

*Curriculum Vitae*

**JAMES M. AULT, JR.**

*DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER - AUTHOR - ETHNOGRAPHER*

P.O. BOX 493 • Northampton, MA 01061  
Ph 413-587-9871 • Fax 413-584-6907

---

**EDUCATION**

Harvard College, B.A. with Honors, 1970

School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Field work in East Africa and Zambia, 1969 and 1974-5

Brandeis University, Dept. of Sociology, Ph.D. 1981. Advisor: Egon Bittner

**DOCUMENTARY FILM AND VIDEO PRODUCTIONS**

*BORN AGAIN: Life in a Fundamentalist Baptist Church* (87:00,16mm). A feature-length film broadcast as a prime-time special on PBS, 1987. Premiers: Anthropolos '87: The Barbara Myerhoff Film Festival, Los Angeles (1987) and the Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York City (1987). Broadcasts in Great Britain, Australia, The Netherlands, and Sweden. *Blue Ribbon American Film Festival*; *Cine Golden Eagle*. Producer/director, original research and conception.

*NORTHAMPTON'S LIVING HISTORY COMMUNITY HERITAGE PROJECT*, 2002- A documentary project designed to build community life by crossing divisions and differences in one local community and, at the same time, create a film to celebrate its 350<sup>th</sup> birthday. Funded by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and Northampton Council for the Arts. Producer/director/camera and sound.

*DOCUMENTARY RESOURCES FOR THE STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN CHRISTIANITY*, 1998-A three-year project involving leading scholars to produce a series of teaching modules and programs for broadcast on the distinct forms Christianity takes in African life and culture. Extensive shooting in local churches in Ghana and Zimbabwe. Funded by Pew Charitable Trusts and sponsored by Hartford Seminary. Producer/director, and DV camera.

*PARISH PORTRAITS*, 1999. Portraits of four local Episcopal churches for the Zacchaeus Project and Trinity Institute's national teleconference "Roots and Wings," September 27-9, 1999. (Video, 40:00). In progress: a variety of teaching tools are being edited from this same material. Funded by the Episcopal Church Foundation. Producer/director and DV camera.

*LEADING OUT: A Profile of University Leadership*, 1995. An ethnographic portrait (video, 44:30) of the president of Emory University and his relation to trustees and other constituents. For the Lilly Endowment's programs in Leadership Education. Producer/director.

*IRWIN MILLER: Portrait of a Trustee*, 1990. A video profile (28:50) of an exemplary public servant and treatment of issues surrounding trusteeship. Funded by the Lilly Endowment. *Honorable Mention*, American Film and Video Festival. Producer/director.

*EARTHEN VESSELS: Challenges for the Good Theological School*, 1994. A documentary (video, 33:30) for the Association of Theological Schools to provoke reflections on the future of theological education in the context of tumultuous change. Producer/director.

*EXPLORING WORSHIP STYLES*, 1994. Video portraits of worship in contrasting congregations (small town, suburban, African-American) for research exploring different styles of worship and their relation to spiritual formation. For Boston University's School of Theology. Producer/director and (with Linda Clark) research conception. Producer/director. Published by the Alban Institute, 2001.

*RELIGIOUS LIFE SAMPLER*, 1993. A sketch (video, 17:31) of The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (Kentucky) for a documentary on the future of religious life in the Catholic Church. For the Center for Applied Social Research, DePaul University. Producer/director.

*STREETLIFE SAMPLER*, 1993. A sketch (video, 15:00) of a homeless shelter in Louisville, Kentucky, the two nuns running it, and several of the men it serves. Producer/director.

*KEEP GOIN' JUICE*, 1992. An ethnographic portrait (video, 56:40) of youthwork and a program to renew youth-serving organizations. An experiment in one-man Hi-8 ethnographic documentary production. For the Lilly Endowment's evaluation work. Producer/director, camera, sound.

## ***Publications***

*SPIRIT AND FLESH: Life in a fundamentalist Baptist church*. A book recounting the author's ethnographic research and filmmaking in a fundamentalist Baptist church, and drawing lessons from that experience to better understand conflicts fundamentalism represents in American life. Alfred A. Knopf. Editor, Jane Garrett.

"Secular Humanism," in R. Wuthnow, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion* (Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, Inc.) 1998.

*LEADING OUT PRINT RESOURCES* (1996, 93pp.). A booklet of print resources designed to enhance the educational uses of *Leading Out*, an ethnographic documentary on running a university. Contents include an essay on making the documentary, reflections on discussion questions, roster of characters, and program transcript with ethnographic notes, all accompanied by images digitally captured from the program. Funded by the Lilly Endowment.

"Family and Fundamentalism: The Shawmut Valley Baptist Church. Reconstructing a Traditional Order of Family Life in a Fundamentalist Community." Raphael Samuel, ed., *Disciplines of Faith* (Routledge & Kegan Paul), 1987.

Review of Dennis Hollinger, *Individualism and Social Ethics: An Evangelical Syncretism*. *The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, June 1985.

"Making 'Modern' Marriage 'Traditional': State Power and the Regulation of Marriage in Colonial Zambia." *Theory and Society*, 12 (1983).

"Review Essay: Robert Bates, *Rural Responses to Industrialization* (New Haven: Yale University Press), 1976" *African Social Research* 32, 1981.

### ***Academic Teaching***

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, 1971-72.

Instructor/Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Smith College, 1976-81.

Visiting Lecturer, Sociology and Ethnographic Film, University of California, San Diego, 1987.

Spoelhof Professor, Calvin College, Documentary Filmmaking, Fall 2003.

"Digital Video & Global Christianity," a week-long practicum on using digital video to portray the life of faith communities across cultures. The Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT, February, 2004.

### ***Research Positions***

Research affiliate, Institute for African Studies, University of Zambia, 1974-75.

Research fellow, Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 1975-76.

Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies, 1982.

Post-doctoral fellow, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, 1982-83.

Visiting scholar, Trinity Institute, New York, 1987.

Evaluation research, The Lilly Endowment, 1988-92.

### ***Screenings/presentations***

Screening/discussion of *African Christianity Project* works-in-progress at Harvard Divinity School, Princeton Theological Seminary, Yale-Edinburgh Conference, SSSR Annual Conference, Fuller Theological Seminary, *inter alia*. 2001-03.

*Parish Portraits* screened as part of the national teleconference, "Roots and Wings: Episcopal Identity and Vocation in the New Millennium," Trinity Institute, NYC, September, 1999.

Screening/discussions of *Leading Out*, Council of Independent Colleges' Presidents Institute, the Assoc. of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, the Assoc. for College and University

Religious Affairs, Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, Columbia University's Teacher College, the Kellogg Foundation's Leadership Studies Project, *inter alia*, 1995-6.

Screening/discussion of select works for conference on "Media Representations of Religion," Princeton University, 1994.

Screening/discussion of *Keep Goin' Juice*, 2nd Annual Conference on Visual Sociology and Anthropology, Univ. of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 1992; American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, December 1992.

"The Social Bases of Fundamentalist Conservatism," Center for European Studies, Harvard University, 1984; the Divinity School, University of Chicago, 1989.

Presentations and discussions of *Born Again*, 1988-9: American Academy of Religion, Museum of Modern Art, American Sociological Assoc., American Anthropological Assoc., Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, American Psychiatric Assoc., Harvard Divinity School, *inter alia*.

"The Problem of Ethnographic Film," Symposium on Ethnographic Film, New York University, 1987.

## References

Dr. Egon Bittner  
Harry Coplan Professor in the Social  
Sciences (Retired)  
Department of Sociology  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, MA 02254

Dr. Barrington Moore, Jr.  
Russian Research Center  
Harvard University  
1737 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(N.B.: Dr. Moore's letter can be obtained  
from Brandeis Dept. of Sociology, above).

Dr. Robert Wood Lynn  
Retired, Senior VP, Religion  
The Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Ms. D. Susan Wisely  
Retired, Director of Evaluation  
The Lilly Endowment, Inc.  
2801 N. Meridian St.

Indianapolis, IN 46208-0068

Dr. Craig Dykstra  
Vice President, Religion  
The Lilly Endowment, Inc.  
2801 N. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208-0068

Dr. James L. Waits  
Executive Director  
The Fund for Theological Education  
Atlanta, GA

Dr. James Wind  
Executive Director

490 Prospect Street The Alban Institute,  
New Haven, Inc.  
Connecticut 06511 4550 Montgomery  
Ave./Suite 433 North  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3341

Dr. Andrew Walls  
Founder, Center for the Study of  
Christianity in the Non-Western World,  
University of Edinburgh

Dr. Joel Carpenter  
Provost, Calvin College  
3201 Burton, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Dr. Jonathan Bonk  
Executive Director  
Overseas Ministries Study Center  
490 Prospect St.  
New Haven, Connecticut 06511