

SIGNS OF CHANGE FILM FESTIVAL

22-24 March 2011

Tribeca Cinemas
54 Varick Street
New York, NY 10013

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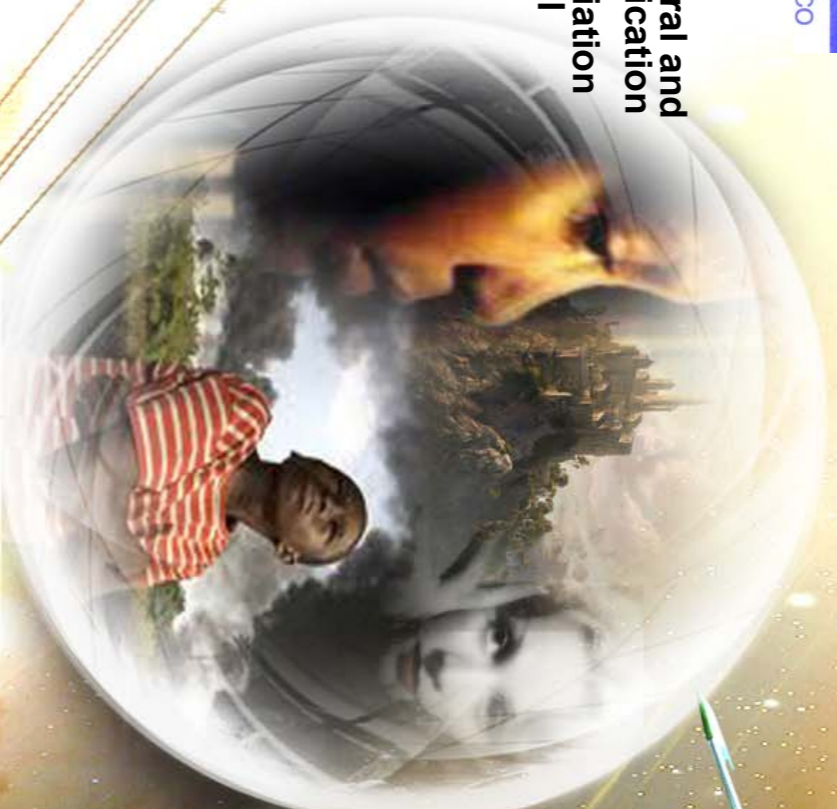


Organized by:
Observatory for Cultural and
Audiovisual Communication
United Nations Association
Traveling Film Festival

In partnership with:



SOUTH-SOUTH NEWS



ADMISSION IS FREE

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PRESENTATION

In the ceaseless flow of cinematic productions, video or digital, there are often precious traces which emerge, whereby accounts of events or documents illustrate dramatic situations that the UN is called upon to face.

Everyday a very large number of people is busy and engaged in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Thousands of artists, filmmakers, digital operators produce materials of great value which allow us to front the most burning issues.

The event is a joint effort by OCCAM - Infopoverty Programme, IFTC-UNESCO and the UN Association Film Festival.

OCCAM, the Observatory for Cultural and Audiovisual Communication was created by UNESCO in 1997 and is affiliated to the United Nations. OCCAM is working on how innovation and multimedia can facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, thanks to the Infopoverty Programme and the Infopoverty World Conference that were funded by Pierpaolo Saporito, who currently presides both.

Based in Paris, the International Council for Film and Television at UNESCO was funded in 1958 and brings public and private organizations to unite the audiovisual professions - including new information technology, video DVD, cable TV and satellites - and ensure their relations with UNESCO.

Conceived in 1998 at Stanford University by film critic and educator Jasmina Bojic in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF) screens documentaries by international filmmakers dealing with topics such as human rights, environmental themes, 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 Festival takes place at the Tribeca Cinemas in New York, 22 - 24 March 2011, with large anticipations introduced in the course of the works for the Infopoverty World Conference.

A preview of the Festival is due on March 9th at the Scandinavia House for the screening of "Svinalangorna", winner of the Smithers Award 2010 at the Venice Film Festival. Pernilla August, at her first experience as director and world famous for starring in the movies of Ingmar Bergman will lead a Swedish delegation to accept the Award.

SCHEDULE OF SCREENINGS

March 9, Scandinavia House

6:30 pm *Beyond (Svinalangorna)*

95' - Sweden/Finland
Director: Pernilla August
Producer: Helena Danielsson, Ralf Karlsson

A happy family on a morning feast. Suddenly the young mother, Leena, receives a phone call that informs her that her mother is hospitalized in critical condition. Against her will, her husband decides to drive her to find the woman. For Leena is also the beginning of a painful inner journey that forces her to recall a past erased with a striking force of will. The parents, two immigrants from Finland who have never really felt at home in Sweden, lived between alcohol abuse and violent fights: a devastating and blind passion, while Leena and her little brother tried to survive in their own way. To Leena, who has chosen to pursue a normal life at all costs, this turns out to be the last chance to tackle this dark world.

March 22, Tribeca Cinemas

7:00 pm *Dead End: Afghan Migrants in Greece* *

12' - Afghanistan/Greece
Director/Producer: Gill Fickling

Around the world desperate people are on the move, driven from their homes by wars or poverty. Many assume life will be better in a wealthy place like Europe. But too often their hopes are shattered. This story leads to Greece where for many it is the end of a long road-and of their dreams. Eighteen-year-old Akhtar Azimi fled Afghanistan after being threatened by the Taliban. Leaving his widowed mother and young brothers, he came to Europe alone, seeking safety.

7:20 pm *Climate Refugees* *

89' - Bangladesh/China/Tuvalu/USA
Director: Michael Nash
Producers: Michael Nash, Justin Hogan

A climate refugee is a person displaced by climatically induced environmental disasters. Such disasters result from incremental and rapid ecological change, resulting in increased droughts, desertification, sea level rise, and the more frequent occurrence of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, cyclones, fires, mass flooding and tornadoes. All this is causing mass global migration and border conflicts. For the first time, the Pentagon now considers climate change a national security risk and the term "climate wars" is being talked about in war-room like environments in Washington DC. The UN currently states that more refugees are now displaced by environmental disasters than by war, more than 25 million climate refugees (ecologically induced migrants), and experts have projected that number will double within the next five years to over 50 million. Several organizations like the IPCC, Red Cross and The Christian Monitor estimate between 150 million and 1 billion climate refugees will be displaced within the next four decades, yet not one single international law gives asylum, or even a helping hand to environmental refugees.

9:00 pm *Megalopolis* *

112' - Brazil/China/Egypt/Italy/Japan/Pakistan/USA
Directors: Francesco Conversano, Nene Grignaffini
Producer: Movie Movie

Stunningly filmed, Megalopolis is an exploration of six of the world's largest urban centers. They are complex, but also very fragile systems in which people daily confront problems of livability in relation to growth, as well as problems related to employment, pollution, crime, control, security, inclusion and exclusion, and tolerance in a world where wealth and poverty are increasing exponentially as the gap between social classes widens diametrically. To represent the megalopolis of the 21st century, their growth, the practical consequences that cause and change the geography of the world, and the living conditions of more than half the population overall, this documentary draws on science fiction to tell its story. Famed science-fiction authors wrote of such cities as places of confrontation and social tension. Cities of fear fed the pages of writers of the last century, including authors such as Clarke, Asimov, and Ballard. Megalopolis correlates the writing of the past to a reality today, which is very often a more disturbing scenario than imagined by the writers.

* presentation of the UNAFF Traveling Film Festival www.unaff.org

March 23, Tribeca Cinemas

7:00 pm *CAWFA* *

18' - Uganda
Director/Producer: Christopher Jenkins

The conflict in northern Uganda has shattered the lives of many. Joseph Kony, wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court, continues to evade capture while his ragtag group of fighters, known as the "Lord's Resistance Army," easily slips over borders killing, mutilating and abducting at will. In efforts to capture Kony, the Ugandan military ordered more than 1.4 million people off their land and into camps for "Internally Displaced People." For women and girls caught in the middle of the conflict, the road to reconstruction is particularly difficult. This film, narrated by Oprah Winfrey, is an intimate look into the lives of some of these brave women, exposing the difficulties they face and revealing a remarkable organization that is helping to rebuild their lives.

7:30 pm *The Devil Came on Horseback* *

89' - Sudan/USA
Directors: Annie Sundberg, Ricki Stern
Producers: Annie Sundberg, Ricki Stern, Jane Wells, Gretchen Wallace

The Devil Came on Horseback exposes the tragedy taking place in Darfur as seen through the eyes of an American witness who has since returned to the U.S. to take action to stop it. Using exclusive photographs and first-hand testimony of former U.S. Marine Captain Brian Steidle, *The Devil Came on Horseback* takes the viewer on an emotionally-charged journey into the heart of Darfur, Sudan, where an Arab run government is systematically executing a plan to rid the province of its black-African citizens. As an official military observer, Steidle had access to parts of the country that no journalist could penetrate. Ultimately frustrated by the inaction of the international community, Steidle resigned and returned to the U.S. to expose the images and stories of lives systematically destroyed.

9:30 pm *Oliviero Toscani: The Rage of Images* *

45' - Germany/Italy
Directors: Peter Scharf, Katja Duregger
Producer: Birgit Schulz

A dead soldier's blood-soaked t-shirt; a nun kissing a priest; a gaunt young man with AIDS; all were images used by the fashion label Benetton to advertise its clothing in the 90s. The provocative campaign was the work of Italian photographer Oliviero Toscani, a man who brought topics such as war, racism, the death penalty, and the misery of refugees into the business of advertising. His posters set off a storm of indignation throughout the world; in many places they were banned. Toscani's "Reverse Psychology Marketing" challenges the intelligence and the consciousness of its audience; rather than praising products and tempting people to buy, it seeks to enlighten. *The Rage of Images* examines the now 68-year-old artist and pioneer of anti-advertising whose career began with fashion shoots for labels such as Fiorucci, Armani and Esprit. It also looks at the private man who broke with Benetton in 2001 and now works independently, designing ad campaigns that go far beyond the mainstream.

March 24, Tribeca Cinemas - Closing Ceremony

7:30 pm *The Earth: our Home*

80' - Italy
Directors: Pierpaolo Saporito and Vittorio Giacci
Producer: ACT Multimedia

The multi media opera *The Heart: Our Home* has involved the greatest talents in the cinema, music, artistic, architectonic and audio visual industries, many of them Oscar winners, that embraced this initiative willingly contributing their talents. And indeed *The Earth: Our Home* is teeming with illustrious collaborations starting with **Vincenzo Cerami**, scriptwriter for Roberto Benigni's *Life is Beautiful* that won the Oscar for best foreign film. And who wrote the original texts for the documentary. Then there's the musical score by **Ennio Morricone**, Oscar winner for his Career, who specially composed the musical themes for the first and last chapter. Yet another prestigious composer to be involved in the musical score is **Luis Bacalov**, Oscar for *The Postman* by Michael Radford. The list of prestigious composers goes on: **Michael Nyman**, **Arvo Part**, **Philip Glass**, **Nicola Piovani**. Here is music ranging from **Nello Salza's** trumpet to **Andrea Bocelli's** singing voice. The set design is by **Osvaldo Desideri**, Oscar winner for Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* and the reciting voice is none other than **Murray Abraham**, Oscar winner for his interpretation of Salieri in Milo Forman's *Amadeus*.