of WWII.

The ways that these movements created their own communications networks, is instructive and useful for generations born into the digital era. *Analogue Revolution* offers a historical perspective on the various contributions Canadian feminists made to women's rights, in terms of law, government policy, aesthetics, and social attitudes.

Teachers and students can discuss how the post-war period contributed to the rise of feminist collective action, including changes to women's labour rights and participation, the decriminalization of birth control, the abolishing of abortion laws, and the addition of gender in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Grade 11 Media Studies

Unit 2: Understanding the Impact of Media on Society.

Analogue Revolution outlines the specific ways that feminist media production contributed to the effectiveness of grassroots activism. Through the production of magazines, pamphlets, newsletters, radio shows, and films, Canadian feminists were able to access old technologies and pioneer new ones, to disseminate ideas, philosophies, analyses and activities both to their community, and to the wider public.

Teachers and students can discuss the ways in which access to media production, contributed to, and propagated, the feminist movement in Canada, to the point where almost one-thousand different feminist magazines and periodicals existed in Canada..

Grade 12 English Media Studies

Unit 2: Understanding Media Forms, Conventions and Techniques.

Broadly, students can discuss the differing ways women were represented in the mass media of 1960's, and beyond, in comparison to feminist media works. Students can also discuss the role currently played by social media in the production of materials for grassroots activist causes.

Curriculum Connect

Discussion

Questions

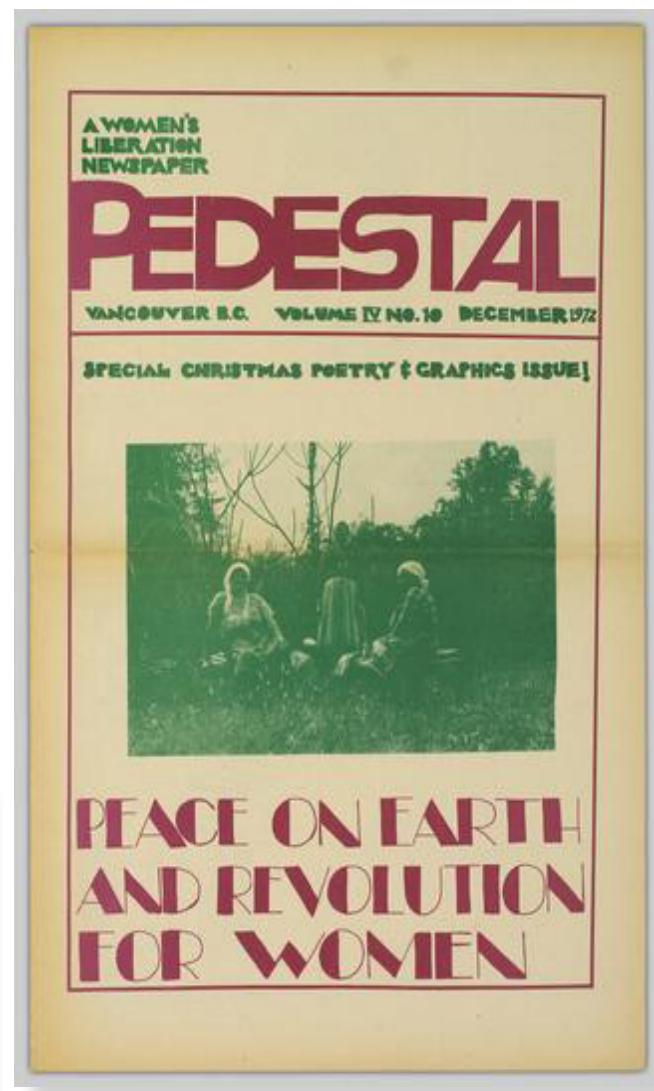
General

1. What was your understanding of feminism in Canada before seeing this documentary? How has the film changed your understanding?

2. What techniques does the film use to make its case for the importance of feminism in Canada?
(*Examples include: interview style, editing, framing, etc.*)

3. In what ways is the feminist movement still important to Canadian society? Where in your own life do you see a need for feminism?

4. Intersectionality, and the inclusion of BIPOC feminists, is a key concern of *Analogue Revolution*. What are some examples of intersectional thought or activism in the film? Is the film itself intersectional?



Discussion Questions Continued

Canadian History

1. Feminist activists in the late 1960's took certain risks in publishing materials about birth control – an activity that was illegal at the time. Is it justifiable to break the law for a worthy cause? Why, or why not?

2. There is a misunderstanding that Second Wave Feminism was comprised entirely of white women. How does *Analogue Revolution* counter this? Why is it important to highlight the contributions of BIPOC women in Canadian feminist history?

3. How does a person become a responsible citizen? The women profiled in this film became responsible citizens through their collective production of alternative media, and by creating concrete changes in law, government policy, and culture. In what ways can you cultivate responsible citizenship in your own life, in a collective, rather than

NOTES

Media Studies

1. The feminists profiled in *Analogue Revolution* relied on analogue technologies to disseminate their message, such as radio, and print media. With the rise of digital technologies, iPhone, and apps like Canva, anyone is able to create media materials for free, almost
2. Analogue technologies allowed the women in the film to “seize the means of production”, a Marxist term that inspired them to cultivate their own platforms for discussion of feminist issues. Presently, most people use social media platforms to disseminate their message - platforms owned by corporations. How might grassroots messaging be compromised by the business concerns of social media platforms?
3. An overarching theme of *Analogue Revolution* is that media production was instrumental in bringing feminist groups together to create social change, in ways that cannot be done through social media. Without access to remote digital communication, it was only through in-person community relations they were able to organize.
What do you see as the difference between analogue and digital technologies - a ‘hands on’ versus a ‘digital’ touch technology approach. What role can analogue media production still play in community building? What analogue forms of communication or culture do you see around you? Are there any that you’d like to try? (Examples: zine-making, silk-screening, analogue photography)

Discussion Questions Continued

Classroom Activities

1. Armed with scissor, paper, glue, marker, and old print materials, invite students to create their own zines in a zine-making workshop.

2. Visit the online feminist archive, Rise Up, and find examples of advocacy for the following issues: equal pay, abortion rights, anti-racism, LGBT issues.

3. Create a poster that promotes any or all of the above issues. OR Create a one-page design proposal for a feminist video game.

ZINES

'Zines are a collage form of magazine-making. They were an important part of the punk feminist movement. Zines are traditionally made with a specific topic in mind. Zine-makers then cut and paste different materials together, onto a booklet crafted out of printer paper.

4. Have students break into groups and research and three Canadian feminists with an emphasis on diversity. Invite students to discuss their findings with the class

5. Following from the group research above - organize a panel discussion in which students chose a representative from their groups to speak and argue as the feminist they researched. What issues are they concerned about?

6. What feminist issues are important to you? Create a one-minute video for an online platform about a current feminist issue.

Resources & Advocacy Guide

Want to try out our classroom activities?
Check out the organizations below for more information and resources. .

Rise up! Feminist Archive

“Rise Up! is a digital archive of feminist activism in Canada from the 1970s to the 1990s. We were part of a worldwide wave of liberation and anti-oppression movements that won some victories, changed some attitudes, and radically altered the gendered and political landscape.”

riseupfeministarchive.ca



Canadian Women's Foundation

“We are Canada’s public foundation for gender justice and equality. We advance this by growing support for grassroots feminist action, partnering with communities and organizations to improve conditions, and building diverse leadership and knowledge for sustainable change.”

canadianwomen.org



Dames Making Games

“DMG is built on feminist principles connecting artists and gamers interested in learning game design and integrating gaming media into their practice. Through partnerships and community engagement, DMG supports marginalized developers and game enthusiasts through career development, practical workshops, and business development opportunities.”

<http://dmg.to>



Feminist Resources on Instagram

Women's March
[@womensmarch](https://www.instagram.com/womensmarch)

Lesbian Herstory Archives
[@lesbianherstoryarchives](https://www.instagram.com/lesbianherstoryarchives)

Rise up Feminsit Archive
[@riseupfeministarchive](https://www.instagram.com/riseupfeministarchive)

Dames Making Games
[@dmgtoronto](https://www.instagram.com/dmgtoronto)

Canadian Women's Foundation
[@canadianwomensfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/canadianwomensfoundation)

Resources Featured in Analogue Revolution

Publications featured in the film can be searched on the [Rise Up! Feminist Archive](#):

Fireweed: A Woman's Literary and Cultural Journal

Broadside: A Feminist Review

Isis: Women and Film

The Pedestal

The Birth Control Handbook

Glossary of Key Terms + Concepts

Use this glossary as a guide to aid learning for both discussion questions and class room activities.

BIPOC

An acronym that stands for “black, indigenous, and people of colour”, it is a term which acknowledges the different levels of injustice experienced by between groups.

Bodily Autonomy

The idea that women should have the right to self-determination, in respect of their bodies, without undue interference from sex-based laws that would seek to control it. E.g.: abortion laws.

Intersectionality

Originally conceived by law professor Kimberlé Crenshaw in respect of Black Americans and the criminal justice system – intersectionality is the idea that people are not reducible to one identity category but are in fact complex beings with multiple intersecting identities that coalesce to create differing outcomes in respect of discrimination, and privilege.

Means of Production

A concept originating with Karl Marx which suggests that citizens must operate and control the elements, assets, and resources, utilizing their labour and capital, in order to effect social change. In this context, Canadian feminists seized the means of media production to disseminate important feminist messaging.

Neoliberalism

A political economic term connoting a governing democratic ideology that promotes free-market capitalism, a de-regulatory framework, smaller government, and a less extensive social welfare state.

Reproductive Rights

Following from bodily autonomy – the idea that women should have control over their ability to reproduce. Reproductive rights include open access to birth control, and access to abortion.

R.v. Morgentaler

The 1988 Supreme Court of Canada decision that abortion, as interpreted under the Criminal Code was unconstitutional, and in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In effect – Canada's abortion laws were struck down.



Acknowledgements

Produced in conjunction with *Analogue Revolution: How Feminist Media Changed the World*, with director Dr. Marusya Bociurkiw. Design, layout, and additional research by Lexie Corbett.

Analogue Revolution: How Feminist Media Changed the World

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**With funding provided by the
Social Sciences and
Humanities Research
Council**



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

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