



PRESS RELEASE

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Stories from the Field - FILM FESTIVAL FINALISTS 31 Make the Cut for the Third Annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival

New York, 19 March 2007 – Thirty-one films have been selected from over two hundred entries to be screened at this year’s Stories from the Field, the Third Annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival, which will take place from noon to 9:00 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday, 21-22 April 2007, at The New School, Tishman Auditorium, 66 West 12 Street, New York, NY 10011.

UNITED NATIONS FINALISTS

- A Future within Reach
- Child Labor: Burden of Gold
- Congo: The Forgotten War
- Fistula in Bangladesh
- Gem's Slaves
- Home (PSA)
- Human Development Report: Kibera
- Invaders from the Sea
- Kakenya: Against the Odds
- Maid in Lebanon
- Stolen Childhoods: Child Brides in Ethiopia
- Diary of Jay-Z: Water for Life
- Villages on the Front Line: Jordan
- Wake Up
- Women on the Run: Kidnapped Childhood

PUBLIC FINALISTS

- A Different Kind of Gun
- A Killer Bargain
- A Right to Live – AIDS Medication for Millions
- Chernobyl: The Invisible Thief
- Dabla! Excision
- Dirty Job
- Element 2
- Ingenious Africa: Greening Africa (Episode 11)
- Ingenious Africa: Sustaining Africa (Episode 5)
- Kill or Cure: The Forgotten Diseases
- Lumo
- My Sister, My Self
- SASA! A Film about Women, Violence and HIV/AIDS
- Survivor's Guide: Child Refugees
- Survivor's Guide: Girls Education
- Wide Angle: Back to School

The key requirement for a film to be considered for screening at the Festival was that it reflect one or more of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (described on page two). The finalists were selected from the qualifying entries by a screening committee of United Nations officials, MCAI representatives, New School faculty, and Mount Sinai global health experts, based on their topical relevance, artistic merit, and production values. Two special features – ¡Salud! and Good Morning, Dangme – will be screened along with the thirty-one finalists.

As in the previous two years, films came in from countries all over the world, including Australia, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Honduras, India, Kenya, New Guinea, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The 2007 Awards

The awards presentation honoring the winners will take place at an Opening Night Reception in the Vera List Courtyard of The New School, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm., on 21 April 2007. Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- ◆ First, Second, & Third Place UN Feature (15 min. & longer)
- ◆ First, Second, & Third Place UN Short (under 15 min.)
- ◆ First, Second, & Third Place UN PSA
- ◆ First, Second, & Third Place Public Film (60 min. & under)

Why a Festival

Each year, Stories from the Field sheds a spotlight on the world beyond our borders, revealing the day-to-day reality of millions in the developing world. The films that are screened during the two-day event come from the United Nations' offices and agencies and from the general public. While many deal with disturbing issues, they also show how ordinary people are working to make the world a better place.

Stories from the Field gives documentary filmmakers an opportunity to be recognized by their peers and access to audiences that care about the issues they document. It also offers them professional enrichment through its panel discussions and other activities. This year, two filmmaking workshops will be added to the festival lineup. The discussions and workshops are not just for filmmakers; anyone may register to attend.

Stories from the Field was organized in 2005 as the United Nations entered its 60th year. Its mission is to screen films that reflect the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which pledge to:

- ◆ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ◆ Achieve universal primary education
- ◆ Promote gender equality and empower women
- ◆ Reduce child mortality
- ◆ Improve maternal health
- ◆ Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- ◆ Ensure environmental sustainability
- ◆ Develop a global partnership for development

Returning to the Festival's Honorary Committee this year are the filmmakers **Sydney Pollack** and **Albert Maysles**, the actors **Benicio Del Toro** and **Susan Sarandon**, and many others who share with the Festival's founders a love of documentary filmmaking and a concern for the world we live in. Joining the committee for the first time is the actor, **Danny Glover**. The full committee list can be viewed on the Supporters page at www.storiesfromthefield.org.

Panel discussions at the Festival will feature the filmmakers and invited representatives from the United Nations, The New School, MCAI NY, and, for the first time, The Mount Sinai Medical Center, which will lend its expertise to those discussions that center on global health. Workshops will be led by experts in the field of study.

For More Information

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Read more at www.storiesfromthefield.org or www.un.org/millenniumgoals.