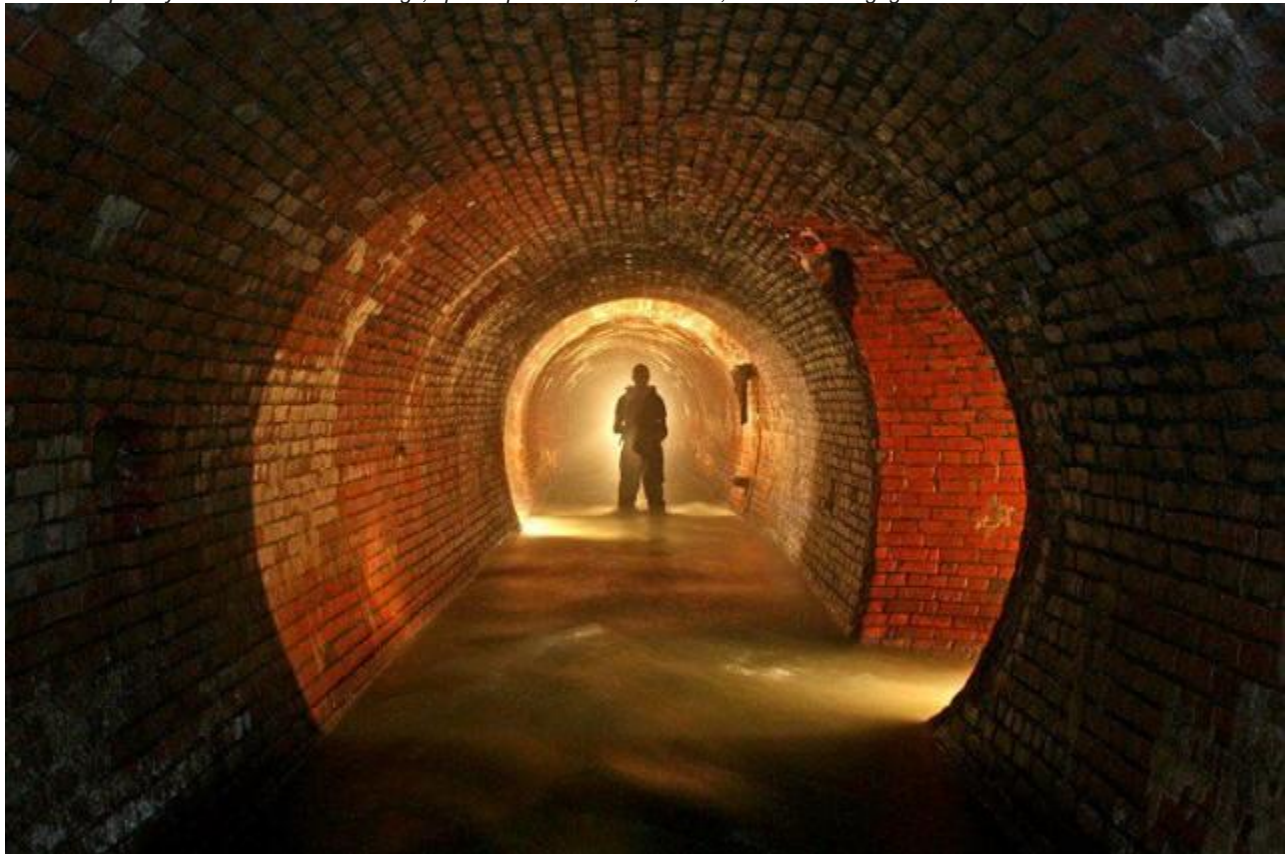


# TORONTO IST

## Rep Cinema This Week: *Lost Rivers*, *Barbara*, and *Les Misérables*

BY [ANGELO MUREDDA](#)

*The best repertory and art-house screenings, special presentations, lectures, and limited engagements in Toronto.*



Still from *Lost Rivers*.

At rep cinemas this week: a documentary on reintegrating rivers in cities, a thriller set in East Germany, and an Academy Award-winning musical.

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## ***Lost Rivers***

Directed by Caroline Bâcle

**Bloor Hot Docs Cinema** ([506 Bloor Street West](#))

Monday, March 4, 9:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 7, 9:30 p.m.

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Early in Montreal-documentarian Caroline Bâcle's *Lost Rivers*, an environmentalist artist describes his work uncovering hidden rivers in urban centres as an effort to introduce the "face of water" to the public. Far from simply offering an apocalyptic forecast of planetary doom and gloom, Bâcle's film similarly takes pride in introducing audiences to forgotten aspects of the natural world. Serious as it is, *Lost Rivers* is light on the didacticism we've tended to expect of environmentally conscious documentaries ever since *An Inconvenient Truth* won an Oscar. Instead, Bâcle packages her globally diverse history of the disruption of natural water systems with a lively and intelligent profile of a loose international coalition of "drainers": explorers who navigate the messy world of underground rivers that flow through the drainage pipes of big cities.

Through these intrepid subjects (and a host of informal interviews with academics) the film gives a sense of what cities can do in order to reintegrate bodies of water into their landscapes, and into the public consciousness.

Bâcle's interesting premise is that while cities are typically built along rivers, we've gradually pushed them underground, mostly for aesthetic reasons. The utopian goal of *Lost Rivers* is to bear witness to the fact that they're still there, ready to be re-integrated into healthy metropolitan centres.

[HTTP://TORONTOIST.COM/2013/03/REP-CINEMA-THIS-WEEK-LOST-RIVERS-BARBARA-LES-MISERABLES/](http://torontoist.com/2013/03/rep-cinema-this-week-lost-rivers-barbara-les-miserables/)