

Tri Continental Film Festival (TCFF)

The Centre for Integrated Post-School Education and Training (CIPSET), the Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy (CANRAD) and the Arts & Culture Unit at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) are proud to bring a mini TCFF to Port Elizabeth.

Background

The Tri Continental Film Festival is an annual, national festival that focuses on documentary and narrative films from or about Africa, Asia, Central and South America and the Middle-East. The overall objective of the Festival is to showcase outstanding Cinema that deals with socio/political and human rights themes pertinent to these regions.

Through partnerships with various stakeholders and funding bodies, the Festival offers a rich film programme to audiences across South Africa and an opportunity for them to attend seminars and discussions that engender the exchange of ideas and information. Our Festival creates the opportunity for exchange between international and local filmmakers regarding issues of development in the context of both society and filmmaking. The Festival also brings cinema to communities that have limited access to it through national partnerships with universities and community organisations and through outreach screenings.

The Tri Continental Film Festival is the only festival primarily dedicated to issues of Social, Political and Human Rights on the African continent - our programme therefore attracts film submissions from seasoned and emerging film talents from across the globe and a loyal, interested local and international audience.

The broader objective of the Festival is to contribute to the building of a mass local audience for films that matter and to remain a credible platform for local and international stories from regions that are frequently marginalised in mainstream media and cinema.

History

The festival originated in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2002 started by the Movement de Documentalistas. In 2003, for the first time, the festival was brought to South Africa by a group of partnership organisations including: Uhuru Productions, Lawyers for Human Rights and SACOD. This year TCFF celebrates its 10th year of existence.

In April 2004, in Prague, TCFF took part in the launch of the Human Rights Film Network (HRFN), a federation of film festivals that screen socio-political films, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Nights (Italy) and One World (Czech Republic).

To date, TCFF remains the only Africa-based film festival affiliated to this network. A large number of films screened during the festival came to TCFF through calls for entry made on the festival website.

The TCFF will run from the 14th – 21st September at the Missionvale Campus and the South End Museum. **All viewings are FREE.** Documentaries draw attention to social justice with specific focus on environmental issues, economic justice, globalisation and racism. Audiences can expect Q&As at some of the screenings, post-screening discussions and we anticipate some hot debate over a cup of coffee. We hope to make cinema an active experience for viewers.

Enjoy the festival!

Nine of the best

1. The Weather Gods (screens with Silent Snow)

Documentary, 32 min

Director: Rehad Desai, South Africa, 2011

“Climate change is destroying Africa. In the harshest of ironies, the cradle of mankind could well become its grave...” – Dianne McAlpine, Special Projects Coordinator for Greenpeace Africa

Global temperatures are rising. Nowhere is this being felt more intensely than on the African continent. Unless a legally binding international agreement to reduce carbon emissions is put in place very soon, temperatures will soar. And Africa will be set to burn. Already we see the effects of global warming as drought, floods and famine stalk our land with an increasing intensity. African farmers are battling adversities unseen in living memory. This hard-hitting documentary brings the true face of the problem to light, telling the story of the people in the front line of climate change: rural communities in Mali and Kenya and South Africa.

2. Silent Snow

Documentary, 71 min

Director: Jan Van Den Berg, Netherlands, 2011

“An Inuit searching for solutions to the poisoning of the arctic...”

The Arctic plains are an eminent example of nature’s untouched beauty, an endless nothing in which only few know how to survive. But dangerous pesticides are silently accumulating here, poisoning its inhabitants - a disturbing preview of the consequences of structural pollution of the environmental system worldwide. *Silent Snow* follows a young Greenlandic woman (Pipaluk Knudsen-Ostermann) on her journey all around the world to find the local causes of the contamination that is quietly poisoning her people. On three different continents (Africa, Asia and South America) she meets the people behind the sources of pollution and discovers the heartbreaking dilemmas that lie at the heart of it.

AWARDS

- Best film - Ecozine Zaragoza
- First Prize - Green Festival Seoul

- First Prize - Planet in Focus, Toronto
- Best International Film – HRAFF Australia
- Prix du meilleur court métrage - FIFFEL, Lausanne
- Children Earth Vision Award - Japan
- Golden Snail - Slow Food on Film Festival Bologna
- Honorable Mentions - INKAFEST Peru; HR Film Fest. Buenos Aires
- Stop Global Warming Award and J-Wave Audience Award
- Short Shorts Film Festival In Japan

3. *Bastardy Supported by the Australian High Commission*

Documentary, 83 min

Director: Amiel Courtin-Wilson, Australia, 2008

“It’s double jeopardy when you’re black and you’re homosexual mate – and you’re a bloody thief and a thespian too...” – Jack Charles

Bastardy is a delicately drawn, revealing portrait of a man with many faces. Aborigine actor Jack Charles is one of Australia’s most highly regarded actors - a pioneer of the country’s first Black Theatre Company, who ultimately helped shape the cultural landscape of Australia. He is also homeless and addicted to heroin, basking in the streets of Melbourne and stealing what he can out of suburban estates for his next fix. Throughout his 40 year career, he has slipped in-between two worlds, highly venerated and recognised in one and in the other marginalised and invisible. Over seven years, director Amiel Courtin-Wilson follows Jack Charles, a sometimes tragic, sometimes hopeful shape shifter, as he negotiates the moral complexities of his past and his presence in contemporary Australia with laconic candor and effervescent humour.

AWARDS

- Prix Special Du Jury 2010 - FIFO (Pacific International Doc Film Fest)
- Best Feature Documentary 2009 - Film Critics Circle of Australia (FCCA)
- Best Documentary Social & Political Issues Winner Best Documentary - Human Story Melbourne International Film Festival
- Top 5 Audience Award 2009 - Documentary Sydney Film Festival
- Official Selection - Sydney Film Festival, Melbourne International, Sheffield
- International Festival, Singapore International Festival

4. *Meanwhile in Mamelodi*

Documentary, 75 min

Director: Benjamin Kahlmeyer, Germany/SA, 2011

“The director has a knack for recording bits of dialogue and family life which you’d want to play again and again on a DVD.” – The Globe and Mail

This beautifully shot and sensitive story by a team of German filmmakers, spends time with the Mtswenis, a father-headed household living in the poorest part of Mamelodi Township near Pretoria. Set against the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, the film allows us into the world of ordinary South Africans, refusing to let their voices get drowned out by the roar of

vuvuzelas and the thousands of football fans. Taking time to listen to their quiet voices, we hear of life in Mamelodi, teenage dreams, and dedicated fatherhood, in a human-driven story that makes the world a smaller place by giving audiences unique insight into one inspiring family.

5. The Creators

Documentary, 80 min

Directors: Laura Gamse and Jacques de Villiers, South Africa, 2011

“If you are looking for Hell, Ask the artist where it is. If you cannot find an artist, Then you are already in Hell.” – Avigdor Pawsner

Weaving through the lives of Faith47 (graffiti artist), Warongx (afro-blues), Emile YX? (hip hop), Sweat.X (glam rap), Blaq Pearl (spoken word) and Mthetho Mapoyi (opera), *The Creators* culminates in an intertwined multi-plot crafted by the artists themselves. Born into separate areas of a formerly-segregated South Africa, the artists re-craft history and the impacts of apartheid in their own creative languages. The lens reveals the impulse behind the artists’ social consciousness, the individuals’ eccentricities, and each creator’s unique form of expression. Diving into the current of subversive art which fuels South Africa’s many clashing and merging cultures, *The Creators* brings into focus the invisible connections among strangers’.

6. Big Boys Gone Bananas

Documentary, 88 min

Director: Fredrik Gertten, Sweden, 2012

“Dirty tricks, lawsuits, manipulation, and the price of Free Speech...”

What is a big corporation capable of doing in order to protect its brand? Swedish documentary filmmaker Fredrik Gertten finds out first hand. His previous film BANANAS!* recounts the lawsuit that 12 Nicaraguan plantation workers successfully brought against the fruit giant Dole Food Company. That film was selected for competition by the 2009 Los Angeles Film Festival. Nothing wrong so far, right? But then just before leaving Sweden to attend the Los Angeles world premiere of his film, Gertten gets a strange message: the festival has decided to remove BANANAS!* from the competition. And subsequently, Gertten receives a letter from Dole’s attorneys threatening legal action. What follows is an unparalleled story that Gertten captures in this powerful film, revealing precisely how a multinational will stop at nothing to get its way. As Dole’s public relations company puts it, “It is easier to cope with a bad conscience than a bad reputation.”

7. The Island President

Documentary, 101 min

Director: Jon Shenk, USA, 2011

"If we can't stop the seas rising, if you allow for a two degree rise in temperature, you are actually agreeing to kill us." – President Mohamed Nasheed

Winner of the coveted People's Choice Award for Best Documentary at the Toronto International Film Festival 2011, *The Island President* is the astonishing story of the first year in office of President Mohammed Nasheed of the Maldives, a dedicated man (and former political prisoner under the Maldives' previous, repressive regime) confronting a problem greater in its way than any other world leader has ever faced – the impending submersion of his country, and everyone in it, beneath the ocean's surface. Considered the lowest lying country in the world, a rise of a mere three feet in sea level would inundate the Maldives, rendering the fantastically beautiful country – a virtual Shangri-la of turquoise reefs, beaches and cities composed of 1,200 coral islands arrayed across 400 miles of open sea – completely uninhabitable. Unfortunately, the sea has already begun creeping upward.

AWARDS

Winner People's Choice Documentary Award – Toronto International Film Festival 2011

Official Selection - Telluride Film Festival 2011

Official Selection – Toronto International Film Festival 2011

8. We Are Together: Thina Simunye

Documentary, 83 min

Director: Paul Taylor, UK / South Africa, 2007

"We can't all speak at once. But we can all sing at once..." – Zwai Bala, We Are Together

Life has not been easy for 12-year-old S'lindile, her siblings and her friends at the Agape Orphanage in South Africa, where most of the children have lost their parents to AIDS. But they are still kids and teenagers, bashful around boys, squabbling with each other. And when they lift their voices in song, something extraordinary happens. Filmed over three years and spanning two continents, *We Are Together* is the story of an orphanage, unlike one you've ever seen before. With unforgettable kids, soaring music and a plot full of surprises, the film arrives as a stirring and uplifting theatrical documentary.

AWARDS

- Tri Continental Film Festival - Audience Award, Best Documentary
- Tribeca Film Festival, New York - Audience Award
- Tribeca Film Festival, New York - Special Jury Prize
- Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival - Audience Award
- Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival - First Appearance Award
- Amnesty International Film Festival - Audience Award
- Amnesty International Film Festival - Special Jury prize
- One World International Film Festival - Special Jury Prize

9. Roadmap to Apartheid

Documentary, 95 min

Directors: Ana Nogueira and Eron Davidson, South Africa, 2011

"We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians..." – Nelson Mandela, 1997

Ana Nogueira is a white South African and Eron Davidson a Jewish Israeli. Drawing on their first-hand knowledge of the issues, the producers take a close look at the apartheid comparison often used to describe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Their film breaks down the rhetorical analogy into a fact-based comparison, noting where the analogy is useful and appropriate, and where it is not. There are many lessons to draw from the South African experience relevant to conflicts all over the world. Narrated by Alice Walker (author of *The Color Purple*), this film is as much a historical document of the rise and fall of apartheid, as it is a film about why many Palestinians feel they are living in an apartheid system today, and why an increasing number of people around the world agree with them.

AWARDS

- Best Documentary - The Garden State Film Festival 2012
- Best Editing - The Milan International Film Festival 2012
- The Silver Lei Award - The Honolulu Film Awards 2012
- Excellence in Documentary Film - The 2012 Indie Fest
- Film Heals Award – Manhattan Film Festival 2012

Venues

Documentaries will be screened at the Conference Centre, Missionvale Campus, NMMU and at the South End Museum.

14-21 SEPTEMBER 2012		
	South End Museum	Missionvale Campus
Fri 14th 18:00	The Weather gods (32 min) Silent snow (71 min)	
Mon 17 th 12:30		Bastardy (83 min)
Tues 18 th 12:30		Meanwhile in Mamelodi (75 min)*
Wed 19 th 12:30		The creators (80 min)
18:00	Big boys gone bananas (88 min)	
Thur 20 th 12:30		The Island president (101 min)
Fri 21 st 12:30		We are together: Thina Simunye (83 min)
18:00	Roadmap to apartheid (95 min)	

*VIP Lounge, Missionvale Campus

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Olwam Mngwazi at Olwam.Mngwazi2@nmmu.ac.za or 041 504-3924

Documentaries available

Other titles and more ... available from the CIPSET Resource Centre (NMMU) ... are listed below:

Citizen X – The vote is not enough	Soweto sneezed ... and then we caught the fever	There once was an island
Roadmap to apartheid	Barefoot in Ethiopia	The last survivor
Blood calls you	Difficult love	The Cradock Four
Zimbabwe's forgotten children	A man from the Congo River	We are no where
Taking Haart	Kamange Northern Quarters	Into eternity
Eyes wide open	Imam and I	Remarking January 25 th – A series of six
The green wave	Garbage dreams	The glass house
Man on ground	Meanwhile in Mamelodi	Gangstar project
3 rooms of melancholia	Big boys gone bananas	The mothers' house
Pilgrimage	My heart of darkness	Egyptian shorts
Stay with me	Manenburg	Silent snow
Suffering grasses	Bastardy	Cuba Une Odyssee Africaine
The island president	The creators	The problem: testimony of Saharawi people
Forerunners	Sicko	Capitalism: A love story