

Inverness Film Festival. March 28, 2009. Inverness County Centre for the Arts
Sponsored by: Canadian Council on Learning-Knowledge Exchange, Early Childhood Development, Eastern Counties Regional Library, Inverness Academy Global Awareness Committee, Inverness Coop, Inverness County Centre for the Arts, Lyghtesome Gallery, Pictou-Antigonish Public Library, and StFX Department of Adult Education.

!Salud! : Cuba & the Quest for Health 93 min, 2006 Director: Connie Field. MEDICC
¡Salud! looks at the curious case of Cuba, a cash-strapped country with what the BBC calls 'one of the world's best health systems.' From the shores of Africa to the Americas, ¡Salud! hits the road with some of the 28,000 Cuban health professionals serving in 68 countries. They take with them the experience and philosophy of their own community-oriented, preventive and universal health care model, a model fundamentally at odds with a global wave of healthcare privatization. International medical students in Cuba now number 30,000, including nearly 100 from the USA. Their stories plus testimony from experts around the world bring home the competing agendas that mark the battle for global health—and the complex realities confronting the movement to make healthcare everyone's birth right.

Mr. Mergler's Gift 31 min, 2004 Director: Beverly Shaffer



The girl sits at the piano and plays the opening bars of Für Elise. Daniel Mergler has heard the Beethoven bagatelle countless times over the decades, but this is different. He listens with surprise, and delight lights up the old man's eyes. The young pianist is Xin Ben, the 9-year-old daughter of Chinese immigrants. Fate has brought her to Mr Mergler, a music teacher whose career is drawing to a close. 'Mr. Mergler's Gift' is the moving account of a student and her mentor, and a lyrical homage to the transcendent power of music. Xin Ben illuminates Mr. Mergler's final months with her youthful talent, and in return he lovingly guides her towards a life in music. Oscar-winning filmmaker Beverly Shaffer crafts a film of elegant simplicity and deep emotion, gracefully documenting a dying man's dedication to his young prodigy.

To Play and To Fight (Tocar Y Luchar) 70 min, 2006 Director: Alberto Arvelo
There is a wonderful renaissance in classical orchestral music today centered in Venezuela, where nearly 250,000 children and youth are participating in the Youth and Children's Orchestra System project. What began as a modest program to expose rural youth to music as a means of personal and social development has become an amazing phenomenon. Teaching musical harmony is also a means of educating people in human harmony, building community and spirit. This inspiring film weaves together impressive performances and interviews with renowned musicians such as Plácido Domingo who reflect on the impact of this remarkable social project. Today the program is expanding to include youth with disabilities, including hearing impaired youth. *To Play and To Fight* is an inspirational story of courage, determination, ambition, and love showing us that only those who dream can change the world.

A Tribe of His Own: The Journalism of P. Sainath 50 min, 2001 Director: Joe Moulins



When government propaganda and corporate spin are increasingly presented as fact, *A Tribe of His Own* reminds us what the news media can be. With a groundbreaking series of newspaper articles and a critically acclaimed book, Palagummi Sainath was the first recipient of Amnesty International's Human Rights Journalist of the Year award in 2000. We follow Sainath to the Indian villages he writes about, and explore his contention that "journalism is for people, not shareholders." Stephen Hume writes, "Mesmerizing...this film delivers powerful insights into the enduring story of human suffering and its shining corollary, imperishable hope." Chris Award, 2002 Columbus Film Festival.

Hannah's story 30 min, 2007

Director: Juanita Peters

Hannah Taylor is the exceptional 10-year-old who founded the Ladybug Foundation—a nationally renowned organization she started, to raise awareness and generate support for the homeless and hungry in her hometown of Winnipeg. This is *Hannah's Story*, about a young girl making groundbreaking efforts to change the world for the better. A story of inspiration that demonstrates the potential for extraordinary measures that can exist inside us all.

The Cats of Mirikitani 74 min, 2006

Filmmaker: Linda Hattendorf

"Make art not war" is Jimmy Mirikitani's motto. This 85-year-old Japanese American artist was born in Sacramento and raised in Hiroshima, but by 2001 he is living on the streets of New York with the twin towers of the World Trade Center still ominously anchoring the horizon behind him. How did Mirikitani end up on the streets? The answer is in his art. As tourists and shoppers hurry past, he sits alone on a windy corner in Soho drawing whimsical cats, bleak internment camps, and the angry red flames of the atomic bomb. When a neighbouring filmmaker stops to ask about Mirikitani's art, a friendship begins that will change both their lives. *The Cats of Mirikitani* is an intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing power of art. A heart-warming affirmation of humanity that will appeal to all lovers of peace, art, and cats. *Audience Award: Tribeca Film Festival*

Michel in the Suête 5 min., 1998

Produced, written, & directed by Neal Livingston

A hilarious documentary about Michel Williatte-Battet who is attempting to carry out a normal day's activities during a Suête wind storm. The results are unpredictable and side-splitting! Suêtes are hurricane force south-east winds that beat down on the Acadian French coastal area of northwestern Cape Breton Island in the spring and autumn. The film was screened in 1998 at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Atlantic Film Festival, and at the 1990 Local Hero's Film Festival. It received a Moonsnail Award for best sound at the Atlantic Film Festival 1998. It has been screened theatrically in Canada, the United States, and Finland.

After the tsunami 25 min, 2008

Produced by Development & Peace

A successful grassroots reconstruction in Indonesia after the tsunami. Great example of community development and solidarity funded by Development & Peace.

War/Dance 107 min, 2007

Directors: Sean Fine & Andrea Nix Fine

This documentary was nominated for an Oscar in 2008. It is an amazing film. For the last twenty years, Northern Uganda has been at war with a rebel force, the Lord's Resistance Army (L.R.A.) which abducts boys to become soldiers and girls into sexual slavery. But amidst the grief and violence, voices are heard - children's voices, singing strong, without fear. Across the country, Ugandan children are getting ready for the biggest event of the year: the annual Kampala Music Festival. *War Dance* follows the courageous efforts of Patongo Elementary School students and teachers as they pour their hearts into this year's competition. They dance to the rhythms of their ancestors, they dance about their future, they dance to be children...and they dance to win. Inspirational. Documentary Directing Award Sundance 2007.