

(2007) (2008) (2009) (2010) (2011) (2012) (2013) (2014) (2015) (2016)

INITIATIVE AFRICA PRESENTS...  
THE 11TH

# ADDIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 28 - MAY 3, 2017

ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE HAGER FIKER THEATER

መግቢያ ብሉይ



Free Entrance

Screening  
**PROGRAM** and  
Location

You may contact the AIFF organizers at  
the Hager Fikir Mini Hall bar.  
And at Italian Cultural Institute reception.



An Initiative Africa supported Program

---

+251 11 662 26 40/41


[info@addisfilmfestival.org](mailto:info@addisfilmfestival.org)

[www.addisfilmfestival.org](http://www.addisfilmfestival.org)


FRI. April 28

Italian  
Cultural  
Institute


EXHIBITION

 TIME All Day


GUESTS REGISTRATION

 4:00pm

WELCOMING REMARKS


 5:00pm

HEAVEN AND EARTH - 50 MIN


 5:30pm - 6:20pm

A film about church and Monastic culture in ethiopia. The film has screened and archived at the Library of congress and the director has got a special Award.

Q & A WITH MACKONEN MICHAEL


 6:25pm - 7:00pm

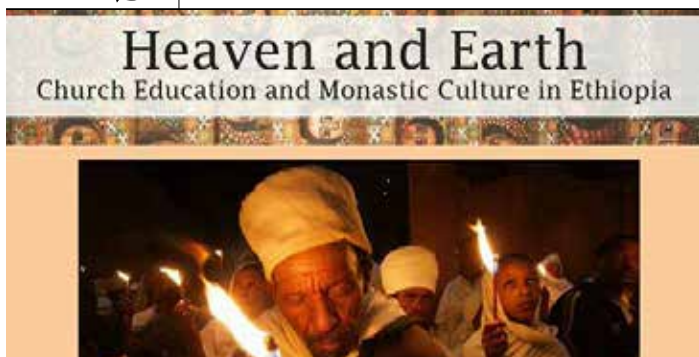
ZEMENE - 68MIN

 7:00pm - 8:10pm

An inspirational story of hope, love and a journey of unimaginable possibilities. Won more than 9 awards for best documentary

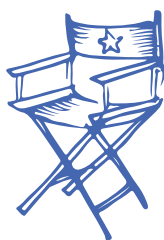
COCKTAIL

 8:15pm



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

# INTERVIEW with the DIRECTOR



**Aaron Biebert**  
A Billion Lives

**Tell us a little bit about your background and how long you have been in documentaries?**

I've been doing short films and mini-docs for the past seven years, but 'A Billion Lives' is my first feature length documentary for theaters. About half of my projects deal with nonprofit organization and social good. We feel like this movie was a natural extension of that desire to be socially responsible with our time, talent, and resources.

**Can you give us a brief description about the documentary and how you came to produce it?**

After one of my colleagues died from lung cancer, I started to learn more about smoking addiction, the difficulty of quitting, and what therapies work. I never understood how someone who was dying of lung cancer could keep smoking. I initially thought vaping looked like some hipster way to keep smoking indoors. Years later, some friends educated me more on the topic. They sounded like conspiracy theorists with talk about how big business and government interests were interfering with this cheap, drug-free alternative that is helping many people quit smoking.

When I found out that a billion people were projected to die from smoking this century, I knew this topic deserved a look. If there was indeed something going on, it would be the story of a lifetime.

Telling the public what we found is what A Billion Lives is all about.

**What were you trying to achieve with the film, and how much did the documentary affect you personally?**

The movie aims to explain how there's a way to save a billion people, but few non-smokers care because we've all been taught that smokers should just quit. The fact is that most people believe smokers who don't quit deserve to die. I used to.

What I've learned is that most smokers started smoking as kids, taught to smoke by their own family members, friends, or even the military.

When you start that young the developing brain latches onto the chemicals in the cigarette. That addiction is serious. Our film explains not only the extreme dangers smoking inflicts on millions every year, but also how governments and large corporations who benefit from tobacco sales hold real solutions like vapor technology hostage to keep tax revenue and profits rolling in.



*The film is about Smoking addiction, the difficulty of quitting, and what therapies work.*

**How widely is the documentary distributed? Any Awards?**

The film has been showed over 100 times in theaters in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Austria, and Ireland.

**We've been honored to receive the following awards:**

- 2016 Supreme Jury Prize (Best Picture) at Melbourne Documentary Film Festival
- 2016 Best International Documentary at Jozi Film Festival (South Africa)
- 2016 Best Director at Melbourne Documentary Film Festival
- 2016 Remi Award from Worldfest Houston International Film Festival
- 2016 Best International Feature - Finalist at DocEdge (New Zealand)

**What challenges did you face in the course of producing the documentary?**

When we began to talk about A Billion Lives on Facebook, the boosting of our posts was restricted because we were, according to them, promoting a “tobacco product.” This still happens. Thankfully Facebook gave in after a giant petition was passed around the internet. This is just one example of how various forces have misapprehended the truth, and are arrayed against our film and its message.

We experienced the same challenges in requests for interviews, film festival admissions, and distributions.

**What would you like to do next?**

I'd like to keep making documentaries. I feel like there is a battle going on right now behind the scenes between powerful corporations, NGO's, governments, and the people they are supposed to serve.

Hopefully we can help.




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


SAT. April 29

Italian  
Cultural  
Institute

EXHIBITION


 TIME All Day

Two Worlds - 51min

 11:00am - 11:55pm


Family documentary portraying the division among family beyond generation gap.

THE SALT OF THE EARTH - 110MIN.

 2:00pm - 3:40pm


The life and work of photographer Sebastião Salgado, who has spent forty years documenting deprived societies in hidden corners of the world..Academy Awards, USA 2015 Nominated Oscar Best Documentary and many Award winner

DRIVING WITH SELVI - 74MIN

 4:00pm - 5:14pm

Selvi, a former child bride, escapes her violent marriage and goes on to become South India's first female taxi driver.

Q&A with Elisa.


 5:15pm

Cirilo and Our future once

 5:30pm - 6:00pm


Short films

Boy 23 - 80min

 6:00pm - 7:20pm

stories of two survivors from Nazi slavery in the early 20th century Brazil. The film Won Feature film trophy best screen play and best editing

Q&A with Belisario Franca

 7:25pm

SAT. April 29

Hager Fiker  
Theater

THE WILD YEARS - 73MIN



11:00am - 12:15pm

Three kids. In the streets of a city in Africa.

Brother Jakob - 92min



1:30pm - 3:00pm

The life changing journey of German youngster Jakob to Morocco Mountains. Official selection at DOK LEIPZIG 2016

The Black Sheep - 72min



3:30pm - 4:42pm

A film following a disappointed idealist in modern Libya. Guerrilla Staff Award at Biografilm Festival, Bologna (Italy) - June 2016 and more

Do not Resist - 76min



5:30pm - 6:45pm

An urgent and powerful exploration of the rapid militarization of the police in the United States. Denver International Film Festival 2016 Won Maysles Brothers Award Best Documentary, Tribeca Film Festival 2016 Won Jury Award Best Documentary Feature, and more

COCKTAIL



7:00pm

# INTERVIEW with the PRODUCER



**Juan Yepes**

Death By a  
thousand cuts

**Tell us a little bit about your background and how long you have been in documentaries?**

I am a film producer focusing on documentary filmmaking and short films with social impacts with ample experiences in business management and entrepreneurship.

I have been working in documentaries for over ten years. As a producer and cofounder of Human Pictures I have been involved in production and post-production of documentaries, including roles as an executive producer, production coordinator, field producer, and location coordinator.

**Can you give us a brief description about the documentary and how you came to produce it?**

In 'DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS', Eligio Eloy Vargas, alias Melaneo, a Dominican Park Ranger in the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park was found brutally murdered by machete. At the time, he was believed to have been on patrol investigating an illegal charcoal production site often run by Haitians coming across the border into protected Dominican forests. This murder becomes the metaphor for the larger story of increasing tension between Haiti and the Dominican Republic over illicit charcoal exploitation and mass deforestation.

Our approach was to reveal the topic from the personal story of Melaneo and his family to eventually bring in the big picture story in the island of Hispaniola and the environmental issues they currently face.

**What were you trying to achieve with the film, and how much did the documentary affect you personally?**

The main objective of the film is to show how deforestation is affecting the island and how this is an example for the world to take care of natural resources. By comparing the dynamics between Dominican Republic and Haiti, we see how this is a very delicate situation that needs collaboration from both sides. The personal story of the park ranger we used is to show how global issues could affect all of us at a personal level.

The film affected me at a personal level; having spent time at the border between Dominican Republic and Haiti, it made me think how these situations are very delicate, and how we need to





*The main objective of the film is to show how deforestation is affecting the island and how this is an example for the world for all of us to take care of natural resources.*

make an effort to communicate and collaboratively find solutions to environmental problems. As documentary filmmakers we play a key role in investigating and bringing to light problems that we need to resolve together.

**How widely is the documentary distributed? Any Awards?**

The Documentary premiered at HotDocs in Toronto, Canada and has been featured in festivals in different parts of the world. 'Death By A Thousand Cuts' was awarded the Audience Award at Doc NYC and the Grand Jury Prize at The Seattle International Film Festival. The documentary is going to be broadcasted in the US by the TV station Univision in 2017.

**What challenges did you face in the course of producing the documentary?**

Producing half of the documentary in Haiti was the main challenge, since Haitian Creole is not our main language. This made building relationships and looking for characters to tell the Haitian side of the story a complicated task. In the end by doing several trips with a focus on Haiti and building those relationships with the help of a local fixer, helped us give a voice to the Haitian community to understand their needs and how any solution will need to take their needs into account.

**What would you like to do next?**

As a producer at Human Pictures we are working on new projects and developing new documentaries. At the moment the main topics we are focusing includes the United States criminal justice system and transgender rights in US. We are developing a couple of documentaries that we hope we can start producing later in 2017.


SUN. April 30

Italian  
Cultural  
Institute

EXHIBITION

 TIME All Day

ADA FOR MAYOR - 85MIN

 11:00am - 1:05 pm


follows Ada's (woman civil activist) personal footage and struggle to help peoples in difficulty. Won Gaudi Award Best Documentary and more

Mary meets Mohammed - 80min

 1:30pm - 2:50pm

A film opposing the opening of Tasmania's first detention centre for asylum seekers.

A story of Sahel sounds - 83min

 3:20pm - 4:43pm


celebrates the wide range of musical performances of current artists from Niger, while leaving room to reflect on today's role of ethnomusicology

Fighting for death - 15min

 5:00pm - 5:15pm


Short film

Future Baby - 92min

 5:30pm - 7:00pm

A film about technological possibilities of human reproduction (artificial insemination). Won special mention film in focus and plus

Q&A with Maria Arlamovsky

 7:35pm



SUN. April 30

Hager Fiker Theater

COLOURS OF THE ALPHABET - 80MIN



11:00am - 12:20pm

A film about the significant obstacles to fight poverty in Africa and elsewhere.

Roaring Abyss - 87min



1:30pm - 3:00pm

A musical journey across the mountains, deserts and forests of Ethiopia.

Land beneath our feet Master - 60min



3:30pm - 4:30pm

Dispute over land in post conflict Liberia. Leeds International Film Festival 2016, Global Insight Award - Black Maria Film Festival 2017

Slaves descendent - 15min



5:00pm - 5:15pm

Short film

Death By a thousand Cuts - 73min



5:30pm - 6:45pm

Charcoal exploitation and mass deforestation. DOC NYC 2016 Won Audience Award, Seattle International Film Festival 2016 Won Documentary Award and more

Q&A with Juan Yepes



6:50pm -

## Death By a thousand Cuts



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

# INTERVIEW with the DIRECTOR



**Belisario Franca**

Boy 23

**Tell us a little bit about your background and how long you have been in documentaries?**

I am a cinematographer by profession. For over 20 years, I've been investigating and revealing stories of the different faces of the Brazilian people. The paths of real life characters have turned into award-winning series and movies both in Brazil and abroad. Some of my work includes, "Overseas", International Documentary Association best TV series, "Xavante Strategy", United Nations Festival best art and media creation, "Eternal Amazon", presented on 27 festivals around the world, and currently on Netflix's line-up, and of course, "Boy 23 - The truth behind the bricks".

**Can you give us a brief description about the documentary and how you came to produce it?**

The documentary recounts, starting with the discovery of bricks stamped with Nazi swastikas in a farm in the State of São Paulo, the research of historian Sidney Aguilar and the discovery of a scary fact. During the 1930s, 50 black kids were taken from an orphanage in Rio de Janeiro down to the farm where the bricks were found. There, they were identified by numbers and were subjected to slavery by a family which was part of the country's political and economic elite, and that did not in any way hide their sympathy for the Nazi ideology. Two survivors of this Brazilian tragedy, Aloizio Silva (the "Boy #23") and Argemiro Santos, as well as the family of José Alves de Almeida (the "Two"), reveal their stories for the first time.

Here at the production company, we have a project for the History Channel called 'History Detectives'. Searching for good subject matters for the series, one of our researchers and writers, Juliana Oliveira, showed up with an article about the bricks stamped with swastikas that appeared on a farm in the countryside of São Paulo. When I read the material, I knew it was potent and complex, and it would not fit in a series episode. I suggested that we look for Professor Sidney Aguilar Filho. We managed to bring Sidney to Rio and had a long conversation. He told us about the research pathway from the moment he had first contacted the brick, and through all his discoveries. Following our discussion I suggested for a movie on the subject and he agreed. He just asked that we waited for him to move on with his thesis, and we respected it. My only immediate concern was filming Mr. Aloizio, the sole known survivor at the

time. When we had that first meeting, Mr. Aloizio was already over 80 years old. Sidney agreed with this first interview, but then, we waited for him and his thesis in order to proceed with the movie.

**What were you trying to achieve with the film, and how much did the documentary affect you personally?**

The story reveals a forgotten period in the History of Brazil, bringing up facts related to the most racist time in the country's History, where the practice of eugenics was part of a national project in the Brazilian 1934 Constitution. It aims to promote the salvage of a historical memory. Leave it exposed. The big hassle in all this for me is to find out that this bad inheritance is still reproduced, even though thinly veiled. We have evolved very little as a society in terms of ensuring rights for minorities, especially in relation to racial equality.

**How widely is the documentary distributed? Any Awards?**

The distribution plan for 'Boy 23' was devised in a different way. Our main goal was to establish an emotional connection with the people and make them commit to causes raised by the film, the negation of structural racism in Brazil and the exploitation of unassisted children. To ensure that the film could be a tool for citizenship, that it could be thought-provoking, as well as generate debates, we put together an impacting campaign for 'Boy 23'. It is a communication strategy with social commitment, where we use the digital channels (website, Facebook, and Twitter), as well as movie sessions followed by debates with strategic groups as a tool for building a network and fostering discussion.

The impact strategy has focused on dissemination and access to the film for several layers of society (NGOS, communities, activists, opinion formers, social movements, universities, among others), and in building relationships with this public before, during, and after the film's commercial release.

Our idea with the impact campaign was to increase its reach beyond commercial movie theaters, increasing its exposure period and diversifying the movie's display windows.

We have already carried out more than 80 screenings followed by discussion sessions throughout Brazil, and selected cities of United States of America, and European countries. With this specific action, we have reached more than 12,000 people, in addition to the involvement of users of the film's digital channels, where we have a continuing dialogue with the audience.

'Boy 23' has been awarded best screenplay and editing at the 26th Iberoamerican Festival Cine CE and best screenplay and image editing on the 2nd Cartaz - International Film Festival in 2016.

'Boy 23' was also selected for the 2017 Academy Award list for best documentary.

“

*The story reveals a forgotten period in the History of Brazil, bringing up facts related to the most racist time in the country's History, where the practice of eugenics was part of a national project in the Brazilian 1934 Constitution*

**What challenges did you face in the course of producing the documentary?**

The process took us three and a half years. The challenges are vast, from finding Mr. Aloizio and his family members in Monte Alegre, Campina, to identifying those people, to feel the unsaid which was still present there... We were groping for a way to tell this story. It has always been a concern not to stick only to interviews, to “talking heads”. At the same time, the historical context is very rich. Sidney's thesis is 75% historical context and 25% the boys' story. The film is the opposite. From what we'd been discovering, we made a few storytelling decisions.

It was a sewing process. We did regressive exercises and continuous shooting before final editing in order to recreate an impressionist memory. For each material we were able to shoot, we'd build something, to understand how it was working. When the first money came in, we did some more shooting. And we finally had the last shooting and got to the final result.

**What would you like to do next?**

I am now working on another feature-length documentary movie that addresses the theme of women in the Brazilian prison system. It further strengthens my position to produce audiovisual contents that is relevant to society, leading to the debate of important causes.



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

MON. May 01


Italian  
Cultural  
Institute

Refugee  
Day 1

EXHIBITION


 TIME All Day

SANDS OF SILEN CE - 86MIN

 11:00am - 12:30pm


A 15-year quest to expose the underworld of sexual exploitation and trafficking from Asia to the Americas. 2016 Best Documentary Malibu International Film Festival, California; 2016 Audience Choice Award Malibu International Film Festival, and more

Only the dead - 77min

 1:30pm - 2:50pm

Australian journalist Michael Ware's experiences in Iraq during the 2003 war and after. Australian Film Institute 2016, Australian Screen Editors 2015, Sydney Film Festival 2015, Walkley Awards 2015

Lampedusa im winter - 93min

 3:20pm - 4:53pm

The African Boat people fight at Lampedusa (the Italian refugee island) to be taken to the mainland. Golden Boccacino Award at Locarno Film Festival 2015, Best documentary film at Viennale, Duisburger Filmwoche Audience Award, DOK Leipzig and more



## Refugee Camp, People of Nowhere



5:20pm - 5:30pm

Short films on the current refugee crisis

## Fire at Sea - 116min



6:00pm - 7:56pm

Capturing life on the Italian island of Lampedusa, a frontline in the European migrant crisis. won the Golden Bear and was Oscar nominated

## Discussion



8:00pm



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

MON. May 01

**Hager Fiker  
Theater**

Covered with the blood of Jesus - 70min



11:00am - 12:10pm

shows how the underprivileged struggle to break through social class under the brutality of global economics. Detour int film fest 2016 - first Award

The War Show - 100min



01:30pm - 3:10pm

the film captures the 2011 Arab spring war result on the fate of Syria and a group of friends. The film has won best human right documentary and best Nordic documentary, Jury prizes

A Young Girl in her nineties - 84min



3:40pm - 5:00pm

A poetic film exploring the power of Art therapy to empower senior citizens.

AN INSIGNIFICANT MAN



5:30am - 07:06pm

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.

# INTERVIEW with the DIRECTOR



**Mackonen Michael**

Heaven and Earth

**Tell us a little bit about your background and how long you have been in documentaries?**

I am an Ethiopian British, documentary film maker and freelance art reporter at the British media network BBC. I studied Journalism and African studies at SOAS university of London and worked in different media production companies as broadcaster and producer. I am now the CEO of the newly established African Renaissance Television Services in Ethiopia.

I have won prestigious awards including BBC Skillset millennium award for my radio documentary 'Bridging the Gap' about the lives of immigrants in the UK and other awards as a Journalist.

**Can you give us a brief description about the documentary and how you came to produce it?**

'Heaven & Earth' is 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.

The film has been screened and archived at the Library of congress.

**What were you trying to achieve with the film, and how much did the documentary affect you personally?**

The film is mainly dealing with African, Ethiopian cultures and philosophy. I believe the young generation should look to the roots of African cultures in order to achieve and create authentic stories that tells the beautiful folklores and narratives of Africa. In my many screenings and Q&A sessions I came across with brilliant young film makers and producers from the continent whom totally agree with the concept and debate thoroughly during the show.

**How widely is the documentary distributed? Any Awards?**

The film has been screened in several countries and institutions, The library of Congress, Washington DC (patented and archived), The royal Geographic Society London, Howard Sankofa DC, Liverpool, Birmingham, UK Best independent African documentary, nominee, Afro Latino film festival, costarica.

**What challenges did you face in the course of producing the documentary?**

Funding, time laps with my permanent job and lack of professional crew.

**What would you like to do next?**

I am now head of the newly established Television service called ARTS TV. I am also working on other documentary scripts dealing with Music history of Ethiopia.




“

*Heaven & Earth' is a documentary film that tells the story of an ancient civilization's religious tolerance, covering a millennium of Ethiopia monastic culture and ecclesiastical education.*


TUE. May 02

Italian  
Cultural  
Institute

EXHIBITION


 TIME All Day

FREEDOM STORIES - 72MIN

 5:00pm - 6:15


An exploration of the achievements and struggles of former 'boat people'.

Lifter - 13min

 6:15pm - 6:30


Short film

A Billion Lives - 95min

 6:30pm - 8:00pm

A true story of the vaping revolution and tragic corruption leading to a billion deaths around the world. Melbourne documentary film festival Best directing, Houston International film festival

Q&A with Aaron Biebert

 8:10pm



SXSW Film Festival 2016 Documentary  
Feature

TUE. May 02

Hager Fiker  
Theater

UNLOCKING THE CAGE - 91MIN



4:00pm - 5:30pm

A group of nonprofit attorneys seek nonhuman clients for whom they can advocate. Seattle International Film Festival 2016 Won Golden Space Needle Award Best Short Film

A Revolution In four season - 88min



6:00pm - 7:20pm

The story of two women with opposing political views fighting for their different versions of democratic futures for Tunisia. Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature, SF Indie Fest, Opening Night Film and Honorable Mention, Margaret Mead Film Festival

Q&A with Jessie



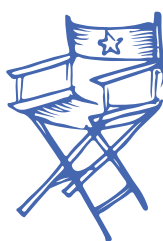
7:25pm -

Closing COCKTAIL



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

# INTERVIEW with the DIRECTOR



**Maria Arlamovsky**

Future Baby

## **Tell us a little bit about your background and how long you have been in documentaries?**

I live and work in Vienna, Austria. I studied at the University for Music and Performing Arts Vienna (M.A. 2000) and the Donau University in Krems (MA, 2011).

I am married and have 2 grown up children and 1 adopted son and 2 foster children.

My documentary line ups includes 'Rubber Chicken Born at Home', a documentary about a woman who decides to give birth at home; 'Loud and Clear', a documentary about survivors of sexual abuse; 'A White Substance', about rape as a weapon of war; 'Looking for QI', about Zhineng Qigong, China and others.

## **Can you give us a brief description about the documentary and how you came to produce it?**

FUTURE BABY is a film about the future of human reproduction as it is happening right before our eyes. FUTURE BABY explores all around the world—patients and researchers, egg donors and surrogate mothers, laboratories and clinics. The hopes and wishes of future parents mesh with research on how to “upgrade” human embryos in the face of an ever-accelerating rate of medical progress. The question is: how far do we want to go?

In this documentary I am focusing on the female body and the hardships that come with it. Reproduction was and is always a burden for women - to be barren can be a very deep trauma for women and naturally also for men. A trauma, a lot of people don't want to talk about. This is why I wanted to make a film about the topic to provoke a more open and honest discussion about it.

## **What were you trying to achieve with the film, and how much did the documentary affect you personally?**

Children are an important part of my life, a part that despite the effort I would not want to miss. I understand why people want to have and raise children and want to live as a family.

With FUTURE BABY, I wanted to explore where the rapidly developing fields of reproductive medicine, genetics, and birth control are taking us. We can understand that reproductive medicine offers a lot of chances but also comes with a lot of burden. More

and more it becomes a slippery slope and I believe we have come to a point where it is imperative that we ask ourselves, “how far do we want to go?”

Since my eldest son was the DOP of the film, we have been discussing a lot about how in future all the new medical technology, especially with gene selection or gene editing will become ‘obligatory’ for young intended parents and if this is an ethic way to embrace new life.

### **How widely is the documentary distributed? Any Awards?**

Festivals the documentary screened includes:

Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival Toronto (2016)

Diagonale, Festival of Austrian Film, Graz (2016)

Docaviv International Film Festival, Tel Aviv (2016)

Zurich Film Festival (2016)

Reykjavik International Film Festival (2016)

Cambridge Film Festival (2016)

International Contemporary Science Film Festival 360°, Moscow (2016)

DokLeipzig. International Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film (2016)

Marda Loop Justice Film Festival, Calgary (2016)

Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival, Colorado Springs (2016)

One World, International Human Rights Festival, Prague (2017)

Academia Film Festival Olomuc, (2017)

International Awards includes, Silver Punt AUDIENCE AWARD, CAMBRIDGE Film Festival (2016) and SPECIAL MENTIONING, Zurich Film Festival (2016)





“

*FUTURE BABY is a film about the future of human reproduction as it is happening right before our eyes. FUTURE BABY explores all around the world*

**What challenges did you face in the course of producing the documentary?**

Intended parents don't like to talk about their misfortune, so it took a lot of work to find people willing to talk. The same for egg donors or surrogates, they prefer to hide since their 'job' is not accepted by most societies.

Since I was filming a lot of footage the editing process of course was challenging to reduce the material to it's most important parts and to get the film dramaturgy right.

(But I have to confess, that I was able to edit a second, shorter part out of the left over footage and that film is about grown up children from donor-sperm or eggs.)

**What would you like to do next?**

The film I have mentioned above - is called: 'Father, Mother, Donor, Child' - it is about the hardship as a child, not to be told the truth about your own identity. It will come out next month as Video On Demand.

And the film I start to research now, is about futuristic Robot-Human Relationships.



WED. May 03

Italian  
Cultural  
Institute


EXHIBITION

 TIME All Day

THANK YOU REMARKS


 6:00pm - 6:30pm

CHASING ASYLUM - 90min

 6:30pm - 8:00pm

The story of Australia's cruel, inhumane treatment of asylum seekers and refugees. The film won AACTA best feature length documentary, London film festival nominated for Grierson award documentary film,

COCKTAIL

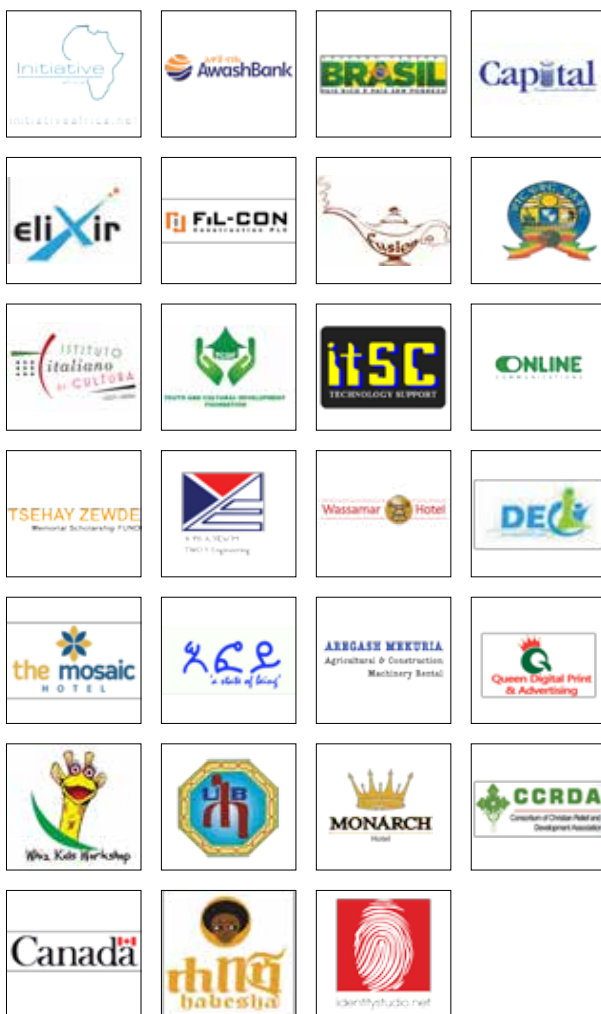
 8:00pm

# CHASING ASYLUM



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

## Our Sponsors this Year





**ADDIS  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL**

[www.addisfilmfestival.org](http://www.addisfilmfestival.org)

