



Global Praise for
FINDING DAVID DOUGLAS

2012

**Rick Zenn, Senior Fellow, World Forestry Center /
World Forest Institute**

Students of all ages can travel in David Douglas's footsteps - often to the exact locations he wrote about in his famous journals. This beautiful film weaves art, music, and history with Douglas's own words and observations into an inspirational story of adventure, hardship and scientific discovery. Finding David Douglas is a remarkable resource for educators.

**J Fenning Welstead, President,
Institute of Chartered Foresters, Edinburgh, Scotland**

David Douglas was a major contributor to forestry in the British Isles through his tree introductions, particularly Sitka spruce which is now the backbone of our domestic forestry industry. Finding David Douglas commendably captures his trials and tribulations as well as his successes, and I commend anyone with an interest in trees, forestry and adventure to view this entertaining [film]. You will then appreciate that Douglas has probably had more influence on the shape of our countryside today than any other single individual given the huge use made of trees he introduced in creating our modern forest resource.

**Jack Nisbet, Author, The Collector and David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work,
Spokane, Washington**

All the sweeping landscapes that David Douglas saw, and the rich accents of the people he traveled with, come alive in this beautiful film. Gracefully blending period artwork, specimen papers, and journals with living plants and trees, Finding David Douglas captures the excitement of his restless journeys.

Roy Lancaster, Plantsman, Author, Hampshire, England

It is a fitting tribute to one of Britain's greatest plant hunters and travelers in the then relatively unexplained regions of North America. The documentary captures well the size and the wildness of the northwest territory as Douglas would have seen it and given the absence of Douglas's second journal the commentary conveys a well balanced account of his travels throughout.

Thomas Vaughan, Oregon State Historian Laureate

*Wonderful film, I just think it splendid.
I'm transported.*



**Tom Kaye, Institute for Applied Ecology,
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon**

Finding David Douglas is a wonderful journey through the life and times of David Douglas. I enjoyed every minute of it. It brings the adventures of the "Grass Man" to life and provides a stunning glimpse into the natural world of western North America in the early 1800s. The character and personal challenges of Douglas are particularly well conveyed and juxtaposed with his enormous scientific contributions.



**Wildflower view in the Columbia River Gorge
Memaloose Island in the distance
Photo Rick Marks © 2010**

**Mark Flanagan, Keeper of the Gardens,
Windsor Great Park, England**

The documentary makes evident not only the contributions Douglas made to the introduction and promulgation of North American plants but also his achievements as a traveler and geographer. Despite the intervening centuries the narrative gives a real sense of Douglas and his time largely because of the extensive footage of the wonderful landscapes of western North America as a backdrop to excerpts from Douglas's own writings. The documentary is both scholarly and entertaining, a rare combination and one that is likely to have wide appeal. The use of various voices gives a pace and variety to the production which shows a solid understanding of what makes a successful documentary.

Bob Stubbs, Forester, Chair, Highlands & the Islands Regional Forestry Forum

[Douglas's] legacy remains in the forests, woodlands and gardens of Scotland and Britain. Finding David Douglas, in just under an hour, accurately tells the story of the man and his work.



**Primary FDD Cinematographer Steve Patapoff
Jasper Lake, British Columbia**

**Christopher Mills, Head of Library,
Art and Archives, The Royal Botanic
Gardens, Kew, England**

Douglas is one of those plant hunters who one feels needs to be better known and respected for his endeavours and achievements. This film will go a long way to helping achieve that. Very watchable.

Les Joslin, U.S. Forest Service

I watched this beautiful film this evening and found it very informative and very well done.



David Douglas in the NW Wilds
Illustration for FDD, Stephen Leflar © 2009

Dr. Rhoda M. Love,
Botanist, Ecologist

Finding David Douglas is outstanding! Congratulations on a beautiful and educational production. The music is lovely and very appropriate. The graphics are superb. In all, I would say this will become a classic of Northwestern biographical material.

Richard H. Engeman, Historian,
Columbia Rediviva LLC.

Finding David Douglas makes creative use of glowing botanical prints, richly-toned photographs, intensely-filmed comments from scientists and historians, and bright

contemporary footage of Pacific Northwest flora, to tell its tale. As the Douglas fir stands tall in Northwest forests, Finding David Douglas stands tall in regional filmmaking, an epic tale of an iconic figure.

La Rea Dennis Johnston, Botanist,
Emeritus Assistant Curator of the Herbarium,
Oregon State University

Finding David Douglas is based on prodigious archival study and accurately and engagingly depicts the life of this famous plant collector. The documentary is made visually pleasing by revisiting many places Douglas collected.

Bob Stubbs, Forester, Chair,
Highlands & the Islands
Regional Forestry Forum, Scotland

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Iconic NW David Douglas plants
Balsam Root [top]
Indian Paint Brush [below]
Photo Rick Marks © 2009

Finding David Douglas © 2012
Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission
DVD copies now available
www.ochcom.org

Nanette Napoleon, Historian, Kailua, Hawaii

This production is a first rate documentary that is both vivid and compelling in telling the story of famed botanist and explorer David Douglas and his extraordinary contributions to botany on an international level. I found this film to be exceedingly well done from both a storyline and production point of view.

Jarold Ramsey, Author, Madras, Oregon, Professor Emeritus, University of Rochester,

Finding David Douglas is a lucid, absorbing portrayal of one of our namesake Northwest heroes—a fearless and hyperkinetic young Scot who went far afield to seek and find his fulfillment in the 1820s and 1830s as a pioneering botanist. It's fitting that this project has been an international collaboration—produced in Oregon, but drawing crucially on Scottish and British scholars and sources, and incorporating Scots voices and music throughout the soundtrack. The visuals and graphics are a feast for the eye and the imagination, especially in evoking the boundless Northwest forests where Douglas first encountered sugar pines, Sitka spruce, Noble firs, and the majestic pseudo-fir that bears his name.

Joanna Grammon, Editor, Historian, Carson, Washington

Finding David Douglas is the distillation of an extraordinary life. During his 35 years, botanist David Douglas covered more terrain in less time than any other explorer, collecting plant and animal specimens and writing his journal entries by firelight, only to tragically lose part of his life's work in turbulent waters. Students and nature lovers can be inspired by this shy man's determination to learn more about our natural world.

Maia Weinstock, Editor, Science Writer, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Who knew that the namesake of the Douglas fir was in fact a pioneering naturalist on a par with the great Charles Darwin? Finding David Douglas would make a fine addition to any film library, and I'd highly recommend it for science classes and budding naturalists the world over.



**FDD Director Lois Leonard,
David Douglas Burial Site
Honolulu, Hawaii**