

Amnesty International Film Festival

November 8-11, 2007

Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver, Canada
Advance tickets: <http://www.ticketstonight.ca>

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

WELCOME

The 12th annual Amnesty International Film Festival is pleased to present a program of powerful and compelling films. The 2007 program features many Vancouver and Canadian premieres, two North American premieres, and a side-program of short films by and about Amnesty International.

This year we move to Vancity Theatre and have a Social Action Fair. Numerous human rights and global justice groups join us with displays and materials speaking to issues raised in festival films. We are also excited to be featuring an exhibition by photo-documentarian James Rodriguez.

We invite you to attend a thought-provoking opening forum entitled “**Can Film Change the World?**” featuring directors and producers of films screened previously at the Amnesty International Film Festival. The forum is free and will take place Wednesday, November 7 at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, discussion gets underway at 7 pm.

This festival celebrates the significant contribution made by filmmakers and other media producers to the understanding of human rights issues. Show your support for cinema with a social conscience.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:00 pm **A World Without Water**
Brian Woods / UK / 2006 / 78min
<http://www.truevisiontv.com/water.htm>
Canadian premiere

This film investigates the future of water, and paints a disturbing picture of a world running out of the most basic of life's essentials. The struggle for water and battle for its ownership is explored through compelling stories of families in Bolivia, Detroit, Dar Es Salaam and Rajestan. The film explores conflicts concerning the future of water and shows how even those living in the relatively water-rich UK hold the survival of the planet in their hands. Co-presented by The Water Team.

- Special Prize, Monte Carlo Television Festival

Film will be followed by a panel discussion on what it means to declare that water is a human right.

9:30 pm Dia de Festa (House-Warming Party)

Toni Venturi and Pablo Georgieff / Brazil / 2006 / 77min

<http://www.olharimaginario.com.br/ingles/pastproductions.html>

Vancouver premiere

Four women with similar pasts live in a country marked by intense social disparities. They all married, had children and then were abandoned by their husbands. They left the countryside and moved to the city in search of a better life. After living on the streets of São Paulo, they encountered a socio-political movement which gave them a reason to live. These women are now leaders of the MSTC – Movement of the Homeless of the Center of São Paulo, Brazil. This touching film shows the simultaneous mass occupations of seven empty buildings and life as experienced by these vibrant and sensitive women.

- Best Film Award, Tudo Sobre Mulheres (Brazil)
- Best Documentary Sound Award, FestCine Goiania (Brazil)

Film will be followed by an opening reception and photo exhibition featuring work by James A. Rodriguez (www.mimundo.org).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

6:45 pm Live entertainment

7:05 pm War Dance

Andrea Nix Fine & Sean Fine / USA / 2007 / 105min

http://www.shineglobal.org/shine_currentdocs.htm

War Dance tells the story of Uganda's brutal civil war through the eyes of children. For their entire lives, Dominic, Nancy and Rose lived in a dangerous war zone. *War Dance* follows their historic journey to the Uganda National Music and Dance Competition. Devastated by the horrors of war, they carry the hopes and dreams of their village as they struggle to become national champions.

- Best Documentary Award, Sedona International Film Festival
- Documentary Directing Prize, Sundance Film Festival

9:15 pm Burma's Secret War

Sarah MacDonald / UK / 2006 / 48min

<http://www.hardcashproductions.com/recent27.html>

Canadian premiere

Journalist Evan Williams goes undercover deep inside Burma where he witnesses new levels of violence by the regime. The film documents atrocities committed against the Karen people. Williams meets dissidents willing to sacrifice their freedom so people on the outside know what is happening. Despite Aung San Suu Kyi's plea for an end to foreign investment,

this film suggests that, thanks to tax loopholes in this former British protectorate, the U.K. is a major investor in Burmese brutality.

Film will be followed by a guest speaker from the Vancouver-Burma Roundtable.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

11:00 am China Blue (matinee)

Micha X Peled / China / 2006 / 87min

<http://www.teddybearfilms.com/chinablue>

Shot clandestinely, *China Blue* paints a nuanced and moving portrait of the daily lives of anonymous workers who make clothes for export. This tender documentary highlights economic pressures applied by Western companies and their human consequences. Factory girls are not a compliant and obedient work force. Instead, the film reveals an emerging activism: a bold willingness, as Jasmine asserts, “to pull the Tiger’s whiskers.” Coming into a sense of self-worth, Jasmine sends a gentle message to the West in the pocket of a pair of jeans. Tempering the giddy, greedy imperatives of the market, *China Blue* offers remarkable insight into market socialism in 21st century China.

- Amnesty International Human Rights Award, International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam
- Best Documentary, International Independent Film Festival of Mar del Plata (Argentina)

12:45 pm Made in L.A. (matinee)

Almudena Carracedo / USA / 2007 / 70min

www.madeinla.com

Canadian premiere

Made in L.A. follows the remarkable journey of three Latina immigrants working in L.A.’s garment factories as they launch a three-year battle to bring a major clothing retailer to the negotiating table. In intimate vérité style, *Made in L.A.* offers a rare and poignant glimpse into this “other” California, where immigrants toil for sub-minimum wages. *Producer in attendance.*

Film will be followed by a guest speaker on migrant worker rights.

2:30 pm Shame (matinee)

Mohammed Naqvi / Pakistan, USA / 2006 / 90min

Vancouver premiere

In June 2002, Pakistani Mukhtaran Mai was raped while her father, uncle, and a dozen other men looked on. The rape was her punishment for an offence allegedly committed by her brother. The family was burdened with shame and Mukhtaran tried to commit suicide. Later, she decided to go public with her

story and press charges against the rapists. *Shame* tells the story of a strong woman who built two schools and a crisis centre for women in her village and, by resisting patriarchy and oppression, became an example for women elsewhere.

- Women in Leadership Award, Fullframe Documentary Film Festival, Chicago
- Amnesty International Human Rights Award (South Africa)

Film will be followed by a guest speaker on ending violence against women.

5:00 pm Tambogrande: Mangos, Murder, Mining

Ernesto Cabellos and Stephanie Boyd / Peru / 2007 / 86min

www.guarango.org/tambogrande

Canadian premiere

Adventurous pioneers have transformed Peru's harsh northern desert into a fertile valley of mango and lime orchards. But their work is threatened when gold is discovered by a Canadian mining company. Fear, violence and murder rock their once quiet community. In the midst of chaos, a martyr's vision unites farmers and leads them down a revolutionary path of non-violent resistance. These brave men and women confront corrupt politicians and the global mining industry in an epic and colourful tale of resistance.

- Main Competition Award, Dignity and Work Film Festival (Poland)

Film will be followed by a guest speaker on corporate accountability.

7:00 pm Triple Bill

Massacre at Murambi

Sam Kaufmann / Rwanda, USA / 2007 / 5min

<http://www.samkauffmann.com/films/murambi/>

Vancouver premiere

During the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, a newly built secondary school on a hill named Murambi was the site of one of the world's most horrifying mass murders. This film documents the events that took place at Murambi, and explores the link between Rwanda and Darfur.

- Global Justice Award, Media That Matters Film Festival, New York City
- Grand Prix Award and Best Documentary, Crested Butte Reel Fest

Children of Darfur

Camille Nielsson / Denmark / 2006 / 24min

<http://www.tv2world.dk/programmes/show/155>

Canadian premiere

Darfur is facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The worst affected are children who represent 50% of the displaced people of the region. *Children of Darfur* shows the conflict through the eyes of 15 year old Sumaya, who makes her home in a displacement camp in the desert. The film takes viewers beyond the fast paced news story and gives children at the centre of this devastating war a chance to speak.

- Grand Prix Award for Documentary Film (Monte Carlo)
- International TV3 Actual Award for Investigative Journalism (Spain)

Radio Okapi

Pierre Guyot / France/ 2006 / 52min

North American premiere

In 1994 “the thousand hills radio” in Rwanda followed minute by minute the last genocide of the 20th century when over a million people died. The Democratic Republic of Congo also experienced a devastating civil war that produced millions of victims. With the help of journalists, Radio Okapi was born from a will to do things differently: to bring people fair and balanced information and to make radio an instrument of peace. *Director in attendance.*

- “Autrement Vu” Award, Festival International du Grand Reportage et du Documentaire de Societe (France)
- Special Jury Prize, Festival International du Film des Droits de l’Homme de Bangui (Central African Republic)

Film will be followed by a panel discussion on the role of journalists and the media around documenting, reporting, and preventing human rights violations.

9:25 pm Hijos de la Guerra (Children of the War)

Alexandre Fuchs / US, UK / 2007 / 81min

<http://www.hijosdelaguerra.com>

Vancouver premiere

Hijos de la Guerra tells the story of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), an international Hispanic street gang founded by Salvadoran civil war refugees, which the U.S government singles out as the most violent gang in the country. The film explores motivations behind gang membership and the explosion of fratricidal violence. It also illustrates the complex role of social and government policy deployed to contain but which encourages the spread of gangs.

- Best Documentary, New York International Latino Film Festival
- Special Prize of the Jury, Festival International des Droits de l’Homme de Lome (Togo)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

11:00 am The Prize of the Pole (matinee)

Staffan Julen / Denmark / 2006/ 79min

www.theprizeofthepole.com

Vancouver premiere

This elegant and thoughtful film explores identity, ethnicity, western arrogance and human rights. In 1897 polar explorer Robert Peary invited six Greenlanders, including Minik, a six year old boy, and his father, to the Museum of Natural History in New York. As strange research objects, Inuits were a popular exhibition at the museum, but Minik was the only one of the six to survive. One hundred years later Peary's great grandchild attempts to rediscover the connections between himself, his great grandfather, and Minik.

- Golden Aphrodite Award, International Film Festival (Cyprus)
- Amnesty International Award, Copenhagen

12:30 pm Territories (matinee)

Mary Ellen Davis / Canada / 2007 / 65min

Vancouver premiere

Larry Towell is the only Canadian photographer with membership in the legendary Magnum Photos agency. Curiosity leads him to conflicts but his work expresses a profound sense of intimacy. Towell is disturbed by walls built to separate people. In this film he explores the contours of walls along the US-Mexico border and in Palestine. By using a camera to illuminate dark crevices and bright spots on high walls the photographer bemoans separation barriers and points to artistic and other ways to build a better world. *Director in attendance.*

Film will be followed by a guest speaker on photo-journalism.

2:15 pm Double Bill (matinee)

Bound by Promises

Witness, Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT) & Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) / Brazil / 2006 / 17min

http://www.witness.org/squirrelcart/store.php?crn=208&rn=377&action=show_detail

Canadian premiere

Every year, more than 25,000 workers are enslaved by landowners in rural Brazil. *Bound by Promises* tells the story of men taken to isolated ranches in the Amazon, only to find they have been lured into debt bondage. Forced to do backbreaking work and live in overcrowded shacks with no running water, armed guards remind workers that those who try to run away may be killed. With no way out, they toil in the hope of buying back their freedom.

Welcome Europa

Bruno Ulmer / France / 2007 / 90min

Thousands of illegal immigrants roam the streets of Europe, looking for work or luck. *Welcome Europa* follows eight men, Kurdish, Moroccan and Romanian as they find their way to Paris, Amsterdam or Madrid. No visas, on their own, they struggle for survival. The European Dream falls apart even as they reach to welcome it. In their raw existence on the streets, prostitution looms like an inevitable destination. Some fall to the bottom. Sink or swim; they face the question. What is it to be a man?

- Templeton Foundation Prize, Nylon International Film Festival (Switzerland)
- Banff World Television Award for Feature Length Documentary

4:15 pm Fallen Angel (matinee)

Masja Novikova / Netherlands / 2005 / 50min

Vancouver premiere

Tatiana was settled in her Eastern European mother country. But during the first year of her studies she gained a boyfriend, who urged her to go to Western Europe to earn extra cash. Only after arrival in the Netherlands did she realize the job involved prostitution. She decided to cooperate in a police investigation against pimps and the two men were both convicted and sentenced to 24 months in prison. Although her pimps are imprisoned, the syndicate that smuggled her into the Netherlands is still a danger to her family.

Film will be followed by a guest speaker on violence against women and trafficking.

5:40 pm Double Bill

Welcome to Niazovland

Catherine Bertillier / France / 2007 / 52min

<http://www.javafilms.fr/>

Canadian premiere

Welcome to the country of Niyazov, welcome to Niyazovland, inaccessible to journalists except for a few rare official trips which are tightly supervised. Saparmurad Niyazov, former Communist Party apparatchik, democratically elected as head of state in 1991, transformed Turkmenistan into one of the most closed and repressive countries in the world. After providing rare images from this country, two Turkmen journalists were arrested. One was killed in jail.

A Lesson of Belarussian

Mirosław Dembinski / Poland / 2006 / 52min

<http://www.studioeverest.neostrada.pl/en/index.html>

Canadian premiere

After the Soviet Union collapsed, Belarus became an independent country and a humanistic Lyceum was founded in Minsk, with the aim of raising an elite Belarusian intelligentsia. However, in 1995 the Lyceum was banned. Lyceum pupils kept studying underground. Despite the fear of repression, during elections thousands of people entered the streets and in the main square of Minsk, Lyceum pupils helped build a tent city which was brutally attacked by militia. Hundreds of people ended up in prison. However, the Lyceum pupils continue to deeply believe Belarus will one day be a free country.

- Best Eastern European Documentary, International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film (Germany)
- The Vaclav Havel Special Award & Students Award, International Human Rights Film Festival (Poland)
- Student's Jury Award, International Human Rights Film Festival (France)

7:35 pm New Year Baby

Socheata Poouv / USA/Cambodia / 2007 / 74min

<http://www.newyearbaby.net>

Canadian premiere

Born in a Cambodian refugee camp, Socheata grew up in the United States not knowing anything about her family's past. In *New Year Baby*, she journeys to Cambodia to discover the secrets of how her family came together during the Khmer Rouge period. She discovers that what her parents hid in shame also proves their heroism. *Director in attendance.*

- Best Documentary Feature, San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival
- Best Documentary Award, AFI Dallas International Film Festival
- Movies That Matter Award, Amnesty International (Netherlands)

9:30 pm 9 Star Hotel

Ido Haar / Israel / 2006 / 78min

<http://www.edenproductions.co.il/detailProduction.asp?pID=15&fromPage=productions>

In Israel's occupied territories, thousands of Palestinians work illegally as construction laborers. After an arduous and dangerous journey, loaded with blankets and bags, they cross hills to find employment. At night they sleep on hillcrests in improvised huts and coffin-like sleeping cubicles – a stark contrast to luxury apartment complexes they build by day. But they have made homes for themselves, complete with pillows and power. With raw, handheld images, this disconcerting yet touching film documents friendship, nostalgia and the uncompromising urge to survive.

- Best Documentary, Jerusalem International Film Festival
- Best Human Rights Film, Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente (Argentina)
- Best Documentary and Best Human Rights Film, Dokfest, Kosovo

Lobby program

Throughout the festival, numerous human rights and global justice organizations will be represented by volunteers and staff with displays and actions in the theatre lobby. On Saturday and Sunday during the festival, short films by and about Amnesty International will be screened in the lobby. A schedule will be posted on location. No charge for admission.

TICKET INFORMATION

Advance tickets and passes may be purchased at **Tickets Tonight** in person and online. Advance ticket sales end at 3 pm on the day preceding the day of the film. Subject to service charge.

Tickets Tonight Booth

Plaza Level, 200 Burrard Street (at Cordova, in the Tourism Vancouver Tourist Info Centre). Open daily, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Online: www.ticketstonight.ca

Will Call

Tickets and Passes purchased through ticketstonight.ca can be picked up at the Will Call Table at Vancity Theatre on the day of the screening. Only the credit card holder may pick up the tickets with valid photo ID. Please arrive 30 minutes in advance of your first screening to allow time to pick up your tickets.

Tickets at the door

Tickets and passes also available at the door, subject to availability (cash only).

Tickets and passes

General admission **\$9.00**

Matinees, students, seniors, underemployed persons **\$6.00**

Five-show pass **\$35.00** (\$25 for students, seniors, underemployed persons)

Full festival pass **\$75.00** (\$50 for students, seniors, underemployed persons)

Theatre address and accessibility

Vancity Theatre at Vancouver International Film Centre

1181 Seymour Street (at Davie)

Accessible Parking: street parking only / entrance: street level ramp

Seating: two to four spaces for wheelchairs (depending on size)

Washrooms: fully accessible

FESTIVAL NOTES

Amnesty International Film Festival

Program subject to change. The Amnesty International Film Festival presents stories and moving images about human rights. Amnesty International does not necessarily hold the

opinions expressed in these films. For information or to submit a film for next year contact Don Wright at dwright@amnesty.ca or 604-294-5160. The Amnesty International Film Festival is a charter member of the *Human Rights Film Network*, a cooperating group of more than 30 human rights film festivals around the world.

www.amnesty.ca/filmfest (includes links to film websites)

Take Action

Don't despair, take action! Read reports and respond to many of the human rights issues raised in these films. Please visit www.amnesty.ca/filmfest. Your voice makes a difference.

Special thanks to

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Thank you to our supporters and sponsors

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