

CREATIVE DOCUMENTARIES



SILMA'S SCHOOL

Australia / Jane Jeffes / 55 & 83 mins

A highly relevant doc that depicts the challenges faced by a generation of Muslim school children living in Sydney. The plot thickens when their hijab-wearing Protestant to Muslim convert teacher discovers that their school has been built on a contaminated site and decides to take on the Federal Airports Corporation which knowingly leased the contaminated land to them.

Festivals: Sydney FF 05, New York Festivals 06, Real Life 06, London Australian FF 06, DOCNZ 06, Australia IFF 06, Brave Festival 07, Sole e Luna Doc Fest 07



MARDI GRAS: MADE IN CHINA

USA / David Redmon / 72 & 48 mins

A winner of 18 US and international awards, this 2005 Sundance Grand Jury nominee is an absolute classic on globalization and China, and has been a firm favourite with broadcasters and DVD distributors around the world. Its multi-faceted themes (ie. consumerism, labour, global trade, women's issues, US, China, human rights) allows it to fit easily into most documentary slots. We have both a TV length as well as a longer festival for DVD distributors.

Festivals: Selection of festivals include: Sundance Film Festival 2005, IDFA 2005, Human Rights Watch Film Festival 2005, Amnesty International Film Festival 2005, One World International Film Festival 2005, Portland Film Festival 2005, Santa Barbara IFF 2005, International Human Rights Film Festival of Paris 08

HOTU PAINU OR "POISON FRUIT"

NZ / Pita Turei / 60 mins

Nuclear tests in French Polynesia transform human foetuses into "jellyfish babies," unleash cancers, and poison the atoll. Decades later, when Greenpeace tries to evacuate survivors, the French Secret Service bombs the Rainbow Warrior, killing a crew member. Hotu Painu tells a story which went unspoken, until now.

Festivals: IDFA 1996, DOCNZ Festival 2005 (Special Mention), San Francisco Oceans Festival 2006

PACIFIC SOLUTION

NZ / James Frankham / 50 mins

Pacific Solution tells the story of the Tampa boys, the young Afghani refugees who were rescued off the coast of Australia by the MV Tampa, the new home they found in New Zealand, and the remarkable quest of their families to join them here.

Through the prism of their journey, this intimate documentary examines the political context, and the looming refugee crisis facing our world.

Festivals: DOCNZ 05, EIDF Festival - Korea 06, International 1001 DFF Turkey 06, FIFO 07

ZAKA - LIVING WITH DEATH

Israel / Noam Shalev / 47 mins

Their mission is to collect all human remains left after a suicide bombing, to provide them with the Jewish act of true grace: a respectful burial for all. They are the ZAKA volunteers, and their incredible spirit and resilience are an inspiration for hope.

Festivals: Haifa International Film Festival 2004

TANIM:

A TRIBAL STRUGGLE TO POWER

NZ / James Frankham / 50 mins

In the remote Highlands of Papua New Guinea, democratic elections have become a battle for tribal supremacy. Bribery, fraudulent voting, and all-out tribal war mark Ilekson Taim in Enga Province. TANIM examines one of mankind's most ancient forms of social organisation at the flashpoint of political transition.

Festivals: Festival Dei Popoli, Film Festival Oceania (Tahiti), DOCNZ

TURNING THE TIDE

NZ / Catherine Madigan / 47 mins

Mary Taylor is a woman with a purpose. Having developed a love affair with Sri Lanka as a result of previous travels, she is devastated to learn of the tsunami that has ravaged the country. Days later, Mary an amateur fundraiser sets up "Project Oru 100" with the aim of replacing 100 outrigger boats (orus) for the hard-hit south coast fishermen. Returning to Sri Lanka months later, Mary travels as far east as the political unrest allows to find out how the survivors are coping and to see if her fundraising dollars have made an impact.

Festivals: DOCNZ 06

PRIMETIME WAR

Israel / Noam Shalev / 50 mins

A look at the Middle East conflict through the relationship between two journalists, one Israeli and the other Palestinian.

Festivals: Haifa International Film Festival Input (1999), Miniput - Barcelona (1999), Toronto Jewish Film Festival (1999), Tampa Jewish Film Festival (1999), Basic Trust Human Rights Festival (2000) Portland Jewish Film Festival (2000) Dallas Video Festival (2000)

SHOOTING CONFLICTS

Israel / Noam Shalev / 50 mins

Shooting Conflicts is a follow up from the original documentary Primetime War.

LONGFIN

NZ / Lindsey Davidson and Melissa Salpietra / 24 mins

Longfin is an outstanding and original piece of work by emerging filmmakers Lindsey Davidson and Melissa Salpietra. By taking one of aquatic life's most maligned and demonised creatures, the longfin eel, they weave a modern day allegory of man's relationship with his environment, in the context of one eel's 84-year life cycle.

Festivals: Selection of festivals include: DOCNZ 06, Montana Cine Film Fest 06, Aotearoa Environmental FF 06, Wild & Scenic FF 07, Wildlife Vaasa Festival Finland 06, FIFO 07, tary FF 07, International Wildlife FF 07, Mountainfilm in Telluride 07, Jackson Hole Wildlife FF 07

ACT OF MURDER

NZ / Shirley Horrocks / 48 mins

Based on countless interviews with prison inmates, actress Miranda Harcourt and writer William Brandt produce a groundbreaking one-woman play, VERBATIM.

SO FAR YET SO CLOSE

NZ / Sophie Zhang / 25 mins

This documentary tells the inspirational story of Leon Wharekura, a Maori singer/songwriter and how he used music to teach Maori Culture to pupils at a school for the Blind in Tianjin, China. This moving story reveals how music has the capacity to transcend racial and cultural boundaries and that the ability to see is within our hearts.

Festivals: Wairoa Film Festival 06, DOCNZ 06

BLACK AND WHITE

NZ / Kirsty MacDonald / 17 mins

Black and White focuses on the profoundly moving story of Mani Bruce Mitchell's childhood. In the initial pandemonium following her birth, Mani was assigned the gender "male", but when investigative surgery revealed that "he" had ovaries, "Bruce" was renamed "Ruth", and reassigned the gender "female".

Festivals: Selection of festivals include: Monterrey IFF Mexico 06, Austin Gay & Lesbian IF 06, DOCNZ 06, International Lesbian & Gay FF Hamburg 06, Reelout Queer FF Canada 07, Melbourne Queer FF 07, Pink Apple FF Switzerland 07, Turin Intl Lesbian & Gay FF 07, TLVFEST 07 Israel, Outtakes Real Queer FF NZ 07, Athens International Gay & Lesbian FF 07, Boston Gay & Lesbian FF USA 07, Philadelphia Int'l Gay & Lesbian FF 07, WIFTI Short Film Showcase 08,

DOCUMENTARY SERIES

BATTLE OF THE BRAINS

Australia / 2007 / Daniella Ortega

/ 4 x 26'30" mins

A four-part documentary series following the journey of a group of elite science students as they prepare to compete at the International Science Olympiads in Beijing, China.

Festivals: Cinekid Screening Club 07



MAKE IT REAL TO ME

Australia / Miles Roston / 54 mins

This film is the story of the AIDS epidemic told through one teenager's transformation from a victim into a young leader, against the virus that is threatening an entire continent's survival.

Festivals: Brave Festival 07, Cinekid Screening Club 07, DOCNZ 06, Document 4 - Human Rights IDFF - Glasgow 06, Global Village FF 06, International AIDS Conference 06, Northampton International Community FF 06



JUST PUNISHMENT

Australia / Kim Beamish & Shannon Owen / 54 mins

The imminent execution of a young drug trafficker spurs family and government into action.

Festivals: DOCNZ 07



KAMP KATRINA

USA / David Redmon & Ashley Sabin / 50 and 74 mins

A film set in New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina that intimately exposes the devastation faced by the victims as they attempt to piece together their



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PRAYING WITH LIOR

USA/ Ilana Trachtman / 87 & 58 mins

Lior Liebling has been hailed as a spiritual genius in his community. His bar mitzvah is fast approaching – a coming of age ceremony that Jewish boys undergo when they turn 13 years of age. But Lior also has Down Syndrome and faces some special challenges. Praying With Lior tells the courageous and heartwarming story of a young genius. With the support of his family and community, Lior overcame the challenges of Down Syndrome at a critical juncture of his adolescent life, and became an inspiration for all those around him.

Festivals: Selection of festivals include: San Francisco Jewish Film Festival 07, Boston Jewish Film Festival 07, Margaret Mead Film Festival 07, New York Jewish Film Festival 08, Denver Jewish Film Festival 08, San Diego Jewish Film Festival 08, Vancouver Jewish Film Festival 08, HAIFA International Film Festival 08

in mainstream press include S.I.N.A. (Society for the Indecency of Naked Animals), a moral crusade organization launched in the late 50s that promoted covering up animals for modesty's sake and the Bronstein hoax – a fake campaign in 1964 led by a Jewish grandmother from the Bronx for the Presidential office. Although humorous, Abel's hoaxes carried serious messages about morality, censorship and journalistic standards. This outrageous and funny story has already been licensed to BBC Storyville and ARTE/ZDF.

Festivals: Selection of festivals include: Slamdance Film Festival , Hot Docs Int'l Documentary Film Festival, Doxa Documentary Film + Video Festival, Silverdocs , Afri/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival, Leipzig Animation And Documentary Film Festival, Hot Springs Documentary Film, International Documentary Film Festival New Zealand (Docnz), Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival (Gzdoc)



WITH AND WITHOUT YOU

Canada / Maryse Chartrand / 90 and 60 mins

The Beaudry family was to embark on the trip of a lifetime – an extensive backpacking adventure in exotic locations around the world and a welcome respite from Samuel Beaudry's high pressure city job. 12 months into the trip, Samuel decided to take a trip of his own. Only this time, it was a journey of no return for Samuel - he had taken his own life. With And Without You is a first hand-account of the impact of male suicide on the family left behind. What began as footage for a travel diary documentary about an enchanted trip quickly turned into a nightmare exploration into the dark and unspoken dimensions of male suicide.

Festivals: DOCircuitMTL - Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montreal 07, Festival du film de Sept-Iles 08, La semaine du cinéma québécois réalisé par des femmes en Argentine 08



IN SEARCH OF SHILAN

Australia / Turkey / Iraq / Iran / Memuzin River / 60 mins

The PKK is a Marxist guerilla group that has fought for the establishment of a Kurdish homeland in Northern Iraq. In Search of Shilan provides rare access into this elusive organisation's inner sanctum, including its daily routines, its surprising views on religion, gender equality and environmental issues. The film's main subject, Cetin, a Kurdish refugee is seeking to be reunited with his long lost love Shilan who is now an important member of the PKK. The film is a personal story that also provides a unique insight into a potentially destabilizing force in one of the most politically volatile parts of the Middle East today.

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

USA/ Brandon, Nicholas, Daniel & Tim Klein / 83 mins

Despite the billions of dollars spent on aid in Africa over the last decade, Africa still suffers from extreme poverty. This film seeks answers to the question why foreign aid and charity has failed to solve the root causes of poverty. Told from the personal perspectives of 3 brothers and a cousin the film is a character-driven story that forces a critical re-examination of the billion dollar business of charity including the role of NGOs in this process. What Are We Doing Here? strikes an ideal and powerful balance between providing a personal narrative and a survey on the causes as well as solutions for one of the great problems of our times – the failure to end poverty.



ABEL RAISES CAIN

USA / Jenny Abel & Jeff Hockett / 82 & 57:35 mins

Alan Abel has been fooling the American media for the last 5 decades. He has been described as the world's greatest hoaxer and in Abel Raises Cain, Alan's legacy is affectionately surveyed by the person who knows him best, and why he did what he did – his daughter, director Jenny Abel. His legendary hoaxes which ended up being reported



CONSTANTINE'S SWORD

USA / Oren Jacoby/ 95 mins & TV cut tba

Sarah Palin, the Republican Vice-Presidential pick has said American soldiers in Iraq are "on a task from God" and "there is a plan... God's plan". Palin's selection is just the latest example of a growing religious conservatism in U.S. politics and a signal of a breakdown in the separation between Church and State under George Bush's administration. Constantine's Sword presents James Carroll, a former Catholic priest alarmed at the increasing infiltration of fundamentalist religious fervour into the U.S. military and American foreign policy. Based on Carroll's book on the subject, this important film is an intricate and timely exploration of how the Cross came to be a rallying symbol for persecution. It is also a potent reminder of the potentially deadly costs of an unholy union between religion and military power.



CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

NZ / Sandy Crichton / 48:42 mins

Wildlife photographer George Chance spent the 1970's following and studying the New Zealand Falcon; now some thirty years later he is suffering from ill health and going blind. Filmmaker Sandy Crichton gets ever closer to a remarkable wild population of falcons as he attempts to realise George's dream by adding movement to his photographs.

Festivals: Lake Havasu International Film Festival 08, Athens International Film + Video Festival 08, Mid Ulster Film Festival, Northern Ireland 08, Twin Rivers Media Festival, North Carolina 08, 31st International Wildlife Film Festival, Montana 08



FREEHELD

USA / Cynthia Wade / 38 mins

This 2008 Academy Award winner is the dramatic and moving account of Lieutenant Laurel Hester's very public legal and political battle to have her pension transferred to her lesbian partner amidst her personal struggle against terminal cancer.

Festivals: Selection of festivals include Sundance Film Festival 07, Full Frame Film Festival 07, Silverdocs Film Festival 07, True/False Film Festival 07, Chicago International Film Festival 07, Jihlava Int'l Documentary Film Festival 08



TONGZHI IN LOVE

China / USA Ruby Yang (Director)/Thomas Lennon (Producer) / 30 mins

From the 2007 Oscar winning team who made The Blood of Yingzhou District, comes Tongzhi in Love. "Frog" Cui and his friends navigate the dilemmas of being gay in modern China, torn between the lures of city life and the unyielding traditions by which they were raised. Frog loves his parents: does that mean he must honor his duty to them by marrying and bearing a child?

Festivals: World Premiere: SILVERDOCS 2008, Frameline32: The San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival 2008



LUMO

Democratic Republic of Congo / USA / Bent-Jorgen Perlmutt, Nelson Walker III, Louis Abelman (co-director), Lynn True (co-director) / 52 or 72 mins

Set within a rape survivor's hospital in war-torn Eastern Congo on the Rwandan border, the title of the film is taken from the name of the feisty young heroine who finds strength, friendship and a second shot at life at the medical centre. Lumo is a 2007 Student Academy winner!

Festivals: Full Frame International Film Festival 07, Human Rights Watch International Film Festival (NYC / London) 07, Festival do Rio, Rio de Janeiro 07, The Sao Paolo Film Festival 07, DOCSDF Mexico City 07, Document 6, Glasgow, SPLIT Film Festival, Croatia 08



INTIMIDAD

USA / David Redmon & Ashley Sabin / 53 and 72 mins

Set in Mexico, this is a subtle, mesmerising and stunningly crafted work of art that explores the inter-relating subjects of globalization, consumerism, immigration, poverty and its effects on the daily lives of a typical young couple living in the rapidly developing city of Reynosa.

Festivals: World Premiere: South by Southwest 08, Magnolia FF 08, Madrid FF 08, San Diego Latino FF 08, Sarasota FF 08, IFFB 08, Florida FF 08, AFI Dallas 08, River Run FF 08, Maryland FF 08, Atlanta FF 08

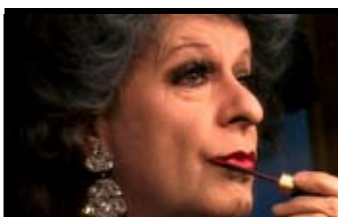


AN UNREASONABLE MAN

USA / Henriette Mantel & Steve Skrovan / 122 or 2x 60 mins

Who is Ralph Nader? The man who gave us George Bush... or the greatest figure in the history of the American Consumer Movement? This brilliant survey of Nader's work illuminates the gulf between party politics driven by special interest groups and grassroots agitators for social change. Covering over 40 years of social and political history, An Unreasonable Man is essential viewing for understanding the issues at stake in the 2008 elections.

Festivals: Sundance Film Festival 2006, HOTDOCS 2006



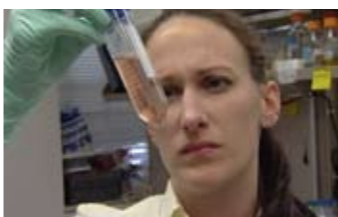
DARLING!

THE PIETER DIRK-UY'S STORY

NZ / South Africa / Australia / Julian Shaw / 53 mins

Is AIDS creating a new form of apartheid in South Africa? It is according to South Africa's "most famous white woman" and Dame Edna look alike, Evita Bezuidenhout – the stage persona of the government's loudest critic and political satirist Pieter Dirk-Uys. Witness how this one-man tour-de-force is overturning traditional perceptions about the disease with his highly polarizing "AIDS entertainment" shows.

Festivals: Encounters International Documentary Film Festival in Cape Town and Johannesburg 07, Revelation International Film Festival 07, Australia, DOCNZ 07, Berlinale 08, Torino Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 08



TERRA INCOGNITA

USA / Maria Finitzo / 83 & 58:48 mins

Terra Incognita puts a human face on the stem cell debate. The film follows the life and work of stem cell specialist Dr. Kessler who tries to prove how stem cell biology can cure spinal cord injuries and even make his daughter walk again.

Festivals: DOCNZ 2007, IDFA 2007, Chicago International Film Festival 2007, Starz Denver International Film Festival 2007, Anchorage International Film Festival 2007, 3rd International Science Film Festival, Greece 2008



IN OUR NAME

Australia / Christopher Tuckfield / 57 mins

A timely discussion on the lengths that post 9/11 democracies will go to in using torture as a means of securing information to stave off perceived threats to their national security.

Festivals: Sydney International Film Festival 07, Montreal World Film Festival 07



NEVER PERFECT

USA / Regina Park / 63 and 55 mins

This entertaining yet thought provoking documentary examines the rising popularity of eyelid reconstruction surgery amongst Asian women and the powerful elements within media, culture and society that can influence the way we perceive physical beauty.

Festivals: EIDF 07, The Asian FF of Dallas 07, The 8th Annual DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival, 13th Chicago Asian American Showcase 08



THE ALPHA DIARIES

Israel / Yaniv Berman / 65 mins

Filmed over 5 years, this is a privileged look into life in the Israeli Army reserves that will surprise and leave a long-lasting impression. If you thought you already knew the views of the soldiers on the issue of the Occupation and the Army, watch this and you might change your mind.

Festivals: Zagreb Film Festival 07, 11th Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival 07, Helsinki Docpoint 07, Belfort International Film Festival 07, Documenta Madrid 08, FLAHERTIANA - 2008, Russia, MiradasDoc, Tenerife 08



AKI RA'S BOYS

Singapore / Cambodia / James Leong & Lynn Lee / 57 mins

A startling and up-lifting portrait of young landmine victims in post-war Cambodia.

Festivals: Yamagata IDFF 07, DOCNZ 07, Cinekid Screening Club 07, DOK Leipzig 2007, Jogjakarta Film Festival 07, Cinema du Reel 07, Thessaloniki 07, Singapore IFF 07, Almaty International Film Festival 08, Split International Film Festival Croatia 08, Pyongyang International Film Festival, DPR Korea 08



THE BLOOD OF YINGZHOU DISTRICT

China / USA / Ruby Yang(Director)/Thomas Lennon (Producer) / 39 mins please enquire about other formats available

This 2007 Academy Award winner enters a year in the life of children in the Province of Anhui, China who have lost their parents to AIDS, and where traditional obligations to family and village collide with terror of the disease.

Festivals: Selection of festivals include: Silverdocs 06, IDA 06, Pusan IFF 06, Margaret Mead FF 06, UNAFF 06, Montreal World FF 06, DOCNZ 06, Palm Springs IFF 07, Chicago IDFF 07, Documenta Madrid 07, DOXA 07, Sydney IFF 07, elbourne IFF 07



PROMISED PARADISE

The Netherlands / Indonesia / Leonard Retel Helmrich / 52 mins

Officially selected for IDFA 2006 and Full Frame Film Festival 2007, and instigated by the Bali nightclub bombings, this is an ingenious portrait of an Indonesian puppeteer who uses humour and lamentations to expose the intolerance of those who commit bomb attacks.

Festivals: Melbourne IFF 07, Docudays Beirut 07, Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival 07, 10th Les Rencontres internationales du documentaire du Montreal (RIDM), Encounters IDF 07, MEET 07, Visions du Reel Nyon 06, Taiwan IDF 06, IDFA 06, Jakarta IFF 06, Documenta Madrid 07, Full Frame FF 07, Document 6, Glasgow 08



HAND OF GOD

USA / Joe Cultrera / 94 mins

One of the most controversial films to air on PBS Frontline last year, Hand of God deals with the

abuse scandal that continues to rock the Catholic Church and is a must see for those acquiring for ethics and religion slots.

Festivals: Ashland Independent FF 06, Cinequest FF 06, Boston IFF 06, Big Sky Documentary FF 06, DocFest 06, Calgary IFF 06, DOCNZ 06, Vermont IFF 06, St Louis IFF 06



MADE IN TAIWAN

New Zealand / 2006 / Dan Salmon / 45 mins

A favourite within the Pacific and Oceania Film Festival circuit filmed in HD. Lots of fabulous scenery and science you won't find in a classroom. This is a fun but educational film that has done well with film festival audiences.

Festivals: Banff World Television Festival 06, DOCNZ 06, FIF 07, A Man's Shadow FF – New Caledonia 07, EIDF 07, New Zealand Film Festival Hong Kong 08



BRAINDAMADJ'D

Canada / Paul Nadler / 42 & 50 mins

A 2007 Peabody winner that continues to shine in festivals around the world and a must for buyers looking for strong character driven stories as well as those acquiring science, medical and creative docs.

Festivals: Selection of festivals include: Superfest XXVI Int Disabilities FF 06, Frames of Mind 06, Victoria IFF 06, The Other FF 06, The Moscow Disability Festival 06, Dallas Video Festival 06, DOCNZ 06, INPUT 06: Taiwan, India, The Netherlands, Brasil, Spain, Canada, Zagrebbox 07, Emotions Picture FF Greece 07, Sydney IFF 07



TAKING THE HEAT

USA / Bann Roy / 53 mins and 60 mins

Described by Gloria Steinem as an "honest" and "life-changing" documentary, this is a provocative film that might affect your perception of the New York City Fire Department – the organization that achieved super-hero status after 9/11.

Festivals: DOCNZ 06, Silverlake IFF Los Angeles 05, Rocky Mountains Women's FF Colorado 06