

World Community Film Festival '08 DRAFT SCHEDULE

FILM	SPONSOR/HOST	LENGTH	DATE	VENUE
The Cats of Mirikitani	Art Gallery?	74 min.	March 27 Thurs	Art Gallery?
One Man, One Cow, One Planet	Farmers' Market	56 min.	March 28 Friday	Raven Haven
King Corn	Good Food Box	88 min.		
The Refugees of the Blue Planet	Green Party	53 min.	March 29 Saturday	PizzaRicos
Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home	REAPS	75 min.	March 30 Sunday afternoon	Artspace
War/Dance		107 min.		
Tsepong: A Clinic Called Hope	Green Party	49 min.	March 31 Monday	Raven Haven
!Salud! : Cuba & the Quest for Health		93 min.		
Greenpeace: Making a Stand	PIRG	48 min.	April 1 Tuesday	Artspace
Escape from Suburbia		96 min.		
War Made Easy: How Presidents & Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death		72 min.	April 2 Wednesday	PizzaRicos
China Blue		88 min.		
Shock Waves	Amnesty International PG	52 min.	April 3 Thursday	Raven Haven
Memories of a Dreamer	Amnesty International PG	51 min.		
Everything's Cool	PACHA	94 min.	April 4 Friday	Artspace
A Life Among Whales		57 min.		
Toxic Trespass	PACHA	52 min	March 31 Lunch	Raven Haven
100% Cotton: Made in India		30 min.	April 1 Lunch	Raven Haven
Gimme Green	Communities in Bloom	27 min.	April 2 Lunch	Raven Haven
The Curse of Copper		34 min.	April 3 Lunch	Raven Haven
Radically Simple	Community Gardens	35 min	April 4 Lunch	Raven Haven

The Cats of Mirikitani

74 min. 2006 Lucid Dreaming Filmmaker: Linda Hattendorf

"Make art not war" is Jimmy Mirikitani's motto. This 85-year-old Japanese American artist was born in Sacramento and raised in Hiroshima, but by 2001 he is living on the streets of New York with the twin towers of the World Trade Center still ominously anchoring the horizon behind him.

How did Mirikitani end up on the streets? The answer is in his art. As tourists and shoppers hurry past, he sits alone on a windy corner in Soho drawing whimsical cats, bleak interment camps, and the angry red flames of the atomic bomb. When a neighbouring filmmaker stops to ask about Mirikitani's art, a friendship begins that will change both their lives. The Cats of Mirikitani is an intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing power of art. A heart-warming affirmation of humanity that will appeal to all lovers of peace, art, and cats. *Audience Award: Tribeca Film Festival*

One Man, One Cow, One Planet

56 min. 2007 Cloud South Films Filmmaker: Barbara Sumner Burstyn

'The outcome of the battle for agricultural control in India may just dictate the future of the earth.' 78 year old Peter Proctor is quietly determined to save the world. Peter is known as the father of modern biodynamic farming, a form of organic agriculture. Biodynamic agriculture is changing the landscape, releasing entire communities from the debt cycles and destroyed lands of chemical farming and the bio colonialism of multinational corporations. One Man, One Cow, One Planet reveals the hidden battle of marginal farmers to own seeds, to grow diverse crops, to feed themselves and their communities.

King Corn

88 min. 2007 Mosaic Films Filmmakers: Aaron Woolf, Curt Ellis, Ian Cheney

King Corn is a feature documentary about two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop that drives our fast-food industry. In King Corn, Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, best friends from college on the east coast, move to the US heartland to learn where their food comes from. With the help of friendly neighbours, genetically modified seeds, and powerful herbicides, they plant and grow a bumper crop of America's most productive, most-subsidized grain on one acre of Iowa soil. But when they try to follow their pile of corn into the food system, what they find raises troubling questions about how we eat—and how we farm. Entertaining and enlightening

The Refugees of the Blue Planet

53 min. 2006 NFB Directors: Hélène Choquette & Jean-Philippe Duval

Each year, millions of people the world over are driven to forced displacement. From the Maldives to Brazil, and even closer to home in Canada, the disturbing accounts of people who have been uprooted are amazingly similar. The enormous pressure placed on rural populations as a result of the degradation of their life-supporting environment is driving them increasingly further from their way of life. The Refugees of the Blue Planet sheds light on the desperate plight of individuals who are suffering the repercussions of this reality: environmental refugees. They are constantly growing in number and often have no legal status, even though their right to a clean and sustainable environment has been violated.

Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home

75 min. 2007 McNabb/Connolly Filmmaker: Andrew Nisker

Where does all our garbage go and what it's doing to the world? Concerned for the future of his new baby boy, director Andrew Nisker takes an average urban family, the McDonalds, and asks them to keep every scrap of garbage that they create for three months. From organic waste to the stuff they flush down the potty, the plastic bags they use to the water they drink out of bottles, the air pollution they create when transporting the kids around, to using lights at Christmas, the McDonalds discover that for every action there is a reaction that affects them and the entire planet. By the end of the odyssey, you will be inspired to change your lifestyle for the sake of future generations.

War/Dance

107 min. 2007 ThinkFilm Directors: Sean Fine & Andrea Nix Fine

For the last twenty years, Northern Uganda has been at war with a rebel force, the Lord's Resistance Army (L.R.A.) The L.R.A has a chillingly effective process to fill its ranks: abducting the boys to become soldiers and the girls into sexual slavery. But amidst the grief and violence, voices are heard - children's voices, singing strong, without fear. Across the country, Ugandan children are getting ready for the biggest event of the year: the annual Kampala Music Festival. War Dance follows the courageous efforts of Patongo Elementary School students as they pour their hearts into this year's competition. They dance to the rhythms of their ancestors, they dance about their future, they dance to be children...and they dance to win. *Inspirational. Documentary Directing Award; Sundance 2007*

Tsepong: A Clinic Called Hope 49 min. 2005 McNabb/Connolly Director: Patrick Reed

In December 2004, the Ontario Hospital Association had their first team of health care workers on the ground in Lesotho, operating out of Tsepong Clinic ("the place of hope" in Sesotho, the local language.) As part of a three-year partnership with the Lesotho Ministry of Health, they help with the wide-spread distribution of affordable life-saving antiretroviral drugs (ARVs.) Doctors, pharmacists and a single nurse provide instructions and ongoing coaching to patients under extraordinary working conditions.

¡Salud! : Cuba & the Quest for Health 93 min. 2006 MEDICC Director: Connie Field

¡Salud! looks at the curious case of Cuba, a cash-strapped country with what the BBC calls 'one of the world's best health systems.' From the shores of Africa to the Americas, ¡Salud! hits the road with some of the 28,000 Cuban health professionals serving in 68 countries. They take with them the experience and philosophy of their own community-oriented, preventive and universal health care model, a model fundamentally at odds with a global wave of healthcare privatization. International medical students in Cuba now number 30,000, including nearly 100 from the USA. Their stories plus testimony from experts around the world bring home the competing agendas that mark the battle for global health—and the complex realities confronting the movement to make healthcare everyone's birth right.

Greenpeace: Making a Stand 48 min. 2006 Filmwest Director: Leigh Badgley

With dramatic action footage, still photographs, lively interviews with unforgettable characters, Greenpeace: Making a Stand explores what inspires people to risk their lives for their beliefs - to sail a ship into a nuclear test zone, to get between a pod of whales and an explosive harpoon, or to block bulldozers mowing down a forest. This compelling documentary looks at the 35 year evolution of Greenpeace from the early days of the environmental movement in the 1970s, to the front lines of a potentially dangerous campaign in Argentina's Pizarro Reserve. As a result of the attention that Greenpeace and the documentary crew brought to this struggle, the Wichi people won title to the Reserve.

Escape from Suburbia 96 min. 2007 www.escapefromsuburbia.com Director: Greg Greene

This journey of discovery is a sobering yet vital and ultimately positive exploration of what the second half of the Oil Age has in store for us. Through personal stories and interviews we see how declining world oil production has already begun to affect modern life in North America. Expert scientific opinion is balanced with "on the street" portraits from an emerging global movement of citizens' groups who are confronting the challenges of Peak Oil in extraordinary ways. Escape from Suburbia asks the tough questions: What are the controversies surrounding our future energy options? What are ordinary people doing in their own communities to prepare for Peak Oil?

War Made Easy: How Presidents & Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death

72 min. 2007 Media Education Foundation Directors: Loretta Alper & Jeremy Earp Narration: Sean Penn

War Made Easy exposes a 50-year pattern of government deception and media spin that has dragged the US into one war after another. The film exhumes remarkable archival footage of official distortion and exaggeration from LBJ to George W. Bush, revealing in stunning detail how the American news media have uncritically disseminated the pro-war messages of successive presidential administrations. War Made Easy is guided by media critic Norman Solomon's meticulous research and tough-minded analysis. The film presents disturbing examples of propaganda and media complicity with special attention to parallels between the Vietnam War and the war in Iraq.

China Blue 88 min. 2005 McNabb/Connolly Director: Micha Peled

China Blue is a powerful and poignant journey into the harsh world of sweatshop workers. Shot clandestinely, this is a deep-access account of what both China and the international retailers don't want us to see: how the clothes we buy are actually made. Following a pair of denim jeans from birth to sale, China Blue links the power of the U.S. consumer market to the daily lives of a Chinese factory owner and two teenaged female factory workers. Filmed both in the factory and in the workers' faraway village, this documentary provides a rare, human glimpse at China's rapid transformation into a free market society. *PBS Independent Lens; Audience Award*

Shock Waves 52 min. 2007 InformAction Productions Filmmakers: Pierre Mignault & H el ene Magny

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country whose record of human rights violations is among the highest in the world, the journalists at Radio Okapi constantly risk their lives in order to denounce the extreme abuses of power to which the civilian population is subjected. Shot under dangerous conditions, with the rebellion as backdrop, Shock Waves follows these reporters' investigations. In a land where silence is imposed at gunpoint, Shock Waves provides eloquent testimony to the struggle for freedom of expression and democracy in a war-torn nation.

Memories of a Dreamer FFR 51 min. 2007 Director: Alisson Larrea

More than 30 years after political prisoner F elix Mora suffered under Chile's cruel 1973 and inhumane dictatorship, he relives the shocking details of the human rights abuses he escaped from and the challenges he faced as an exile in Italy and Canada. F elix's heartbreaking memories are shared with his friend Jorge Aro, another political prisoner who was also held in the Stadium at the tender age of 15. Exile was meant to silence those who fought the regime. For F elix, exile became a catalyst to fight for freedom and democracy. Can he ever repatriate to his birthplace and belong to Chile again, or has this experience changed him - and his country - to a point of no return? This inspirational film where terror and injustice are overcome by courage and determination is a testament to the lives of many Chilean exiles.

Everything's Cool 94 min. 2007 Toxic Comedy Productions Filmmakers: Daniel Gold & Judith Helfand

Everything's Cool is a film about America finally "getting" global warming in the wake of the most dangerous chasm ever to emerge between scientific understanding and political action. While industry funded nay-sayers sing what just might be their swan song of pseudo-scientific deception, a group of climate change messengers are on a high stakes quest to find the iconic image, the magic language, the points of leverage that will finally create the political will to move the US from its reliance on fossil fuels to a new earth-friendly economy - and fast!

A Life Among Whales 57 min. 2005 McNabb/Connolly Director: Bill Haney

Weaving together natural history and biography, A Life Among Whales is a fascinating exploration into the life and work of whale biologist and activist Roger Payne. Payne's electrifying discovery in the early 1970s that whales sing "songs" helped ignite the modern day environmental movement. With beautiful and haunting images, Payne challenges us to become the greatest generation of all. Saving earth's largest creatures would open the door to humanity's recognition of our true role in the biosphere. (Images of whaling may disturb some people.) *Earthwatch Film Award; Best Film & Video: MountainFilm, Telluride; Marine Conservation Award*

LUNCHHOUR SERIES

Toxic Trespass

52 min. 2007 NFB Filmmaker: Barri Cohen

Barri Cohen launches an investigation into the effects of the chemical soup around us. She starts with her 10-year-old daughter, whose blood carries carcinogens like benzene and DDT. In Canadian toxic hotspots, Windsor and Sarnia, everyone seems to know children who have suffered respiratory illnesses, leukemia, brain tumours and other illnesses. And on the Native reserve of Aamjiwnaang, ringed by Sarnia's "chemical valley," the film reveals a startling birth rate problem that officials just can't ignore. We meet passionate activists working for positive change, along with doctors and scientists who see evidence of links between environmental pollution and health problems.

100% Cotton: Made in India

30 min. 2003 Journeyman Pictures Filmmakers: Inge Altemeier und Reinhard Hornung

Cotton is the main material for our textiles, especially those we wear directly on the skin. During cotton production, huge quantities of pesticides are used, including poisons used as chemical weapons. Many of these pesticides are banned in other countries but still used in India. In the cotton belt of India, hundreds of farmers caught in the vicious cycle of debt have committed suicide by drinking pesticides. Hundreds more die of the poisons during the spraying season or from handling the contaminated cotton during processing. The residues of the poisons also enter the bodies of consumers as they wear the clothing made from contaminated cotton. *Brazil Environmental Film Festival: First Place*

Gimme Green

27 min. 2007 Jellyfish Smack Productions Directors: Isaac Brown & Eric Flagg

Lawns are undeniably a North American symbol. But what do they symbolize? Pride and prosperity? Or waste and conformity? Gimme Green is a humorous look at the American obsession with the residential lawn and the effects it has on our environment, our wallets, and our outlook on life. From the subdivisions of Florida to sod farms in the arid southwest, Gimme Green peers behind the curtain of the \$40 billion industry that fuels the US's largest irrigated crop – the lawn. *Best Documentary: Beverly Hills Shorts Festival; Juror's Citation: Big Muddy Film Festival*

The Curse of Copper

34 min. 2007 Friends of the Earth

Intag region in Ecuador is one of the world's ten most threatened biodiversity hotspots. On the border of the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve, Ascendant Copper Corporation proposes to construct an open-pit copper mine. After a fierce battle in the 1990s between local people and mining corporations, the local government declared the whole of Cotacachi an "Ecological County", and banned mining activities in the region. Despite this, in August 2002, two mining concessions in the Intag were secretly auctioned off by the Ecuadorian Ministry of Energy and Mines to a private trafficker in mining concessions. These rights were subsequently sold in 2004 and then transferred to Ascendant Copper Corporation (ACX), based in Vancouver. The communities of Cotacachi have continued to resist the encroachment of Ascendant Copper on their lands and have gained the support of international organizations including Friends of the Earth, Mining Watch Canada and Rainforest Concern.

Radically Simple

35 min. 2005 McNabb/Connolly Filmmaker: Jan Cannon

Imagine that you are first in line at a potluck supper that includes not only food and water, but all the materials needed to sustain life. How do you know how much to take? How much must you leave for your neighbours behind you – not just more than 6 billion human beings, but our fellow creatures and future generations? In the face of looming ecological disaster, many people feel the need to change their own lifestyle as a necessary step in transforming our unsustainable way of life. Engineer and author Jim Merkel demonstrates that a radically simple lifestyle is both possible and satisfying.

UNCLAIMED FILMS TO DATE

Empowering Youth

27 min. 2007 Carswell Productions Director: Edwin Carswell

Empowering Youth is a celebration of eco-leadership programs in 12 African countries. Between 2003 and 2007, 18 African organizations partnered with Canada World Youth to deliver the Africa-Canada Eco-leadership Program. Following the program, African participants started up their own eco-enterprises or educational projects. These programs provided youth with an experience in global citizenship, environmentally sustainable development, civil society building, and democratic participation. This video tours 10 different projects including: beekeeping in Kenya, sheep farming in Burkina Faso, hydroponic-organic gardening in Senegal, and eco-tours in South Africa.

Cottonland

54 min. 2006 NFB Director: Nance Ackerman

When the last of Cape Breton's once thriving coalmines shut down in the late 1990s, the shrinking population of Glace Bay faced chronic unemployment. For some, despair led to a dependency on the prescription painkiller OxyContin. Cottonland draws a coherent line between economic and social depression and asks us to consider the deeper roots of widespread social problems. Strong and cohesive social network can help people to resist drug dependency. Ironically, this network exists in the neighbouring Native community of Membertou, where the economy is flourishing and a culture of hope thrives after generations of despair. Cottonland emphasizes the importance of a collective approach to problems of addiction and dependency.

Sir, No Sir!

84 min. 2006 McNabb/Connolly Filmmaker: David Zeiger

In the 1960's an anti-war movement emerged that altered the course of history. This movement didn't take place on college campuses, but in barracks and on aircraft carriers. It flourished in army stockades, navy brigs and in the towns that surround military bases. It penetrated elite military colleges like West Point. And it spread throughout the battlefields of Vietnam. It was a movement no one expected, least of all those in it. Hundreds went to prison and thousands into exile. And by 1971 it had, in the words of one colonel, infested the entire armed services. Yet today few people know about the GI movement against the war in Vietnam. *Los Angeles Film Festival; Audience Award*

Un Poquito de Tanta Verdad (A Little Bit of So Much Truth)

93 min. 2007 Corrugated Films Filmmaker: Jill Friedberg

When the people of Oaxaca decided they'd had enough of bad government, they didn't take their story to the media...they TOOK the media. In the summer of 2006, a broad-based, non-violent, popular uprising exploded in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca. Some compared it to the Paris Commune, but it was the people's use of the media that truly made history in Oaxaca. This documentary captures the unprecedented media phenomenon that emerged when tens of thousands of school teachers, housewives, indigenous communities, health workers, farmers, and students took 14 radio stations and one TV station into their own hands, using them to organize, mobilize, and ultimately defend their grassroots struggle for social, cultural, and economic justice.

My Dead Husband's Land

32 min. 2006 Director: Mia Malan

Culture and its proponents prevent Luo women of Kenya from inheriting and owning their deceased husbands' land and properties. The widows themselves are deemed property and are often "inherited." They are forced to marry male relatives, usually brothers-in-law, according to an ancient custom known as 'ter.' But the women of Orongo are emerging victorious in a battle against practices they consider oppressive and cruel. And, remarkably, they put their success down to AIDS, which has revolutionized Luo culture at Orongo. Widows and elders have joined hands to successfully fight the practice of *ter*, arguing that widows with HIV could infect their "inherited" husbands.

Super Amigos

82 min. 2007 Open City Works Director: Arturo Perez Torres

Super Amigos follows 5 modern-day super heroes in Mexico City as they fight for social justice and human rights. These super heroes are a group of Lucha Libre wrestlers who have taken their fight out of the ring and into the streets of the Mexican Capital. Super Barrio, Super Gay, Ecologista Universal, Super Animal and Fray Tormenta are real life masked super heroes who fight against evil slumlords, corrupt politicians, homophobia, pollution, animal abusers, and poverty. Though their true identity remains a mystery, they could easily be Mexico City's most popular figures and last salvation. Creativity and social activism combine to become a powerful force.

The Devil Came on Horseback

85 min. 2007 Mongrel Media Filmmakers: Annie Sundberg & Ricki Stern

This hard-hitting film exposes the tragedy that is taking place in Darfur as seen through the eyes of former Marine Captain, Brian Steidle. His photographs and testimony take us on an emotionally charged journey into the heart of Darfur, Sudan where an Arab run government is systematically executing a plan to rid the province of its black African citizens. As an official military observer, Steidle was unprepared for what he would witness and experience including being unable to intervene to save lives. Frustrated by the inaction of the international community, he resigned and returned to the US to expose the images and stories of lives destroyed and to work to stop the carnage. Disturbing images.

Saving Marriage

90 min. 2006 Documix Directors: Mike Roth & John Hennig

In November 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Court issued a historic decision that made the state the first in the US to legalize same-sex marriage. Instead of representing a final victory for the movement, it was just the beginning of the fight that would stretch through two state Constitutional Conventions and an election and is still in process today. Saving Marriage chronicles the events spawned by the initial court decision. Interviews with lobbyists, activists, and politicians give an inside look at the strategies and efforts employed to preserve the right for gays and lesbians to marry. A gripping drama. *Many audience awards*

Damage Done: The Drug War Odyssey

55 min. 2007 NFB Director: Connie Littlefield

Meet a group of maverick cops with varying political ideals who discuss the question: Is the war on drugs doing more damage than the drugs themselves? After 30 years of drug war, illegal narcotics are decreasing in price, increasing in purity and demand continues to surge. The heroes of this film are veterans of the drug war and they urge us to consider ending drug prohibition. They have had a complete revolution in their thinking. Now they are working to end the War on Drugs. Find out what happened to change their minds. "Legalize, regulate and tax" is their mantra now. They believe that all illicit drugs should be under the control of government, not left in the hands of criminals.