

International Film Festival Chicago **May 5-12, 2005**



Opening Night Benefit Screening & Reception
Thursday, May 5 · Doors Open at 5:30 pm
Museum of Contemporary Art, 200 East Chicago Avenue

featuring **PERSONS OF INTEREST**

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **CARROLL BOGERT**, Associate Director, Human Rights Watch
ALISON MACLEAN AND TOBIAS PERSE, Directors of **PERSONS OF INTEREST**

Individual Benefit tickets: "Director" at \$250, "Screenwriter" at \$150, "Cinematographer" at \$75
For Benefit tickets or further information, please call 212-216-1805 or email beyrerl@hrw.org.

All films screen
at Facets Cinematheque
with the exception of the
Opening Night Benefit

FACETS CINEMATHEQUE
1517 W. Fullerton Avenue
Hotline: 773-281-4114
Advance tickets:
www.facets.org/cinematheque

DOUBLE FEATURE
Friday, May 6 at 6:30 & 9 pm

JUVIES CHICAGO PREMIERE!

Four years ago, high school student Duc Ta was arrested for driving a car from which a gun was shot. Although no one was injured, and Duc was not a member of a gang, had no priors, and was 16 years old, he received a sentence of 35 years to life. This is a riveting look at a world most of us will never see: the world of juvenile offenders who are serving incomprehensibly long prison sentences.

Directed by Leslie Neale, U.S.A., 2004.

(also: Wednesday, May 11 at 8:30 pm)

and **ONE SHOT**
CHICAGO PREMIERE!

Filmmaker Nurit Kedar spent a year convincing the military authorities in Israel to allow her to interview Israel Defense Force snipers. Snipers are part of every combat unit and have been used for targeted killing. One Shot focuses on snipers still serving in the Israeli Army and for the first time ever, they speak about their killings, their feelings, and their morality.

Directed by Nurit Kedar, Israel, 2004.

(also: Thursday, May 12 at 7 pm)

DOUBLE FEATURE
Saturday, May 7 at 6:30 & 9 pm

DISCORDIA CHICAGO PREMIERE!

On the campus of Montreal's Concordia University, an announcement is made that Benjamin Netanyahu, the former prime minister of Israel, will speak, and it has sparked heated debate among the students, some of whom are Pro-Palestine, others Pro-Israel, and still others non-aligned free speech advocates. By the end of the day, the debate has exploded into violent confrontation, and the riot has made international news, from CNN to Al-Jazeera. Charting the turbulent progress of three young campus activists, this provocative documentary asks what role international politics, religion and culture can and should play in the lives of our college students. Directed by Ben Addelman and Samir Mallal, Canada, 2004.

and **GOODBYE HUNGARIA**
CHICAGO PREMIERE!

Both political tale and love story, Goodbye Hungaria begins in a refugee camp in Hungary, home to hundreds of men, women and children fleeing war and oppression from every corner of the globe. To the refugees, Eastern Hungary is a cold and unwelcoming place; Asylum is rarely granted, and there are few opportunities for work. For most, the only way out of this legal limbo is through a thriving underground smuggling ring. Jon Nealon's cinema verite documentary chronicles the lives of Abed Al-Sahli a Palestinian refugee who acts as advocate and de facto translator for the camp's Arab population, and Charu Newhouse, an American volunteer. Directed by Jon Nealon, USA/Hungary 2003.

PERSONS OF INTEREST

Directed by Alison Maclean and Tobias Perse, USA, 2003, 63m, video, documentary

After the September 11th terrorist attacks, more than 5000 people, mainly non-U.S. nationals of South Asian or Middle Eastern origin, were taken into custody by the U.S. Justice Department and held indefinitely on grounds of national security. Muslim immigrants were subjected to arbitrary arrest, secret detention, solitary confinement, and deportation. While the State Department has made every effort to depersonalize these detainees, refusing to reveal the names or even the number of immigrants detained, the testimonies of those affected become our only window into the human costs of post-September 11th immigration policies. Through interviews, family photographs, and letters from prison, the directors of PERSONS OF INTEREST have fashioned a compelling and poignant film, allowing those affected a chance to tell their own stories.

DEADLINE

Saturday, May 7 at 1 pm
Sunday, May 8 at 4 pm

On the eve of his departure from office, George Ryan-longtime conservative Republican, supporter of the death penalty, and governor of Illinois-surprised the nation by commuting the sentences of all 167 prisoners on Death Row. Directors Katy Chevigny and Kirsten Johnson bring us directly into the debate and the legal process that is set into motion when a group of Northwestern University journalism students uncover evidence that many people on Illinois' Death Row are innocent, undermining the credibility of the state's entire capital justice system. Directed by Katy Chevigny and Kirsten Johnson, U.S.A 2003.

WHAT THE EYE DOESN'T SEE
CHICAGO PREMIERE!

Saturday, May 7 at 3 pm
Monday, May 9 at 7 pm
Acclaimed filmmaker Francisco J. Lombardi delivers his most ambitious project to date with the political psychodrama What the Eye Doesn't See. Set in the final days of

Alberto Fujimori's presidency in Peru, the film explores the corruption plaguing many Latin American governments as seen through the eyes of everyday people. Directed by Francisco J. Lombardi, Peru, 2003.

REPATRIATION

Sunday, May 8 at 1 pm
Tuesday, May 10 at 7 pm

In the spring of 1992, documentary filmmaker Dong-won Kim met Cho Chang-son and Kim Seak-hyung, two North Koreans arrested by South Korean authorities years before. Convicted of spying for the North, they were incarcerated and spent thirty years as political prisoners. These men, and many others like them, underwent conversion schemes in prison that involved torture and those individuals who renounced their communist beliefs were released from prison early. The others, known as "the unconverted," served their full terms. None could return home to the North, however, until the turn of this century, when tensions between North and South eased significantly. Director Dong-won Kim followed these men for ten years, documenting how they survived, both

physically and psychologically, the dehumanizing time spent in prison, and their quest, once released, to finally go home. Directed by Dong-won Kim, South Korea 2003. Winner of the Freedom of Expression Award at the Sundance Film Festival

SAINTS AND SINNERS

Wednesday, May 11 at 7 pm
Thursday, May 12 at 8:30 pm

Saints and Sinners follows the emotional journey of a devoutly Catholic gay couple determined to marry in a Catholic church. Caring more about formalizing their seven-year union within the Catholic tradition than with legal recognition by the state, Edward DeBonis and Vincent Maniscalco pursue their dream, despite the expected rejection from the local church hierarchy. Saints and Sinners is a timely vision of love and commitment, which demonstrates that the struggle for equal rights is not just about legal benefits, but the aspiration to find acceptance and affirmation. Directed by Abigail Honor and Yan Vizinberg, U.S.A.