



PRESS RELEASE

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Stories from the Field: This Is Your World The Third Annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival

New York, 23 February 2007 – This April, marking their third record breaking year for entries, the Media Communications Association International, New York Chapter, and the United Nations Department of Public Information will bring **Stories from the Field, the Third Annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival** to a new flock of appreciative New York audiences.

The Festival is once again presented in cooperation with The New School. It will take place on the weekend of 21-22 April 2007, in the school's Tishman Auditorium, 66 West 12 Street, New York, NY 10011, and feature film screenings, panel discussions, and workshops on both days. The awards presentation will be held at an Opening Night Reception in the Vera List Courtyard.

The Festival was organized in 2004 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.

Important Dates

- ◆ Call for Entries deadline: 7 February 2007 (NOW CLOSED)
- ◆ Finalists announced: 12 March 2007
- ◆ Exhibition copies due: 26 March 2007
- ◆ Film festival: 21–22 April 2007

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 like us are working to make the world a better place.

For documentary filmmakers, Stories from the Field provides both professional recognition and access to audiences that care about the issues they document. Over 200 films were submitted for this year's competition. Judging is currently underway to pick the finalists that will be screened at the Festival. The selected films will be announced on 12 March 2007, and listed on the Festival Web site shortly thereafter. An awards presentation honoring the winners in four categories will take place at the Opening Night Reception.

The 2007 Awards

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)

To be considered, a film must reflect one or more of the eight Millennium Development Goals. Finalists will be selected by a screening committee of United Nations officials, MCAI representatives, New School faculty, and Mount Sinai global health experts, based on the topical relevance, artistic merit, and production values of their work.

As in the previous two years, films have come in from countries all over the world, including Australia, Canada, 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.

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 Hospital and School of Medicine, which will lend its expertise to those discussions that center on global health.

For More Information

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

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