

# **1<sup>st</sup> United Nations Association Film Festival Traveling Film Festival Venice**

**FRIDAY, September 7, 2007**

**12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**Sala Zorzi, Palazzo del Cinema**



Photo from the film "A Great Wonder Lost Children of Sudan"

## **“A Statement of Hope and Courage”**

**1<sup>st</sup> UNAFF Traveling Film Festival presents two outstanding documentaries**

***“A Great Wonder - Lost Children of Sudan”***

**&**

***“Talk Mogadishu - Media Under Fire”***

**The films deal with issues that celebrate international efforts to fight for justice and dignity for all people around the world. For more information please visit**

**[www.unaff.org](http://www.unaff.org)**

## **12:00 PM “A Great Wonder: Lost Children of Sudan”**

61' (Ethiopia/Kenya/Sudan/USA)

Director: Kim Shelton Producers: Kim Shelton and Leigh Kimball

More than two million Sudanese have died in the longest uninterrupted civil war in the world, now in its 20th year. Another five million civilians have fled their homes to escape the fighting. *A Great Wonder: Lost Children of Sudan* traces the extraordinary journey of three young Sudanese orphans, a fraction of the 17,000 so-called Lost Boys of Sudan, who have spent the majority of their lives either in flight from war or in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Northern Kenya. Having navigated the hazards of warfare, disease and starvation, their arrival and resettlement in Seattle, WA, is not your average immigration story. Over the course of 18 months, these youths have recorded their experiences through their own eyes and in their own words using digital video cameras. The resulting “diaries” serve as a personal thread throughout the film, incorporating first-hand accounts of their experiences in war with their radically different lives as immigrants in America. The film explores the concepts of loss, faith, community and freedom as it bears witness to the spirit that drives these young people to rebuild their lives.

## **1:00 PM Talk Mogadishu: Media under Fire**

(50') Canada/Somalia/USA

Director/Producer: Judy Jackson

A decade after the disastrous U.S. humanitarian intervention in Somalia, HornAfrik, the first independent TV and radio station in war-ravaged Mogadishu, was established by three brave Somali-Canadians in the face of chaos and devastation. Their vision was to forge a path to peace through freedom of expression, impartial news and debate. The station's talk shows have become incredibly popular, providing a unique way for Mogadishu's marginalized residents, including women's groups and human rights advocates, to speak out without being silenced. It is a venture not without danger; HornAfrik has been attacked more than once by angry warlords displeased with the station's content. Despite the perils, the founders of HornAfrik continue their broadcasts, creating a blueprint for the role of the media in times of conflict.

### **About UNAFF**

Established nine years ago at Stanford University, California by film critic and educator Jasmina Bojic in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNAFF screens documentaries by international filmmakers dealing with topics such as human rights, environmental survival, women's issues, children, refugee protection, homelessness, racism, disease control, universal education, war and peace. By bringing together filmmakers, the academic community and the general public, UNAFF offers a unique opportunity for creative exchange and education among groups and individuals often separated by geography, ethnicity and economic constraints.

The 1<sup>st</sup> UNAFF Traveling Film Festival Venice is co-presented with  
**XIII CONFERENZA EUROMEDITERRANEA SUL CINEMA**

