

THE 18th ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Co-presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center

The Walter Reade Theater Hosts 24 Films to Inform and Inspire, June 15-28

NEW YORK, May 11, 2007 – Human Rights Watch and the Film Society of Lincoln Center will come together again this June to celebrate the advocacy of the many filmmakers who tackle the world’s most pressing human rights issues. Running from June 15 to 28 at the Walter Reade Theater, the 18th edition of the **Human Rights Watch International Film Festival** features 21 films and three shorts from 17 countries and includes 16 New York premieres.

“We look for character-driven films, whether documentary or fiction, that explore serious crises or issues,” says Bruni Burres, director of the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival. “Real films that are not simply reportage. There’s a lot of disbelief in the media. With our festival, we provide a more in-depth look. People know these films are more than sound bites.”

This year’s festival features films that pursue justice for the victims of war crimes, advocate change in Darfur through peaceful means, explore the links between human rights and the protection of the environment, and investigate several countries’ political systems from the ground up—among many other themes. Special guests scheduled to attend this year include Afghan parliament member Malalai Joya and International Criminal Tribunal prosecutor Carla Del Ponte.

“It speaks to the significance of Human Rights Watch and its mission that such important figures make the trip,” says Marian Masone, associate director of programming at the Film Society. “With the subjects as well as the filmmakers here to talk about the issues, the audience gets unique, firsthand access to the events shaping our world.”

The festival launches on Friday, June 15, with two films rooted in governmental paranoia. Lynn Hershman Leeson’s Sundance hit *Strange Culture* wonderfully blurs the line between documentary and fictional filmmaking. Using found footage, animation and dramatized scenes with actors Thomas Jay Ryan, Tilda Swinton and Josh Kornbluth, it chronicles the Kafkaesque nightmare of Buffalo artist and professor Steve Kurtz, accused in the atmosphere of suspicion after 9/11 of being a bio-terrorist. The film will screen at 6:30 p.m., followed at 9:00 p.m. by *Mon Colonel*, Laurent Herbiet’s politically charged portrait of military corruption during the Algerian war of independence. Co-written by renowned human rights filmmaker Costa-Gavras and starring Olivier Gourmet, this gripping drama chronicles the conflicted relationship between a no-nonsense colonel and a young French officer, and questions the rationale for torture and brutal interrogation during wartime.

This year’s **Nestor Almendros Prize** for courage and commitment in filmmaking will be presented to Danish filmmaker Eva Mulvad, director of *Enemies of Happiness*, an inspiring portrait of Afghan parliamentarian Malalai Joya. Winner of the 2007 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Prize for Documentary, the film follows the remarkable 28-year-old as she runs in her country’s first democratic election in over 30 years, surviving repeated attempts on her life. It will be preceded by *Sari’s Mother*, Oscar-nominated director James Longley’s (*Iraq in Fragments*, HRWIFF 2006) intimate look at an Iraqi woman struggling under U.S. occupation to care for her young son, who has AIDS.

On Thursday, June 28, two closing night films offer distinct views of the ordinary citizen's political responsibility, both abroad and at home. Annie Sundberg and Ricki Stern's *The Devil Came on Horseback* follows the experiences of former U.S. Marine Capt. Brian Steidle, a military observer in Darfur who, unable to intervene in the region's ongoing conflict, uses his camera to document the massive inhumanity crippling the area. The film screens at 6:30 p.m. Katy Chevigny's *Election Day* follows at 9:00 p.m., an ambitious and telling chronicle of 12 Americans' grassroots efforts to make their votes and the votes of others count on election day 2004, a story that resonates in the run up to the election in 2008.

One of the themes in this year's festival is the power of photography to move the human rights debate. Besides *The Devil Came on Horseback*, Chilean filmmaker Sebastián Moreno Mardones' *The City of Photographers* tells the hidden story of a generation of independent photographers at work during the Pinochet years. Canadian Jennifer Baichwal's formally stunning *Manufactured Landscapes* follows internationally acclaimed artist Edward Burtynsky as he travels through China photographing the effects of that country's massive industrial revolution. In keeping with this theme, the Film Society and Human Rights Watch will host **On the Frontlines**, a photography exhibition at the Walter Reade's Frieda and Roy Furman Gallery featuring work by some of the world's most respected photojournalists, including Marcus Bleasdale, Susan Meiselas, Abbas, and Robert Nickelsberg.

Manufactured Landscapes is also one of three superb festival documentaries that explore the complicated relationship between the natural environment and our history of destroying it. Laura Dunn's *The Unforeseen* is a beautifully crafted and provocative look at real estate development in Austin, Texas and its impact on a beloved local watering hole, and Daniel Gold and Judith Helfand present *Everything's Cool*, a "toxic comedy" about global warming coming to America.

Latin American films, increasingly a commanding presence in world cinema, also combine to form an important subsection in this year's program. While *The City of Photographers* looks back on Pinochet's repressive regime over Chile in the 1980s, *Cocalero* brings us to the present, focusing on the triumphant grassroots campaign of Evo Morales, the controversial president of Bolivia. In the moving Mexican drama *The Violin*, an old violinist tries to help his son's guerrilla faction, while the uplifting documentary *The Railroad All-Stars* traces the lives of a feisty group of Guatemalan prostitutes who form a soccer team to champion women's rights.

As a special presentation on June 21 at 6:30 p.m., the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival and the Film Society will screen Marco Williams' *Banished* as part of the Film Society's year-round **Independents Night** series celebrating new American documentaries. The film explores three Southern and Midwestern towns as they come to grips with an American historical legacy of violently driving out African-American families.

Other program highlights include the First Run/Icarus Films release *Hot House*, a Sundance award-winning exploration of the rising tide of Palestinian leadership within Israel's jails, and *White Light/Black Rain*, Oscar-winning filmmaker Steven Okasaki's powerful account of the atomic bomb drops on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (both films will be broadcast on HBO this summer). The festival will also screen *Carla's List*, which charts International Criminal Tribunal prosecutor Carla Del Ponte's pursuit of war criminals in the former Yugoslavia.

Single screening tickets for the 2007 **Human Rights Watch International Film Festival** are \$11 for adults, \$7 for Film Society members and students with a valid photo ID and \$7 for seniors at weekday screenings before 6 p.m. They are available at both the Walter Reade Theater box office and online at

www.filmlinc.com. Additional information is available online at www.filmlinc.com and <http://www.hrw.org/iff/>, or by calling (212) 875-5600.

Please Note: Due to construction work taking place around Alice Tully Hall, the only access to the Walter Reade Theater is at 165 West 65th Street close to Amsterdam Avenue. Once there, take the escalator, elevator or stairs to the upper level.

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PRESS SCREENING SCHEDULE

Press screenings take place at the Walter Reade Theater, 165 W 65th St. (temporary entrance near Amsterdam) on the plaza level of Lincoln Center.

RSVP to pressoffice@filmlinc.com or (212) 875-5314

Tue, May 29	10:00 am – <i>Strange Culture (76m.)</i> 11:30 am – <i>Sari's Mother (21m.)</i> , followed by <i>Enemies of Happiness (58m.)</i> 1:00 pm – <i>White Light/Black Rain (86m.)</i>
Wed, May 30	10:00 am – <i>Hot House (89m.)</i>
Thu, May 31	10:00 am – <i>The Unforeseen (93m.)</i>
Fri, June 1	10:00 am – <i>Cocalero (94m.)</i>

(Additionally, there will be press screenings of *Manufactured Landscapes* at Film Forum, 209 W. Houston St., at 11:00 am on Thu, June 7 and Thu, June 14, leading up to its June 20 release.)

2007 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival
Schedule at a Glance (Detailed Program Information Follows)

Friday, Jun. 15

1:30 pm *The City of Photographers (80m.)*
4:00 pm *The Railroad All-Stars (90m.)*
6:30 pm *Strange Culture (76m.)*
9:00 pm *Mon Colonel (110m.)*

Saturday, Jun. 16

1:00 pm *The Violin (98m.)*
3:30 pm *Enemies of Happiness (58m.)*, preceded by *Sari's Mother (21m.)*
6:15 pm *Manufactured Landscapes (87m.)*
8:45 pm New Voices

Sunday, Jun. 17

1:00 pm *The Violin*
3:30 pm *Everything's Cool (100m.)*
6:15 pm *Enemies of Happiness*, preceded by *Sari's Mother*
8:45 pm *The Railroad All-Stars*

Monday, Jun. 18

1:00 pm *Carla's List (100m.)*
4:00 pm *Enemies of Happiness*, preceded by *Sari's Mother*
6:30 pm *The Railroad All-Stars*
9:00 pm *Strange Culture*

Tuesday, Jun. 19

1:30 pm *The Railroad All-Stars*
4:00 pm *Strange Culture*
6:30 pm *Carla's List*
9:15 pm *The City of Photographers*

Wednesday, Jun. 20

2:00 pm *Suffering and Smiling (65m.)*
4:00 pm *The City of Photographers*
6:30 pm *Lumo (76m.)*
8:45 pm *Carla's List*

Thursday, Jun. 21

1:30 pm *Lumo*
4:00 pm *White Light/Black Rain (86m.)*
6:30 pm *Banished (86m.)*
9:00 pm *White Light/Black Rain*

Friday, Jun. 22

1:30 pm *Cocalero (94m.)*
4:00 pm *Suffering and Smiling*
6:30 pm *White Light/Black Rain*
9:00 pm *The City of Photographers*

Saturday, Jun. 23

1:30 pm *A Lesson of Belarusian (51m.)*, preceded by *Pizza Surveillance Feature (5m.)* and *Virtual Freedom (3m.)*
4:00 pm *The Unforeseen (93m.)*
6:30 pm *Cocalero*
9:00 pm *Suffering and Smiling*

Sunday, Jun. 24

1:30 pm *Suffering and Smiling*
3:30 pm *Lumo*
6:00 pm *The Unforeseen*
8:30 pm *Cocalero*

Monday, Jun. 25

1:30 pm *The Unforeseen*
4:00 pm *A Lesson of Belarusian*, preceded by *Pizza Surveillance Feature* and *Virtual Freedom*
6:30 pm *Hot House (89m.)*
9:00 pm *We'll Never Meet Childhood Again (75m.)*

Tuesday, Jun. 26

1:30 pm *Hot House*
4:00 pm *We'll Never Meet Childhood Again*
6:30 pm *A Lesson in Belarusian*, preceded by *Pizza Surveillance Feature* and *Virtual Freedom*
9:00 pm *Hot House*

Wednesday, Jun. 27

1:30 pm *Election Day (84m.)*
4:00 pm *The Devil Came on Horseback (85m.)*
6:30 pm *Election Day*
9:00 pm *We'll Never Meet Childhood Again*

Thursday, Jun. 28

1:30 pm *A Lesson of Belarusian*, preceded by *Pizza Surveillance Feature* and *Virtual Freedom*
4:00 pm *We'll Never Meet Childhood Again*
6:30 pm *The Devil Came on Horseback*
9:00 pm *Election Day*

2007 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival
Detailed Program and Schedule Information

All films are in English or subtitled in English where another spoken language is noted.

Opening Night

Friday, Jun. 15

Strange Culture NY Premiere

Lynn Hershman Leeson, U.S., 2007; 76m

Fri Jun 15: 6:30pm. Additional Screenings: Mon Jun 18: 9:00pm; Tue Jun 19: 4:00pm

Strange Culture chronicles the breathtaking miscarriage of justice that has befallen Steve Kurtz, a college professor, artist, and member of the politically charged Critical Art Ensemble. As Kurtz was preparing for an exhibition which would allow participants to test food for the presence of GMOs that was scheduled to appear at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in 2004, his wife died suddenly from heart failure. Distraught, Kurtz called 911, but when the medics arrived and saw the scientific materials for the exhibition—all legally purchased—they called the FBI. Dozens of agents in haz-mat suits searched his home, impounded his computers, books, cat, and even his wife's body, and held Kurtz as a suspected bio-terrorist. Three years later, Kurtz has been released, but he still faces up to 20 years in prison on mail and wire fraud charges relating to his acquisition of materials for the art exhibit. Leeson creatively enlists actors Thomas Jay Ryan, Tilda Swinton, Josh Kornbluth and Peter Coyote to dramatize the parts of the story that Kurtz cannot legally discuss, while skillfully interweaving news footage, animation, testimonials and footage of Kurtz himself to create a fascinating, highly provocative documentary about post-9/11 paranoia and the risks artists face when their work questions government policies. Official Selection, Berlin International Film Festival 2007. *Filmmaker Lynn Hershman Leeson in attendance, as well as Steve Kurtz on June 15

Mon Colonel NY Premiere

Laurent Herbiet, France/Belgium, 2006; 110m. In French.

Fri Jun 15: 9:00pm

“Today, in other countries the same horrors are still taking place, committed by the same ‘colonels’ and defenders of democracy as there were in France at that time.”—Costa-Gavras

Co-written by acclaimed human rights filmmaker Costa-Gavras and directed by Laurent Herbiet, *Mon Colonel* is a gripping story of historical intrigue that echoes with the moral dilemmas of our time. After a retired colonel is assassinated, the army investigator receives a series of messages from the killer. Included in each letter are passages from a young lieutenant's Algerian war diary from the 1950s that recount a campaign of suppression and torture orchestrated by the colonel himself in the name of “a war on terror.” *Mon Colonel* is a compelling portrait of a military struggling to deal with a war it has not been trained to fight: a guerrilla war in which the opponent wears no uniform and melts away into the landscape to fight another day. *Director Laurent Herbiet in attendance

Closing Night

Thursday, Jun. 28

The Devil Came on Horseback

Annie Sundberg & Ricki Stern, 2006, U.S./Chad; 85m

Thu Jun 28: 6:30pm. Additional Screenings: Wed Jun 27: 4:00pm

Unwilling to accept a desk job but desirous of “serving his country,” Captain Brian Steidle quits the U.S. Marine Corps to accept a six-month post with the African Union as an unarmed military observer in the western Darfur region of Sudan. Soon after arriving in Darfur, however, Steidle realizes that things are going terribly wrong in this huge, remote province bordering Chad. Unable to intervene, Steidle uses his camera to document what some, including the U.S. government, have called a genocide—and what without doubt has involved what international law calls “crimes against humanity and war crimes” on a massive scale: the conflict in Darfur, which has claimed at least 200,000 lives and displaced 2.5 million people since early 2003. Sundberg and Stern’s film allows us to witness Steidle’s transformation from soldier to observer to witness and, finally, to activist. * *Filmmakers Annie Sundberg & Ricki Stern in attendance*

Election Day NY Premiere

Katy Chevigny, U.S., 2007; 84m

Thu Jun 28: 9:00pm. Additional Screenings: Wed Jun 27: 1:30pm and 6:30pm

Ambitious in scope and emotionally resonant, *Election Day* crisscrosses a large swathe of the U.S., from the deserts of New Mexico to the swampy Florida panhandle, to tell the remarkable story of 12 Americans determined to make their votes and the votes of others count on election day 2004. In Shaker Heights, Ohio, citizens wait in line for hours in the rain only to be greeted by volunteer poll workers struggling to explain why hundreds of voters have been deleted from the registration lists. In New York City, a 50-year-old ex-felon is able to vote for the first time, but will his affidavit ballot be counted? Meanwhile, in Stockholm, Wis., community members register on the spot, vote with paper and pencil and know each other by first name. With the 2008 presidential election race already in full swing, *Election Day* is a call to action for all who value their right to vote. Official Selection, South by Southwest Film Festival 2007. Presented in association with the Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival and the Media That Matters Film Festival
* *Filmmaker Katy Chevigny in attendance*

Independents Night – an ongoing program of the Film Society of Lincoln Center

Banished

Marco Williams, U.S., 2006; 86m

Thu Jun 21: 6:30 pm

In the years between the Civil War and the Great Depression, thousands of African-American families throughout the country were violently driven from their land by their white neighbors. These acts of racial cleansing left victims with little choice: get out or die. More than a century later, many of these areas remain all white. Filmmaker Marco Williams (*Two Towns of Jasper*, 2002), whose work examines the dynamic of race relations in the United States, brings this shameful legacy to light in his documentary *Banished* by exploring what happens when the descendants of families from three such areas try to make sense of this tragic history.

In Forsyth County, Ga., reporter Elliot Jaspin discovers that most of the property owned by African-Americans was never sold, but was simply taken by white neighbors. Two brothers try to persuade the town of Pierce City, Mo., to relocate their ancestor's remains to a more hospitable location. And in Harrison, Ark., the current headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan, a group of white citizens try to find ways to overcome the town's racist past. Regret, compassion, morality and emotional tolls combine at all three locations to raise several questions: what can be done to compensate these families and what would truly constitute moral reparation? Williams leaves it to us—as a nation—to come up with answers that satisfy this overwhelming historical tragedy. Opening at Film Forum on October 10. * *Filmmaker Marco Williams in attendance*

Carla's List NY Premiere

Marcel Schüpbach, Switzerland, 2006; 100m. In French and English.

Mon Jun 18: 1:00pm; Tue Jun 19: 6:30pm; Wed Jun 20: 8:45pm

At the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, in a tense atmosphere where everything plays out like a poker game, prosecutor Carla Del Ponte and her team pursue notorious perpetrators of crimes against humanity, such as Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, still at large. Serbia and Croatia—as well as the international community—pledge total cooperation in helping locate the suspects, but this does not seem to produce any concrete results. And time is running out: in September 2007, Del Ponte's appointment as prosecutor ends. Moving between The Hague, New York, Zagreb, and Washington, *Carla's List* vividly brings to life Del Ponte's dogged race against the clock in pursuit of justice. * *Carla Del Ponte in attendance June 19*

The City of Photographers NY Premiere

Sebastián Moreno Mardones, Chile, 2006; 80m. In Spanish.

Fri Jun 15: 1:30pm; Tue Jun 19: 9:15pm; Wed Jun 20: 4:00pm; Fri Jun 22: 9:00pm

In Chile's streets, in the middle of bloody riots and protests, a crew of fearless photojournalists learned their craft and created many of the now legendary images that helped focus world attention on the Pinochet regime's repressive tactics. For them, taking pictures was a form of involvement—even resistance, a way of being more than mere spectators but vital actors. Pinochet had the power and the guns, but these photographers had the camera—the people's weapon. Presented in association with Cinema Tropical, El Museo del Barrio and King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU

* *Filmmaker Sebastián Moreno Mardones in attendance*

Cocalero NY Premiere

Alejandro Landes, Argentina, 2007; 94m. In Spanish and Quechua.

Fri Jun 22: 1:30pm; Sat Jun 23: 6:30pm; Sun Jun 24: 8:30pm

Cocalero is a film about controversial Bolivian President Evo Morales and his rise to prominence. The story follows Morales' presidential campaign as he moves from union meetings in the Andes and Amazon to formal fundraising dinners and mass rallies. The political rise of Morales, an outspoken critic of the U.S. whose political power base is in the coca-growing areas of central Bolivia, dates to his work with farmers resisting a coca eradication drive prompted by the U.S.-backed war on drugs. In 2005, Morales, of Aymara Indian heritage, was elected as Bolivia's first-ever indigenous president, winning the election by the largest

majority in the country's history. Presented in association with Cinema Tropical and King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU **Filmmaker Alejandro Landes in attendance*

Enemies of Happiness NY Premiere

Eva Mulvad, Denmark, 2006; 58m. In English, Farsi and Pashto.

SCREENING WITH

Sari's Mother NY Premiere

James Longley, U.S., 2006; 21m. In Arabic.

Sat Jun 16: 3:30pm; Sun Jun 17: 6:15pm; Mon Jun 18: 4:00pm

Enemies of Happiness is a film about personal courage and conviction. It centers on Malalai Joya, who became one of Afghanistan's most famous and infamous figures in 2003 when she challenged the power of warlords in the country's new government. Two years later, this 28-year-old woman, a survivor of repeated assassination attempts, ran in her country's first democratic parliamentary election in over 30 years. In a country where a majority of the people is illiterate, votes are for sale, warlords use threats and bribes to control the ballots and many women cannot leave their children to vote, Joya is a controversial voice for a people desperate for change. Director Eva Mulvad is the winner of the 2007 HRWIFF Nestor Almendros Prize and Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Prize for Documentary. A Women Make Movies release. Presented in association with the Tribeca Film Festival **Filmmaker Eva Mulvad & Malalai Joya in attendance*

In *Sari's Mother*, filmed in Iraq over a period of one year, Longley (*Gaza Strip, Iraq in Fragments*) follows a courageous mother as she struggles to get medical help for her 10-year-old son, Sari, who is dying of AIDS. An intimate, revealing portrait, uncovering a side of life in Iraq that few outside the country have witnessed.

Everything's Cool

Daniel B. Gold & Judith Helfand, U.S., 2006, 100m

Sun Jun 17: 3:30pm

Veteran filmmakers Gold and Helfand (*Blue Vinyl*) weave an absorbing, character-driven tale about the world's "big problem": global warming. In their new, self-described "toxic comedy," *Everything's Cool*, they chronicle the struggle between two groups of global warming messengers: the "good guys"—which include a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who repeatedly tries to retire but can't, and the Weather Channel's first climatologist with a "global-warming beat" who must pack her Ph.D. into 30-second sound bites—and the "bad guys," mostly industry-sponsored hacks who have until now derailed media and public attention and paralyzed the nation with their manufactured doubt. As much about message as it is about the messengers, as much about human nature as it is about humans' impact on nature, filmmakers Gold and Helfand explore what it will take to move the U.S. from laggard nation to world leader on global warming. **Filmmakers Daniel Gold & Judith Helfand in attendance*

Hot House NY Premiere

Shimon Dotan, Israel, 2006; 89m. In Hebrew, English and Arabic.

Mon Jun 25: 6:30pm; Tue Jun 26: 1:30pm & 9:00pm

About 9,000 Palestinians are imprisoned in Israeli jails on "security" charges. Shot inside the Ber Sheba, Ashkelon, Hadarim, and Megiddo prisons, *Hot House* is a unique, probing documentary feature that

explores the emergence of a Palestinian national leadership within Israeli prisons. The film offers a rare look at the experiences, motivations and mindsets of a number of key inmates—men and women, from Fatah and Hamas, serving multiple life sentences—and the remarkable degree to which they influence the political process in the outside world. *Hot House* provides a unique opportunity to observe events of historic proportions at their nascent beginnings while shattering the two-dimensional stereotypes and the often polarizing commentary presented by the mainstream media on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A First Run/Icarus Films release, premiering on HBO/Cinemax June 27. Winner of the Special Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival 2007. Presented in association with Makor/Steinhardt Center of the 92nd Street Y and The Frontline Club **Filmmaker Shimon Dotan in attendance*

A Lesson of Belarusian NY Premiere

Mirosław Dembinski, Poland/Belarus, 2006; 51m. In Polish and Belarusian.

SCREENING WITH

Pizza Surveillance Feature

Micah Laaker, U.S., 2005; 3m

AND

Virtual Freedom North American Premiere

Gef Senz & Maung Maung Aye, Australia, 2006; 5m

Sat Jun 23: 1:30pm; Mon Jun 25: 4:00pm; Tue Jun 26: 6:30pm; Thu Jun 28: 1:30pm

A Lesson of Belarusian is about young activists who never give up believing that Belarus will one day be free. Franek Viacorka studies at an elite school established by his father to promote the Belarusian language. However, the school has been banned and operating underground since 2003, a victim of the anti-democratic rule of President Alexander Lukashenko. Franek and his classmates are both passionate and thoughtful, expressing their critical attitude to the government by issuing an underground newspaper, recording music with activist lyrics and organizing an opposition concert. Despite the imprisonment of Franek's father and the constant threat of their own arrest, they are undeterred. In the March 2006 presidential election, they support the democratic opposition candidate in a mass demonstration in Minsk's main square. While the candidate is powerless to combat Lukashenko's corruption and use of riot police, Franek and his classmates realize that fearlessness is a victory in itself. Presented in association with WITNESS **Filmmaker Mirosław Dembinski in attendance*

Pizza Surveillance Feature: Want some privacy infringement with that? If the Patriot Act continues to grow in scope, you may get more than mushrooms with your next pizza order.

Virtual Freedom: Animation, exile and the Internet—a Burmese love story online.

Lumo

Bent-Jorgen Perlmutter & Nelson Walker III, co-directors Louis Abelman and Lynn True, Democratic Republic of Congo/U.S., 2007; 76m. In Swahili, French and English.

Wed Jun 20: 6:30pm; Thu Jun 21: 1:30pm; Sun Jun 24: 3:30pm

Recently engaged to a young man from her village, 20-year-old Lumo Sinai can't wait to have children and start a family. But when she crosses paths with marauding soldiers who brutally attack her, she is left with a fistula—a condition that renders her incontinent and threatens her ability to give birth. Rejected by her fiancé and cast aside by her family, Lumo finds her way to the one place that may save her, a hospital for

rape survivors. Buoyed by the love of the hospital staff, including a formidable team of wise women known to all as “the Mamas,” Lumo and her friends keep alive the hope of one day resuming their former lives, thanks to an operation that can restore them fully to health. On this uncertain road to recovery, *Lumo* proves that the solidarity of women can bind even the most irreparable of wounds. Premiering on PBS on September 18. Presented in association with African Film Festival, Inc., American Documentary | P.O.V. and the New York office of World Vision. **Filmmakers Bent-Jorgen Perlmutter & Nelson Walker III, and co-directors Louis Abelman & Lynn True in attendance*

Manufactured Landscapes NY Premiere

Jennifer Baichwal, Canada, 2005; 87m

Sat Jun 16: 6:15pm

Manufactured Landscapes is both a stunning portrait of Edward Burtynsky, an internationally celebrated photographer who specializes in large-scale studies of industrial vistas, and an exploration of the aesthetics and social and spiritual dimensions of globalization around the world today. Baichwal (*Let It Come Down: The Life of Paul Bowles, The True Meaning of Pictures: Shelby Lee Adams' Appalachia*) follows Burtynsky to China and Bangladesh, focusing on the human cogs in the machine by contrasting Burtynsky's epic photographs with the tedium the workers endure and the sometimes toxic and alienating impact globalization has on the very people the transformations are supposed to benefit most. Beautifully shot and edited, and conceived with a startling awareness of the repercussions of our mania to control and repackage our environment, *Manufactured Landscapes* is a truly unsettling look at contemporary existence. Winner, Best Canadian Feature, Toronto International Film Festival 2006. A Zeitgeist Films release, opening at Film Forum on June 20. **Filmmaker Jennifer Baichwal in attendance*

New Visions: A Sundance Documentary Film Program "Work-in-Progress" Screening

Sat Jun 16: 8:45pm

The **Human Rights Watch International Film Festival** is proud to present the first special event in an ongoing collaboration with the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program (DFP) showcasing scenes from two much-anticipated films supported by the DFP that explore the question of faith and the Muslim experience today.

The filmmaking teams will present segments from their films followed by a discussion of the issues surrounding their controversial works, as well as experiences and insights into collaborative filmmaking. Joining them in this discussion will be Cara Mertes (director, DFP) and Bruni Burres (director, HRWIFF).

In his debut documentary feature, Parvez Sharma presents *A Jihad for Love*. He and producer Sandi Simcha DuBowski will discuss the complexities of making a documentary filmed in 12 different countries and in nine languages, which is the first-ever feature-length documentary to explore the complex global intersections of Islam and homosexuality. (DuBowski directed *Trembling Before G-d*, featured on closing night, HRWIFF 2001).

From directors Senain Khesghi and Geeta V. Patel comes *Project Kashmir*—a feature documentary in which the directors, two American friends from opposite sides of the divide, investigate the war in Kashmir and find their friendship tested over deeply rooted religious biases they never had to face in the U.S.. *Project Kashmir* explores war between countries and war within oneself by delving into the fraught lives of young

people caught in the social/political conflict of one of the most beautiful, and most deadly, places on earth—Kashmir. **Filmmakers Parvez Sharma, Sandi DuBowski, Senain Kheshgi & Geeta Patel in attendance*

The Railroad All-Stars NY Premiere

Chema Rodriguez, Spain, 2006; 90m. In Spanish.

Fri Jun 15: 4:00pm; Sun Jun 17: 8:45pm; Mon Jun 18: 6:30pm; Tue Jun 19: 1:30pm

Exhilarating, endearing, and often humorous, *The Railroad All-Stars* features Valeria, Vilma and Mercy, three prostitutes in search of a better life. The women live and work in La Linea, a destitute neighborhood next to a railroad track in Guatemala City. Fed up with the abuse they get from customers, lovers and the police, they decide to form a soccer team, “Las Estrellas de la Linea,” in hopes of drawing attention to their plight. After the first game against a local high school team, Las Estrellas are banned from future competitions on account of their profession; however, the controversy brings enormous media attention. Rodriguez exhibits a strong bond with his characters, drawing out their exuberance and inspiring strength as they fight for their most basic human rights and a better life through the most unusual of channels. Presented in association with Cinema Tropical, King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU and NewFest: The New York LGBT Film Festival

Suffering and Smiling NY Premiere

Dan Ollman, Nigeria/U.S., 2007; 65m. In English and Yoruba.

Wed Jun 20: 2:00pm; Fri Jun 22: 4:00pm; Sat Jun 23: 9:00pm; Sun Jun 24: 1:30pm

Following Nigeria’s independence in 1960, the country’s military and political elite enriched themselves by allowing Nigeria’s oil and natural resources to be stripped by multinational corporations. Legendary African singer and activist Fela Anikulapo Kuti spoke out, giving voice to Nigeria’s disenfranchised underclass by singing of a free and united Africa. Since Fela’s death in 1997, his son Femi has continued his father’s legacy. Equally passionate and charismatic, Femi sings about the dire situation in his country, asks why the world’s most resource-rich continent has the poorest people and struggles to maintain a vision of better days ahead for the common people of Nigeria. Presented in association with Film Aid International

**Filmmaker Dan Ollman in attendance*

The Unforeseen

Laura Dunn, U.S., 2007; 93m

Sat Jun 23: 4:00pm; Sun Jun 24: 6:00pm; Mon Jun 25: 1:30pm

Laura Dunn’s beautifully crafted documentary follows the career of Gary Bradley, an ambitious West Texas farmboy who became one of the state’s most powerful real estate developers, capitalizing on Austin’s boomtown growth beginning in the 1970s. At the peak of his powers, Bradley transformed 4,000 acres of pristine hill country into one of the state’s largest and fastest-selling subdivisions. When the development threatened a local treasure, Barton Springs—a natural spring-fed swimming hole—the community fought back and the subdivision became a lightning rod for environmental activism of the kind that flourished under Governor Ann Richards. However, when George W. Bush became governor, development laws changed, and the water quality at Barton Springs, as well as the surrounding landscape of Austin, was irreversibly transformed.

The Unforeseen is a powerful meditation on the destruction of the natural world and the American Dream as they fall victim to the cannibalizing forces of unchecked development. It is an intricate tale of personal hopes, victories and failures, and of debates over land, economics, property rights and the public good. Presented in association with Film Comment **Filmmaker Laura Dunn in attendance*

The Violin NY Premiere

Francisco Vargas Quevedo, Mexico, 2006; 98m. In Spanish.

Sat Jun 16: 1:00pm; Sun Jun 17: 1:00pm

Don Plutarco, his son Genaro and his grandson Lucio live double lives as musician farmers and supporters of an armed guerrilla movement seeking social justice for the peasant farmers. When the army seizes the village, the rebels flee to the Sierra hills, leaving behind their crucial stock of ammunition. While the guerrillas organize a counterattack, Plutarco tries to gain access to his cornfield where the ammunition is hidden. He presents himself as a harmless violin player and charms the ruthless army captain, who orders Plutarco to return daily to play. Plutarco has music, but needs ammunition. The captain wants to stifle the rebellion, but loves music. As the days pass, arms and music enter a dangerous contest that can only end in betrayal. A Film Movement release, opening at Film Forum in early 2008. Presented in association with Cinema Tropical and King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU

We'll Never Meet Childhood Again North American Premiere

Sam Lawlor & Lindsay Pollock, Romania/UK, 2007; 75m. In Romanian and English.

Mon Jun 25: 9:00pm; Tue Jun 26: 4:00pm; Wed Jun 27: 9:00pm; Thu Jun 28: 4:00pm

We'll Never Meet Childhood Again tells the remarkable, uplifting story of a courageous group of Romanian foster parents who adopted the children referred to as “Ceausescu’s babies”—infants infected with HIV in Romanian hospitals and orphanages during the late 1980s, then left to die. Health Aid Romania, a nongovernmental organization, established family homes to care for these children. The film charts these makeshift families’ extraordinary experiences over almost 30 years—through striking oral testimony, candid home video, and revealing observational sequences. *We'll Never Meet Childhood Again* beautifully illuminates notions of family, parenthood, death and love, revealing the societal hurdles and concerns of the children—now adolescents—as they arrive at the time when every child must mature, form their own identity and sexuality, outgrow their family, and aspire to create their own life and family.

**Filmmakers Sam Lawlor and Lindsay Pollock in attendance*

White Light/Black Rain NY Premiere

Steven Okazaki, U.S., 2007; 86m In English, Japanese and Korean.

Thu Jun 21: 4:00pm & 9:00pm; Fri Jun 22: 6:30pm

As global tensions rise, the once unthinkable threat that nuclear weapons of mass destruction will be used again is more real and more frightening than at any time since the height of the Cold War. Even after 60 years, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continue to inspire argument, denial and myth. Surprisingly, most people know very little about what happened on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, two days that changed the world.

Featuring unforgettable interviews with 14 atomic bomb survivors, many of whom have never spoken publicly before, and four Americans intimately involved in the bombings, this new film by Academy Award®-winner Steven Okazaki reveals both unimaginable suffering and extraordinary human resilience. *White Light/Black Rain* stands as a powerful warning to today's world—which harbors nuclear weapons with the firepower of 400,000 Hiroshimas—that we cannot afford to forget what happened on those two days in 1945. An HBO Documentary film, premiering on August 6. Presented in association with AsianCinevision
**Filmmaker Steven Okazaki in attendance*

Photography Exhibit

Jun 15-28

On the Frontlines

A special photography exhibition at the Frieda and Roy Furman Gallery, adjacent to the lobby of the Walter Reade. Featuring work by some of the world's most respected photojournalists, including Abbas, Marcus Bleasdale, Tim Hetherington, Kadir van Lohuizen, Susan Meiselas, and Robert Nickelsberg, the exhibit spotlights some of the most pressing human rights issues of our time—labor and migration, conflict, women's rights, refugees and the exploitation of natural resources. The gallery is open daily 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

About Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch is one of the world's largest research and advocacy organizations. It conducts fact-finding investigations into human rights abuses in more than 70 countries around the world and publishes those findings in hundreds of reports each year. Through reporting and advocacy, Human Rights Watch seeks to shame abusive governments, change policies and practices, and inform the public about important human rights issues. For more information about Human Rights Watch, visit www.hrw.org.

About The Film Society of Lincoln Center

The Film Society of Lincoln Center was founded in 1969 to celebrate American and international cinema, to recognize and support new directors, and to enhance the awareness, accessibility and understanding of film. Advancing this mandate today, the Film Society hosts two distinguished festivals: the New York Film Festival, which annually premieres the best films from around the world and has introduced likes of François Truffaut, R.W. Fassbinder, Jean-Luc Godard, Pedro Almodóvar, Martin Scorsese, and Wong Kar-Wai to the United States, and New Directors/New Films, co-presented by the Museum of Modern Art, which focuses on emerging film talents. Since 1972 when the Film Society honored Charles Chaplin, the annual Gala Tribute celebrates an actor, filmmaker or industry leader who has helped distinguish cinema as an art form. Additionally, the Film Society presents a year-round calendar of programming at its Walter Reade Theater and offers insightful film writing to a worldwide audience through Film Comment magazine.