

HUMAN RIGHTS

arts & film festival

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THE MONTHLY



MAKE POVERTY HISTORY



Presented by
HRAFF and the
BRISBANE POWERHOUSE

Sat 29 - Sun 30 May 2010

Bringing you the boldest films from Australia and around the globe, the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival will challenge, touch and inspire audiences from all walks of life.

The Human Rights Arts & Film Festival is a dynamic and vibrant festival featuring a variety of creative media aimed at raising awareness and generating debate on human rights issues. This year HRAFF returns to Brisbane after sold out sessions and rave reviews in 2009. Join women around the world as they fight for equality, follow the path of an Iranian artist seeking cultural liberation or come and discuss films aimed to raise Climate Change awareness. Through the medium of Arts and Film, HRAFF dismantles traditional notions of human rights and who should be interested in them and aims to create awareness in the broader Australian community about issues that affect us all.

In 2010 HRAFF Brisbane has grown to include 4 film sessions, guest speakers and an evening of free live music. Highlights of the festival include a Q&A session with My Tehran for Sale Director Granaz Moussavi and lead actor Amir Chegini, an evening of entertainment on the Turbine Platform featuring Tibetan performer Tenzin Choegyal, a climate change discussion forum and other guest speakers soon to be announced!

Tickets: Adults \$15, Conc. \$13.50, Festival Pass \$46.
For more information visit <http://hraff.mysite4now.net/Films/Brisbane.aspx>

For tickets visit <http://www.brisbanepowerhouse.org/events/view/human-rights-arts-and-film-festival/>

For further media information, feel free to contact brisbanemedia@hraff.org.au
Or Peter McNaughton on 0430350445.



Session 1

1.30pm SATURDAY 29 MAY

Visy Theatre

MY TEHRAN FOR SALE

Featuring Q&A with the film's Director Granaz Moussavi and lead actor Amir Chegini.

Granaz Moussavi / Australia/Iran (Persian with English Sub.) /2009 / 95 Minutes / Drama

SYNOPSIS

Forced to lead a secret life in order to express herself artistically, Marzieh, a young actress, is offered a way out of Iran and the possibility of living without fear when she meets Saman, an Iranian born Australian citizen. Shot undercover in Tehran, with a striking soundtrack of contemporary Iranian music, this film reveals a vibrant Tehran that exists below the surface. This is a story that encapsulates the struggle for cultural freedom by young Iranians.

AWARDS and SELECTIONS

IF Awards 2009 – Winner: Independent Spirit Award

Toronto International Film Festival 2009 – Official Selection

Pusan International Film Festival 2009 – Official Selection

Rotterdam International Film Festival 2010 – Official Selection



Session 2
8pm SATURDAY 29 MAY
Visy Theatre

A POWERFUL NOISE

Presented by CARE Australia

Tom Cappello / USA (Vietnamese/Bosnian with English Sub.) / 2008 / 80min / Doco

SYNOPSIS

Hanh is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam, Nama, a survivor of the Bosnian war, and Jacqueline works the slums of Bamako, Mali. *A Powerful Noise* takes you inside the lives of these women to witness their daily challenges and their significant victories over poverty and oppression. Their stories are personal yet illustrate larger issues affecting millions of women worldwide. *A Powerful Noise* is a meditation on the inherent potential of women to change the world.

AWARDS and SELECTIONS

Silverdocs 2008 – Official Selection

Tribeca Film Festival 2008 – Official Selection

Global Peace Film Festival 2008 – Official Selection

Session 3

11am SUNDAY 30 MAY

Visy Theatre

REEL CHANGE SHORTS

Proudly Sponsored By Make Poverty History

A standout success of the inaugural 2009 Brisbane HRAFF, the Reel Change Shorts will introduce you to a new crop of striking films that discuss and illustrate issues plaguing communities the world over.

TIDE OF CHANGE

Amie Batalibasi / Australia / 2009 / 11.40min / Doco

Tide of Change documents the filmmaker's journey to visit her family in the Solomon Islands at a time when the community is on the brink of enormous change.

LAND HAS BREATH

Ivan Golovnev / Russia / 2009 / 8.30min / Doco

Skava Cheltuev, is an Altai community leader and shaman who stresses the importance of reviving age-old wisdom that instructs the respectful and harmonious relationship between local environment and human behavior.

K_SCAPES

Sam Cole / Italy/Niger / 2008 / 10min / Doco

Special mention at Bellaria Fim Festival

The inhabitants of Keita Valley (Niger) have managed to halt the advance of the desert by planting trees, transforming 5000 square kilometers of barren landscape into a flourishing valley.

THE FORBIDDEN FOREST OF THE DAYAK

Luis Patron and Citt Williams / Indonesia / 2009 / 9.05min / Doco

Deep in the old growth forests of Borneo, the Setulang Deyak community guards its forest with deep commitment, withstanding increasing pressure from encroaching logging industries.

PAPIROFLEXIA

Joaquin Baldwin / USA / 2007 / 2.34min / Animation

Winner of 22 awards worldwide

An origami tale of a skillful paper folder who could shape the world with his hands.

AT THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH, OF WELLS AND MEN

Winner of 4 awards including Best Short Film, Cinemambiente

Ingid Patetta / France/Niger / 2008 / 23min / Doco

Enter the world of the traditional well diggers of Niger who fight against the harsh desert sands in order to find water.

FIGHTING CARBON WITH FIRE

Kim McKenzie / Australia / 2009 / 5.40min / Doco

Aboriginal fire ecologist, Dean Yibarbuk, has been working with local scientists to adapt a regime of traditional management to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while caring for country.

THE WATER DIARY

Jane Campion / Australia/France / 2007 / 15.40min / Drama

Awards: Official selection Cannes Film Festival

In the worst drought in history Felicity plays the viola on an empty water tank in an attempt to bring the rain.



Session 4

6.30pm SUNDAY 30 MAY

Visy Theatre

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL (USA)

Abigail E. Disney and Gini Reticker / USA / 2008 / 72min / Doco

SYNOPSIS

Pray the Devil Back to Hell documents an often overlooked chapter in recent world history, the remarkable revolution of the women of Liberia. Tired of bloody civil war but not defeated by the violence that plagued their nation, thousands of Christian and Muslim women came together with one single objective: peace. They confronted brutal warlords and the corrupt Charles Taylor regime armed only with an overwhelming desire to end the war and a collective belief that change was possible. "And we said, well, if I should get killed, just remember that I was fighting for peace"

AWARDS and SELECTIONS

Tribeca Film Festival – Winner Best Documentary

Silverdocs 2008 – Winner Witness Award

IDFA 2008 – Official Selection

Tri Continental Film Festival 2009 – Jury Award/Best Film

Movies That Matter 2009 – Golden Butterfly



The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

I applaud this Festival. Media and popular culture play a huge role in raising human rights consciousness. They make other people's injustices our own. When I was young, the TV soapie Number 96 did much more to advance understanding of gay rights than any court case or learned speech.

Despite the progress made in recent decades, there is much work still to be done to promote and protect human rights within Australia and around the world. I hope the Festival is a great success – like Matthew Mitcham's diving, Ross Watson's painting and Kerryn Phelps' leadership on health: impressive, inspiring and a source of pride for all.



Margaret Pomeranz

It's a tribute to Australian audiences that there is such concern about Human Rights that the Festival has been supported to such an extent. It gladdens my heart. Film and the arts have so much power to influence the way we see the world, to heighten our awareness of the plight of those in our community and in the world community whose rights as human beings are being neglected and to prick our conscience about every individual's responsibility towards our fellow men and women. My belief in film and the arts generally as a medium to share the human condition, to move us to action about issues that go to the heart of our identity as compassionate and decent people has been validated. I supported the concept of this Festival from its early beginnings and I continue to do so. It is significant that this Festival has had such an impact over the years, it speaks volumes about us as a community that it has flourished.



Warwick Thornton

Not all of us enjoy basic human rights, those of us who do have the responsibility to yell and scream and fight for those who don't! A film festival like this reminds us of the imbalance within our own country and around the world, furthermore it is in some strange way, a celebration of the power of film to propel change for the better.



Isabel Lucas

As young Australians, we have the opportunity and responsibility to inform ourselves, reflect upon and comment on the human rights and environmental conditions that affect our fellow human beings in this country and abroad.

There are so many ways to raise awareness about these issues, but watching thought-provoking and artful films that influence and move us is a most effective medium.

It is what the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival is about and I strongly encourage you to support it. (Photo: Mark Squires)

