

Traveling World Community Film Festival –Peterborough 2006 (January)

Another World is Possible 25 min. 2002

Mark Dworkin, Melissa Young

In early 2002, 51,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations, indigenous nations, farmers, and labour including 11,000 young people from 131 countries gathered for the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Advocates of democracy, human rights, and environmental protection around the world are featured including Naomi Klein, Vandana Shiva, Kevin Danaher, Wolfgang Sachs, and Rigoberta Menchu. Despite the North American media blackout, this film shows that the movement for social justice is alive and well around the world. Positive global alternatives.

Human Rights Activism

The Anti-Fat Pill and the Bushman 45 min, 2003

Reporter: Tom Mangold Editor: Karen O'Connor McNabb & Connolly

A miracle treatment for obesity - the scourge of modern society - has been discovered on the lands of a stone-age tribe of Bushmen, living on the edge of civilisation in Southern Africa. If the 'miracle molecule' inside the Hoodia cactus can be transformed into a bestselling anti-fat pill by Pfizer, the pharmaceutical giant responsible for Viagra, the San Bushmen stand to make millions of dollars in royalties. Tom Mangold talks to the elusive San leaders as they debate how they should spend their windfall, and tracks the plant pirates from the First World who are trying to steal the precious Hoodia.

Behind the Fence 45 min, 2003

Director: Inigo Gilmore McNabb & Connolly

Through the eyes of the Israelis and Palestinians most affected, 'Behind the Fence' follows the construction of a controversial 115 kilometre security fence that is creating a new barrier between Israel and the West Bank. The aim, the Israeli government has stated, is to prevent Palestinian "terrorists" from infiltrating into Israel. For many Palestinians however it is nothing more than a sinister ploy to grab more of their land and further reinforce the occupation. The film captures the anxiety and uncertainty in the Israeli community of Kibbutz Metzger and the neighbouring Palestinian town of Qaffin, --communities which will be divided by the fence and the destruction of the 150-year-old olive grove that lies between them.

A Benign Presence 20 min, 2004

Producer/ Director: Michael O'Neill Associate Producer: Rev. Charles Brandt

North Island College

"A Benign Presence" portrays in vivid cinematography the life history of the Trumpeter Swan, including the Comox Valley community's involvement in the conservation of this species. The film also conveys a sense of wonder and delight in the natural world, which

gives us a sense of hope that our society can be transformed from one that is having a disruptive influence on the earth to one that will have a benign presence.

Betrayed 56 min, 2004
Filmmaker: Elaine Briere North Island College
Award-winning director of 'Bitter Paradise; the Sell-Out of East Timor'

Although Canada is surrounded by three oceans, there is not a single deep-sea ship flying the Canadian flag today. Sixty years ago, Canada had the fourth-largest merchant fleet in the world. Canadian ships brought vital supplies to Allied forces in Europe during World War II. The men sailing those ships were war heroes who suffered terrible losses. Their union, the Canadian Seaman's Union (CSU) brought the eight-hour day, sick leave and pay increases to an industry known for low wages and brutal working conditions. After the war, when the Liberal government began to privatize the merchant fleet, the CSU strongly opposed the sell-off. The federal government and the ship-owners initiated a campaign to discredit the CSU by branding them as Communists. It was a time of fear, confusion and betrayal. This film traces the history of Canadian shipping from the international strike of 1949 to the globalization of coastal shipping in Australia by Canada Steamship Lines - owned by the family of Prime Minister Paul Martin.

Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow 2005 66 min
Directed by Nadja Drost

Amazon oil runs, controversy rages

Canadian oil giant EnCana is under fire for the construction of an oil pipeline that has become one of the world's most controversial mega-projects, faced with mass-opposition in Ecuador, as well as abroad. Follow the journey of a Canadian filmmaker as she investigates why an oil company is mired in social and environmental controversy in the Amazon. Faced with the destruction and contamination of their lands and confronted with oppression and violence by company and government security forces, locals are left to face powerful oil companies and a corrupt government with little else besides their remarkable strength and the courage to resist. From the Amazon jungle to the corporate office towers of Canada. It questions whether it is possible for a company to be a "good corporate citizen" in an oil-producing area with a history stained by environmental contamination, near-extinction of indigenous nations, suppression by military forces, and rampant corruption.

Best Canadian Documentary (short to mid-length), Hot Docs Toronto, 2005; 3rd Audience Favourite, Hot Docs Toronto, 2005; Honourable Mention, Best Canadian long form film, Planet in Focus, Toronto, 2005

Beyond Treason 90 min 2005
William Lewis

This extremely powerful film presents comprehensive and compelling documentation from United States Government archives of a massive cover-up lasting over two

generations. Hear the testimony of experts and of United States military veterans who demand answers regarding what causes Gulf War illnesses (a.k.a. Gulf War Syndrome; Persian Gulf Illness). Exposure to depleted uranium munitions used? Chemical and biological exposures? Experimental vaccines given to troops without their knowledge or consent? A growing number of scientists and experts in their fields are coming forward to share their research and first-hand knowledge of official betrayal. The Veterans Affairs determined that 250,000 troops are now permanently disabled, 15,000 dead and over 425,000 ill and slowly dying. They wait for answers from their respective governments but no answers have come from the military establishment. Records that span over a decade point to negligence and even culpability on the part of the U.S. Department of Defense. Due to images of a graphic nature parental guidance is suggested.

2005 Berkeley Film Festival Grand Festival Award Winner

Blossoms of Fire, Mexico 74 min 2000

Maureen Gosling & Ellen Osborne

The legendary Zapotec women of southern Oaxaca, Mexico have been described as "guardians of men, distributors of food." Artist Frida Kahlo celebrated their beauty and intelligence. Blossoms of Fire shows them in all their brightly coloured, opinionated glory as they run their own businesses, embroider their signature fiery blossoms on clothing and comment with angry humour on articles in the foreign press that inaccurately depict them as a promiscuous matriarchy. A history of resisting aggressors has resulted in fierce independence and progressive politics. Their acceptance of alternative gender roles is an example of refusing to conform to a macho cultural standard. Fiestas are celebrations which build community. *Award for Excellence, American Anthropological Association; Best of Festival, Sunnyside of the Art and Culture Doc Film Market, Marseilles*

Books Not Bars 21 min. 2001

Mark Landsman

Books Not Bars documents the inspiring youth-led movement against the massive prison industry in the US. The film reveals misperceptions about the criminalization of youth, particularly youth of colour, and highlights the relationship between increases in prison spending and decreases in education spending. Inspiring examples of peer activism, youth organizing and successful mobilizing around prison issues.

*Children and Youth Third Prize, San Francisco Black Film Festival
Activism*

Climate Change "The Day After Tomorrow" 20 min 2004

Roland Emmerich

At the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), scientists who study the impact of rising industrial emissions on the world's climate say it is impossible for an ice

age to strike within days, as happens in the movie. They warn, however, that climate change may have significant consequences for society in coming decades. Humans are affecting global climate through emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases that trap sunlight in the atmosphere and warm the planet. Emitted from the burning of fossil fuels and other sources, many greenhouse gases remain in the atmosphere for decades or even centuries. Sulfates and other pollutants that comprise tiny particles can have a different effect-often blocking sunlight and cooling temperatures-but their impacts are more localized and shorter-lasting. Researchers at NCAR and other institutions have found that global temperatures are likely to rise by 1.7 to 4.9 degrees Celsius (3.1 to 8.9 degrees Fahrenheit) between 1990 and 2100. Such an increase in temperatures may spur droughts, extreme storms, and related events including wildfires, vegetation changes, and a rise in sea levels.

Easy Rollin' 17 min, 2004

Filmmakers: Marriane Bos and Hadas Levy Hadas Levy

A community of cycling enthusiasts in Vancouver, BC, finds funky ways to bring together their environmental and artistic ideals to promote green transportation and alternative ways of engaging within our car-congested society. Bio-Diesel and Pedal-Powered Generators are only a few examples of how to rethink the way we live and move through this world. Join us for a community-building street festival with some of the most creative and fun transportation options you'll ever see. A humorous and light-hearted look at creative alternatives.

El Contrato 50 min, 2003

Director: Min Sook Lee National Film Board

"El Contrato" follows Teodoro Bello Martinez, a poverty-stricken father of four living in Central Mexico, and several of his countrymen as they make an annual migration to southern Ontario to pick tomatoes under conditions no Canadian would accept. Under a government program that allows growers to monitor themselves, workers are exempted from labour laws and safety regulations. Grievances are deflected by a long line of others "back home" who are willing to take their place. Despite fear of repercussions, the workers voice their desire for dignity and respect, as much as for better working conditions. A stunning expose of Canadian exploitation of vulnerable migrant workers.

The End of Suburbia, Oil Depletion & The Collapse of the American Dream
78 min, 2004

Director: Gregory Greene Host: Barry Zwicker Post Carbon Institute

Since World War II North Americans have invested much in suburbia with its promised sense of space, affordability, family life and upward mobility. Serious questions are now being raised about the sustainability of this way of life. With brutal honesty and a touch of irony, this film explores the "American Way of Life" and its prospects as the global demand for fossil fuels outstrips the supply. Some scientists argue that world "Oil

Peak" and the inevitable decline in fossil fuels are upon us now. The consequences of inaction in the face of this global crisis are enormous. What can be done now, individually and collectively to change the way we live in community?

Fourth World War

76

min, 2003

Big Noise Films

Produced by a network of independent media "The Fourth World War" weaves together the images and voices of the war on the ground - from the front-lines of conflicts in Mexico, Argentina, South Africa, Palestine, Korea, "the North" from Seattle to Genova, and the "War on Terror" in New York, Afghanistan, and Iraq. It is the story of men and women around the world who resist being annihilated in this corporate war against people. It is a story of a war without end and of those who resist. The product of over two years of filming on the inside of movements on five continents, 'The Fourth World War' is a creative collage produced through a global network of independent media and activist groups; it is a truly global movement film. Featuring music from Manu Chao, Asian Dub Foundation, Múm, Moosaka, Cypher AD.

The Genetic Matrix; The Schmeiser Case & the Fight for the Future of Life

35

min, 2004

Filmmaker: Ian Mauro

Council of Canadians & Dead Crow

Productions

www.percyschmeiser.com

www.canadians.org

www.vshiva.net

In 1996, Monsanto released genetically engineered herbicide tolerant canola in Canada. Farmers Percy & Louise Schmeiser were sued in 1998 by Monsanto for infringing a gene patent on this canola. Monsanto vs Schmeiser was the first case in the world arguing that a patent over a lifeform had been violated. Schmeiser was forced to turn over his entire crop and the seeds he and his wife spent 50 years cultivating. The six year "David vs. Goliath" court battle raised issues of life patents while the public discourse continues to focus on issues of food safety and labelling. Percy received the Mahatma Gandhi award for his non-violent service to humanity in 2000.

Giant Sea Turtles (family friendly) 26 min. 1998

Gary Marcuse

For 100 million years, they have cruised the seas, travelling astounding distances every year. Today, every single species of sea turtle is either threatened or endangered. Peter Pritchard has worked for many years with the Arawak community in Guyana to ensure that young people grow up to love and respect turtles - and that the days when turtles are slaughtered for meat are gone forever. Pritchard believes the "people are always the problem, and people are always the solution." Breathtaking underwater photography.

Environment

Jambo Kenya (Family friendly)

58 min 2005

Lalita Krishna

Jambo Kenya! is an inspiring documentary that follows eleven Canadian teens from the Toronto area as they sign up for a three week trip to Kenya to teach English and build a school. Starting with their parents' fears of the African unknown as they depart at the Pearson airport, to the immediate culture shock upon arrival in Nairobi, this documentary is an eye-opening excursion through the trials and tribulations of daily existence and true cultural challenges faced by young Canadians in foreign places. In the heart of Masai Mara country, the group deals with language barriers, lack of resources, building a school from the ground up with no modern equipment, and a scare when a wild elephant gives chase! This film was a Special Feature Presentation at 2005 Sprockets: Toronto International Film Festival for Children

The Maximum Marmora Phenomenon 33 min

2005

Tim Wilson

Situated between Toronto and Ottawa is the rural town of Marmora, the setting for this original, spontaneous, and fascinating doc about the environment, culture, and life on earth. In this romp through punk music festivals; arsenic poisoning and radioactive pollution right in their own back yard, we visit strange and special places which have the power to induce spiritual experiences. Throughout we meet a host of distinctly memorable characters. Whimsical, inspired and insightful – don't miss out on experiencing the Maximum Marmora Phenomena! – R.S.

Moolade —feature film for Friday evening

Despite his 82 years, Ousmane Sembene remains the most impassioned voice of African cinema. His films are an important reminder that you can speak from within tribal cultures without being afraid to criticise them or open them up to social change. Moolaadé continues his "Heroic" trilogy dealing with African women that commenced with Faat-Kine. Sembene has long seen the hope of Africa as the power of its women and his vision burns brighter than ever. Here he confronts the issue of female genital mutilation, as a mother makes her stand and offers "moolaadé", or sanctuary, to girls fleeing the rite of Purification. Sembene's work is enthralling for the immediacy of his political concerns, and for the directness and courage with which he represents them.

"Female genital mutilation is practised in 38 of 54 member states of the African Union. Whatever the method used (traditional or modern) to excise is a violation of the woman's dignity and integrity. I dedicate Moolaadé to mothers, women who struggle to abolish this legacy of bygone days." Ousmane Sembene

Nasci Mulher Negra: I Was Born a Black Woman

44 min. 2000

Kit Miller

Benedita da Silva - shanty dweller, domestic worker, mother, organizer, poet, Senator. I Was Born a Black Woman recounts the remarkable life of the first Afro-Brazilian woman to be elected to Brazil's senate. Benedita was born to poverty, started working at age

seven and gradually gained stature for herself and her community through education, faith in God, and community organizing. Filled with Afro-Brazilian music, poetry and dance, this film weaves a dynamic tale of black Brazil and one woman's victory over racism.

Women History

Net Loss 52 min, 2003

Filmmakers: Mark Dworkin & Melissa Young McNabb & Connolly

Decades of poor fisheries management and habitat loss have decimated many wild salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest. Now there's a new way to produce fish - raising them in giant underwater cages known as "net pens". "Net Loss" contends that fish farms have become a serious new threat to the survival of wild salmon. Filmed in Chile, Washington, and British Columbia, "Net Loss" assesses the risks and benefits of salmon farming through interviews with government and industry spokesman, who make the case for salmon farming, and the fisherman, native people, and scientists who warn of the dangers it poses and the damage it has already done.

No Place Called Home 57 min, 2004

Director: Craig Chivers National Film Board

"I know we're poor, but it's what we are not who we are." Shot in an intimate, cinema verite style, 'No Place Called Home' follows the Rice Family over the course of a year as they move in search of affordable housing. Kay Rice has just moved with husband, Karl, and her six children to a small, run-down rental house. Just as the family's circumstances are looking slightly better, things turn sour with the landlord who threatens eviction. Kay, worried that a veiled threat in a letter may mean losing her children, decides to take her landlord to court. With a photojournalist's eye, director Craig Chivers infuses "No Place Called Home" with humanity and stark realism as he illustrates the desperate struggle faced by the Rices and a growing number of working poor families across Canada.

Peace Tree (Family friendly) 47 min 2005

Mitra Sen

Shazia, a 7 year old Muslim girl and Kylie, her Christian friend, dream of celebrating each others' festivals, Christmas and Eid. But when they share their dreams, they are met with resistance from their parents who express their concerns. The Peace Tree shares the voices of the children who try to enlighten their parents to the importance of sharing and celebrating diversity together. Through their struggles, they create a unique symbol – **The Peace Tree**. Symbols like the origami paper crane, the Moon and the Star (from Islam), the Ohm (from Hinduism), the Star of David (from Judaism) and the dove are highlighted from every culture and faith on **The Peace Tree** to celebrate peace and create hope for our planet.

The Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror 93 min, 2004
Filmmakers: Gerard Ungerman & Audrey Brohy Freewill Productions
 When all of Bush's pro-war arguments have been proven wrong, is it a coincidence that Iraq sits on the 2nd largest oil reserves in the world? Is it also a coincidence that Afghanistan is key to controlling the oil reserves of Central Asia at a time when the world's oil is dwindling? 'The Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror' examines the link between oil interests and U.S. military interventions. It includes original footage shot over a four-month period in Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as many interviews with a large array of personalities including Bush administration officials. The documentary explores the various underlying motives behind the so-called "war-on-terror" and offers insights into why global terrorism is thriving and why the world is becoming a more and more unsafe place. "The Oil Factor" also makes a clear assessment of today's global oil situation with sky-rocketing consumption and declining production.

Orwell Rolls in His Grave 105 min, 2004
Director: Robert Kane Pappas BuzzFlash
 "Orwell Rolls in His Grave" is a searingly insightful documentary on the political threat posed by a corporate media aligned with a radical right wing White House. Pappas, on a bare bones budget, assembles the "A-team" roster of media critics and then weaves their comments together with music, reflections, and documentary footage that keeps you mesmerized with its brilliant insight. This is a must see, a wake-up call that we have already entered an Orwellian world when history, context, and language are redefined daily by the government, as the media broadcasts the new version of the "truth" without question.

Paradise Lost 56 min, 2003
Director: Ebtisam Mara'ana Women Make Movies
 DocAviv International Documentary Film Festival: Best Debut Documentary and Best Cinematography
 Arab Israeli filmmaker Ebtisam Mara'ana grew up in Paradise (Fureidis in Arabic), a small fishing village overlooking the Mediterranean. One of the few Arab communities remaining after the 1948 war, Paradise became culturally and politically isolated as Jewish settlements sprung up around it, and today it is a place defined by silence and repression. This thought-provoking and intimate film diary follows the director's attempt to recreate the village's lost history, including the story of her childhood hero Suuad, the legendary local "bad girl" who was imprisoned as a PLO activist in the 1970's and banished from the community. The director finally meets Suuad, now living in the UK. This important film offers valuable insight into the contradictions and complexities of modern womanhood and national identity in the Middle East.

Peanuts 46 min, 2003
Director: Martin Harbury McNabb & Connolly

When film technician Jock Brandis discovered cotton being grown in traditionally food-bearing fields in a village in southern Mali, he suggested they plant peanuts either around the cotton plants or in rotation with cotton. Peanuts fix nitrogen in the soil and they are rich in protein. But the problem, they replied, is husking them by hand. Jock promised he would return with a machine, but discovered that no small-scale machine exists. So he set about designing a hand-powered one that local people could build on the spot and fix themselves. The film follows Jock back to Mali, where he worked with local villagers to perfect and manufacture their own peanut husker. An inspiring example of appropriate technology.

Raiz Forte (Strong Roots): The Landless Workers' Movement in Brazil 41 min. 2001

Aline Sasahara, Maria Luisa Mendoca

Pedro, Antonio, and Luis joined Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST) in search of a piece of land, dignity in their lives, and justice in their society. The MST started in 1985 to correct the extremely unequal concentration of land in Brazil. 35 million Brazilians live in poverty while 1% of large landholders control 46% of agricultural land. Over the past 15 years, the movement has won 20 million hectares of land for 300,000 families and built thousands of food production cooperatives and schools. These land occupations are inspiring examples of the power of real grassroots development. Even though the occupations are risky, they bring new life to people who formerly had no hope.

Activism Agriculture

The Road to Hope 23 min, 2004

Director: Francesca Roveda Potters for Peace

"The Road to Hope" documents the tragedy and hope of the people of Nicaragua, from the Contra war and Hurricane Mitch to current economic injustices. Through the images and stories of Nicaraguan potters, this documentary details the training and informational exchange between Nicaraguan potters and the organization Potters for Peace. Potters for Peace has assisted in the design and production of ceramic water filters as well as developing international markets for Nicaraguan pottery. Creative alternatives are improving people's lives. Inspiring!

Scared Sacred 110 min, 2004

Director: Velcrow Ripper Producer: Tracey Friesen National Film Board

Special Jury Prize at the 2004 Toronto International Film Festival

In a world teetering on the edge of self-destruction, award-winning filmmaker Velcrow Ripper sets out on a unique pilgrimage. Visiting the "Ground Zeros" of the planet, he asks if it's possible to find hope in the darkest moments of human history. Ripper travels to the minefields of Cambodia; war-torn Afghanistan; the toxic wasteland of Bhopal; post-9/11 New York; Bosnia; Hiroshima; Israel and Palestine. This unflinching

documentary captures his five-year odyssey to discover if humanity can transform the "scared" into the "sacred". Confronting horror and heartbreak around the world, Ripper meets those who have suffered first-hand. And in each place, he unearths unforgettable stories of survival, ritual, resilience and recovery. "Scared Sacred" brings together powerful stories, deftly weaving haunting and luminous footage with words, memories, and an evocative soundscape. Featuring an engaging, first-person narrative, this film is an exquisite portrait of a search for meaning in times of turmoil.

Search for Freedom 53 min, 2003

Director: Munizae Jahangir Women Make Movies

"Search for Freedom" traces the dramatic social and political history of Afghanistan from the 1920s to the present through the stories of four remarkable women: Princess Shafiqah Saroj, sister of the beloved progressive King Amanullah (1919-1929); Mairman Parveen, the first woman to sing on Afghan radio; Moshina, a war widow and survivor of a Taliban massacre; and Sohaila, an exiled medical student who ran underground schools for RAWA (Revolutionary Association of Afghan Women) during the Taliban regime. Archival footage from the early 20th century captures a time of remarkable progress and freedom for women. Defying and clarifying the image of Afghan women as mere victims, "Search for Freedom" offers a nuanced portrait of women who find choices where none are offered, who continue to find hope in the face of exile and isolation.

Sin Embargo: Never the Less 49 min, 2003

Director: Judith Grey Documentary Education Resources

Best Documentary, Festival de Cine de Granada Spain 2003

After the revolution of 1959 and the US embargo that followed, the people of Cuba were left to fend for themselves. Deprived of some of the most basic goods, they scavenge the alleys and scrap heaps, giving new vitality to the discarded. Their recycled products are often remarkably ingenious and creative. Nothing can crush the spirit nor quash the desire to forge a better life for themselves and their families. Shot entirely in Cuba, 'Sin Embargo' is a look into the hearts and dreams of struggling peoples and a tribute to their optimistic and resourceful determination to survive.

Suzuki Speaks 45 min, 2003

Director: Tony Papa Avanti Pictures

Earth + Air + Fire + Water = Life.

In a time when people are thirsty for honesty, inspiration, meaning and global change, Dr. David Suzuki delivers the most important message of his career: what it means to be fully human in our interconnected universe. The film's stunning motion graphics weave a tapestry that transforms Dr. Suzuki's wisdom into a complete sensory experience, literally creating new worlds and new ways of seeing. "Suzuki Speaks" will leave you feeling renewed, challenged and alive. "We've framed the environmental

problem the wrong way. There's no environment "out there" for us to interact with. We are the environment, because we are the Earth." (David Suzuki)

The Take 87 min, 2004
Director: Avi Lewis **Writer:** Naomi Klein **National Film Board**
www.TheTake.org or www.zmag.org/argentina_watch.cfm

In the wake of Argentina's spectacular economic collapse in 2001, Latin America's most prosperous middle class finds itself in a ghost town of abandoned factories and mass unemployment. In suburban Buenos Aires, thirty unemployed auto-parts workers walk into their idle factory, roll out sleeping mats and refuse to leave. All they want is to re-start the silent machines. But this simple act -the take -has the power to turn the globalization debate on its head. Like every workplace occupation, courts, cops and politicians can either give their project legal protection or violently evict them from the factory. The story of the workers' struggle is set against the dramatic backdrop of a crucial presidential election in Argentina. Lewis and Klein take viewers inside the lives of ordinary visionaries, as they reclaim their work, their dignity and their democracy. "The Take" is a political thriller that tackles head on the challenge coming from critics, and supporters, who ask: "We know what you're against, but what are you for?"

Thirst 62 min, 2004
Directors: Alan Snitow & Deborah Kaufman **McNabb & Connolly**
Is water part of a shared "commons", a human right for all people? Or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace? Thirst tells the stories of communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States that are asking these fundamental questions, as water becomes the most valuable global resource of the 21st Century. A character-driven documentary, 'Thirst' reveals how the debate over water rights between communities and corporations can serve as a catalyst for explosive and steadfast resistance to globalization.

Through These Eyes 45 min, 2004
Director: Charles Laird **National Film Board**
This riveting documentary reveals how an educational dream became a bitter political battle over cultural differences. In the 1960's, Man: A Course of Study (MACOS) was an innovative social sciences program designed to teach US children "what it was to be human." At its core was The Netsilik Film Series, an acclaimed benchmark of visual anthropology that captured a year in the life of an Inuit family living in the remote Canadian Arctic, reconstructing an ancient culture on the cusp of contact with the outside world. But the graphic images of the Netsilik people created a clash of values that revealed a fragile relationship between politics and education. A fiery national debate ensued between academic and conservative forces. 'Through These Eyes' looks back at the high stakes of this controversial curriculum, as two cultures came into contact with people and traditions distinct from their own. Decades later, as US

influence continues to affect cultures worldwide, the story of MACOS resonates strongly.

Trying to Be Some Kind of Hero 37 min 2001

Lester Alfonso

A surprisingly fresh take on the personal documentary, which deftly sidesteps the genre's potential for exploitation and solipsism. Armed with a couple of cameras and an intimate visual flair, Alfonso travels to the Philippines to find out the truth about his real grandfather. With the aid of his mother and his hesitant, but resilient grandmother, he manages to show that the investigation of a family secret can be approached with grace and charm. -Images Festival 2003

The Value of Life: Aids in Africa Revisited 55 min, 2004

Director: Judy Jackson Exec. Producer: Michael Alder CBC

This award-winning documentary follows Stephen Lewis on his incredible journey - a personal voyage that led him from hope to despair to hope again. In 2001, Kofi Annan had declared a war on AIDS and established a UN Global Fund to fight the disease. But then came September 11, and the world's attention turned elsewhere. With promises of aid to Africa broken, Lewis's optimism turned to disbelief. More than six thousand people die of AIDS every day, leaving 11 million orphans under the age of 15. In Africa, life-prolonging drugs are available to only a fraction of the people who need them. In 2003, the momentum is finally re-ignited. Endless disputes about how countries with health crises can overthrow the patents held by big pharmaceutical companies in order to access cheaper generics have been settled. The World Health Organization has pledged to have three million people on anti-AIDS drugs by 2005. That will amount to a staggering six million pills every day. It was the sheer volume of drugs needed that led Lewis and some Canadian aid agencies to challenge the Canadian government to pass legislation allowing patents to be put aside so cheaper generics can be produced. If the legislation passes, it will make history.

War Photographer 96 min, 2002

Director: Christian Frei Filmtransit

This is a remarkable film about James Nachtwey, a shy but committed man, who is considered one of the bravest and one of the most important war photographers of our time. Director Christian Frei followed Nachtwey for two years into the wars in Indonesia, Kosovo, Palestine... Christian Frei used special micro-cameras attached to James Nachtwey's photo-camera. "For me, the strength of photography lies in its ability to evoke a sense of humanity. If war is an attempt to negate humanity, then photography can be perceived as the opposite of war and if it is used well it can be a powerful ingredient in the antidote to war." (James Nachtwey) Oscar Nom. for Best Documentary, Peabody Award, Emmy Nom. for Cinematographer Peter Indergand, Winner of many International Film Festivals.

War Takes 78 min, 2002
Filmmakers: Adelaida Trujillo & Patricia Castaño **Women Make Movies**
Human Rights Watch Film Festival

Colombian filmmakers Trujillo and Castaño turn the cameras on themselves to portray the tough realities of civil life in the violent, war-ravaged country of Colombia. Partners in an independent media company, they struggle to balance their family, business and political lives: reporting from dangerous parts of the country; managing their company; parenting young children amid threats of violence and kidnapping; and rethinking their political views as war moves closer to the city. The film provides insight and historical background. Powerfully intimate and often humorous, their chronicle reveals how life goes on in Colombia-however surreal-against the terrifying backdrop of war.

Wild Horses, Unconquered People 41 min, 2004
Filmmakers: Lionel Goddard & Susan Smitten **Filmwest Associates**

"Wild Horses, Unconquered People" explores the intriguing relationship between the Xeni Gwet'in, a tiny band of Tsilhqot'in Indians, and hundreds of wild horses that mysteriously roam B.C.'s rugged Nemiah Valley - described as Canada's Nepal. For what is arguably North America's last true horse culture, the untamed spirits are an economic and spiritual resource - a powerful icon in a century-old fight with the government and non-native entrepreneurs for control of this unconquered land.

Women on Patrol 54 min, 2004
Director: Barry Lank **National Film Board**

Since Indonesia occupied East Timor in 1975, the island has been devastated by horrifying violence and genocide. Canadian police constables Martine LeRoyer and Debbie Doyle have just joined the United Nations Civilian Police with a focus on stabilizing the region. This gripping documentary follows the two women, from the capital of Dili to remote villages, chronicling the aftermath of the atrocities that haunt East Timor. Combining intimate interviews, up-close footage and diary cams, "Women on Patrol" is a riveting look at the rebuilding of a nation, and how the experience profoundly transforms these women - as police officers and as humans.

Zoom

Selected winners of the 2005 Zoom Film Competition.

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board sponsors the competition. The three films are on the topic of diversity.

