13th annual

DOCU WEEKS

july 31 - august 20, 2009
www.documentary.org

new york

IFC Center: 323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street

PRESENTING SPONSOR

LANGLEY PRODUCTIONS
Welcome to IDA's 13th Annual DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase

Since its debut in 1997, DocuWeeks™ has presented over 133 short and feature length documentaries to appreciative audiences in theatrical runs designed to qualify the films for consideration for the Academy Award®. Sixteen of these worthy documentaries have gone on to be nominated for the Oscar® including The Betrayal (2008), War/Dance (2007), Salim Baba (2007) and Sari's Mother (2007). Seven, including Smile Pinki (2008), Taxi To The Dark Side (2007) and The Blood of Yingzhou District (2006), have won the coveted award.

This year we have expanded our DocuWeeks™ showcase from one to three weeks. From July 31 through August 20 in both Los Angeles and New York, DocuWeeks™ will present 18 feature films and 10 short films from the United States, Russia, Australia, Nepal, Zambia, the United Kingdom, France and Norway. The films range from the astonishing sagas of starvation, persecution and escape from the world's worst human rights violator in Kimjongilia, to the surprising inside scoop on an iconic cult in Smile 'Til It Hurts: The Up With People Story to compelling truths about humans and dirt in DIRT! The Movie. And that's just a sample of what DocuWeeks™ 2009 has to offer.

As Executive Director of the International Documentary Association, I invite you to sit back and be informed, enlightened and moved by these and all of the other great films in this year's line up, as we proudly present our selection of some of the most accomplished and groundbreaking documentary films being made today.

Michael Lumpkin, Executive Director

About IDA

The IDA is a nonprofit, membership organization based in Los Angeles. The organization was founded in 1982 to promote and celebrate nonfiction filmmakers and is dedicated to increasing public awareness and appreciation of the documentary genre. For more information about IDA membership, the DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase and other IDA programs, visit www.documentary.org.

Venue

IFC Center
323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street
New York, NY 10014
(212) 924-7771

Ticket Information

Tickets for individual DocuWeeks™ films at the IFC Center are $12.50 for general admission, $9.50 for IDA members and $8.50 for seniors and children.

Tickets can be purchased at the IFC Center box office located at 323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street, New York, NY 10014, or online at www.documentary.org/docuweeks09.
Garbage Dreams
DIRECTOR: Mai Iskander
PRODUCERS: Mai Iskander, Kate Hirson
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Tiffany Schauer
80 min. U.S.A | Iskander Films in co-production with MotiveArt in association with Chicken & Egg Pictures

Garbage Dreams follows three teenage boys born into the trash trade and growing up in the world’s largest garbage village on the outskirts of Cairo. It is the home to 60,000 Zaballeen — Arabic for “garbage people.” Far ahead of any modern “Green” initiatives, the Zaballeen survive by recycling 80 percent of the garbage they collect. When their community is suddenly faced with the globalization of its trade, each of the teenage boys is forced to make choices that will impact his future and the survival of his community.

Hunting Down Memory
DIRECTOR: Thomas Lien
PRODUCER: Petter Vennerød
WRITER: Thomas Lien
80 min. Norway | Merkur Film as

Hunting Down Memory is a true story about Øyvind Aamodt, who suddenly loses 27 years of his memory. For most people, this would be a dreadful experience, an ominous and frightening event in their life. For Øyvind, it is an adventure. He is neither traumatized nor paralyzed; he is just curious. At the age of 27, he has to start learning how the world functions. He experiences the world with the consciousness of a child, is confronted with various prejudices, and must build a new identity.

RACING DREAMS
DIRECTOR/WRITER: Marshall Curry
PRODUCERS: Marshall Curry, Bristol Baughan
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Jack Turner, Ben Goldhirsh, Dwayne Johnson, Dany Garcia
97 min. U.S.A | GOOD / White Buffalo Entertainment / Fire Tower Films / Racing Dreams LLC

Racing Dreams is a vérité documentary film following the lives of three young racers as they compete in the World Karting Association’s National Pavement Series. Clocking speeds up to 70 mph, Brandon Warren (13), Josh Hobson (12) and Annabeth Barnes (11) chase the National Champion title — and take one step closer toward their dream of someday racing in NASCAR.
Severe Clear
DIRECTOR/WRITER: Kristian Fraga
PRODUCER: Kristian Fraga, Marc Perez
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Benjamin Charbit, John L. Sikes
94 min. U.S.A. | SirkProductions
Armed with the world’s most lethal ordnance and his home video camera, First Lieutenant Michael T. Scotti takes us on an epic first-person journey with the Marine Corps as they fight their way 300 miles from Kuwait to Baghdad. No Reporters... No Politics... No Censors... This is what he saw.

Tapped
DIRECTOR: Stephanie Soechtig
PRODUCERS: Stephanie Soechtig, Sarah Gibson, Jessie Deeter, Ellen Mai
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Michael Walrath, Michelle Walrath
WRITERS: Josh David, Jason Lindsey, Stephanie Soechtig
76 min. U.S.A. | AtlasFilms
Is access to clean drinking water a basic human right, or is water a commodity that should be bought and sold like any other article of commerce? Stephanie Soechtig’s debut feature is an unflinching examination of the big business of bottled water. From the producers of Who Killed the Electric Car? and I.O.U.S.A., this timely documentary is a behind-the-scenes look into the unregulated and unseen world of an industry that aims to privatize and sell back the one resource that ought never become a commodity: our water.

YES MADAM, SIR
DIRECTOR/WRITER: Megan Doneman
PRODUCER: Laraine Doneman
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Monica Blinco, John Lynch
95 min. Australia | Sojourn Films
YES MADAM, SIR tells the compelling story of one of India’s most iconic revolutionaries, Kiran Bedi. An Asia Nobel Prize winner and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Bedi is one of the world’s greatest living change agents, yet remains an intriguing paradox — defied by millions for her commitment to social justice and her public stance against corruption, and vilified by the establishment as a publicity-seeking, uncontrollable megalomaniac. YES MADAM, SIR carries the audience through Bedi’s controversial work life, from manning Asia’s largest and most notoriously corrupt and brutal prison, through her effort to weed out corruption in the Indian police force.
DIRT! The Movie
DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS: Bill Benenson, Gene Rosow
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Laurie Benenson
NARRATION WRITERS: Gene Rosow, Linda Post, Laurie Benenson
86 min. U.S.A. | Common Ground Media, Inc.

DIRT! The Movie tells the compelling story of humans and dirt — from Dirt's point of view. In the beginning, Dirt and humans celebrate their union with grateful rituals and nurture a loving fruitful relationship. But as humans turn greedy and indifferent, they begin to slash away at forests, strip the land and level mountain ranges. When Dirt can no longer produce what humans need, they add chemicals that turn Dirt into something dirty. Now, Dirt must search for those select humans interested in saving their relationship, and all of humanity, before it’s too late.

Mugabe and the White African
DIRECTORS: Lucy Bailey, Andrew Thompson
PRODUCERS: David Pearson, Elizabeth Morgan Hemlock
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Steve Milne, Pauline Burt
89 min. United Kingdom | Arturis Films in association with Explore Films, the Film Agency For Wales and Molinare Productions

Michael Campbell is one of the few hundred white farmers still left in Zimbabwe since President Robert Mugabe began his land seizure program. Mike, like hundreds of farmers before him, has suffered years of multiple land invasions and violence at his farm. But now this grandfather, a tough, humorous, 74-year-old, fifth-generation, white African farmer, is alone in making a stand. He is taking Mugabe to an international court in Namibia in May for racism and violation of his civil rights. Mike and his son-in-law Ben Freeth stand ready to protect their life's work.

Smile 'Til It Hurts: The Up With People Story
DIRECTOR/WRITER: Lee Storey
PRODUCERS: Lee Storey, Bari Pearman
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Jack Lechner
79 min. U.S.A. | Storey Vision Productions

Smile 'Til It Hurts: The Up With People Story explores the clean-cut, smile-drenched singing phenomenon Up With People. The group was born in response to the counter-culture of the '60s, spun from the controversial maneuverings of a religious sect called Moral Re-Armament, backed by millions of corporate dollars, and launched around the globe to exemplify conservative American values. Told by former Uppies whose compelling stories take us on an intimate journey, the film reveals what happens when ideology, money and groupthink converge to co-opt youthful idealism.
Soundtrack For A Revolution
DIRECTORS/WRITERS: Bill Guttentag, Dan Sturman
PRODUCERS: Bill Guttentag, Dan Sturman, Joslyn Barnes, Jim Czarnecki, Dylan Nelson
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Danny Glover, Jarrett Lilien, Gina Harrell, Mark E. Downie, Marc Henry Johnson
83 min. U.S.A. | Louverture Films / Freedom Song / Goldcrest Films International / Wild Bunch

Soundtrack For A Revolution tells the story of the American Civil Rights Movement through its powerful music — the freedom songs protesters sang in their fight for justice and equality. The film features vibrant new performances by top artists, including John Legend, Wyclef Jean, Joss Stone and The Roots; riveting archival footage; and interviews with civil rights foot soldiers and leaders, including Congressman John Lewis, Harry Belafonte, Julian Bond and Ambassador Andrew Young.

Fri 8/7 1:45 pm 7:40 pm
Sat 8/8 3:30 pm 9:45 pm
Sun 8/9 12 noon 5:15 pm
Mon 8/10 1:45 pm 7:40 pm
Tue 8/11 3:30 pm 9:45 pm
Wed 8/12 12 noon 5:15 pm
Thu 8/13 3:55 pm 9:50 pm

Split Estate
DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Debra Anderson
WRITERS: Joe Day, Avery Garrett, Jean Wendt
77 min. U.S.A. | Red Rock Pictures

Imagine discovering that you don’t own the mineral rights under your land, and that an energy company plans to drill for natural gas 200 feet from your front door. Split Estate maps a tragedy in the making, as citizens in the path of a new drilling boom in the Rocky Mountain West struggle against the erosion of their civil liberties, their communities and their health.

Fri 8/7 1:25 pm 8:00 pm
Sat 8/8 2:55 pm 9:50 pm
Sun 8/9 12 noon 4:30 pm
Mon 8/10 1:25 pm 6:05 pm
Tue 8/11 2:55 pm 9:50 pm
Wed 8/12 12 noon 4:30 pm
Thu 8/13 1:25 pm 6:05 pm

SUNRISE/SUNSET: DALAI LAMA XIV
DIRECTOR/WRITER: Vitaly Manski
76 min. Russian Federation | Studio Vertov / Real Cinema

SUNRISE/SUNSET: DALAI LAMA XIV depicts a nominal 24 hours spent by the film crew inside the residence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, from the beginning of his day, which starts at 3:00 a.m., until sunset, when the Buddhist leader goes to bed. Filmmaker Vitaly Manski also got a chance to enjoy an informal conversation about the essence of the universe and the role an individual has to play in religion in general and Buddhism in particular in the frameworks of contemporary society.

Fri 8/7 12 noon 6:15 pm
Sat 8/8 1:30 pm 8:05 pm
Sun 8/9 3:00 pm 9:50 pm
Mon 8/10 12 noon 4:30 pm
Tue 8/11 1:30 pm 8:05 pm
Wed 8/12 3:00 pm 9:50 pm
Thu 8/13 12 noon 4:30 pm
12 notes down
DIRECTOR: Andreas Koefoed
PRODUCER: Caroline Blanco
27 min. Denmark | Danske Filmmøle
Fourteen-year-old Jorgis is a gifted choirboy. He has sung solos in concert halls all over the world and has touched millions of people on television. One day, his singing teacher tells him that his voice is starting to break and he has to stop singing soon. Jorgis knew it would happen at some point, but it still comes as a big shock. By losing his voice, he loses his ability to express himself and move people. He is forced to leave behind his identity as a boy singer and move towards a new life as a young man.

Crossing Midnight
DIRECTOR: Kim A. Snyder
PRODUCERS: Kim A. Snyder, Peggy Rajski
30 min. U.S.A. | BeCause Foundation
Crossing Midnight tells the story of a remarkable community of refugees from Burma working against incredible odds to help their own. During the violent crackdown of the 1988 student uprising, Dr. Cynthia Maung and a group of fellow students fled to the border of Thailand. There, with virtually nothing in hand, they created the Mae Tao Clinic in a one-room barn. Today, in the midst of an unparalleled healthcare crisis, the clinic has grown into a community of over 500 healthcare workers, a school for refugee children and a dedicated group of cross-border backpack medics.

Aliens Among Us
DIRECTOR: Martina Radwan
PRODUCERS: Martina Radwan, Riva Marker, Pelin Uzay
25 min. U.S.A.
The war on terror has gone on for over seven years, yet all policies implemented have failed to produce significant results. John Ashcroft’s Justice Department designed a registration program for immigrants already in the US, based on their nationality, not on the targeted people’s actions. Aliens Among Us describes the lives of these people, who are targeted because they are “different” and therefore a potential danger. The drastic measures are supposed to protect us from them. But where do we draw the line?

Rabbit à la Berlin
DIRECTOR: Bartek Konopka
PRODUCER: Anna Wydra
WRITERS: Anna Wydra, Bartek Konopka, Piotr Rosolowski, Mateusz Romaszkan, Michal Ogorek
40 min. Germany, Poland
This documentary is a fascinating history lesson told through the eyes of animals. The unknown story of the thousands of wild rabbits who lived in the Death Zone of the Berlin Wall. For 28 years, the strip of earth enclosed between the two walls was their safest of enclaves — full of grass, no predators, and guards to ensure that no one disturbed them. But sadly, one day the wall fell...The rabbits’ fate serves as a guise for an allegorical tale of a totalitarian system.
Kimjongilia

DIRECTOR/WRITER: NC Heikin
PRODUCERS: NC Heikin, Robert Pépin, Young-Sun Cho, David Novack
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Mike Figgis
73 min. France / U.S.A. | Green Garnet Productions LLC

Kimjongilia follows several North Korean defectors as they tell their astonishing stories of starvation, persecution and escape from the world’s worst human rights violator, the so-called Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The *kimjongilia* is a flower that was bred to celebrate North Korean leader Kim Jong Il’s 46th birthday, and is said to represent love, peace, justice and wisdom. Children sent to prison for alleged crimes of their grandparents; refugees caught in China and deported back to North Korea for imprisonment and torture; relentless famine: These testimonies give lie to the lofty propaganda of Kim Jong Il’s regime.

Living in Emergency: Stories of Doctors Without Borders

DIRECTOR: Mark N. Hopkins
PRODUCERS: Mark N. Hopkins, Naisloa Grimwood, Daniel Holton-Roth, Chris Cooper, Louis Spiegler
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Erika Berlín, Molly Conners, Geralyn White-Dreyfous, Mark Jonathan Harris, Sarah Johnson Redlich, Christopher Woodrow, Diana Barbet, Pam Boll, Ian McGlone
90 min. U.S.A. | Red Floor Pictures

For the first time in its history, a film crew has been allowed access to the field operations of the world largest medical NGO — Doctors Without Borders. Filmed in the war zones of Liberia and Congo, *Living in Emergency* follows four volunteer doctors as they struggle to provide emergency care in extreme conditions. Amidst the chaos, each volunteer must confront the severe challenges of the work, the tough choices and the limits of their own idealism.

Rock Prophecies

DIRECTOR: John Chester
PRODUCER: Tim Kaiser
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Tim Kaiser, John Chester, Bruce Friedman, Andrew J. Funnell, Sandy Deeley
80 min. U.S.A. | RockDoc, LLC

Imagine seeing bands like Led Zeppelin or the Rolling Stones long before they became famous. Legendary rock photographer Robert Knight did just that, and has the photos to prove it. *Rock Prophecies* explores Knight’s amazing career and follows him on his quest to help the bands of today become the rock legends of tomorrow. When Knight stumbles upon Tyler Dow Bryant, a 16-year-old guitar phenom from Texas, he’s convinced he may have found the next Stevie Ray Vaughan. Risking his reputation and career, Knight sets off on an unbelievable journey with Bryant to take their own shot at making history.
Saint Misbehavin’: The Wavy Gravy Movie

DIRECTOR: Michelle Esrick  
PRODUCER: Michelle Esrick, David Becker  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: DA Pennebaker  
88 min. | U.S.A. | Ripple Effect Films

Saint Misbehavin’ reveals the true story of cultural phenomenon Wavy Gravy, a man whose commitment to making the world a better place has never wavered. Wavy Gravy is known as the MC of the Woodstock Festival, a hippie icon, a clown and even a Ben & Jerry’s ice cream flavor. In Saint Misbehavin’, we meet a true servant to humanity who carries his message through humor and compassion. The film weaves together intimate vérité footage, reflections from an array of cultural and countercultural peers, and never-before-seen archival footage to tell a story that is bigger than the man himself.

The Sari Soldiers

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Julie Bridgham  
93 min. | U.S.A. | Butter Lamp Films LLC / Women Make Movies

The Sari Soldiers is an extraordinary story of six women’s courageous efforts to transform Nepal’s future in the midst of an escalating civil war. When Devi, mother of a 15-year-old girl, witnesses her niece being murdered by the Royal Nepal Army, she speaks publicly about the atrocity. The army abducts her daughter in retaliation, and Devi embarks on a three-year struggle to uncover her daughter’s fate and see justice done. The Sari Soldiers follows her and five other brave women, delving into their extraordinary journey, through the democratic revolution that reshapes the country’s future.

Sweet Crude

DIRECTOR: Sandy Cioffi  
PRODUCERS: Kate Wolf, Sandy Cioffi, Leslye Wood, Tammi Sims, Cliff Worsham, Laurie Hicks, Kathleen McInnis  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Menno van Wyk, Jody Hall, Elisabeth Rudolf  
WRITERS: Leslye Wood, Jill Freidberg, Sandy Cioffi  
94 min. | U.S.A. | Virasana Productions / Vérité Coffee / Sweet Crude LLC

In the summer of 2008, militants from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) declared an “oil war” in Nigeria. This was one of the biggest spikes yet on a radar screen dotted with conflict and tragedy. Sweet Crude is the story of the Niger Delta; of the villagers of Opobo, headquarters of the insurgency; and of members of the armed resistance who, in the three years since the filmmakers met them as college students, became the young men of MEND.