VIDEO SCRIPTS

UNIT 5

Page 77, Urban Gardening

Meredith (narrating): It's difficult to grow food in the city, but more and more people are trying to. We usually don't get access to the big open fields. What we get are the scraps. We get the tiny side yards. We get the little scrap of lawn between the sidewalk and the street. My job is to reengineer those pieces of land into edible spaces that are producing food for the families that live around them.

Meredith (to a woman): Well that's a good idea. Let's not put this guy in there, then. Let's put the raspberries where the rosemary is.

Meredith (narrating): Most people's great-grandparents and probably their grandparents have had a garden or grew up with a garden. I hear that a lot from people. They say "Oh! You know, my grandmother had this… this huge garden. It was so beautiful. I want to recreate that for my kids."

Woman: Charlie, don't throw the dirt.

Meredith (narrating): But, there's a gap there where it seems like a whole generation of people just completely missed out on what it is to grow your own food.

Jeremy (narrating): There is enormous value in putting the food system in the community, as opposed to making it some abstract thing where tomatoes come in cellophane. Tomatoes come off a vine, and they can come off a vine in your backyard. And, that is an extraordinarily empowering thing for people, in addition to being delicious.

Marlana (narrating): This is about as urban as it gets. It's very busy and very noisy and crowded, but this garden is sort of a secret on our roof. Coming up here and finding the new growth every day is just… is a huge surprise, and it just brings me so much joy that's hard to explain.

Meredith (narrating): A vegetable garden has rich soil. There's flowers, there's natives, and it fosters a healthy ecosystem.

Margaret (narrating): If the kids are racing out the door first thing in the morning and they've, you know, not finished all of their food, I can take those leftovers out to the hens. They're getting a good breakfast. There's not a whole lot of waste. They get our leftovers. They lay eggs. We eat the eggs. We're all kind of having this nutrient circle that is pretty… pretty wonderful and pretty remarkable.

Meredith (narrating): You might not be able to feed your whole family growing in your backyard, but you can produce a whole lot in a small, little space. And, the food that comes out there is going to be more nutritious and tastier than anything you can buy in the store.

UNIT 7

Page 109, Soccer Brings the World Together

Aziz (narrating): What makes soccer loved all over the world is that it doesn't need any infrastructure. It doesn't need language abilities. Anybody can play it. All you need is just a ball. And so, everywhere in the world people play soccer. Everywhere in the world, they love soccer. My name is Aziz Abu Sarah. I'm a cultural educator and a peacemaker. And I'm here in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. I came here to watch the World Cup matches but also to learn about this country and meet new people and make new friendships. Growing up, to me, soccer was as much part of my life as eating and drinking and going to school. I played soccer every day. I watched every match possible. It was something that took us out of the reality of the Middle East into a whole different world. In Israel and Palestine, I worked with Israeli and Palestinian kids, bringing them together to play together on the same team, not Israelis versus Palestinians… but actually mixing the teams together.

Aziz (to two boys): This is Muhammad. This is Yusuf.

Aziz (narrating): And the moment they got on the field, they forgot all differences. Language didn't matter. Color didn't matter. What religion they are didn't matter. All that mattered is whether you can play or not. Soccer is a great way of intercultural exchange because every team, whether they intended for it or not, are bringing some of their culture into the games. The fans are bringing their colors, their music, their dances, and you get to learn about that… even sometimes some of their beliefs. One cultural thing that people have learned in this World Cup is about the Muslim players who had to fast because of the month of Ramadan from sunrise to sunset, not eating and not drinking. And being… having to play while fasting is really hard. And so, it's been a great experience and a great learning experience for everybody.

UNIT 9

Page 140, The Dogist

Elias (narrating): There's nothing really crazy about it. I walk around and say, "May I take a photo of your dog?"

Elias: May I take a photo of your dog? May I take a photo of your dog?

Elias (narrating): They say, "Okay, okay. Good luck trying to get his photo."

Elias: Sit!

Elias (narrating): Squeak toy comes out. I start making a weird noise. One second later, the dog is posing like a professional.

225-292_06098_EIA_TG_4_EM_ptg01.indd 273 17/12/18 2:26 pm

Elias: Very nice! Let me give you a card. I take photos of dogs.

Woman: Oh! You're The Dogist! She follows you!

Elias (narrating): I ask people sometimes, "If you had all the money in the world, what would you do?" If I had all the money, I would probably travel with my camera and hang out with dogs. I'm doing it. At the beginning of the project, no one knew who I was. I was just walking around every day and having these interactions with dogs. It made me feel good about being sort of unemployed. But, you know, as the project's grown and everything, I've become this sort of, uh, figure. So, here we've got the image queued up, got the caption, and… post. At this point, it's five hundred likes per minute, something like that. There's a lot of activity. It's still baffling to me how many people like each of these photos I put out. I haven't done any outreach. I haven't paid for any advertising. It's something people want and need.

Elias: Very nice! Georgia comma Boston terrier comma six months old.

Elias (narrating): It's a, uh, beautiful sight for a dog photographer. New York is a special place to be a documentary street photographer. I can't really imagine doing this blog anywhere else.

Elias: Very nice!

Elias (narrating): The city has its canine personalities in each of the neighborhoods. I like to shoot downtown. Weekends are the best because you get owners walking their dogs during the day versus the walkers with five other dogs.

Elias: Very nice!

Elias (narrating): Central Park has great dogs. The Upper East Side has a lot of poodles, exotic breeds. Brooklyn has more pit bulls.

Man 1: Cut it out!

Elias (narrating): Midtown doesn't have any dogs. There's a lot of visual noise given the street context.

Elias: Woody, woody! Treat, treat!

Elias (narrating): But I shoot a pretty shallow depth of field.

Elias: Treat, treat!

Elias (narrating): I like to isolate this sort of moment in time for this dog in its life. The dogs, they're not posing for a picture. They're sitting for the ball. They're sitting for the treat. It's my challenge to make it seem like there's something dramatic happening. I guess what it is is personifying the dog and making them seem like a person. That's where, to me, the humor is. I don't feature their faces, but when there's something interesting about the owners I like to shoot a little wider and include their lower half because there's a lot to glean from that relationship.

Elias: Who are these guys? Both of them!

Man 2: I love what you're doing. It's so great! I tell everyone about you.

Elias: Awesome! I think we got a good one of him.

Elias (narrating): I don't have a dog right now. I don't have a girlfriend. I don't work with people in the same way that most people do. And I sometimes feel that sort of loneliness. I come home and I'm, like, talking to my rug. But, I do connect with people through their dogs. I think, even though I don't have my own dog, dogs have opened up a whole world for me that's made me less lonely. I think they show just an innate human emotion… is to want to love and to want to give love. And dogs have that in abundance. I've only been doing this for two years, but I do feel more, sort of, spiritually aligned. Dogs don't need that much to be happy. They need food and love, right? It's something I've always aspired to do… is to take a page out of their book, become more simple in the way I look at the world.

UNIT 13

Page 205, Celebrating Mardi Gras in New Orleans

Narrator: New Orleans Mardi Gras is more than just a celebration before the Christian season of Lent begins. In this city, preparations for the big day begin weeks and even months in advance. Early mornings are nothing new for bakers, but the pre-dawn workload grows during Carnival season. From January 6th through Fat Tuesday, New Orleans Cake Café & Bakery is a beehive of activity, where they make as many as 50 king cakes a day. Here, they make nontraditional goat cheese and apple-stuffed cakes.

Baker: There's very old-school king cakes in New Orleans. They've been at it for 50, 60, 100 years, some of them, and they have a loyal following.

Narrator: The old-school king cake has a tiny baby or other trinket baked inside, and whoever gets the trinket has obligations, such as buying next year's king cake. Here, the baby goes on the outside.

Baker: The king cake is a traditional New Orleans Mardi Gras pastry. You'll find pastries like this all over the country and all over the world, that they're only served for a certain season during the year.

Narrator: In another part of town, Sally Hedrick and her son are making 150 or more ornate costumes. These are for the social organizations throwing the lavish balls and parades. Some may go for more than $3,000. Hedrick works on costumes year-round, refurbishing ones that took a bit of a beating during last year's Mardi Gras celebrations and creating new works.

Narrator: For a look back at years past, the Louisiana State Museum lets visitors see more than a century and a half of New Orleans Mardi Gras traditions.

Museum curator: The oldest item in the Carnival collection is something that we were very fortunate to acquire just a couple of years ago. It's a ball invitation that dates to the 1850s.

Narrator: The Carnival exhibit at the museum on Jackson Square only shows the tip of the iceberg. However, the museum's warehouse periodically offers tours where visitors can see the thousands of costumes and other items.

225-292_06098_EIA_TG_4_EM_ptg01.indd 274 17/12/18 2:26 pm