

ReelPolitik: Munk Centre International Film Festival

ReelPolitik: Political Films from Across the Globe

This unique festival features films that address issues of global concern. *ReelPolitik* showcases outstanding political films—both contemporary and historical—that deserve wide circulation, and genres include feature, documentary, animation, as well as experimental film.

Screenings are accompanied by in-depth introductions and panel discussions with scholars from the University of Toronto, and elsewhere. Topics range from the various international political contexts addressed by the films, to the nature of politically engaged film-making. *ReelPolitik* promotes public education on global issues.

ReelPolitik – Program 2008

Thursday, February 7, 2008

6 pm: Opening remarks (Janice Stein TBC and Charlie Keil TBC)

6:10 pm: Opening Screening “**No End in Sight**”

Film synopsis:

No End in Sight is a documentary film that scrutinizes the history and politics of the war in Iraq. The film provides a candid retelling of the events following the fall of Baghdad in 2003 by high ranking officials such as former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Ambassador Barbara Bodine, Lawrence Wilkerson, and General Jay Garner. It marks the first time outsiders are allowed inside the White House, Pentagon, and Baghdad’s Green Zone to understand what has become the disintegration of Iraq.

Winner of the Special Jury Prize for a Documentary at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival

8pm: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Panel Chair: Professor Elspeth Brown

Panelists and discussion title: _____

Professor Megan Boler, Department of Theory & Policy Studies, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto

Professor David Welch, Director, Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

~ 9pm Opening reception (for all)

Friday, February 8, 2008

1pm: Day Screening: "The Mosquito Problem and other Stories" (Documentary, 2007)

Film Synopsis:

In the European post-Cold War era, the implications of communist regimes and of the development of a nuclear age have left a lasting mark in the memories of its population. As *The Mosquito Problem and other Stories* demonstrates, the lessons that can be learned, and the insights that can be gained, by evaluating and interpreting the evidence, are more valuable than expected. With massive rusty cranes, foreign investors, and the joyful chants of cheerleaders carrying the dream of a great nuclear future and disturbed only by gigantic stinging mosquitoes, the townsfolk of this small Bulgarian town celebrate the possibility of a new atomic hurray. Amidst the apparent atomic prosperity, lies a past that no one wants to remember. The tales of characters whose lives intersect in a sinister past, nuclear future and the stinging mosquitoes flying through time, sealing their fate together.

Special Mention - BRITDOC, Oxford

Special Mention for a full-length documentary - Karlovy Vary IFF

Human Rights Award for best regional documentary - Sarajevo FF

Winner of the 'From A to A Award for best regional documentary at the 2007 Motovun Film Festival

Grand Prix - Docufest International Documentary and Short FF, Prizren, Kosovo

3-4pm: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Panel Chair: Professor Thomas Lahusen

Panelists and discussion title: "Stinging Memory: How to Film or not to Film Prison Camp Memories"

Lilia Topouzova, scriptwriter

Professor Lynne Viola

6pm: Evening Screening: "Bamako" (Feature/Documentary, 2006)

Film Synopsis:

Melé is a bar singer, her husband Chaka is out of work and the couple is on the verge of breaking up...

In the courtyard of the house they share with other families, a trial court has been set up.

African civil society spokesmen have taken proceedings against the World Bank and the IMF whom they accuse of being at the heart of Africa's woes...

A lush mix of warm colours and inspirational music, Bamako is a unique opportunity for a worldwide audience to become familiar with contemporary Africa.

7:30pm-8:30pm: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Panel Chair: Professor Thomas Tieku

Panelists and discussion title: _____

Professor Antoinette Handley

Professor Ato Quayson, Director, Diaspora and Transnational Studies

9pm: Dinner for the board members, panelists, festival friends.

Saturday, February 9, 2008

1pm: Day Screening: "Enlightened by Fire" (Feature, 2005)

Film Synopsis:

Enlightened by Fire presents the futility of politically motivated warfare. It narrates the memories of a 40-year-old man, Esteban, who was sent to fight on Malvinas/Falklands Islands in 1982 at the age of 18. A friend's attempted suicide triggers off the memories of the war times he shared with two young privates. Thus, the horrors of war itself, together with the ailments of hunger and cold weather are interwoven with the stories of friendship and fellowship.

Winner of the Special Prize of the jury at the 2005 San Sebastián International Film Festival, Spain.

Winner of "Choral" prize for Best Original Script at the 2005 Latin American Film Festival at Havana, Cuba.

Winner of 2006 Goya Prize, Spain.

Winner of Silver Condor Award for Best Screenplay, Argentina, 2006

3-4pm: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Panel Chair: Professor Kenneth Mills

Panelists and discussion title: "The Malvinas/Falkland war: an enlightened story"

Jorge Ginieniewicz, PhD Candidate at OISE, University of Toronto

Luciana Vázquez, Journalist

6pm: Evening Screening: South Asian omnibus

"A Season Outside" (English, 30 minutes 1997)

There is perhaps, no border outpost in the world quite like Wagah, where this film begins its exploration. An outpost where every evening people are drawn to a thin white line... and probably anyone in the eye of a conflict could find themselves here. *A Season Outside* is a personal and philosophical journey through past generations, conflicting positions, borders and time zones.

followed by

"The Face" (short, 4 mts.)

We know what Pinochet and Idi Amin looked like but have you seen the face of the Supreme Burmese dictator Senior General Than Shwe?

"Thet Win Aung" (4 mts silent): How to remember you Thet? A life time and fifty nine years in a single moment.

"Ma Win Maw Oo" (4 mts silent): And how to bring back your memory Ma Win Maw Oo and that day in 1988 ?

The Face which emerged from the hypocrisy of India's present relationship with the Burmese Military and its very own Gandhi, **Ma Win Maw Oo** emerged from trying to relate to and experience the military crackdown on Burmese students in August 1988, through a single photograph that was taken during the military crackdown. Ma Win Maw Oo was killed by the soldiers and the photograph captured that moment. News photographs gain worldwide visibility for a time and then disappear from memory. This film is an attempt to relate to that moment once again and to bring back that image into public memory. **Thet Win Aung** recalls Thet's courage in resisting the Burmese dictatorship and his 59 year prison sentence. Thet was killed in prison on October 16 2006.

7:30pm-8:30pm: Panel Discussion and Q&A

Panel Chair: Professor Kajri Jain

Panelists and discussion title: Aesthetics and Politics

Closing remarks Elspeth Brown TBC and Nina Boric TBC