



PRESS RELEASE

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FESTIVAL FILM ENTRIES MORE THAN DOUBLE IN 2006 **180 UN and Non-UN Films Express the United Nations Millennium Development Goals**

New York, NY, February 5, 2005 – In its first season as a public competition, **Stories from the Field: The Second Annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival** more than doubled its previous entry record, receiving 180 films from countries on five continents. Nations represented include Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Germany, India, Iran, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Venezuela, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Festival, presented by the Media Communications Association – International, New York Chapter (MCA-I NY) and the United Nations Department of Public Information, will take place on **Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23, 2006**, at Tishman Auditorium, The New School, 66 W. 12 St. (bet. Fifth & Sixth Aves.), New York, NY 10011. It will feature film screenings, panel discussions with the filmmakers and others, and award presentations. An opening night reception will be held on Saturday, April 22, in The New School's Vera List Courtyard, and will be by invitation or with press credential only.

Launched in 2005, the Festival was originally conceived as a showcase for films produced by United Nations offices and agencies around the world. However, so many non-UN filmmakers expressed interest in joining the competition that it was expanded in 2006 to include works from the general public.

The Festival's theme, the **United Nations Millennium Development Goals**, remains the same. To compete, films must reflect one or more of the eight Goals:

- ◆ 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

Background

The Festival was founded as a way to:

- ◆ Highlight some of the people and cultures in areas with a United Nations presence throughout the world and discover what these groups are doing to overcome challenges such as poverty, hunger, disease, civil unrest, trafficking, and injustice.
- ◆ Show how United Nations programs and services are helping communities to develop a civil society, participation, and a better quality of life for their people.
- ◆ Afford those in the trenches—United Nations workers, community leaders, and the people they serve—the opportunity to share their stories of adversity and triumph.

When interest in Stories from the Field proved to be high and non-UN filmmakers began petitioning the Festival organizers to consider outside films on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, it was decided to expand the competition.

Relevant Dates

January 20, 2006 – All Entries (UN & Public) Due

February 22, 2006 – Festival Finalists Announced

March (date TBA) – Tickets Go on Sale

April 22-23, 2006 – Film Festival, Noon to 9:00 p.m. both days

Award Categories

Finalists will be selected by a screening committee of United Nations officials, MCA -I representatives, and New School faculty based on the topical relevance, artistic merit, and production values of their work.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- ◆ Best UN Feature (15 min. & longer)
- ◆ Best UN Short (under 15 min.)
- ◆ Best UN PSA
- ◆ Best Public Film (60 min. & under)
- ◆ Audience Choice Award for Best (UN or Public) Film

Information Online

Festival Web site: www.mcainy.org/unfilm

United Nations: www.un.org

Millennium Development Goals: www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

UN Chronicle Online Edition: www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/

Media Communications Association International, New York Chapter: www.mcainy.org

The New School: www.newschool.edu

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