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INITIATIVE AFRICA PRESENTS...
THE 11TH

ADDIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 28 - MAY 3, 2017

ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE HAGER FIKER THEATER



Film Catalogue





An Initiative Africa supported Program

The Addis International Film Festival brings to Addis Ababa and major cities of Ethiopia some of the best local and international documentary films and film makers.

This year again we plan to screen over 40 thought provoking, entertaining and unforgettable films set across screens at the Italian Cultural Institute and Hager Fiker Theater. The Festival is also dedicated to show casing films made by young Ethiopian film makers. As a non-profit organization Initiative Africa relies on you to help bring the festival to life by making contributions, sponsoring and providing in-kind services and materials.

The AIFF is grateful for your support and look forward to welcome you in April 2017.

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MESSAGE

from the ORGANIZERS

This year again we are pleased to come together to the 2017 Addis International Film Festival (AIFF), the annual event organized under the auspices of Initiative Africa, a local NGO working to help reduce poverty and broaden the participation of women in decision making.

As always, AIFF remains a powerful tool for raising awareness of social issues and social justice wherever those struggles take place in the world. This year AIFF celebrates its Eleventh Edition from April 28- May 3, 2017 by adopting the thematic program “**Understanding the World of Refugees**” and screening over 50 award winning films, from Ethiopia, USA, Italy, Syria, Nigeria, Austria, France, Australia and more, and exposing thought provoking, inspiring and unforgettable films, set across two screens at Hager Fiker Theater and Italian Cultural Institute.

Beside the screenings, there will be panel discussions with the participation of filmmakers – this year we expect to host : – Aaron Biebert from USA, Belisario Franca from Brazil, MARIA ARLAMOVSKY from Austria, and Juan Yepese from USA - activists and civil organization leaders. These occasions serve as unique opportunities for dialogue between the audience and professionals, as well as experts of documentary filmmaking.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to Hager Fiker Theater and Italian Cultural Institute and all our sponsors and supporters for not only making the 2017 AIFF possible but also for making it one of our biggest!

I hope the films will help stimulate all of us to greater reflection – and action,

Thank you for coming.

Ms. Kidist Getachew

2017 AIFF Coordinator



A BILLION LIVES

A billion people projected to die.

You'll be surprised who's keeping it that way.

A billion lives

"A WAKE UP CALL"

RYAN JAY, NBC-TV



A Billion Lives is a 2016 documentary film directed and narrated by Aaron Biebert. The film stars "Winston Man" David Goerlitz, former president of the World Medical Association Dr. Delon Human, and former executive director at the World Health Organization Dr. Derek Yach. The United Nations' World Health Organization projects that a billion people will die prematurely from smoking this century. In the next 20 years, there will be nearly 1.6 billion smokers around the world. A Billion Lives takes a critical look at the history of smoking and the corruption that has led to the current situation where safer, healthier alternatives are banned or heavily restricted in most countries, while the cigarette trade is continually protected. The film examines major conflicts of interest and corruption between governments, big pharmaceutical companies, and public health officials. It also takes a look at the history of e-cigarettes, as well as the role vapor technology and Swedish Snus has played in the current health crisis.

2



Aaron Biebert



USA/Belgium/Poland
2016



95min



Won Best International Documentary at the 5th annual Jozi Film Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa, Best Director, Melbourne Documentary Film Festival 2016, Supreme Jury Prize, Melbourne Documentary Film Festival 2016, silver REMI at World Fest Houston 2016, nominee for "Best International Feature" - Finalist, DocEdge film festival 2016, Dorn Award - GFN16 in Warsaw



A revolution in four seasons



This seminal film tells the story of two women with opposing political views fighting for their different versions of a democratic future for Tunisia, the country that sparked the Arab Spring. Over the course of Tunisia's critical post-revolution years, we follow journalist Emna Ben Jemaa, who envisions a country governed by free speech and without the corruption of the former regime. In contrast, Jawhara Ettis of the Islamist party Ennahda works towards a Tunisia guided by Islamic principles. On a public level, both women must navigate how females are treated in their society, while in their own homes they must make difficult choices to balance their public political roles with marriage and motherhood. Both know the stakes are high. The ever-present threat of Islamic extremists means their fragile political process could break down and all they've worked for could be lost.

3



Jessie Deeter



USA



88min



Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature, SF IndieFest, Opening Night Film and Honorable Mention, Margaret Mead Film Festival



Shot on three continents, this film provides an inside look at Christopher Kirkley's project "Sahel Sounds" - a blog, record label and platform to explore arts and music of the Sahel region through non-traditional ethnographic fieldwork. We follow Chris from Portland to Niger, where he meets some of his long term collaborators as well as new artists. On a road trip from the capital to Agadez, the gateway to the Saharan desert, we witness stunning music performances along the way and after figuring out ridiculous Visa-workarounds, Mdou Moctar and his band set out on their very first European tour to excite audiences, while a hairdresser from Tahoua dreams of America, a place where cell phone recordings are pressed onto high-fidelity vinyl discs for the audience of the future. Not a strict portrait, nor a straight music documentary, a story of Sahel Sounds celebrates the wide range of musical performances of current artists from Niger, while leaving room to reflect on today's role of ethnomusicology. Still held back by asymmetrical power differentials, but now backed up by an expanding globalism and new possibilities to claim their independence, artists try to reach for success - on stages and on cell phones.

4



Florian Kläger,
Tobias Adam, Markus
Milcke (neopan kollektiv)



Germany
2016



83min



50th Hof IFF 8th Norient Music Film Festival - Bern, special mention - 50th Hof IFF
Week-End Festival - Cologne



A Young Girl in her nineties



Like a body without a soul: this is what patients with Alzheimer's sometimes can seem like. Blanche Moreau, a beautiful 92-year-old lady, is no exception. Everything changes the moment dancer and choreographer Thierry comes to the geriatric centre, where she along with other senior citizens are spending the last phase of their lives. Through his dance therapy the seriously ill patients come fully to life. Blanche in particular enjoys the intimacy and attention focused on them in common movement. This poetic film explores the delicate topic of the emotional needs of senior citizens, confirming the power of art therapy and proving without words that a young soul may reside in an old body. Attend the film screening and then let dancing carry you away at the Dance Workshop open to all ages. Maybe dancing would capture the interest of your parents and grandparents? Find out about all kinds of activities for senior citizens offered by the educational and cultural centre Elpida, and help ensure that the older people around you are independent, confident, and respected members of society.

5



Valria Bruni Tedeschi,
Yann Cordian



France
2016



84min





Nanouk Films presents

A political revolution in Barcelona

Ada for Mayor



Spain was one of the countries hardest hit by the 2008 economic crisis. Barcelona-based civil activist Ada Colau tried to organize help for people unable to pay their mortgages and losing their homes. This sensitive film captures the rebirth of an invincible activist into a woman who intends to honorably, with élan and good sense, take her civic platform into politics and be better than it. After her historic victory in July 2015, Ada led Barcelona City Hall. The documentary traces the 10 months from the time she announced her candidacy, through difficult negotiations and media appearances, to the tense election and her first day in office. The film includes personal footage from the video diary in which Ada often does battle with herself.

6



Pau Faus



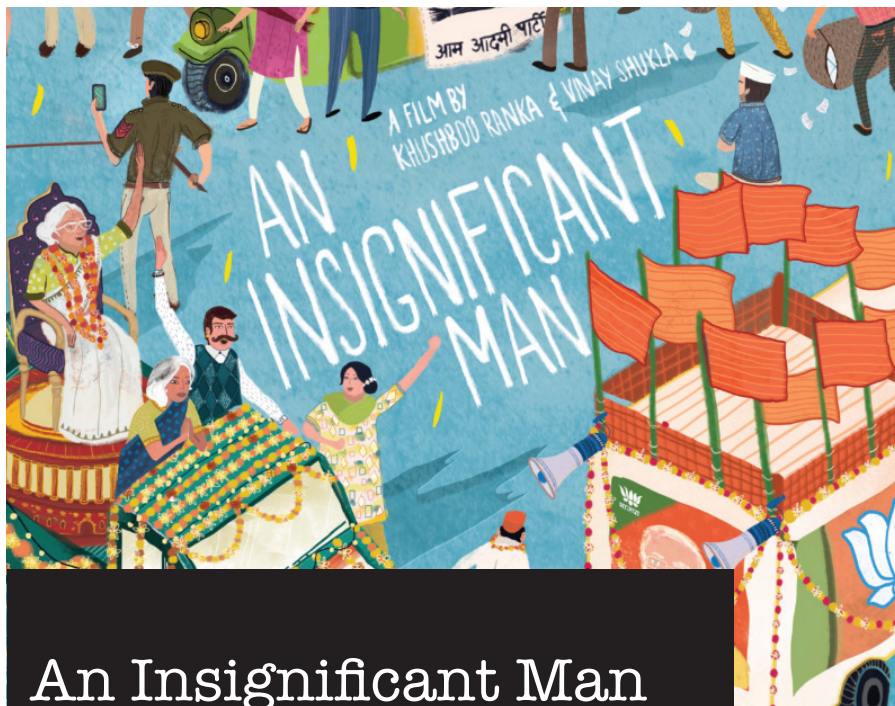
Spain



85min



Gaudí Awards 2017 Won Gaudí Award Best Documentary (Millor Pel·lícula Documental), Málaga Spanish Film Festival 2016 Won Silver Biznaga Documentaries: Best Director (Documentales: Mejor Director), Special Mention of the Jury 30e FIPA Biarritz



An Insignificant Man



Indian tax official Arvind Kejriwal decided to quit his job to become a political activist. He organized protests, tirelessly explained government practices to ordinary people at meetings and demonstrations, and proposed anti-corruption legislation. He ultimately started his own political party and ran in the New Delhi elections as a serious opponent of the two strongest government parties. Over 2 years, this man who feels ill at ease in front of the media became a professional politician. How is this opponent viewed by his political adversaries? By the media? Will he run an honest campaign? Or will his pure character drown in populist gestures? This documentary follows the difficulties behind the honest effort of a common man to change the lives of millions in the world's' second most populous country.

7



Kushboo Ranka,
vinay Shukla



India
2016



96min



London film festival 2016, Nominated, grierson award



Boy23



The film follows a historian's investigation about bricks branded with the swastika, which were found in rural São Paulo. The historian arrived at a frightening fact: Brazilian Nazis took fifty black boys from an orphanage in Rio de Janeiro to the ranch where the bricks were found. The boys were made slaves by a family that was part of the cream of the crop of the political and economic oligarchy in early 20th century Brazil. With the fall of Hitler, the family aborted the project and left the boys to their own devices. The film follows the life of two survivors, Aloísio Silva and Argemiro Santos, who are willing to share their stories for the first time.

8



Belisario Franca



Brazil
2016



1 hr 20min



Cine Ceará - National Cinema Festival 2016 Won Feature Film Trophy Best Screenplay and Best Editing, United Nations Association Film Festival 2016 Nominated Grand Jury Award for Best Documentary Best Film



Bruder Jakob

„Wenn ich nicht an Gott glaube, dann heißt das, das Leben hat keinen Sinn, es ist alles einfach nur so zufällig da. Und ja, wofür dann alles?“

“If I don't believe in God, then that means life has no meaning, everything is just there by chance. So what's the point of it all?”

Ein Film von
Eli Roland Sachs: Regie, Kamera, Produktion
Yana Höhnerbach: Schnitt
Antonio de Luca: Komposition, Sounddesign
Simon Konrad-Vayner: Ton
Markus Kloth: Zusatzkamera
Christine Burger: Produktionsassistentz
Judith Weiler: Herstellungsleitung, Marketing
Markus Lenz: Produktion, Ton
Jörg Waschat: Design



Brother Jakob



He liked the cheerful company and relaxed evenings. That changed in September 2009, when during a trip through the Moroccan mountains German youngster Jakob read the Koran. He says that upon reading the book he realized that he was a Muslim and converted to Islam. Friends and family watch incredulously as Jakob transforms before their eyes into an orthodox adherent of Allah. Jakob's brother and documentary film maker Roland watches Jakob's journey of alienation from both his family and himself from a sensitive perspective. The camera captures intimate family moments, including the tense scene when Jakob introduces his family to his Muslim wife, who is shrouded in a black chador. Will the brothers, despite their fundamentally different approaches to life, again find common ground?



Eli Rolan sachs



Germany
2016



92min



Official selection at DOK LEIPZIG 2016



Chasing Asylum

10



Chasing Asylum tells the story of Australia's cruel, inhumane treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, examining the human, political, financial and moral impact of current and previous policy.



Eva Orner



Australia
2016



90Min



Australian film institute won AACTA best feature length documentary, london film festival nominated for Grierson award documentary film, official selection Human rights Arts & film festival, 2016, official selection Hot Docs 2016

COLOURS OF THE ALPHABET

"IF YOU TALK TO A MAN IN A LANGUAGE HE UNDERSTANDS, THAT GOES TO HIS HEAD.
IF YOU TALK TO HIM IN HIS LANGUAGE, THAT GOES TO HIS HEART." NELSON MANDELA



Colors of the Alphabet



First-graders sit at desks in a small rural school and stare blankly at their teacher. They aren't stupid; they just do not understand her. Their mother tongue is Soli, but it is uncommon in Zambia and teachers usually do not know it. Before children begin learning to read, write and count, they must master official English. Confusing situations arise, showing how many important things may easily be lost in translation. There are some 70 languages in Zambia, so the vast majority of pupils have the same problem. According to estimates, up to 40% of the world's populations do not receive schooling in their native language. The documentary demonstrates a problem which presents a significant obstacle in the fight against poverty in Africa and elsewhere.

11



Alastair Cole



Scotland, New Zealand,
Zambia
2016



80min



COVERED WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS

Covered with the blood of Jesus



Documentary film (70 min) that explores the condition of the region of the Niger Delta, where oil companies exploit the wells by closing our eyes to the poverty of the surrounding population, often polluting land and sea. To this is opposed by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (or MEND, Movement by the acronym for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta). “Covered with the Blood of Jesus” It shows how the underprivileged struggle to break through social class under the brutality of global economics. And Richard sells bottles of oil along the way to pay for college. While huge tankers pass through stubborn. Richard does not want to take a boat to Europe, take a job just to eat and sleep, and to be observed with merciful eyes. Richard he wants to study, he wants to fight and make his country without corruption. Fighting for Africans without exploitation by rich western countries.

12



Ufuk Erden



Nigeria/Italy
2016



70min



Jihlava int doc fest 2015, Taiwan international doc fest 2016, Pesaro international film fest 2016, Roma Detour int film fest 2016 - first Award, Yogyakarta documentary film festival 2016, DocFeed 2017



Death by Thousand Cuts



In *DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS*, the brutal murder of a Dominican park ranger becomes the metaphor for increasing tension between Haiti and the Dominican Republic over illicit charcoal exploitation and mass deforestation.



Jake Kheel,
Juan Mejia Botero



USA
2016



73min



DOC NYC 2016 Won Audience Award, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival 2016 Nominated Best International Documentary Best Documentary, Seattle International Film Festival 2016 Won Documentary Award

"CHILLING"
VARIETY

**"AN EYE-OPENING
EXPERIENCE"**
THE NEW YORKER

Do Not Resist



An urgent and powerful exploration of the rapid militarization of the police in the United States. Starting on the streets of Ferguson, Missouri, as the community grapples with the death of Michael Brown, DO NOT RESIST - the directorial debut of Detroppia cinematographer Craig Atkinson - offers a stunning look at the current state of policing in America and a glimpse into the future. The Tribeca Film Festival winner for Best Documentary puts viewers in the center of the action - from a ride-along with a South Carolina SWAT team and inside a police training seminar that teaches the importance of "righteous violence" to the floor of a congressional hearing on the proliferation of military equipment in small-town police departments - before exploring where controversial new technologies including predictive policing algorithms could lead the field next.

14



Craig Atkinson



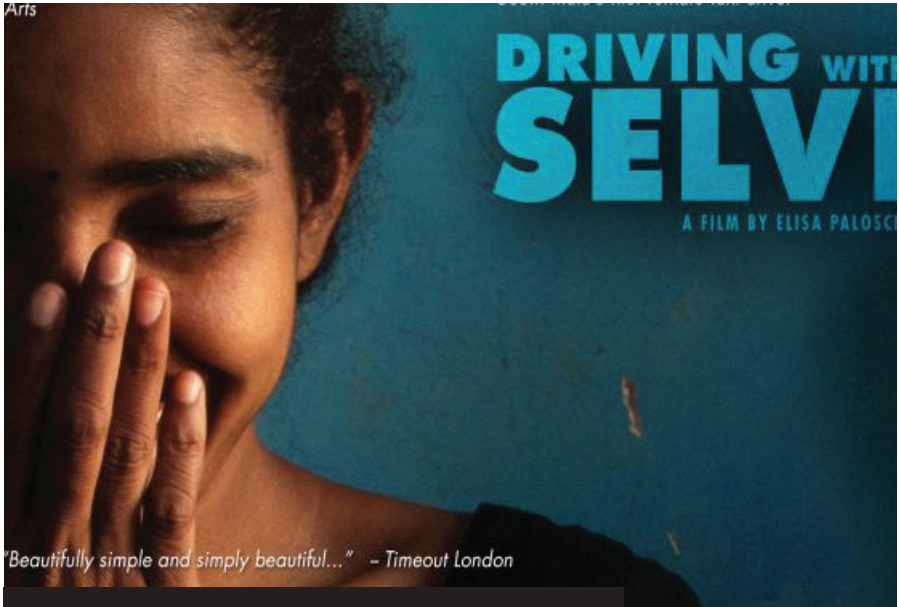
USA
2016



76min



Cinema Eye Honors Awards, US 2017 Nominated Cinema Eye Honors Award Outstanding Achievement in a Debut Feature Film, Denver International Film Festival 2016 Won Maysles Brothers Award Best Documentary, Philadelphia Film Festival 2016 Nominated Jury Award Best Documentary Feature, Tribeca Film Festival 2016 Won Jury Award Best Documentary Feature, Zurich Film Festival 2016 Nominated Golden Eye Best International Documentary Film



Driving with Selvi



Driving with Selvi is a Canadian documentary film that focuses on South India's first female taxi driver, a young woman named Selvi who had previously escaped a child marriage. The film was directed by Elisa Paloschi, who also acted as producer for the project. Paloschi met Selvi in 2004 in India when she was tourist in Mysore, India. After Paloschi volunteered with Odanadi, an organization dedicated to rehabilitate people affected by human trafficking, they asked her to shoot a short film for their organization. Paloschi became "enamored" with Selvi, and ended up following her over the next 10 years to film the documentary.



Elisa Paloschi



Canada
2015



74min



Winner: best of the fest (audience award) - wakefield international film festival 2016, winner: documentary feature jury award, atlanta film festival 2016, winner: new mavericks award (directing), elisa paloschi, atlanta film festival 2016, nominee: golden sheaf award, best documentary pov, yorkton film festival 2016, winner: golden sheaf award, best director - non-fiction, yorkton film festival



Fire at Sea



Situated 150 miles south of Sicily, Lampedusa has hit headlines as the first port of call for hundreds of thousands of African and Middle Eastern refugees hoping to make a new life in Europe. After spending months living on the island and engaging with its inhabitants, Rosi accumulated an incredible array of footage, portraying the history, culture and daily lives of the islanders. Focusing on 12-year-old Samuele, as he explores the land and attempts to gain mastery of the sea, the film slowly builds a breathtakingly naturalistic portrait of the Lampedusan people and the events that surround them.



Gianfranco Rosi



Italy
2016



114min

16



Academy Awards, USA 2017 Nominated Oscar Best Documentary Feature, Berlin International Film Festival 2016 Won Amnesty International Film Prize, Golden Berlin Bear, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury and Reader Jury of the "Berliner Morgenpost" Capri, Hollywood 2016 Won Capri Documentary Award and Capri European Film Award, Cinema Eye Honors Awards, US 2017 Won Cinema Eye Honors Award The Unforgettables, European Film Awards 2016 Won European Film Award European Documentary, Golden Ciak Awards 2016 Won Golden Ciak Best Editing (Miglior Montaggio), International Cinephile Society Awards 2017 Won ICS Award Best Documentary, International Documentary Association 2016 Won Creative Recognition Award Best Cinematography, Italian National Syndicate of Film Journalists 2016 Won Special Silver Ribbon Documentary, London Critics Circle Film Awards 2017 Won ALFS Award Documentary of the Year



Freedom Stories



Freedom Stories is an exploration of the achievements and struggles of former ‘boat people’. Now Australian citizens, they arrived seeking asylum from the Middle-East around 2001 – a watershed year in Australian politics sparked by the Tampa affair and Prime Minister John Howard’s declaration: “We will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come”. Some were only children when they found themselves in indefinite mandatory detention in remote places such as Woomera or Nauru and then placed on temporary protection visas, which extended their limbo for years. It has taken astonishing resilience and over a decade for them to build secure lives and start contributing to their new country. These are ordinary people who found themselves caught up in the extraordinary consequences of political brinkmanship but have long since dropped out of the media spotlight. They live among us now and given the Government’s boast that it has ‘stopped the boats’ it is time for their voices to be heard.

17



Steve Thomas



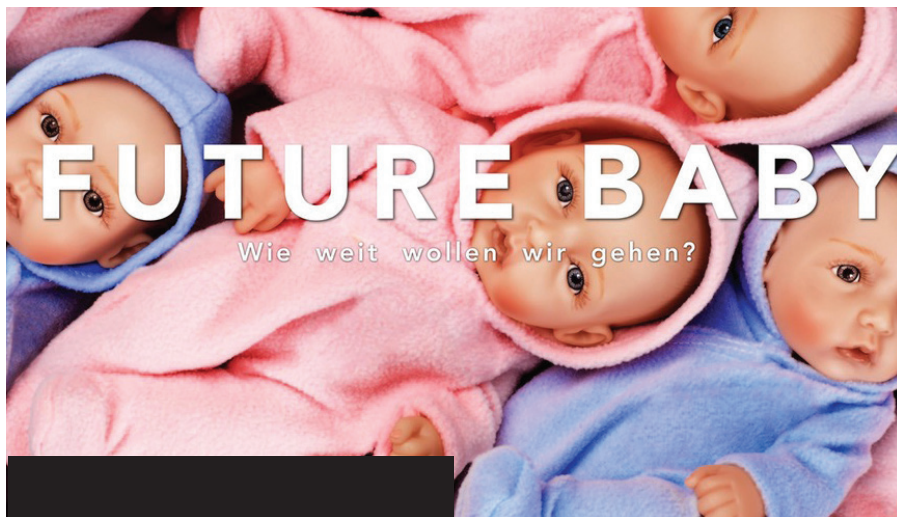
USA
2016



72min



SXSW Film Festival 2016 Documentary Feature



FUTURE BABY

Wie weit wollen wir gehen?

Future Baby



“We’ve finished paying for the kitchen, so now we can have a baby,” says a 39-year-old woman, who has travelled with her husband to a Spanish clinic in search of a donor egg. Their story is a small part of the mosaic of the whole film. The film maker travelled all over the world to examine the seemingly endless technological possibilities of human reproduction. All of the characters in the film are using artificial insemination: not just doctors and couples who are unable to have children, but also egg donors, surrogate mothers, and even members of the new generation of children who originated in the laboratory. What are the ethical and legal implications of this increasingly popular option?

18



Maria Arlamovsky



Austria
2016



92min



Zurich Film Festival 2016 Won Special Mention Film in Focus Switzerland, Germany, Austria



Heaven and Earth



A documentary film that tells the story of an ancient civilization's religious tolerance, covering a millennium of Ethiopia monastic culture and ecclesiastical education. Presenting the development of indigenous Christianity in an African setting, the film provides a corrective to still prevalent stereotypes of Africa as a dark continent in need of enlightenment by outside forces.



Mackonen Michael



Ethiopia
2013



47min



Nominated best Afro-Latino documentary Costa Rica film festival, Patented and Archived at the Library of Congress.USA, Selected for Alexandria Film Festival VA.



Lampedusa In Winter



The Italian “Refugee Island” of Lampedusa is in the firm grip of winter tristesse. The Tourists have left, the remaining refugees fight to be taken to the mainland.

As a fire destroys the worn down ferry, that connects the island to Italy, the mayor Giusi Nicolini and the local fishermen struggle for a new ship. While the refugees are finally transferred by plane, the fishermen occupy the port in order to protest. The island is isolated and as food supplies run out the protesters start to disagree with each other. The coast guard tries to prevent the tragedies of the upcoming season out in the sea, while many islanders try to describe the role of Lampedusa to the never ending stream of reporters that step by on the island.

The tiny community at the edge of Europe is engaged in a desperate fight for dignity, and for solidarity with those who many consider the cause of the ongoing crisis: the African boat people.

20



Jakob Brossmann



Austria, Italy,
Switzerland
2015



93min



Golden Boccacino Award at Locarno Film Festival 2015, Best documentary film at Viennale, Duisburger Filmwoche Audience Award, DOK Leipzig, Sao Paulo Mostra, Jihlava IDFF, CPH DOX, Stockholm IFF, Pravo ljudski Human rights FF Sarajevo, IDFA- Best of Fests, Watch DOCS Warsaw, DOC Point Helsinki, Austrian Film Prize for Best Documentary, Magnificent 7 Belgrade - BEL MEDIC AWARD for creative emphasis of humanistic values, Bolzano Film Festival Bozen, Istanbul Film Festival, DOCUDAYS UA



Land beneath our feet master



The Land Beneath Our Feet follows a young Liberian man, uprooted by war, who returns from the USA with never-before-seen footage of Liberia's past. The uncovered footage is embraced as a national treasure. Depicting a 1926 corporate land grab, it is also an explosive reminder of eroding land rights.

In post-conflict Liberia, individuals and communities are pitted against multinational corporations, the government, and each other in life-threatening disputes over land. What can this ghostly footage offer a nation, as it debates radical land reforms that could empower communities to shape a more diverse, stable and sustainable future?



Sarita Siegel,
Gregg Mitman



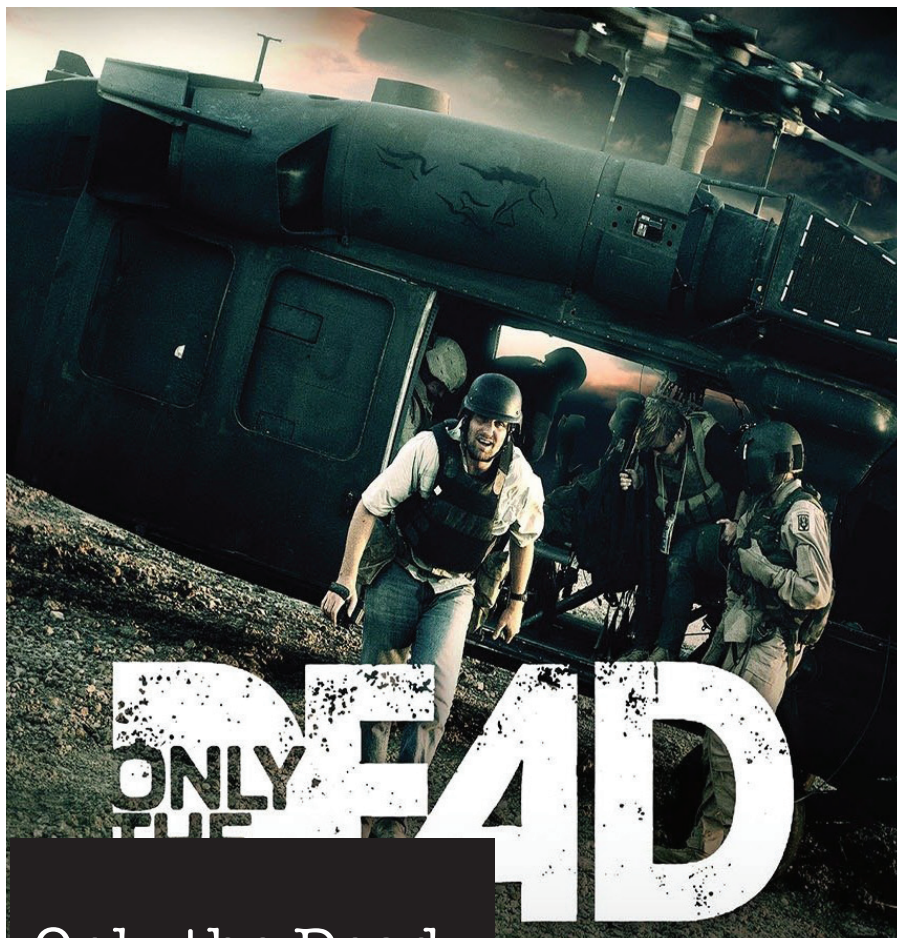
UK/USA
2015



60min



Leeds International Film Festival 2016, Global Insight Award - Black Maria Film Festival 2017



Only the Dead

22



Australian journalist Michael Ware's experiences in Iraq during the 2003 war and after.



Bill Guttentag,
Michael Ware



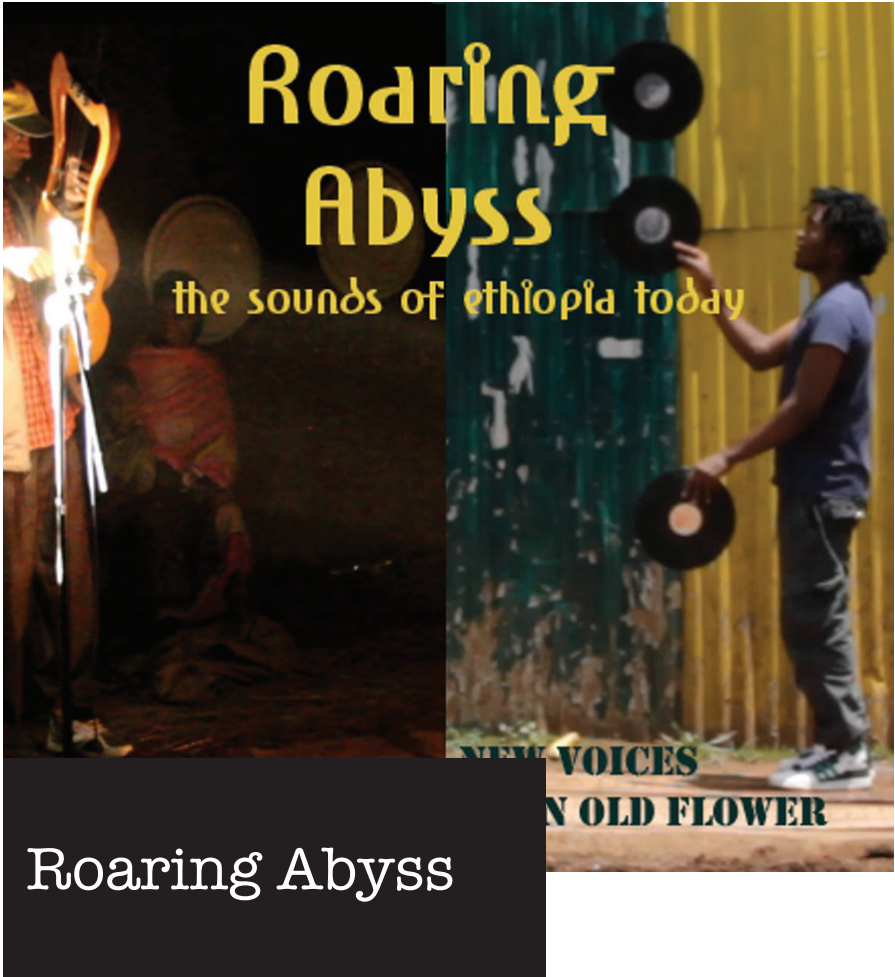
UK
2016



77min



Australian Film Institute 2016, Australian Screen Editors 2015, Sydney Film Festival 2015, Walkley Awards 2015



Roaring Abyss



A sound journey across the mountains, deserts and forests of Ethiopia and its cultural universe. Roaring Abyss will take you through an inedit collection of music recordings of unvaluable importance for the transmission and preservation of the African Heritage



Quino Pinero

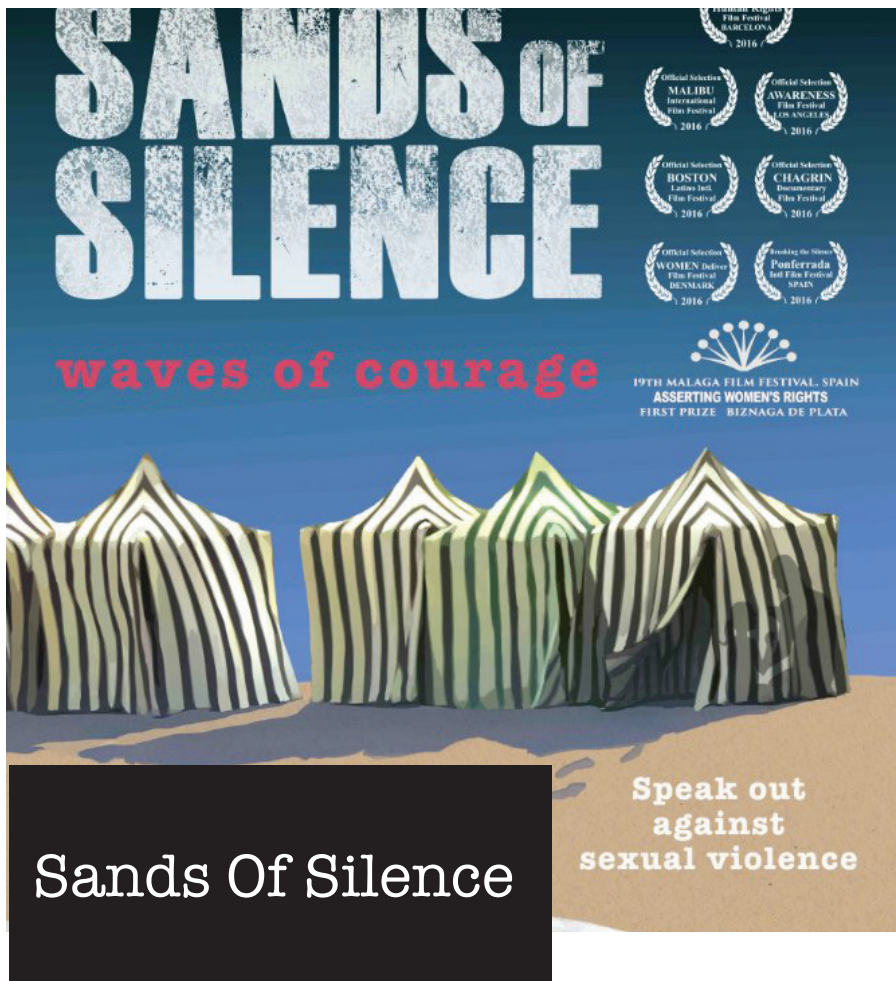


Netherlands
2017



87min





24



A 15-year quest to expose the underworld of sexual exploitation and trafficking from Asia to the Americas leads world-reporter Chelo Alvarez-Stehle to the windswept beach where her childhood ended and family secrets began.



Chelo Alvarez-Stehle



Spain/USA
2016



1 hr 26 min



2017 Second Winner "fada" Cultural Award - Vicki Bernadet Foundation, Barcelona, Spain; 2016 Best Documentary Malibu International Film Festival, California; 2016 Audience Choice Award Malibu International Film Festival, California; 2016 Best Documentary Feature Audience Award - Awareness Film Festival, Los Angeles; 2016 First Prize Asserting Women's Rights - Malaga Film Festival, Spain



The Black Sheep



Ausman believed that without Gaddafi Libya would become a democratic state. When he joined the revolutionary wave of the Arab Spring, he fought for a free society and better living conditions. Three years after the fall of the regime, however, the country is mired in chaos and clan wars, and is plagued by Islamist terror groups and religious fundamentalism. Ausman himself is an atheist, which is unacceptable for the local population. And if a person does not conform, threats and violence will soon follow, as they do for Ausman and his family. The freethinking Ausman gradually becomes alienated from his own land and does not know what to do next. The film presents a picture of a disappointed idealist in modern Libya.



Antonio Martini



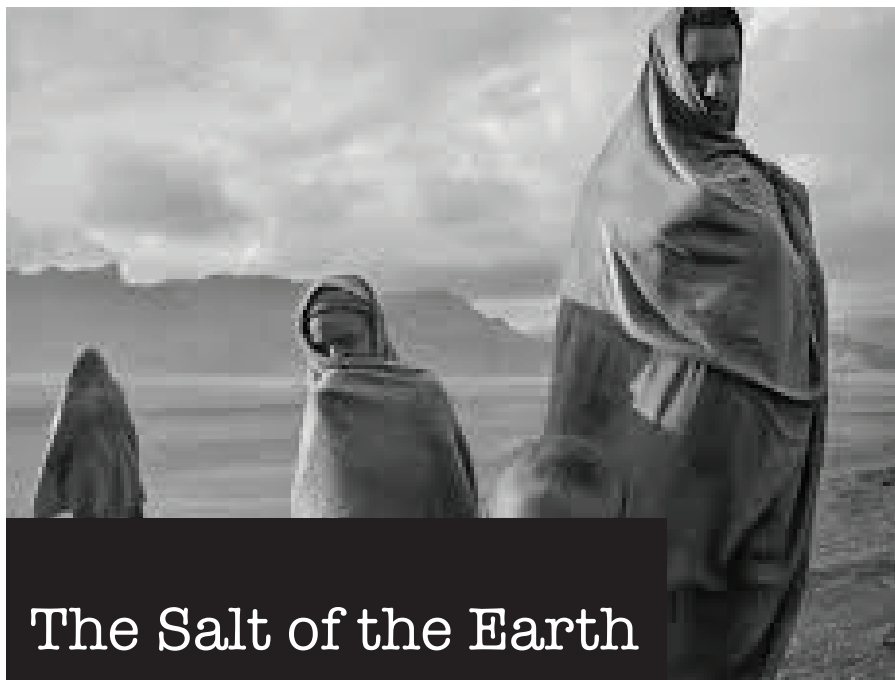
France, Italy



72min



Guerrilla Staff Award at Biografilm Festival, Bologna (Italy) - June 2016 - Festival; Biografilm Festival, International Competition, Bologna (Italy) - June 2016; Pitching Forum; Italian Doc Screenings, Palermo (Italy) - October 2014; MediMed, Sitges (Spain) - October 2014 ; Bio To B, Biografilm Festival (Italy) - June 2015, 2016 nov, Documentaria Noto Festival:- Best direction award and- Audience award



The Salt of the Earth



For the last 40 years, the photographer Sebastião Salgado has been travelling through the continents, in the footsteps of an ever-changing humanity. He has witnessed some of the major events of our recent history; international conflicts, starvation and exodus. He is now embarking on the discovery of pristine territories, of wild fauna and flora, and of grandiose landscapes as part of a huge photographic project which is a tribute to the planet's beauty.



Juliano Ribeiro Salgado,
Wim Wenders



2014



110min

26



Academy Awards, USA 2015 Nominated Oscar Best Documentary, Feature, Abu Dhabi Film Festival 2014 Won Audience Choice Award, Cannes Film Festival 2014 Won François Chalais Award - Special Mention, Won Prize of the Ecumenical Jury - Special Mention, Won Un Certain Regard - Special Jury Prize, Cinema Brazil Grand Prize 2016 Won Cinema Brazil Grand Prize Best Foreign-Language Film (Melhor Filme Estrangeiro), César Awards, France 2015 Won César Best Documentery Film (Meilleur film documentaire), Dublin International Film Festival 2015 Won Audience Award, Munich Film Festival 2014 Won One Future Prize, Online Film Critics Society Awards 2014 Won OFCS Award Best Non-U.S. Release, Palm Springs International Film Festival 2015 2nd place Audience Award Best Documentary Feature, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2014 Won Audience Award, The Platino Awards for Iberoamerican Cinema 2015 Won Platino Award Best Documentary



The War Show



In March 2011 the Arab Spring reached Syria. Radio DJ Obaidah Zytoon and her friends join the street protests against the regime of Bashar al-Assad and decide to film the dramatic events. The atmosphere of excitement and hope for change was soon dashed by the regime's brutal response and harsh repression. The country sinks into a bloody civil war. Obaidah and her friends witness the birth of the armed resistance, which, however, due to the incompetence of the international community soon falls victim to the rising tide of Islamic fanaticism. This deeply personal film captures not only Syria's descent into the hell of an endless war, but also the fates of a group of friends who hoped for a better future and freedom.



Andreas Dalsgaard,
Obaidan Zytoon



Denmark,
Finland,
Syria



100min



Dragon Award for Best Nordic Documentary, Göteborg International Film Festival 2017, Jury Prize Venice Days 2016, Best Human Rights Documentary Award Bergen International Film festival 2016, Student Jury Award Paris, Signes de Nuit 2016



THE WILD YEARS

28



A sound journey across the mountains, deserts and forests of Ethiopia and its cultural universe. Roaring Abyss will take you through an inedit collection of music recordings of unvaluable importance for the transmission and preservation of the African Heritage



Ventura Durall



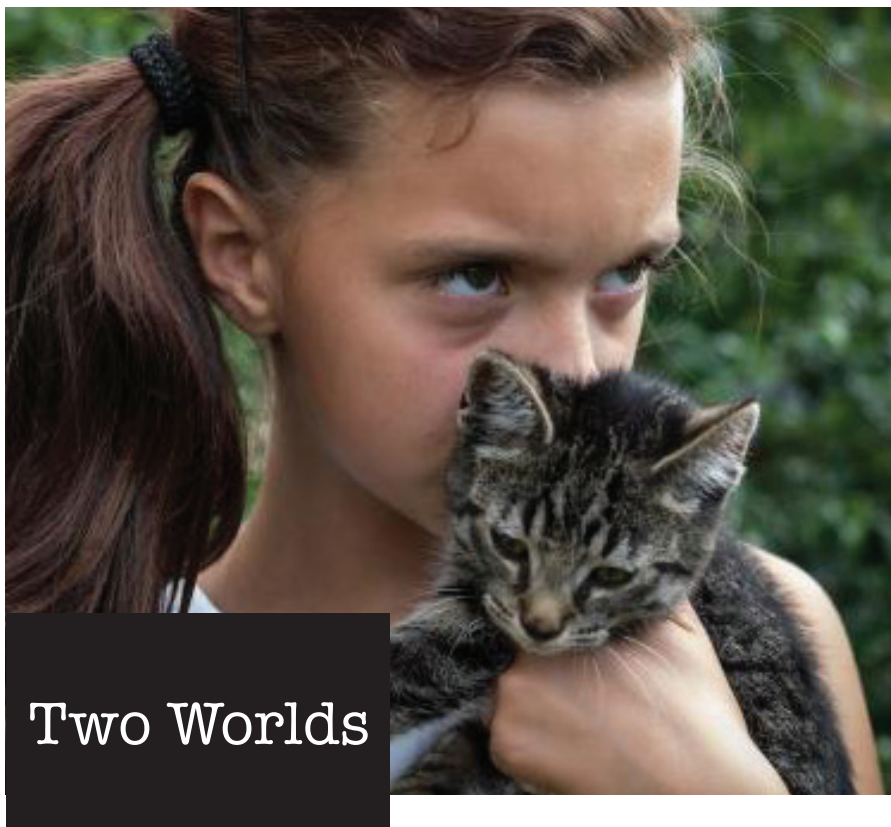
ETHIOPIA/SPAIN
2013



73min



Addis International
Film Festival 2017



Two Worlds



Laura is only 12, but she knows how to negotiate a bank loan and how job interviews work both of her parents are deaf and she spends much time accompanying them and interpreting into sign language. When it comes to dealing with authorities, she is far ahead of her peers, but otherwise she's a normal girl with all of the anxieties of adolescence. When she doesn't want her parents to "sign" into her life, she simply focuses her eyes on her mobile. She used to be ashamed of them; today she is glad she has them. This film portrait depicts the life of one uncommon family that is divided by more than just a generation gap.

29



Maciej Adamek



Poland
2016



51 min



BEST
AWARDS



Unlocking the cage

30



Between 2013 and 2015, a group of nonprofit attorneys seek nonhuman clients for whom they can advocate in two U.S. territories, in order to establish legal personhood for elephants, cetaceans and nonhuman apes in the U.S.



Chris Hegedus,
D.A. Pennebaker



USA
2016



91 min



Hamptons International Film Festival 2016 Won Zelda Penzel Giving Voice to the Voiceless Award, Traverse City Film Festival 2016 Won Founders Prize Best US Documentary



When Mary met Mohammed



Tasmania's first detention centre for asylum seekers opens in Australia and Mary, a staunchly Christian pensioner, is opposed. Mohammad, a 26 year old Muslim man from Afghanistan, discovers an unlikely friendship with Mary after her knitting club donates beanies to the asylum seekers. Mary's prior beliefs are challenged as her relationship with Mohammad deepens.



Heather Kirkpatrick



Australia
2013



80min



Winner 2014 Special Award United Nations Media Peace Prize, Winner 2014 MIA Award Outstanding Coverage of Migration in the Media, Finalist Outstanding Documentary Talent Award 2013 (Austrian International Documentary Conference), Walkley Award Documentary Finalist 2013, Winner 2014 Tasmanian Media Award Best Feature, Doc Current Affairs, Finalist Australian Migration Council Media Award 2014 Television, Winner Australia Day Council SA-Promotion Muslim and Non-Muslim Understanding 2013, Winner 2013 Tasmanian Outstanding Achiever Award, Nomination Best Documentary Director Australian Directors Guild 2014



Zemene is a feature documentary about a young Ethiopian girl's bravery in the face of enormous odds. Living in a remote village with a rare curvature of the spine, Zemene struggles with poverty, poor education, and potentially life-threatening illnesses. But a chance encounter in the streets of Gondar with Dr. Rick Hodes sets in motion a series of events that will change Zemene's life forever. Shot throughout the beautiful countryside of Ethiopia, the film is a poetic testament to the power and bonds of compassion and the potential within us all.

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Melissa R. Donovan



USA
2014



68min



Boston Film Festival 2014 Won Festival Prize Best Documentary, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Chagrin Documentary Film Festival 2014 Won David Ponce Award - Best of the Festival Best Feature Documentary, Harlem International Film Festival 2015 Won Hi Award Best World Documentary, Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival 2015 Won Audience Award Best Emerging Filmmaker, Ridgewood Guild Film Festival, US 2016 Won Festival Prize Best Documentary, San Luis Obispo International Film Festival 2015 Won George Sidney Independent Film Competition Winner Best Feature Documentary, St. Louis International Film Festival 2014 Won Interfaith Award Best Documentary

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