

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

VANCITY THEATRE, 1181 SEYMOUR STREET, VANCOUVER

TICKET INFORMATION (advance tickets available after October 15)

Advance tickets and passes may be purchased at **Tickets Tonight** in person and online. Advance ticket sales end at 11 pm on the day preceding the day of the film. Subject to service charge.

Tickets Tonight Booth

Plaza Level, 200 Burrard Street (at Cordova, inside the Tourism Vancouver Tourist Info Centre). Open daily, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Online: www.ticketstonight.ca

Will Call

Tickets and Passes purchased through ticketstonight.ca can be picked up at the Will Call Table at Vancity Theatre on the day of the screening. Only the credit card holder may pick up the tickets with valid photo ID. Please arrive 30 minutes in advance of your first screening to allow time to pick up your tickets; you must be seated 5 minutes prior to showtime.

Tickets at the door

Tickets and passes also available at the door, subject to availability.

Tickets and passes

General admission **\$9.00**

Matinees, students, seniors, underemployed persons **\$7.00**

Opening Gala: \$45.00 per person (purchase before November 5 and your ticket includes a free one-year subscription to your choice of Geist, New Internationalist, Canadian Dimension, or This Magazine!)

Five-show pass **\$35.00** (\$25 for students, seniors, underemployed persons)

Full festival pass **\$100.00** (\$75 for students, seniors, underemployed persons)

(Passes do not include Opening Gala.)

Theatre address and accessibility

Vancity Theatre at Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street (at Davie)

Accessible Parking: street parking only / entrance: street level ramp

Seating: two to four spaces for wheelchairs (depending on size)

Washrooms: fully accessible

Amnesty International Film Festival

Program subject to change. The Amnesty International Film Festival presents stories and moving images about human rights. Amnesty International does not necessarily hold the opinions expressed in these films. For information or to submit a film for next year contact Don Wright at dwright@amnesty.ca or 604-294-5160. The Amnesty International Film Festival is a charter member of the *Human Rights Film Network*, a cooperating group of more than 30 human rights film festivals around the world. www.amnestyfilmfest.ca

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

VANCITY THEATRE, 1181 SEYMOUR STREET, VANCOUVER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

12 pm - matinee

High school screening – H2OIL

Shannon Walsh / Canada / 2009 / 77 min



A billion-dollar industry is extracting crude from the Athabasca tar sands through a controversial and toxic process. Downstream, the people of Fort Chipewyan are paying the price for what is becoming one of the largest industrial projects in history. When a local doctor raises the alarm about rare cancers, industry and government cover-ups are exposed. Which resource is more precious? And what price are Canadians willing to pay?

<http://h2oildoc.com>

2:30 pm - matinee

Petition – the Court of the Complainants

Liang Zhao / France / 2009 / 124 min



Since 1996 Zhao Liang has filmed petitioners who come from all over China to lodge complaints in Beijing about abuses and injustices. Gathered near the southern railway station of Beijing, and living in makeshift shelters, complainants wait months or years to obtain justice. Shot right up to the start of the Olympic Games, this film exposes corruption, inhumanity, and the persistent contradictions of China's "modernization."

Official Selection – Festival de Cannes.

7:30 pm

Opening Gala (doors open at 6 pm)

Sounds Like A Revolution

Summer Preney & Jane Michner / Canada / 2010 / 76 min

Vancouver premiere



Michael Franti, Fat Mike, Paris, and Anti-Flag started their careers when corporate consolidation in the music industry began to create difficulties for political artists working to be heard in the mainstream. These artists set an example to follow as they were forced to invent ways to sidestep censorship. A testament to the power of indie artists committed to expressing dissent and telling the truth as they see it. *Q&A with director via Skype.*

<http://www.soundslikearevolution.com>

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

12 pm - matinee

High school screening – Seeking Refuge

Karen Cho / Québec – Canada / 2009 / 70 min



Five asylum seekers set out to be accepted as refugees in Canada. Plunging into the experiences, hopes and struggles of asylum seekers looking for protection, *Seeking Refuge* follows newly-arrived claimants awaiting their hearings. This film captures the lives of those denied asylum and facing deportation. A moving look at the lives of people who navigate Canada's complex refugee determination system after escaping war, persecution, rape, and political unrest.

<http://www.informationfilms.com>

3:00 pm - matinee

A Place Without People

Andreas Apostolides / Greece / 2009 / 55 min



When the Serengeti nature reserve was created, Indigenous people were evicted despite having lived in harmony with nature for 3000 years. Tanzania is now the eighth poorest nation in the world. Yet, in a country under stress with most people mired in poverty, governments, the tourist industry and conservation organizations have advanced the idea native Africans are intruders in their own land. *Jury Award – Green Film Festival (Seoul)*.
<http://www.anemon.gr/place.html>

4:30 pm - matinee

The Dammed

Leo De Bock / China / 1996 / 52 min

Selected from the first Amnesty International Film Festival (1996)



The Three Gorges Dam Project is the most significant construction project in China since creation of the Great Wall. The completed dam is 2 km wide and 185 metres high. *The Dammed* reveals shocking economic, environmental and human rights implications of this project and starkly contrasts government propaganda with voices of the displaced. *Panel discussion to follow.*

6:15 pm

Stolen

Violeta Ayala & Daniel Fallshaw / Australia / 2009 / 77 min



Filmmakers follow Fetim Sellami, a Saharawi refugee, to a North African reunion with her mother. Mother and child were separated when Sellami was a toddler. But the UN-sponsored reunion reveals a secret which puts the lives of their subjects at risk and takes the filmmakers into a world of enslavement they could not have imagined. *Best Documentary – Pan African Film Festival (Los Angeles)*

<http://www.thetruthaboutstolen.com/>

8:15 pm (double bill – panel discussion to follow)

The Trial

Joan Robinson / Australia / 2009 / 52 min

North American Premiere



In February 2008 twelve Muslim men went on trial in Melbourne for terrorism. The trial ran for nine months, heard hundreds of hours of secretly taped conversations and involved 66,000 pages of evidence. With unique access to Greg Barns, a key defence barrister, and Omar, the brother of one accused, this film examines one of the biggest court cases in Australia's history. During this trial there is more at stake than just the fate of the accused.

<http://www.360degreefilms.com.au/the-trial>

Ghosts

Morvay Samare / Canada-Norway / 2010 / 53 min



Three Arab-Canadian men are detained and tortured in Syria and Egypt. When released they return to Canada struggling to discover why they were detained and tortured. The Iacobucci inquiry revealed the Canadian government was complicit in their detention and torture. This is a powerful and intimate documentary about the fragile balance between democracy, human rights, national security fears, and paranoia.

Audience Award – Montreal Human Rights Film Festival.

<http://www.ramzprod.com/en/documentaries.php>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

10:30 am - matinee

The River Ran Red

J. Michael Hagopian / USA / 2009 / 59 min

Canadian premiere



An intense account of the epic search for survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. From 400 testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses, award-winning filmmaker J. Michael Hagopian weaves a story of terrifying intensity. This film takes audiences from the high land waters of the Euphrates River to the burning deserts of Syria.

Best International Historical Documentary Award – New York

<http://www.armenianfilm.org/>

11:45 am – matinee (double bill)

Ana 27

Lidiana Rodriguez / Spain / 2010 / 8 min

World theatrical premiere



Ana is 6 months pregnant and deeply in love with her partner, Daniel. But after he assaults her, she has to decide what to do next.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell

Gail Reticker / Liberia / 2008 / 72 min



This film chronicles the story of courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and mend a shattered country. Their actions were a critical element in bringing about an agreement despite stalled peace talks. *Pray the Devil* honours strength and perseverance. Inspiring, uplifting, and motivating, it is a compelling testimony of how grassroots activism alters history. *Numerous jury and best documentary awards.*

<http://www.praythediabacktohell.com/v3/>

1:45 pm - matinee

War Don Don

Rebecca Richmond Cohen / USA-Sierra Leone / 2010 / 85 min

Canadian premiere



In the heart of Freetown, Sierra Leone, United Nations soldiers guard a heavily fortified “special court.” Inside, Issa Sesay awaits trial. Prosecutors say Sesay is a war criminal guilty of heinous crimes against humanity. Defenders say he is a reluctant fighter who played a crucial role in bringing peace to Sierra Leone. With unprecedented access to prosecutors, defense attorneys, victims, and Sesay himself, this high production value film puts international justice on trial.

<http://www.wardondonfilm.com/>

3:30 pm - matinee

Nero's Guests

Deepa Bhatia / India / 2009 / 56 min

Canadian premiere



Nearly 200,000 farmers have committed suicide in India over the last 10 years but mainstream media has not noticed. *Nero's Guests* is a story about India's agrarian crisis and growing inequality as seen through the work of P. Sainath, Rural Affairs Editor of a Hindu newspaper. Through his writings and lectures, Sainath makes film goers confront the India many people don't want to see.
<http://www.nerosguests.com/>

5 pm

Welcome

Philippe Lioret / France / 2010 / 110 min



A 17-year-old Kurdish refugee has spent three months travelling across Europe in an attempt to reunite with a girlfriend who emigrated to England. The journey has been difficult but the end is in sight when he reaches the far northern France. Local authorities and immigration laws stand in his way and desperate measures are needed. A huge box office success in France, this absorbing drama speaks of wrenching social issues and exposes the drama of human conflict.

7:15 pm

The Devil Operation

Stephanie Boyd / Canada-Peru / 2010 / 69 min

Vancouver premiere



Father Marco, a humble priest from the mountains of Peru, is being stalked. A private security firm is filming and photographing his every move. Their meticulous reports are code-named "The Devil Operation." Marco's allies are murdered and tortured, but he and his disciples refuse to yield to intimidation. They turn cameras on the spies and develop a counter-espionage plan leading to South America's largest gold mine.

Top Ten -- Hot Docs Audience Awards. Q&A with director by Skype.

<http://www.guarango.org/diablo/>

9:15 pm

The Big Sell-Out

Florian Opitz / Germany / 2007 / 94 min



A compelling documentary about privatization, shot on four continents. This film depicts its ludicrous effects on water (Bolivia), electricity (South Africa), health care (Philippines), and British Rail (UK). This film breaks down an abstract phenomenon into a pugnacious portrait of concrete human destinies.

<http://www.bavaria-film-international.de>

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

11 am - matinee

Degrees of Incarceration

Amahl Bishara / Palestine-USA / 2009 / 59 min

Canadian premiere



This film documents the effects of political imprisonment on Palestinians in the West Bank. More than 6,000 Palestinians are currently in Israeli prisons for political reasons. More than 600,000 Palestinians have passed through Israeli prisons since 1967. Yet this issue rarely receives the attention Palestinians believe it deserves. The film introduces viewers to Palestinian mothers, teenagers, children, and community leaders as they support each other through arrest and detention.

<http://www.degreesofincarceration.com/>

12:30 pm - matinee

Kamenge, Northern Quarters

Manu Gerosa & Salva Munoz / Spain-Italy / 2010 / 59 min

World theatrical premiere



Alexis Sinduhije is fighting for justice in Burundi. The Northern Quarters of the capital city Bujumbura are the symbol of a cruel war; conflict between Hutu and Tutsi. Individual stories are interwoven with the life of Alexis who gave up his job as a journalist to stand for President in 2010. The filmmakers wonder if it is possible to build a liveable Burundi.

<http://www.kamengenorthernquarters.com/>

1:45 pm - matinee

Breaking the Silence: Burma's Resistance

Pierre Mignault and Helene Magny / Canada / 2009 / 75 min

Vancouver premiere



Filmmakers clandestinely enter one of Burma's most dangerous zones, penetrating into the heart of the Karen Nation, where civil war has been waging for 60 years. Few foreigners have ventured into this place where displaced people resist forced relocation by the military.

Panel discussion to follow.

<http://www.informactionfilms.com/en/productions/birmanie/index.html>

3:45 pm

Gasland

Josh Fox / USA / 2009 / 104 min

Vancouver premiere



The largest natural gas drilling boom in history has transformed the United States. Fracking or hydraulic fracturing has unlocked a “Saudi Arabia of natural gas” beneath the earth’s surface. But is fracking safe? When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease land to a drilling company, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering secrets, lies, contamination, political intrigue and many worrying questions. *Special Jury Award – Sundance*
<http://gaslandthemovie.com/>

6 pm

H2OIL

Shannon Walsh / Canada / 2009 / 77 min



A billion-dollar industry is extracting crude from the Athabasca tar sands through a controversial and toxic process. Downstream, the people of Fort Chipewyan are paying the price for what is becoming one of the largest industrial projects in history. When a local doctor raises the alarm about rare cancers, industry and government cover-ups are exposed. Which resource is more precious? And what price are Canadians willing to pay?
<http://h2oildoc.com>

8 pm

The Yes Men Fix the World

Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonnano / France and USA / 2009 / 87 min

2009 AIFF Gold Audience Award Winner



Two gonzo political activists infiltrate the world of big business, pulling off outrageous pranks to highlight ways corporate greed is destroying the planet. The Yes Men, Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonnano, have an unusual hobby: posing as top executives of corporations they hate. Armed with nothing but thrift-store suits, they lie their way into business conferences and parody their corporate nemeses (including DOW Chemical, Exxon, and Halliburton), investigate free market worship leading corporations and governments to put profits above people, and call for new ways of thinking in the Obama era. Panel discussion to follow. <http://theyesmenfixtheworld.com/>

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