



15th annual

DOCU WEEKS

docuweeks.com

NY august 12 - september 1, 2011

LA august 19 - september 8, 2011

International Documentary Association Announces Films for 15th Annual DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase

TWENTY-FOUR FILMS TO BE SHOWN IN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES FROM AUGUST 12TH – SEPTEMBER 8TH IN OSCAR® QUALIFYING RUN

LOS ANGELES, July 6, 2011 —A Marine Corps cover-up of one of the worst water contamination incidents in US history, the glaring reality of the media's objectification of women, as well as portraits of assassinated journalist Anna Politkovskaya and the man behind Elmo are all part of the lineup of outstanding films that will be presented in the International Documentary Association's 15th Annual DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase.

Screening from August 12th through September 1st in New York at the IFC Center (323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street) and August 19th through September 8th at the Laemmle Sunset 5 (8000 Sunset Blvd.), the 2011 edition of DocuWeeks™ will present seventeen feature films and seven shorts from sixteen different countries in theatrical runs designed to qualify the films for consideration for The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences' annual Oscar® Awards – and give documentary fans a chance to catch some of the best documentary films of the year.

“With every film playing for a full week, DocuWeeks™ gives movie-goers in Los Angeles and New York City multiple opportunities to see a great lineup of new documentary films,” says IDA Executive Director Michael Lumpkin. “After playing some of the world's major film festivals such as Berlin, Sundance, Tribeca, Hotdocs, Sheffield and Los Angeles, some of today's most talked about docs will now reach theatrical audiences on both coasts.”

The 15th Annual DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase is presented by the International Documentary Association with the support of presenting sponsors Current and AT&T U-verse; as well as HBO Documentary Films, FotoKem, NBCUniversal Archives, Chainsaw, Consulate of Canada, Menage a Trois Wines, OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network, The Standard Hotel, Stella Artois, FilmFest App, *LA Weekly*, *Village Voice*, *The Nation*.

Features appearing in this year's DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase are: *Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey*, *Better This World*, *A Bitter Taste of Freedom*, *The Boy Mir – Ten Years in Afghanistan*, *The Carrier*, *Darwin*, *Dying To Do Letterman*, *Hell and Back Again*, *The Mexican Suitcase*, *Miss Representation*, *Phnom Penh Lullaby*, *The Power of Two*, *Semper Fi; Always Faithful*, *S.O.S. / State of Security*, *The Tiniest Place (El Lugar Mas Pequeno)*, *To Be Heard*, *Unfinished Spaces*.

DocuWeeks™ will also present seven documentary short films including: *The Barber of Birmingham*, *The Home Front*, *Library of Dust*, *Maya Deren's Sink*, *Poetry of Resilience*, *Sand*, *Sun City Picture House*.

(See below for more information on the individual films.)

Tickets for individual films at the Laemmle Sunset 5 are \$11.00 for general admission, \$8.00 for IDA members, and \$8.00 for seniors and children.

Tickets for individual films at the IFC Center are \$13.00 for general admission, \$8.00 for IDA members and \$9.00 for seniors and children. Tickets can be purchased at the respective box offices, or through www.documentary.org/docuweeks2011 beginning July 15, 2011.

A complete schedule and additional information about each film can be found on the International Documentary Association's website at <http://www.documentary.org/docuweeks2011>.

Since its premiere in 1997 DocuWeeks™ has qualified over 161 short and feature length films for Oscar consideration and yielded 17 nominations and 7 winners. Documentaries presented in past DocuWeeks™ programs include Oscar® winners *Smile Pinki* (2008), *Taxi To The Dark Side* (2007) and *The Blood of Yingzhou District* (2006), as well as Oscar® Nominees *Wasteland* (2010), *Sun Come Up* (2010) *Killing in the Name* (2010), *Rabbit à la Berlin* (2009), *The Betrayal* (2008), *War/Dance* (2007), *Salim Baba* (2007) and *Sari's Mother* (2007).

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About IDA

The International Documentary Association (IDA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 1982 to support documentary filmmaking worldwide. At IDA, we believe that the power and artistry of the documentary are vital to cultures and societies globally, and we exist to serve the needs of those who create this art form. Our mission is to provide community, education, specific support services, opportunities and related resources to our clients, the documentary filmmakers.

About Laemmle Sunset 5

Laemmle Theaters is the premiere art house chain in Los Angeles. A family owned business established in 1938 by Kurt and Max Laemmle, nephews of Carl Laemmle, the founder of Universal Pictures, Laemmle Theatres spans three generations, and remains dedicated to bringing quality foreign and American independent film to the Los Angeles community.. Tickets can be purchased online and at the lobby box office. Laemmle offers a Premiere Card membership with ticket and concession discounts. The Laemmle Sunset 5 is located at 8000 W. Sunset Blvd at Crescent Heights Blvd in Los Angeles. Parking is available at the theater with validation up to three hours.

For membership, tickets and show times, visit www.laemmle.com.

About IFC Center

IFC Center, a five-screen, state-of-the-art cinema in the heart of New York's Greenwich Village, opened in June 2005 following an extensive renovation of the historic Waverly Theater. Bringing the very best in new foreign-language, American independent, and documentary features to NYC audiences, IFC Center is also known for its innovative repertory series and festivals, for showing short films before its regular features in the ongoing "Short Attention Span Cinema" program, and for special events such as the guest-curated "Movie Nights" and frequent in-person appearances by filmmakers. The theater's lobby concession stand features a unique array of food and merchandise, from organic popcorn, locally made vegan baked goods and David Lynch coffee to CineMetal t-shirts, books and a carefully curated selection of classic, foreign and independent films on DVD and Blu-Ray. IFC Center also offers a membership program that includes ticket and merchandise discounts, free members-only screenings and other rewards. For additional theater information, current and upcoming program details and more, visit www.ifccenter.com

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DocuWeeks™ 2011: COMPLETE FILM LINEUP

FEATURES:

Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey

Director/ Producer: Constance Marks
Producers: James Miller, Corinne LaPook
Writers: Philip Shane, Justin Weinstein
Constance Marks Productions, Inc.
76 min. USA

Beloved by children of all ages around the world, Elmo is an international icon. Few people know his creator, Kevin Clash, who dreamed of working with his idol, master puppeteer Jim Henson. Displaying his creativity and talent at a young age, Kevin ultimately found a home on *Sesame Street*. Narrated by Whoopi Goldberg, this documentary includes rare archival footage, interviews with Frank Oz, Rosie O'Donnell, Cheryl Henson, Joan Ganz Cooney and others, and offers a behind-the-scenes look at *Sesame Street* and the Jim Henson Workshop.

Better This World

Directors/Producers/Writers: Katie Galloway, Kelly Duane de la Vega
Producer: Mike Nicholson
Executive Producers: Julie Goldman, John Battsek, Nicole Stott,
Sally Jo Fifer/ITVS, Simon Kilmurry/American
Documentary/*POV*

Loteria Films
89 min. USA

Two boyhood friends from Midland, Texas—David McKay and Bradley Crowder—fall under the sway of a charismatic revolutionary ten years their senior. At the volatile 2008 Republican National Convention, the “Texas Two” cross a line that radically changes their lives. The result: eight homemade bombs, multiple domestic terrorism charges and a high stakes entrapment defense hinging on the actions of a controversial FBI informant. A dramatic story of idealism, loyalty, crime and betrayal, *Better This World* goes to the heart of the War on Terror and its impact on civil liberties and political dissent in post-9/11 America.

A Bitter Taste of Freedom

Director/Writer: Marina Goldovskaya
Producer: Malcolm Dixelius
GoldFilms, Dixit Int.
90 min. Sweden/ USA/Russia

In her fearless quest to uncover the wrongdoings of Russian authorities, Anna Politkovskaya inspired awe in some and fear in others. An investigative journalist for Moscow's liberal Novaya Gazeta, she was often the only spokesperson for innocent victims. At age 48 she was assassinated for simply doing her job. Shot within a period of 20 years this film creates an incredible story of a woman who consciously gave her life for her convictions.

The Boy Mir—Ten Years in Afghanistan

Director/Executive Producer/Writer: Phil Grabsky

Seventh Art Productions

90 min.

UK/Afghanistan

Following the international hit *The Boy who Plays on the Buddhas of Bamiyan*, *The Boy Mir* tracks cheeky, enthusiastic Mir from a childish 8 to a fully grown 18-year-old over ten years in Afghanistan. This is a journey into early adulthood in one of the toughest places on earth, and a journey that mirrors the vitally important story of Afghanistan.

The Carrier

Director/Producer: Maggie Betts

Producers: Ben Selkow, Joedan Okun, Benjamin Prager

Executive Producer: Roland Betts

Tent Full of Birds Production, LLC

88 min.

USA/Zambia

Told through the eyes of an increasingly empowered heroine, *THE CARRIER* is a powerful and moving portrait of an unconventional family, set against the backdrop of the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Zambia. This lyrical film follows Mutinta Mweemba, a 28-year-old subsistence farmer living in a polygamous marriage. After learning she is HIV positive and pregnant, Mutinta sets out to keep her unborn child virus-free and break the cycle of transmission.

Darwin

Director/Producer: Nick Brandestini

Executive Producer: Vesna Brandestini

Producers: Sandra Ruch, Taylor Segrest

Writer: Taylor Segrest

88 min.

Switzerland/USA

Darwin is a documentary film about an isolated community at the end of a weathered road in Death Valley, California. Propelled from society by tragic turns, the people of Darwin (population 35) must now find ways to coexist in a place without a government, a church, jobs, or children. The near-ghost town's survival depends on a fragile, gravity-fed waterline that descends from the mountains where top secret weapons are being tested. The film tells the story of a uniquely American place and yet a place that is unique even within America.

Dying to do Letterman

Directors/Producers/Executive Producers: Joke Fincioen, Biagio Messina

Executive Producers: Steve Mazan, Denise Mazan

Joke Productions, Inc.

80 min.

USA

This award-winning documentary follows funny man Steve Mazan as he chases a larger-than-life dream: performing stand-up comedy on David Letterman's show. However, his quest becomes far more urgent when he learns he may only have five years to live. With

long odds stacked against him, and time ticking away, Steve faces a universal question: Should one persevere in the face of every obstacle? Or is there finally a time to give up? A funny, inspiring, emotional film that proves it's never too late to chase your dream.

Hell and Back Again

Director: Danfung Dennis
Producers: Martin Herring, Mike Lerner
Executive Producers: Executive Producers: Dan Cogan, Karol Martesko-Fenster, Gernot Schaffler, Thomas Brunner, Maxyne Franklin

Roast Beef Productions

88 min.

UK/USA

From his embed with US Marines Echo Company in Afghanistan, photojournalist and filmmaker Danfung Dennis reveals the devastating impact a Taliban machine-gun bullet has on the life of 25-year-old Sergeant Nathan Harris. The film seamlessly transitions from stunning war reportage to an intimate, visceral portrait of one man's personal struggle at home in North Carolina, where Harris confronts the physical and emotional difficulties of re-adjusting to civilian life with the love and support of his wife, Ashley. Masterfully contrasting the intensity of the frontline with the unsettling normalcy of home, *Hell and Back Again* lays bare the true cost of war.

The Mexican Suitcase

Director/Producer/Writer: Trisha Ziff
Producers: Eamon O'Farrill, Paco Poch
212 Berlin/Mallerrich Films Paco Poch
86 min. Mexico/Spain

The Mexican Suitcase tells the story of the recovery of 4,500 negatives taken by photographers Robert Capa, Gerda Taro, and David Seymour during the Spanish Civil War. The film follows the journey of these negatives to Mexico – images as exiles, recovered seventy years later. *The Mexican Suitcase* brings together three narratives: the suitcase, the exile story, and looks at how people in Spain today address their own past, 30 years after transition. *The Mexican Suitcase* addresses the power of memory and asks who owns our histories?

Miss Representation

Director/Producer/Writer: Jennifer Siebel Newsom
Writer: Jessica Congdon
Executive Producers: Geralyn Dreyfous, Sarah Johnson Redlich, Regina Kulik Scully

Girls Club Entertainment, LLC

89 min.

USA

Like drawing back a curtain to let bright light stream in, *Miss Representation* uncovers a glaring reality we live with every day, but fail to see. It's clear the mainstream media objectifies women, but what most people don't realize is the magnitude of that phenomenon and the way objectification gets internalized—a symbolic annihilation of self-worth—and impedes girls and women from realizing their full potential. In a society

where media is the most persuasive force shaping cultural norms, the collective message that a woman's value and power lie only in her youth, beauty and sexuality is pervasive.
– Caroline Libresco/Sundance Film Festival

Phnom Penh Lullaby

Director/Producer/Writer: Pawel Kloc
Writer: Przemysław Niczyporuk
Parallax
98 min. Poland/Cambodia

Ilan Shickman left Israel dreaming of a new life. He now lives in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with his Khmer girlfriend, Saran, and their two young daughters, as he tries to make ends meet as a street fortune-teller. Ilan works at night, near bars frequented by prostitutes and drug dealers. He decides to place the older, 2-year-old daughter with Saran's family in the countryside, but the family doesn't want to care for Marie for free. Ilan and his family have to return to Phnom Penh, and he still must decide about Marie's future. *Phnom Penh Lullaby* is about people entrapped in their lives as they struggle to realize the dream of a happy, loving family.

The Power Of Two

Director/Producer: Marc Smolowitz
Producer: Andrew Byrnes
Executive Producer: Chris Kelly
Twin Triumph Productions
94 min. USA/Japan

The Power of Two offers an intimate portrayal of the bond between half-Japanese twin sisters Anabel Stenzel and Isabel Stenzel Byrnes, their lifelong battle with cystic fibrosis, their survival through miraculous double lung transplants and their improbable emergence as authors, athletes and global advocates for organ donation. Featuring expert interviews, archival footage and deeply personal testimony from the twins and others whose lives have been impacted by organ transplantation from the US and Japan, the film provides unprecedented insight into the personal and societal aspects of this modern medical miracle affecting millions worldwide.

Semper Fi: Always Faithful

Directors/Producers: Rachel Libert, Tony Hardmon
Producers: Jedd Wider, Todd Wider
Executive Producers: Wendy Ettinger, Judith Helfand, Julia Parker Benello
Tied to the Tracks Films, Inc
76 min. USA

As a devoted Marine for nearly 25 years, Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger lived and breathed the "Corps." When his 9-year-old daughter dies from a rare type of leukemia, Jerry wants to know why. His search for answers leads him to a shocking discovery: a Marine Corps cover-up of one of the worst water contamination incidents in US history. With relentless determination, he spearheads a decades-long battle to make this information public and hold the Marine Corps accountable. *Semper Fi: Always Faithful* is a searing look at the

military's betrayal of its soldiers and an emotional story of one man's transformation into the activist he never imagined he'd become.

S.O.S. / State of Security

Director/Producer/Writer: Michèle Ohayon
Producers: Gary Prebula, Len Sherman
Executive Producer: Gary Ungar
Diamond Lane Films & Sidney Kimmel
87 min. USA

January 2001. Nine months before 9/11, Richard Clarke briefs Condoleezza Rice on a strategy to “deter, defeat, and respond vigorously to” al-Qaeda. Clarke’s proposal is dismissed. In March 2004, Clarke memorably declares before the 9/11 Commission, “I failed you, your government failed you.” He resigns before the Iraq War. The film exposes Clarke’s dramatic 30-year experience in the White House as counter-terrorism czar and head of cyber security. Ohayon (Oscar® nominee,) gives a rare look at the people behind National Security, military generals, CIA, hackers, vets, ambassadors who are speaking out.

The Tiniest Place (El Lugar Más Pequeño)

Director/Writer: Tatiana Huezo
Producer: Nicolás Celis
Executive Producers: Liliana Pardo, Henner Hofmann
Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica/Foprocine
104 min. Mexico/El Salvador

This is a story about mankind’s ability to arise, to rebuild and reinvent itself after surviving a tragedy. It is also a story about a people that have learned to live with their sorrow; of an annihilated town that re-emerges through the strength and deep love of its inhabitants for the land and the people. A tiny place nestled in the mountains amidst the humid Salvadorian jungle.

To Be Heard

Directors/Producers: Roland Legiardi-Laura, Edwin Martinez, Deborah Shaffer, Amy Sultan
Executive Producers: Jill and Jim Angelo/Dialogue Pictures, Sally Jo Fifer/ITVS
To Be Heard, LLC
87 min. USA

Three Bronx teens search for their voices and an answer to the question, Can language change lives? Karina, Pearl and Anthony are precariously balanced on the edge. Inspired by three teachers in a radical poetry workshop, they set out to write their own life stories, imagining a future where fathers aren't in jail, mothers aren't abusive and college is the place where you wake up every morning instead of just dreaming about it each night. A dedicated filmmaking team follows their lives, celebrating the value of poetry, compassionate teachers, and the power that comes from mastering language and learning to write your own life story.

Unfinished Spaces

Directors/Producers: Alysa Nahmias, Benjamin Murray
Ajna Films
86 min. USA/Cuba

In 1961, three young, visionary architects were commissioned by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara to create Cuba's National Art Schools on the grounds of a former Havana golf course. Construction of their radical designs began immediately, and artists from all over the country reveled in the beauty of the schools. But as the dream of the Revolution quickly became a reality, construction was halted and the architects and their designs were deemed irrelevant in the prevailing political climate. Forty years later, the schools are in use, but decaying. Castro has invited the exiled architects back to finish their unrealized dream.

SHORTS

The Barber of Birmingham

Directors/Producers: Gail Dolgin, Robin Fryday
Producer: Judith Helfand
Executive Producer: Chicken & Egg Pictures
Purposeful Productions, Inc.
26 min. USA

Mr. James Armstrong is a rank-and-file "Foot Soldier" and proud proprietor of Armstrong's Barbershop, a cultural and political hub in Birmingham, Alabama, since 1955. Eight-five years-young, he fought for the right to vote while carrying the American flag in the 1965 Bloody Sunday march from Selma to Montgomery. He was the first to integrate his children in the all-white Graymont Elementary School. On the eve of the election of the first African-American president, Mr. Armstrong, the barber of Birmingham, sees his unimaginable dream come true.

The Home Front

Director: Phie Ambo
Producer: Sigrid Dyekjaer
Danish Documentary
40 min. Denmark

The Home Front is about conflicts in our private sphere: feuds between neighbors. The film follows a boundary inspector who mediates between disagreeing neighbors. We enter the homes of the feuding parties to learn about the conflicts from both sides. Why is it so difficult to solve a conflict so close at hand? And what do fences and hedges represent? Is this really what the conflicts are all about?

Library of Dust

Directors/Producers: Ondi Timoner, Robert James
Producer: Kyle Parker
Interloper Films/NuReality Productions
16 min. USA

Thousands of corroded copper urns containing the cremated remains of unclaimed psychiatric patients were discovered in 2004. A tour of the Oregon State Hospital involving the local press and a State Senator was conducted to uncover the deplorable conditions of the hospital. What they didn't expect to find was a storeroom full of human ashes dating back to the late 1800s. Photos are taken of the mysterious corrosive effect on the canisters, and several histories of these forgotten souls are revealed in this unique tale.

Maya Deren's Sink

Director/Producer/Writer: Barbara Hammer
Barbara Hammer Productions
30 min. USA

Maya Deren's Sink, a tribute to Maya Deren, the mother of avant-garde American film, evokes her creative spirit through a meditation on the architectural details of her homes. Fragments from Deren's films are projected in the spaces where they were originally filmed while a ghosted actor performs a script crafted from her writing. Teiji Ito's family, Carolee Schneemann, Judith Malvina and others tell stories of Deren's fiery personality, driving ambition, and charm. As "the walls speak" Deren lives again in this evocative documentary film.

Poetry of Resilience

Director/Producer/Writer: Katja Esson
Producers: Corinna Sager, Alison Granucci, Sabine Schenk
Executive Producer: Jan Warner
Penelope Pictures LLC
40 min. USA

Poetry of Resilience is a 40-minute documentary about six poets from around the world who survived some of the worst political atrocities of the 20th Century: Hiroshima, the Holocaust, China's Cultural Revolution, the Kurdish Genocide in Iraq, the Rwandan Genocide, the Iranian Revolution. By summoning the creative voice of poetry to tell stories of survival and witness, each reclaims humanity and dignity in the wake of some of history's most dehumanizing circumstances. With grace and humor, the film explores language as an internal means of survival—for the poet and the readers of poems.

Sand

Director/Executive Producer: Cari Ann Shim Sham
Executive Producer: Kyle Ruddick
10 min. USA

A rhythmic and visual collage, the film *Sand* takes a close look at *sand dance* as it is passed down from a father to his son. *Sand dance* is a quickly disappearing American dance form that stems from turn of the century vaudevillian and traveling shows. With only a handful of people left today still performing it, this film is a rare archive of the transference of *sand dance* or "passin' the sand", from one generation to the next. Featuring emerging tap dance artist Kenji Igus and his father Darrow. Shot on the Canon 5dMarkii.

Sun City Picture House

Director:	David Darg
Producer:	Bryn Mooser
Executive Producers:	Olivia Wilde, Maria Bello
RyotFilms	
27 min.	Haiti

After watching the last of the old movie theaters get destroyed in the Haiti earthquake, a young Haitian man rallies an entire community to build a cinema and make his dream come alive on a hill above a tent city.