



NRPM List of Suggested Media

Movies

Title	Director/ Author/ Artist	Description	Rating/ Audience
<i>1 out of 7</i>	York Shackleton	Runaway teen Lexi finds herself alone and pregnant on the streets. She must turn to Devo, a woman with her own demons, to help her find a way back from her past mistakes.	Not rated, but contains mature content
<i>Augusta, Gone</i>	Tim Matheson	Based on the true story of single mother Martha Dudman, who is shocked at the seemingly overnight transformation of her daughter, Augusta, from a sweet and bright child to a confrontational and increasingly destructive teenager.	Not rated, but contains mature content
<i>Beyond the Blackboard</i>	Jeff Bleckner	A 24-year-old first-time teacher overcomes her initial fears and prejudices and makes a difference in the lives of the homeless children she teaches in a shelter's makeshift classroom.	Suitable for all ages
<i>Boys Don't Cry</i>	Kimberly Peirce	Female born, Teena Brandon adopts his male identity in a small town and attempts to find himself and love in Nebraska.	Rated R
<i>Boyz in the Hood</i>	John Singleton	John Singleton's 1991 portrayal of social problems in inner-city Los Angeles takes the form of a tale of friends growing up together in the 'hood.'	Rated R
<i>Freedom Writers</i>	Richard LaGravenese	A young teacher inspires her class of at-risk students to learn tolerance, empathy themselves, and pursue education beyond high school.	Rated PG-13
<i>Gimme Shelter</i>	Ron Krauss	A pregnant teenager flees her abusive mother in search of her father, only to be rejected by her dad and forced to survive on the streets until a compassionate stranger offers a place to stay.	Rated PG-13
<i>Homeless to Harvard</i>	Peter Levin	Based on a true story, Liz Murray is a young girl who is taken care of by her loving, but drug-addicted parents. Liz becomes homeless at 15 and after a tragedy comes upon her, she begins her work to finish high school.	Not rated, but contains some material that may be suitable for young children
<i>One Heart</i>	Mark Rober Ellis	A football team, made up of juvenile offenders, and a small-time football coach who made a decision that would change the lives of the players on the field that night. Based on a true story.	Not yet rated
<i>Precious</i>	Lee Daniels	In New York City's Harlem circa 1987, an overweight, illiterate teen who is pregnant with her second child is invited to enroll in an alternative school in hopes that her life can head in a new direction.	Rated R
<i>Quinceanera</i>	Richard Glatzer, Wash Westmoreland	As Magdalena's 15th birthday approaches, her simple, blissful life is completely upended by the arrival of her pregnant. Kicked out of her house, she finds a new family with her great-granduncle and gay cousin.	Rated R
<i>Saved!</i>	Brian Dannelly	A group of misfits at a religious high school tackle relationships, disabilities, pregnancy, and LGBTQ sexual identity.	Rated PG-13
<i>Short Term 12</i>	Destin Daniel Cretton	A 20-something supervising staff member of a residential treatment facility navigates the troubled waters of that world alongside her boss, a worker and longtime boyfriend.	Rated R
<i>Sugar</i>	Rotimi Rainwater	A 20-year-old homeless girl is suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome on the streets of Hollywood and Venice beach.	Not rated, but contains some mature content
<i>The Blind Side</i>	John Lee Hancock	The story of Michael Oher, a homeless and traumatized boy who became an All American football player and first round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family.	Rated PG-13
<i>Where the Day Takes You</i>	Marc Rocco	A group of teen-age runaways try to survive in the streets of Los Angeles. Drugs, prostitution, violence and bureaucratic indifference pose threats to the kids, who nevertheless prefer this harsh life to going back to their families.	Rated R
<i>Winter's Bone</i>	Debra Granik	An unflinching Ozark Mountain girl faces through dangerous social terrain as she is pregnant with her unborn child while trying to keep her family intact.	Rated R

Documentaries

Title	Director/ Author/ Artist	Description	Rating/ Audience
<i>American Street Kid (to be released later in 2015)</i>	Michael Leoni	filmmaker, Michael Leoni heads to the streets of LA to look for the epidemic of homeless youth in America. Once inside their world he realizes he can no longer be an observer; every day is a matter of life or death and he'll do anything to get them off the streets.	Not rated
<i>Inocente</i>	Sean Fine, Andrea Nix	At 15, Inocente refuses to let her dream of becoming an artist be caged by her life as an undocumented immigrant forced to live homeless for the last nine years. Color is her personal revolution and its extraordinary sweep on her canvases creates a world that looks nothing like her own dark past -- a past punctuated by a father deported for domestic abuse, an alcoholic and defunct mother of four who once took her daughter by the hand to jump off a bridge together, endless shuttle year after year through the city's overcrowded homeless shelters and the constant threat of deportation.	Not rated
<i>Invisible: Diaries of New York's Homeless Youth</i>	Lysette Horne, Sessalie Samuel	"Invisible" - co-written and shot in part by formerly homeless teens - focuses on the Reciprocity Foundation, which gets homeless kids help and careers.	Not rated
<i>The Break</i>		In the inspirational documentary "The Break," viewers are introduced to three diverse young people eager to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient members of society. Produced by UZ's The Edge.	Not rated
<i>The Homestretch</i>	Kirsten Kelly, Anne de Mare	The Homestretch follows three homeless teens as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future. Each of these smart, ambitious teenagers - Kasey, Anthony and Roque - will surprise, inspire, and challenge audiences to rethink stereotypes of homelessness as they work to complete their education while facing the trauma of being alone and abandoned at an early age.	Not rated

Books (Fiction)

Title	Director/ Author/ Artist	Description	Rating/ Audience
<i>Almost Home</i>	Jessica Blank	Why would anyone choose to live on the streets? Following a group of seven young runaways, this unlikely band of characters in their own dysfunctional family, complete with love and belonging, abuse and betrayal. Each will make their way home, wherever it may be.	Young Adult
<i>Eleanor & Park</i>	Rainbow Rowell	Park Sheridan, a biracial boy (half Korean, half white), and Eleanor Douglas, a red-haired girl, are two misfit teenagers living in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1986. The book is a love story — Eleanor and Park fall in love over comic books and mixed tapes on their school bus — but deals with issues such as domestic abuse, child abuse, racism, bullying and body image.	Young Adult
<i>It's Kind of a Funny Story</i>	Ned Vizzini	Ambitious New York City teenager Craig Gilner is determined to succeed at life - which means getting into the right high school to get into the right job. But once Craig gets his way into Manhattan's exclusive Professional High School, the pressure becomes unbearable. He stops eating and sleeping until one night, he nearly kills himself. Craig's suicidal episode gets him checked into a mental hospital, where his new neighbors include a transsexual sex addict, a girl who has scarred her own face with scissors, and the self-elected President Armello. There, Craig is finally able to confront the sources of his anxiety.	Young Adult/ Adult
<i>Miles from Nowhere</i>	Nami Mun	Teenage Joon is a Korean immigrant living in the Bronx of the 1980s. Her parents have crumbled under the weight of her father's infidelity; he has left the family, and mental illness has rendered her mother nearly catatonic. So Joon, at the age of thirteen, decides she would be better off on her own, a choice that commences a harrowing and often tragic journey that exposes the painful difficulties of a life lived on the margins. Joon's adolescent years take her from a homeless shelter to an escort club, through struggles with addiction, to job selling newspapers and cosmetics, committing petty crimes, and, finally, toward something resembling hope.	Adult
<i>My Big Fat Manifesto</i>	Susan Vaught	Jamie is a senior in high school and, like so many kids in the year, doing too much—including trying to change the world—and fighting for her rights as a very fat girl. And not quietly: she's writing a column every week in the paper with her thoughts and fears and gripes. As her column raises all kinds of questions, so too, must she find her own private way in the world, with love popping up in an unexpected place, and satisfaction in her size losing ground to real frustration.	Young Adult
<i>The Goldfinch</i>	Donna Tartt	Theo Decker, a fifteen-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy art collector. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don't know how to talk to him, and tormented above all by his unbearable longing for his mother, he clings to one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art.	Adult
<i>The Heart is Deceitful Above All Things</i>	JT Leroy	These are the stories of a young boy on the run, away from his past, help-toward an unknown future. Connected, they form a sometimes harrowing, sometimes bleakly funny, and often tender portrait of a complicated life.	Adult
<i>The Language of Flowers</i>	Vanessa Diffenbaugh	After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, Victoria Jones is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them.	Adult
<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>	Stephen Chbosky	<i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> is a story about what it is like to travel through adolescence and the uncharted territory of high school. The world of first dates, family dramas, and new friends. Of sex, drugs, and the Rocky Horror Picture Show. Of those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.	Young Adult/ Adult

Books (Nonfiction/ Memoir)

Title	Director/ Author/ Artist	Description	Rating/ Audience
<i>Foster Girl, a Memoir</i>	Georgette Todd	Georgette Todd's mother was shot in the head when she was a toddler. Her father was never in the picture and with hardly any available or "appropriate" family members willing to care for Georgette and her younger sister, both girls had no choice but to enter foster care. And that's when life really spun out of control for the Todd sisters. In "Foster Girl: A Memoir" Georgette relives the most traumatic years of her life so to give outsiders an inside, raw and brutally honest look of what happens to homeless children in America when under the state's care.	Adult
<i>Giribomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir</i>	Janice Erbbaum	At fifteen, sick of her unbearable and increasingly dangerous home, Janice Erbbaum walked out of her family's Brooklyn apartment and didn't look back. From her first frightening night at a shelter, Janice knew she was in over her head.	Adult
<i>Homeless at Age 13 to a College Graduate: An Autobiography</i>	Anthony D. Ross	In this autobiography, Anthony takes the reader through his harrowing past of ending up homeless at age 13 in Washington, D.C., after the death of his grandmother and escaping being incarcerated by his mother with a meat cleaver one night due to her habitual drug use. Despite his undeserved past, he was able to earn his GED, leave a homeless shelter, and after getting accepted into a University in North Carolina in 2009.	All ages
<i>Invisible Innocence: my story as a homeless youth</i>	Maria Fabian	For most high school students, senior year is a joyous time filled with unforgettable memories. For Maria Fabian, senior year marked the time she lived alone in an abandoned apartment with no electricity, heat or running water.	Young Adult/ Adult
<i>Kicked Out</i>	Edited by Sassafress Lowrey	In the U.S., 40% of homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ). Kicked Out brings together the voices of current and former homeless LGBTQ youth and tells the forgotten stories of some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens. Diverse contributors share stories of survival and abuse with poignant accounts of the sanctuary of community and the power of creating chosen families.	Adult
<i>Manchild in the Promised Land</i>	Claude Brown	With more than two million copies in print, <i>Manchild in the Promised Land</i> is one of the most remarkable autobiographies of our time—the definitive account of African-American youth in Harlem of the 1940s and 1950s, and a seminal work of modern literature.	Adult
<i>My Orange Duffel Bag</i>	Sam Bracken, Echo Garrett	Sam Bracken grew up in poverty in a horrifically abusive, drug-filled home surrounded by mobsters and motorcycle gang members in Las Vegas. <i>My Orange Duffel Bag: A Journey to Radical Change</i> is a short, inspirational book that outlines his journey from abandonment as a young teen to triumph on the football field and in life.	Young Adult/ Adult
<i>Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman's Inspirational True Story</i>	Jodee Blanco	In her poignant work, Jodee Blanco tells how school became a frightening and painful place, where threats, humiliation, and assault were as much a part of her daily experience as bus bleats and tie-gloss were for others. It is an unflinching look at what it means to be an outcast, how even the most caring parents can get it wrong, why schools fail, and how bullying is both misunderstood and mishandled.	Young Adult/ Adult
<i>Street Kids: Homeless Youth, Outreach, and Policing New York's Streets</i>	Kristina Gibson	Street outreach workers comb public places such as parks, vacant lots, and abandoned waterfronts to search for young people who are living out in public spaces, if not always in the public eye. Street Kids opens a window to the largely hidden world of street youth, drawing on their detailed and compelling narratives to give new insight into the experiences of youth homelessness and youth outreach.	Young Adult/ Adult
<i>The Freedom Writers Diary</i>	Erin Gruwell	As an idealistic twenty-three-year-old English teacher at Woodlawn High School in Long Beach, California, Erin Gruwell confronted a room of untouchable, at-risk students. One day she noticed a note with an ugly racial caricature, and an angry declared that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Jewish Holocaust—only to be met by uncomprehending looks. So she and her students, using the treasured books Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl" and Zlata's "Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo" as their guides, undertook a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding.	Young Adult/ Adult
<i>The Glass Castle</i>	Jeannette Walls	The Glass Castle is a 2005 memoir by Jeannette Walls and her siblings' unconventional, poverty-stricken upbringing at the hands of their deeply dysfunctional parents.	Adult
<i>Three Little Words: A Memoir</i>	Ashley Rhodes-Courter	An inspiring true story of the tumultuous nine years Ashley Rhodes-Courter spent in the foster care system, and how she triumphed over past trauma to become a successful author. This memoir is a powerful testament to ultimately find her own voice.	Adult
<i>With No Direction Home: Homeless Youth on the Road and in the Streets</i>	Mary Finkelstein	This book gives voice to the homeless youth and is rich with material on their everyday lives, including living conditions and street experiences. The case study's strength lies in its ethnographic methodology, which combines direct observations and qualitative interviews. Ethnography is particularly important in describing populations and social environments that are hidden from normal observation, and is indispensable when exploring emerging phenomena, such as the formative fictive kin networks among street youth, or new ways of looking at adolescent homelessness. Finkelstein discusses her own experiences with the street kids, including how she was able to develop a rapport within the "street scene."	Adult

Art/ other media

Title	Director/ Author/ Artist	Description	Rating/ Audience
The H.E.L.L.O photo project	Natalie Robinson	The H.E.L.L.O photo project forms part of Natalie Robinson's research in sociology at the University of Liverpool, UK, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The work focuses on the homeless experiences in Chicago and perceptions of inclusion and exclusion from public spaces. Visit her blog to learn more and see a gallery of photos.	All Ages
The Mirror, Mirror project	Rachel Bujalski, David Busch	Beginning with a chance meeting between a young photographer, Rachel Bujalski, and homeless activist, David Busch, The Mirror, Mirror Project originated in Venice Beach starting with a conversation and a diplopic. A powerful friendship grew into a community, teaming up local homeless youth with established artists to not only create an unique art project, but to connect people within a community, but to give them an opportunity to become instrumental in their own lives. Visit their online project to learn more.	All Ages