

2006 FILM SCREENINGS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

DAY ONE: Saturday, April 22

Segment One: 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WELCOME / INTRODUCTION

SPECIAL FEATURE: A Workshop for Peace

A documentary film about the birth of the United Nations and a fascinating behind-the-scenes story of the building of its Headquarters. A Workshop for Peace was produced by award-winning American filmmaker Peter Rosen, in association with the United Nations Department of Public Information, with support from Tele Images International, a French distribution company, and Japan's national broadcaster, NHK. The one-hour documentary was produced to commemorate the United Nations sixtieth anniversary and includes never-before-seen film of the original team of architects at work as they struggled to come up with an appropriate design for the Headquarters of the newly founded Organization that was committed to saving future generations from the scourge of war. On their last working day, Wallace K. Harrison, an American who served as chief architect, said, "The world hopes for a symbol of peace; we have given them a workshop for peace." *Producer/Director: Peter Rosen. 00 hr: 52 min: 00 sec*

United Nations 2005 World Summit PSA

UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassadors talk about how HIV/AIDS causes children to miss out on their childhood and how UNICEF needs everyone's help to overcome the problem. *Agency: UNICEF. 00 hr: 04 min: 20 sec*

The MDG's: The UN System in Kenya PSA's (MDG's 1 and 3)

This series of PSA's illustrates the collective efforts of the family of United Nations agencies in Kenya. *Agency: UNIC (United Nations Information Centre) in Kenya. 00 hr: 00 min: 10 sec*

Agnes Pareyio – UN in Kenya Person of the Year

This short film honors the UN Person of the Year 2005 in Kenya, Agnes Pareyio, who assists girls escaping female genital mutilation and early marriage in the Masaai Community. *Agency: UNIC (United Nations Information Centre) in Kenya. 00 hr: 10 min: 00 sec*

Violence against Women PSA

This PSA raises awareness about violence against women. *Agency: ONUB (United Nations Mission in Burundi). 00 hr: 00 min: 30 sec*

From Peace to Politics – Burundian Women Take Charge

This short documentary depicts the political engagement of women in Burundi, first as peace activists during the civil war and now as members of Parliament in the post-war period. *Agency: UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women). 00 hr: 06 min: 00 sec*

The Hunger Gap

In August 2005, the grim prediction of the UN World Food Program and other aid agencies came to pass. Niger faced its worst food crisis since the 1985 famine. The media spotlight briefly captured the images of starving children but as it dimmed so did the chances of the

international community taking a long hard look at the hunger gap. The hunger gap is slowly widening in West Africa where, of each 1,000 children born alive, a staggering 262 fail to reach their fifth birthdays. Until aid organizations are allowed the resources to plant the seeds of change, the world's second poorest country and its neighbor, Mali, will continue to face a perennial hunger crisis. *Director: Kiran Khalid. 00 hr: 07 min: 41 sec*

The Face of Decent Work

Hundreds of millions of people are employed in conditions that deprive them of dignity, value, and sometimes life itself. More than 3,000 workers each day die from what they do for a living. The economic loss is equivalent to four percent of the world's gross national product. For the shattered families and communities, the damage is irreparable. *Agency: ILO (International Labor Organization). 00 hr: 30 min: 00 sec*

Visioning Tibet

This extraordinary film chronicles the passion of ophthalmologist Marc Lieberman, founder of the Tibet Vision Project. His mission: to end preventable blindness in Tibet—which has the highest rate of untreated cataract blindness in the world—by 2020. Bringing light where there was once darkness, Lieberman's work has been recognized by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, which named him 2003 Humanitarian of the Year. The film is built around the stories of two of Tibetans—Karma (a farmer from a small village in Northern Tibet) and Lhasang (patriarch of a nomadic family from the Tibetan plains)—who make the arduous journey to a remote clinic in the hopes of having their sight restored by Tibetan doctors trained by Lieberman. *Director: Isaac Solotaroff. 00 hr: 56 min: 00 sec*

Harvesting for Life

As AIDS continues to spread, growing numbers of orphaned children are forced to fend for themselves, risking malnutrition, disease, and sexual exploitation. The innovative "Junior Farmer Field and Schools" uses lessons in farming, singing, dancing, and theatre to help break the vicious cycle of poverty and HIV infection. *Agency: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 00 hr: 15 min: 00 sec*

High-Tech Birth Control for Tsetse Flies

In Ethiopia, the tsetse fly is driving farmers out of the Deme Valley to other parts of the country in search of alternative farming land. Tsetse flies carry a parasite, which causes sleeping sickness in humans, similar to "nagana", which affects animals. The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) are using advanced technology to sterilize male baby flies to reduce their numbers. *Agency: IAEA and FAO. 00 hr: 04 min: 00 sec*

Equal Opportunity PSA

This PSA promotes the International Year of Microcredit and the importance of microfinance as a means of lifting the world's poor out of poverty. It features UN Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, who uses his celebrity to promote microcredit programs. *Agency: IMF (International Monetary Fund). 00 hr: 00 min: 30 sec*

Trafficked

This gripping documentary follows former Australian Federal Police officer Chris Payne as he investigates the crime of trafficking for prostitution and pursues an unfinished investigation of his own. His focus is the case of Nikkie, a 13-year-old Thai girl who was deported after she was discovered working in a Sydney brothel in 1995. The case has haunted Payne for ten years. How did she get there? What happened to her? How does this modern slave trade operate? Payne follows the trail of evidence from Australia to Thailand in search of Nikkie and some answers. *Director: Luigi Acquisto. 00 hr: 51 min: 44 sec*

Segment Two: 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

The MDG's: The UN System in Kenya PSA's (MDG's 2 and 6)

This series of PSA's illustrates the collective efforts of the family of United Nations agencies in Kenya. *Agency: UNIC (United Nations Information Centre) in Kenya. 00 hr: 00 min: 10 sec*

Unite for Children: Unite against AIDS PSA

UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassadors talk about how HIV/AIDS causes children to miss out on their childhood and how UNICEF needs everyone's help to overcome the problem. *Agency: UNICEF. 00 hr: 04 min: 20 sec*

Earning and Learning in Exile: Sudanese Refugees in Chad

There are over 200,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad. Forced from their homes by the militias in Darfur, they came to Chad seeking safety. Although they are now resigned to remaining in exile, they have resolved to better themselves and become self-sufficient. *Agency: UNHCR (United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees). 00 hr: 07 min: 00 sec*

The Lovers, The Victims

According to Iran's government officials, HIV/AIDS is uncommon in their country, but medical organizations, the Red Crescent, and other aid agencies tell a different story. For the truth, filmmakers Bahar and Ehsani turn their cameras on the back alleys, bedrooms, and clinics of Tehran, talking to the city's younger generation, its drug addicts and sex workers, prisoners, doctors, nurses, and clergy. "The Lovers, The Victims" takes a compassionate but unflinching look at an unfamiliar side of Iran. *Directors: Kamal Bahar, Mohammad Ehsani. 00 hr: 37 min: 00 sec*

The Making of a Martyr

On March 24, 2004, 15-year-old Hussam Abdu was apprehended at an Israeli checkpoint with bombs strapped around his waist. Instead of detonating the bomb, Hussam voluntarily surrendered and is now serving time in prison. Since the start of the Palestinian intifada, an alarming number of suicide bombers have been children aged 18 and under. Through a series of candid and thought provoking interviews, The Making of a Martyr brings the viewer into a part of Palestinian culture previously ignored, by uncovering those who are facilitating, teaching, and paying children to take their own lives. The film features interviews with leaders of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, families of suicide bombers, Palestinian children imprisoned for participating in suicide missions, a Palestinian child psychologist, and more. The film gives its audience a troubling insight into the concept of martyrdom as it is being taught to Palestinian children. *Directors: Brooke Goldstein and Alistair Leyland. 00 hr: 58 min: 00 sec*

Mother Aysha

Mother Aysha tells the story of a woman in the Gaza Strip who rescued her family from economic hardship by starting a business with a loan from UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East). *Agency: UNRWA. 00 hr: 10 min: 00 sec*

Global Focus: The New Environmentalists

Narrated by Robert Redford, this inspiring documentary features intimate portraits of seven passionate and dedicated individuals. These are true environmental heroes who have put themselves between government powers, corporate interests, and other intimidating rivals on behalf of the Earth's well-being. The program virtually circles the globe as each

compelling story takes place on a different continent—India, South America, Asia, Europe and North America. Each of these individuals shares the common goal: safeguarding natural resources from shortsighted exploitation and unbridled pollution. Their stories illustrate how ordinary people are affecting extraordinary change. *Director: Tom Dusenbery. 00 hr: 28 min: 50 sec*

PANEL DISCUSSION: The Power of Film

Film is arguably the most influential medium around, with the power to educate, inspire, frighten, and delight. Used skillfully, it can change the way people think, how they feel, and how they choose to spend their lives. We will explore the power of film with four panelists whose films tackle some of today's most compelling issues, and hear about the challenges they face in bringing those issues to the screen. Often gathered under extreme and dangerous conditions, these are the filmmakers' stories from the field.

Panelists: Brooke Goldstein, *The Making of a Martyr*; John Antonelli, *Global Focus: The New Environmentalists*; Caroline Petit, producer, United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI); Bob Madey, *Building Trust: Stories from the Field – India*, Kiran Khalid, reporter and producer

Moderator: Erika Jakubassa, filmmaker and educator; MCA-I NY Stories from the Field Festival Committee

The Virgin Trade – Sex, Lies and Trafficking

For every marriage visa issued to a Thai man entering the UK, 45 are issued to women. Filmmaker Stuart Kershaw and his producer/partner, Samantha Fazackerley, embark on a 6-month adventure through Thailand's red light district to investigate the largest sex industry in the world. Their exploration of international sex tourism turns expectation on its head, in a shocking journey that is dark, humorous, and surprisingly touching. Supported by a patriarchal society and government, Thailand—widely known as “the world's brothel”—is a hunting ground for sexual deviants. But who are the victims? Who is to blame? Who decides “right” from “wrong”? Stuart and Samantha bulldoze a host of Thailand's urban myths while uncovering widespread exploitation and deceit. *Director: Stuart Kershaw. 01 hr: 00 min: 00 sec*

America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie

This film tells the rich and complex story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history. America's Lost Landscape examines the record of human struggle, triumph, and defeat that prairie history exemplifies, including the history and culture of America's aboriginal inhabitants. The story of how and why the prairie was changed by Euro-American settlement is thoughtfully nuanced. The film also highlights prairie preservation efforts and explores how the tallgrass prairie ecosystem may serve as a model for a sustainable agriculture of the future. *Director: David O'Shields. 00 hr: 57 min: 10 sec*

Silent Killer: The Unfinished Campaign against Hunger

There are still a billion hungry people in the world. Each day, fifteen thousand children die of hunger. This thoughtful documentary maintains the world's nations can end hunger if they are committed to doing so, and shows us how. Hosted by National Public Radio's Scott Simon, the film begins in South Africa's Kalahari Desert, where malnourished Bushmen use the Hoodia cactus to fend off hunger. In a cruel irony, a drug firm has patented the Hoodia's appetite-suppressant properties to create a diet product for obese Americans and Europeans. Hoodia is a metaphor for a world where some people die from too much food, while millions of others die from too little. *Director: John de Graaf. 00 hr: 57 min: 00 sec*

DAY TWO: Sunday, April 23

Segment Three: 11:00 a.m. – 4:35 p.m.

Building Trust: Stories from the Field – India

In rural India, polio vaccination efforts are often met with community resistance and widespread rumors. This film shows how UNICEF works with community leaders, and examines the role traditional and religious leaders play in building trust for immunization. *Agency: UNICEF00. hr: 16 min: 00 sec*

Gilberto Gil against Child Labor PSA

Brazil's minister of education, Gilberto Gil, brings his musical talents to the fight against child labor. *Agency: ILO (International Labor Organization). 00 hr: 30 min: 00 sec*

Deadly Catch – Lake Victoria's AIDS Crisis

Many African communities are still being decimated by AIDS; this film is about one of them. More than 20 years after the discovery of the AIDS virus, the call for prevention continues to fall on deaf ears. In this film, IRIN/OCHA (Integrated Regional Information Network/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), a humanitarian news agency, aims to increase awareness and understanding of humanitarian crises and assist fellow humanitarian actors in their advocacy efforts. *Agency: IRIN. 00 hr: 16 min: 22 sec*

Farming the Seas

Market demand for seafood now far exceeds the ocean's ability to keep pace, and the crisis is deepening. Worldwide, most marine fisheries are either fully exploited or in sharp decline. With stunning visuals and compelling narration, the filmmakers journey around the world documenting the most important stories as they unfold. From the indigenous tribes of British Columbia to the large-scale operations of multinational corporations, from Mediterranean fishermen to Thai shrimp farmers, the film gathers perspectives from around the globe as it examines the problems and the promises of this emerging industry. *Director: Steve Cowan. 00 hr: 56 min: 00 sec*

The Value of Life: AIDS in Africa Revisited

Thirty million Africans have HIV/AIDS. In the summer of 2003, two years after the release of his award-winning AIDS documentary *Race Against Time*, United Nations' HIV/AIDS envoy Stephen Lewis returns to Africa and documents the incredible personal journey that has led him from hope to despair to hope again. Ignoring colleagues who warn that he is headed for a nervous breakdown, Lewis heads into battle and, along with a handful of Canadian aid agencies, challenges the Canadian government to pass legislation allowing patents to be circumvented in favor of inexpensive, generic AIDS drugs. If the bill were to pass, it would make history. *Director: Judy Jackson. 00 hr: 52 min: 00 sec*

The MDG's: The UN System in Kenya PSA's (MDG's 4 and 5)

This series of PSA's illustrates the collective efforts of the family of United Nations agencies in Kenya. *Agency: UNIC (United Nations Information Centre) in Kenya. 00 hr: 00 min: 10 sec*

Saving a Generation

Botswana has done everything right in the fight against HIV/AIDS, yet large numbers of children continue to die of AIDS-related illnesses. This film gives a human face to the ongoing tragedy of children with HIV. *Agency: UNICEF. 00 hr: 16 min: 00 sec*

No Means No PSA

Based on the message, "When a woman says no, she means no", this PSA campaign uses sensitization as a tool to curb violence against women. *Agency: UNMIL (United Nations Mission in Liberia). 00 hr: 01 min: 00 sec*

Honduras Fights Domestic Violence

Fifteen percent of Honduran women over the age of fourteen have been victims of some form of physical or mental abuse by a family member. The United Nations Population Fund is training members of the Honduras police force—including male officers who themselves were once perpetrators and female officers who were once victims—to help curb the problem of domestic abuse. The UNFPA promotes the inclusion of women in the force to provide comfort to female victims. *Agency: UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), News and Media Division/DPI. 00 hr: 06 min: 00 sec*

India Journal

In March 2005 a group of students from the Archer School for Girls in Los Angeles traveled to Northern India to learn about the problems Indian girls experience in trying to receive an education. The need to educate girls is particularly urgent: Women are responsible for the health and education of their families and are vital to the region's economic growth. Despite the need for girls to have equal access to education, there are many obstacles to their doing so, including heavy household and agricultural workloads, poor electricity, malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, and gender bias. The American girls have a life-changing experience as they learn about the difficulties girls their age face on the other side of the world. *Director: Keiko Tsuno. 00 hr: 38 min: 17 sec*

PANEL DISCUSSION: The Work of Change

As the United Nations concludes its 60th anniversary year, new challenges emerge. What is the purpose of the UN, how can it help countries implement and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, how can it overcome the difficulties that it faces not only within itself, but also from the outside and the countries within which it operates? An in-depth look at the UN and the real stories of the people in the field.

Panelists: Stephen Schlesinger, director, World Policy Institute, The New School; Opia Kumah, chief, Advocacy and Information Management Branch, OCHA, United Nations

Moderator: Linda Lopez, publicist and communications consultant; co-producer, Stories from the Field film festival

The Ecological Footprint: Accounting for a Small Planet

Humans are the most successful species on the planet. But our growing economy is placing unprecedented demand on the planet's limited ecological resources. How can we assure our future well-being? "We can choose to live on a depleted planet or we can choose to live on a rich, biologically diverse, more stable planet", proposes Dr. Mathis Wackernagel, co-creator of the film. He suggests that an essential step in avoiding depletion is to track ecological assets, allowing us to make more informed choices. In the film, Wackernagel introduces the Ecological Footprint, a resource accounting tool that measures human demand on the Earth. Footprint accounts work like a bank statement, documenting whether we are living within our ecological budget or consuming nature's resources faster than the planet can renew them. *Director: Patsy Northcutt. 00 hr: 30 min: 00 sec*

Shipbreakers

Few nations are willing to accept in their ports the dirty and dangerous work of dismantling a ship by hand. For decades, the work of ship breaking has been shunted from one port to

another. It is one of the world's most unregulated industries, leaving a swath of debris, disability, and death in its wake. *Agency: ILO (International Labor Organization). 00 hr: 26 min: 00 sec*

Segment Four: 4:45 p.m. – 10:15 p.m.

Forced to Labour

Every day, millions of men, women, and children around the world are forced to labor under inhumane conditions and the threat of violence or abuse, remaining caught in a never-ending cycle of indebtedness and poverty. *Agency: ILO (International Labor Organization). 00 hr: 30 min: 00 sec*

Let's Talk About It

Directed by Deepa Mehta, this film provides a journey into the secret and dangerous world of domestic violence, powerfully told by the children who live with it. Mehta's exploration of familial abuse among immigrants is uniquely crafted to be a catalyst for open dialogue among all ethnic and cultural communities. Seeking to offer a glimpse into the hush-hush world of domestic violence from the perspective of its youngest victims, Mehta arms the subjects' offspring with video cameras and an assignment to interview their respective parents. Their testimonies are jolting reminders that silence and secrecy create a breeding ground for domestic abuse, and conspire to rob children of their innocence. The children's courage and determination to tell their stories is inspiring. *Director: Deepa Mehta. 00 hr: 47 min: 00 sec*

The MDG's: The UN System in Kenya PSA's (MDG's 7 and 8)

This series of PSA's illustrates the collective efforts of the family of United Nations agencies in Kenya. *Agency: UNIC (United Nations Information Centre) in Kenya. 00 hr: 00 min: 10 sec*

The Real Sex Traffic

This gripping documentary exposé goes inside the global sex trade in women from the former Soviet Bloc, and tells the remarkable story of "Viorel", a Ukrainian man on a mission to find his pregnant wife, Katia, who has been trafficked to Turkey. Hidden cameras follow Viorel as he searches for the pimp who "owns" Katia, so he can buy her back. Filmmaker Ric Esther Bienstock interviews traffickers, cops and victims as she takes us deeper into the world of modern sex slavery. Part cinema vérité, part investigation, the film puts a human face on this most compelling of contemporary issues. *Director: Ric Esther Bienstock. 00 hr: 48 min: 38 sec*

PANEL DISCUSSION: The Documentary Filmmaker: Getting Distributed

Although it has grown in popularity in recent years, the documentary is still the stepchild of film. Feature films get the lion's share of the attention, distribution deals, A-list actors, and financing. But that seems to be changing. What does it take for a documentary filmmaker to get distributed, to obtain financing or finishing funds? This panel will discuss the necessary steps—and what role the right idea, talent, planning, connections, and chutzpah play in the process. An absolute "be there" for documentary filmmakers, directors and producers.

Panelists: Page Ostrow, president, Ostrow and Company; Simon Kilmurry, COO P.O.V., vice president, American Documentary; Heidi Reinberg, producer, Progeny Pictures

Moderator: Corinna Sager, producer; president MCA-I NY; co-producer, *Stories from the Field* film festival

Slum Futures

Mumbai—formerly Bombay—is India's city of gold, its financial capital, and the home of Bollywood, its thriving movie capital. But behind the glitz and glamour lurks a different reality—a city landscape dominated by massive, sprawling slums, which rank among the biggest in the world. According to Mumbai's city housing authority, eight of the city's twelve million people live in the slums. Mumbai's slum dwellers are a vibrant and proud community, however, and an integral part of the city's economic vitality, feeding its perpetual need for unskilled labor. Mumbai is an important microcosm of how slums are developing around the world. Globally, one in six people lives in a slum. At the current rate of growth, UN-Habitat predicts, that number could go to one in three by the year 2030.

Director: Alex Gabbay. 00 hr: 23 min: 00 sec

Malaria: Killer Number One – Ethiopia

Malaria claims three million lives every year worldwide, most of them in the countries south of the Sahara. Ethiopia is among those most affected. Here a single epidemic of malaria can wipe out the lives of hundreds of thousands of villagers, with the most vulnerable—women and children—hardest hit. This film shows the human suffering wrought by poverty, underdevelopment, and neglect. *Agency: IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Network).*

00 hr: 19 min: 00 sec

SPECIAL FEATURE: Rain in a Dry Land

In 2004, thirteen thousand Somali Bantu refugees realized their dream of coming to America. They are now living in fifty cities across the country, becoming the largest African group from a single minority to settle in the United States at one time. *Rain in a Dry Land* is a riveting portrait of two such families in transition. After thirteen years in refugee camps, they arrive in twenty-first century America, a world as strange to them as the moon. Their poetry, humor, and resilience shows us our own world through new eyes. *Director: Anne Makepeace.*

01 hr: 22 min: 00 sec

PRESENTATION: Audience Choice Award

* *Films and schedules subject to change.*