

# Edible Queens: The Blog

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## RURAL ROUTE FILM FESTIVAL comes to Queens this weekend!

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Still from The Greenhorns, directed by Severine von Tscharner Fleming

How do we define urban? An adjective describing a city? A place where large numbers of diverse people live in close quarters? A breeding ground of innovation, information and new ideas? A place where take-out is available any hour of the day or night? So, then, what is rural? A way of life based on an agricultural economy? An environment where there's nature, more than ample space for every one and a deep commitment to family? A culture with an appreciation of time-tested practical knowledge and straightforward country music?

Urban people have always had a fascination – and perhaps a fantasy – about rural life, from the cow-wranglers of the rugged West to the humble life of the noble farmer. In contemporary society, when we are concerned with the longevity of our precious environment and the nutritional content of the foods we feed our children, we're seeing a new kind of urban/rural exchange. The urban goes rural – Yale graduates are starting heirloom beet farms in Vermont – while the rural makes its way into urban life – city-dwellers are cultivating lettuce varieties on rooftops. New York City's chefs have always had an appreciative relationship with their local farmers, but now we *all* understand that those agrarians are providing us with more than tasty tomatoes, they're giving us a connection to our planet and an investment in our quality of life. Consequently, now more than ever, we find ourselves inviting the rural into our cities with open arms.



Ian Cheney and his mobile Truck Farm

The Rural Route Film Festival, the brainchild of two native Iowans, Alan Webber and Mike Schmidt, whose careers in the film industry brought them to New York, invites you to examine these issues. The Festival has assembled a collection of short and full-length films that allow us, the viewers, to witness the lives of rural people – wherever and whoever they are – and draw our own conclusions about the values and challenges inherent in their lives.

**Highlights**

*Little Rock*, Directed by Mike Ott

Sneak preview at 7:00 pm Friday at the Museum of the Moving Image

A Japanese student on a sightseeing tour of California becomes stranded when her car breaks down in a desert town. While her fantasies of a simpler existence compel her to be initially inspired by the potential of living a radically different life (read: so much better!) in a rural community, she comes to see the flaws of her expectations through the complexities of negotiating amongst differing values and perspectives.



*Summer Pasture*, Directed by Lynn True and Nelson Walker

2:00 Saturday at the Museum of the Moving Image

Witness the heart-wrenching story of a small family of Tibetan nomads as the circumstances of their changing environment in the Zachukha grasslands force them to consider abandoning their lifestyle to migrate to the city.

*Truck Farm*, Directed by Ian Cheney

7:30 pm Saturday at the Museum of the Moving Image

Enjoy the light-hearted musical ramble of *Truck Farm*, traveling with Brooklynite Ian Cheney as he takes his mini farm – housed in the flatbed of his 1986 Dodge pickup – around New York City to visit a collection of inspired urban farmers boldly getting back to the “land.”



Delicious Peace Grows in a Ugandan Coffee Bean

*Delicious Peace Grows in a Ugandan Coffee Bean*, Directed by Curt Fissel

4:00 pm Sunday at the Museum of the Moving Image

The truly inspiring story of a cooperative consisting of Christian, Jewish and Muslim Ugandans who organize a farm based on ideals of community harmony and economic development, building from the ashes of Idi Amin’s reign of destructive terror.

*The Greenhorns*, Directed by Severine von Tscharner

6:00 pm Sunday at the Museum of the Moving Image

As a recent college graduate, Severine von Tscharner Fleming set out to find a few acres of her own to farm. She became increasingly inspired by the new generation of young farmers, the “Greenhorns,” a surprisingly diverse group of college graduates, ex-suburbanites, radical Christians, and children of migrant farmers, among others, who are choosing farming as their career and lifestyle.

Much of the vast and extraordinary collection of shorts selected by the Rural Route Film Festival are programmed together for Sunday screenings at the Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm, but many will be shown as couplets before the features, providing a great opportunity to see the interesting work of more filmmakers. **Please see <http://ruralroutefilms.com/2011-program/> for complete schedule and description of films.**

## Rural Route Film Festival

**Friday, August 5 – Sunday, August 7, 2011**

### Viewings:

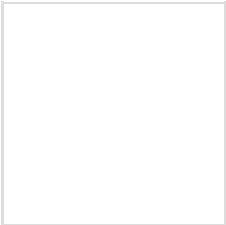
**Museum of the Moving Image, Astoria, accessible by N, Q, R, and M Trains. Films are free with admission: adults \$10, \$7.50 students and seniors, \$5 children 3 – 18.**

**and**

Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm, 37-18 Northern Boulevard, Long Island City, accessible by N, Q, E, M and R Trains, \$12 tickets available via [Rooftop Films](#).

- Written by Anne Shisler-Hughe:

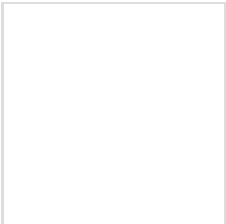
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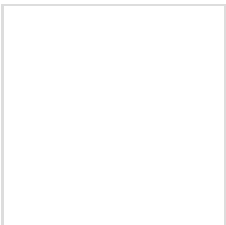
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