

## THE 2011 HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FILM FESTIVAL

Co-presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center  
June 16-30 at the Walter Reade Theater

**Program of 19 Films from 12 Countries—including 17 New York Premieres**

NEW YORK, May 12, 2011 – Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, the 2011 Human Rights Watch Film Festival returns to New York with an extraordinary program of films set to inspire, inform and spark debate. A co-presentation of Human Rights Watch and the Film Society of Lincoln Center, the festival will run from June 16 to 30 at the Film Society's Walter Reade Theater. Nineteen of the best human rights themed films from 12 countries will be screened, 17 of them New York premieres. A majority of the filmmakers will be on hand after the screenings to discuss their films with the audience.

The Human Rights Watch Film Festival program this year is organized around four themes: Truth, Justice and Accountability; Times of Conflict and Responses to Terrorism; Human Dignity, Discrimination and Resources; and Migrants' and Women's Rights. Many of this year's films demonstrate the power of traditional and new media to influence filmmaking and impact human rights.

"By incorporating many forms of media, human rights filmmakers are increasing their impact, advancing the art of filmmaking, and bringing human rights stories to a broader audience," said John Biaggi, Human Rights Watch Film Festival director.

Film Society of Lincoln Center Executive Director Rose Kuo added, "Human Rights Watch has a long tradition of featuring films that go beyond the typical to deliver stunning stories, harsh truths and enlighten New York audiences to the plight of nations and the courage of individuals in our world. The Film Society of Lincoln Center considers it a point of pride to co-present this film festival."

The festival will launch on June 16 with a fundraising **Benefit Night** for Human Rights Watch, featuring the Bosnia-set political thriller *The Whistleblower*, starring Rachel Weisz. The main program will begin on June 17, with the **Opening Night** presentation of *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*, the latest documentary from Pamela Yates, here with her sixth film in the festival. Another highlight is the **Festival Centerpiece** on June 25, *Sing Your Song*, an inspiring portrait of Harry Belafonte, with the legendary entertainer and activist present to discuss the film. On June 26 the festival will feature a special program, **No Boundaries: Tim Hetherington**, a tribute to the visionary work of the late photographer, filmmaker and journalist. The **Closing Night** screening on June 30 will be *Life, Above All*, a moving coming-of-age drama set in a South African township ravaged by HIV/AIDS.

### **Truth, Justice and Accountability**

Part political thriller, part memoir, *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* illustrates how an individual filmmaker's long-term relationship with a topic and an archive of footage can shape not only the course of a human rights investigation but the interpretation of history. It is a story of destinies joined together

by Guatemala's past and of how Pamela Yates' 1982 documentary *When the Mountains Tremble*, which will also be shown during the festival, emerges as an active player in the present by becoming forensic evidence in a genocide case against a military commander. In a twist of fate, Yates was allowed to shoot the only known footage of the army as it carried out the mass killings. Twenty-five years later, this footage becomes evidence in an international war-crimes case against the army commander who permitted her to film. (Opens theatrically in Fall 2011 through International Film Circuit. Premieres on PBS's POV series in 2012.)

Hollman Morris and Juan José Lozano's *Impunity* documents the hearings in which Colombian paramilitary members describe atrocities they have committed as the families of their victims listen and watch on computer screens. Through this testimony, footage of the crimes, and interviews with victims and experts, the brutal history of paramilitary violence comes to light. Yet due to serious irregularities in the justice and peace process, many families express their fear that they will never know the truth surrounding the deaths of their loved ones, and that the perpetrators will escape punishment.

*La Toma* captures the November 6, 1985 siege of Bogota's Palace of Justice, home to Colombia's Supreme Court by 35 heavily armed M-19 guerrillas. The military moved in and close to a 100 people were killed—including nearly all of the Supreme Court Justices—and 12 others remained unaccounted for. The family of Carlos Rodriguez, like many others, believe their loved ones were "disappeared"—removed from the building by government forces, accused of aiding the guerrillas, tortured, and then killed. Twenty-five years later they demand answers, and filmmakers Angus Gibson and Miguel Salazar expertly record the events that lead to the highly charged trial.

### **Times of Conflict and Responses to Terrorism**

A story of idealism, loyalty and betrayal, Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega's *Better This World* goes to the heart of the "war on terror" and its impact on civil liberties and political dissent in the US after 9/11. When two teenagers, David McKay and Bradley Crowder, seek to "make a difference" by participating in the anti-war movement, they are introduced to a local activist 10 years their senior. Months later at the volatile 2008 Republican Party Convention, the two cross a line that radically changes their lives. The result: multiple domestic terrorism charges and a high-stakes entrapment defense hinging on the actions of a controversial FBI informant. (Premieres on PBS's POV series on September 6.)

By providing a backdrop for the urgent blog posts and tweets that became a lifeline to Iranian pro-democracy activists, *The Green Wave* recounts the dramatic events of one of the most severe domestic crises in the history of Iran. Filmmaker Ali Samadi Ahadi takes viewers into the world of Iranian citizens who risked their lives in the hopes of a better future. Interweaving online posts, video footage caught by those present, and extensive interviews, the film is an artistic portrait of modern political rebellion, an exposé of government-sanctioned violence, and a vision of hope that continued resistance may galvanize a new future.

Patrick Reed's remarkable *The Team* brings us behind the scenes of an innovative television soap opera that aims to ease Kenya's volatile ethnic tensions and set the stage for dialogue and understanding. The story line focuses on a tribally diverse soccer team whose members must find ways to overcome deep-rooted hatred and work together to succeed. Thousands of viewers across Kenya gather around their TV screens to watch the story unfold—building mutual understanding and acceptance with each episode.

Yet the message may come too late, as the actors themselves may become victims of the discrimination they have been so passionately seeking to combat.

In *If A Tree Falls* director Marshall Curry (*Street Fight*) and co-director Sam Cullman turn their attention to the group the FBI calls America's "number one domestic terrorism threat"—the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). In December 2005, Daniel McGowan, a New York City social justice organizer, was arrested by federal agents for his links to the organization that carried out arson, from Oregon to Long Island, against businesses they accused of destroying the environment. The filmmakers provide a closer look at the group's disillusionment with strategies of nonviolent protest, while posing difficult questions about trying to effect change in a post-9/11 world. (Opens theatrically on June 22 through Oscilloscope Laboratories.)

Hebron is home to 160,000 Palestinians and 600 Israeli settlers in the city center—plus 2,000 Israeli soldiers to defend them. The conflict between neighbors in *This is My Land... Hebron* is fueled by the determination to conquer one more meter of the city, keep the enemy at bay, and simply stand one's ground. Giulia Amati and Stephen Natanson's controversial film includes interviews with both Israelis and Palestinians living in Hebron, as well as activists on both sides, members of the Israeli parliament, and prominent *Ha'aretz* journalists, to lift the lid on a city fraught with violence and hate.

Luc Côté and Patricio Henríquez's shocking *You Don't Like The Truth – 4 Days Inside Guantanamo* uses seven hours of declassified security camera footage from the Canadian government to show the interrogation of 16-year-old Omar Khadr, a Canadian citizen and Guantanamo detainee. The film delves into the unfolding high-stakes game of cat and mouse between captor and captive as it analyzes the political, legal, and psychological aspects of the interrogation through interviews with Khadr's lawyers, a psychiatrist, an investigative journalist, former Guantanamo detainees, and a former US interrogator. (Opens theatrically on September 28 at Film Forum.)

### **Human Dignity, Discrimination and Resources**

In *12 Angry Lebanese: The Documentary*, 45 prison inmates in Lebanon's largest prison work together to present their version of the classic play *12 Angry Men* under the direction of a drama therapist, Zeina Daccache. The choice of the play, which touches upon the themes of forgiveness, self-development, stigma, and hope, was no accident. Daccache added monologues, songs, and dance routines created by the prisoners to the original text. Her documentary includes rehearsals, drama therapy sessions, and interviews, revealing the tremendous dignity and despair of the prisoners as well as Daccache's boundless energy and patience.

Exploring cultural taboos, adolescence and religion through the lens of HIV/AIDS, Oliver Schmitz's deeply affecting drama *Life, Above All* brings viewers into the life of 12-year-old Chanda as she struggles to maintain the facade of a normal life amid utter instability. The spread of HIV/AIDS appears to be ravaging Chanda's South African township even though no one will speak the actual words. When her mother's illness becomes apparent, the community turns against Chanda's family. Her mother chooses to leave home on the advice of a well-meaning but overbearing neighbor, who has her own secrets. (Opens theatrically on July 15 through Sony Pictures Classics.)

Thomas Napper's revealing documentary *Lost Angels* introduces viewers to Los Angeles' Skid Row, home to many of the city's estimated 48,000 homeless people. The residents include a former Olympic

runner, a transgendered punk rocker, and an eccentric animal lover and her devoted companion. Their stories paint a multifaceted portrait of life lived on the streets. Residents face challenges, including mental illness and drug addiction, with hope and a strong sense of community, while the local welfare officers see the roots of these problems in a political context.

Susanne Rostock's *Sing Your Song* intimately surveys the life of entertainer and activist Harry Belafonte. From his rise to fame as a singer and his experiences touring a segregated country, to his crossover into Hollywood, Belafonte's groundbreaking career personifies the American civil rights movement. Rostock reveals Belafonte to be a tenacious activist, who worked intimately with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., mobilized celebrities for social justice, participated in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, and took action to counter gang violence, poor prison conditions, and youth incarceration. (This HBO Documentary Film premieres on HBO in Fall 2011.)

### **Migrants' and Women's Rights**

The poignant documentary *Familia* observes one matriarch's decision to go to work as a hotel maid in Spain and the impact that choice has on her family in Peru. Working with a family they have known for over 35 years, filmmakers Mikael Wiström and Alberto Herskovits (*Compadre, HRWFF 2005*) take an emotional look at family members' separation due to economic circumstances, providing insight into the experience of thousands of families who do the same each year. The film develops the double plot line of Nati's lonely life as a maid in Spain and the lives of the loved ones she leaves behind in Peru.

*Love Crimes of Kabul* is a fascinating look inside Afghanistan's Badam Bagh women's prison, where half the inmates are jailed for "moral crimes." Kareema awaits trial for pre-marital sex with her fiancé; Aleema ran away from a violent home; Sabereh stands accused of having slept with her neighbor. In a society where behavior is strictly controlled by an ideology of honor, and transgression can bring ruin to an entire family, these young women are seen as threats to the very fabric of society. Filmmaker Tanaz Eshaghian (*Be Like Others*) follows each case to trial, giving voice to those seen by the court only in terms of blame and embarrassment. (This HBO Documentary Film premieres on HBO on July 11.)

Intimate and revealing, *The Price of Sex* focuses on young Eastern European women who have been drawn into a world of sex trafficking and abuse. The award-winning photojournalist Mimi Chakarova, who grew up in Bulgaria, takes viewers on a personal journey exposing the shadowy world of sex trafficking from Eastern Europe to the Middle East and Western Europe. Filming undercover and gaining extraordinary access, Chakarova illuminates how, even though some women escape to tell their stories, the trafficking of women continues to thrive. Chakarova is the recipient of the festival's 2011 **Nestor Almendros Award** for courage in filmmaking.

Based on true events, Larysa Kondracki's compelling political thriller *The Whistleblower* tells the story of Nebraska police officer Kathryn Bolkovac (Rachel Weisz) who discovers a deplorable cover-up and carries out a fight for justice in the former Yugoslavia. Bolkovac accepts a UN peacekeeping job through a private security contractor, but when she arrives in post-war Bosnia expecting a harmonized international effort, she finds chaos and disorder instead. When a brutally injured young woman lands in the UN's care, Bolkovac unearths an underworld of trafficking and traces the path of criminality to a shocking source. (Opens theatrically on August 5 through Samuel Goldwyn Films.)

In conjunction with this year's film program, the festival will present **Exiled: Burma's Defenders**, the renowned photographer Platon's portraits of Burmese former political prisoners, civil society leaders, ethnic minority group members, journalists, and other people in exile from their repressive homeland. The exhibit will be featured in the Frieda and Roy Furman Gallery at the Walter Reade Theater for the duration of the festival.

**No Boundaries: Tim Hetherington** pays tribute to photographer, filmmaker (*Restrepo, Liberia: An Uncivil War*), journalist, human rights activist, and artist Tim Hetherington, who was killed while covering the armed conflict in Libya in April 2011. Tim was a visionary who used photos, video, memoir, and testimony to explain and humanize conflicts as well as to simply illuminate the human condition. The festival will present a screening of *Diary*, a highly personal and experimental film that expressed the subjective experience of his work, followed by a discussion with friends and collaborators, including Carroll Bogert (Human Rights Watch) and James Brabazon (*Liberia: An Uncivil War*), who will discuss Hetherington's work and legacy.

**COMPLETE PROGRAM INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:**  
[www.hrw.org/iff](http://www.hrw.org/iff)

### **PRESS SCREENING SCHEDULE**

**Press screenings take place at the Walter Reade Theater, 165 W 65<sup>th</sup> St., on the upper level of Lincoln Center.**

RSVP to [charlie@norget.com](mailto:charlie@norget.com), 212-431-0090, or [shyman@filmlinc.com](mailto:shyman@filmlinc.com), 212-875-5625

**Wednesday, May 25**            **10:00am – *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* (100m)**

**Thursday, May 26**            **10:00am – *The Price of Sex* (73m)**  
**11:30am – *This Is My Land... Hebron* (75m)**

**Friday, May 27**                **10:00am – *Impunity* (85m)**

**Monday, May 30**               **10:00am – *Familia* (82m)**

**Tuesday, May 31**              **10:00am – *Love Crimes of Kabul* (71m)**  
**11:30am – *The Green Wave* (80m)**

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**Human Rights Watch Film Festival**

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## **Film Society of Lincoln Center**

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### **ONLINE PRESS OFFICE:**

More info. on HRWFF as well as downloadable images can be found at [www.hrw.org/iff](http://www.hrw.org/iff)

The Film Society's online press office can be found at [www.FilmLinc.com/press](http://www.FilmLinc.com/press)

**All films are screened at the Film Society of Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65th Street, upper level (between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.)**

**TICKET INFORMATION:** Ticket information for the 2011 Human Rights Watch Film Festival can be found at [www.FilmLinc.com](http://www.FilmLinc.com) or in person at the Walter Reade Theater box office. Hours: Mon.-Fri. opens at 12:30 p.m., Sat./Sun. opens 1/2 hr before first public screening; closes 15 minutes after last public screening, at 6 p.m. when there are no public screenings. For more information visit [www.FilmLinc.com](http://www.FilmLinc.com), [www.hrw.org/iff](http://www.hrw.org/iff) or call 212-875-5601. Experience the festival on the go with HRWFF's new mobile site: Visit [www.hrw.org/iff](http://www.hrw.org/iff) from your mobile device to buy tickets to your favorite events, browse the film schedule, invite friends to screenings, view trailers and listen to interviews with filmmakers.

### **Human Rights Watch**

**Human Rights Watch** is one of the world's leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. We work tenaciously to lay the legal and moral groundwork for deep-rooted change and fight to bring greater justice and security to people around the world. Through the Human Rights Watch Film Festival we bear witness to human rights violations and create a forum for courageous individuals on both sides of the lens to empower audiences with the knowledge that personal commitment can make a difference. The film festival brings to life human rights abuses through storytelling in a way that challenges each individual to empathize and demand justice for all people. To learn more about our work or to make a donation, visit [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

### **Film Society of Lincoln Center**

Under the leadership of Rose Kuo, Executive Director, and Richard Peña, Program Director, the **Film Society of Lincoln Center** offers the best in international, classic and cutting-edge independent cinema. The Film Society presents two film festivals that attract global attention: the New York Film Festival, currently planning its 49th edition, and New Directors/New Films which, since its founding in 1972, has been produced in collaboration with MoMA. The Film Society also publishes the award-winning Film Comment Magazine, and for over three decades has given an annual award—now named “The Chaplin Award”—to a major figure in world cinema. Past recipients of this award include Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Martin Scorsese, Meryl Streep, and Tom Hanks. The Film Society presents a year-round calendar of programming, panels, lectures, educational programs and specialty film releases at its Walter Reade Theater and the new state-of-the-art Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center, opening June 2011. The Film Society receives generous, year-round support from 42BELOW, American Airlines, The New York Times, Stella Artois, the National Endowment for the Arts, WNET New York Public Media, Royal Bank of Canada and the New York State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit [www.filmlinc.com](http://www.filmlinc.com)

## **PUBLIC SCREENING SCHEDULE**

### **Thursday, June 16**

#### **Benefit Screening and Reception**

**6:00pm**    **THE WHISTLEBLOWER** (Canada/Germany, 111m)

Q&A with filmmaker Larysa Kondracki and special guests + reception to follow

### **Friday, June 17**

#### **Opening Night Screening and Reception**

**7:00pm**    **GRANITO: HOW TO NAIL A DICTATOR** (US, 100m)

Q&A with filmmaker Pamela Yates and special guests + reception to follow

### **Saturday, June 18**

**1:00pm**    **GRANITO: HOW TO NAIL A DICTATOR** (US, 100m)

Q&A with filmmaker Pamela Yates and special guests to follow

**4:00pm**    **WHEN THE MOUNTAINS TREMBLE** (US, 83m)

Q&A with filmmaker Pamela Yates to follow

**6:30pm**    **BETTER THIS WORLD** (US, 93m)

Q&A with filmmakers Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega to follow

**9:00pm**    **THE GREEN WAVE** (Germany/Iran, 80m)

Q&A with filmmaker Ali Samadi Ahadi to follow

### **Sunday, June 19**

**1:30pm**    **THE GREEN WAVE** (Germany/Iran, 80m)

Q&A with filmmaker Ali Samadi Ahadi to follow

**4:00pm**    **BETTER THIS WORLD** (US, 93m)

Q&A with filmmakers Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega to follow

**6:30pm**    **IF A TREE FALLS** (US, 85m)

Q&A with filmmakers Marshall Curry and Sam Cullman to follow

### **Monday, June 20**

**4:00pm**    **BETTER THIS WORLD** (US, 93m)

Q&A with filmmakers Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega to follow

**6:30pm**    **LOVE CRIMES OF KABUL** (Afghanistan/US, 71m)

Q&A with filmmaker Tanaz Eshaghian to follow

**8:45pm**    **IF A TREE FALLS** (US, 85m)

Q&A with filmmakers Marshall Curry and Sam Cullman to follow

### **Tuesday, June 21**

**4:00pm**    **THE GREEN WAVE** (Germany/Iran, 80m)

Q&A with filmmaker Ali Samadi Ahadi to follow

**6:30pm**    **THE TEAM** (Canada, 80m)

Q&A with filmmaker Patrick Reed to follow

**8:45pm**    **LOVE CRIMES OF KABUL** (Afghanistan/US, 71m)

Q&A with filmmaker Tanaz Eshaghian to follow

### **Wednesday, June 22**

**4:00pm**    **LOVE CRIMES OF KABUL** (Afghanistan/US, 71m)

Q&A with filmmaker Tanaz Eshaghian to follow

**6:30pm**    **IMPUNITY** (Colombia/France/Switzerland, 85m)

Q&A with filmmakers Juan José Lozano and Hollman Morris to follow

**9:00pm THE TEAM** (Canada, 80m)

Q&A with filmmaker Patrick Reed to follow

#### **Thursday, June 23**

**4:00pm THE TEAM** (Canada, 80m)

Q&A with filmmaker Patrick Reed to follow

**9:00pm IMPUNITY** (Colombia/France/Switzerland, 85m)

Q&A with filmmakers Juan José Lozano and Hollman Morris to follow

#### **Friday, June 24**

**4:00pm IMPUNITY** (Colombia/France/Switzerland, 85m)

Q&A with filmmakers Juan José Lozano and Hollman Morris to follow

**6:30pm YOU DON'T LIKE THE TRUTH – 4 DAYS INSIDE GUANTANAMO** (Canada, 99m)

**9:30pm THE PRICE OF SEX** (US/UAE/Bulgaria/Moldova/Greece/Turkey, 72m)

Q&A with filmmaker Mimi Chakarova to follow

#### **Saturday, June 25**

**1:00pm FAMILIA** (Sweden, 82m)

Q&A with filmmaker Alberto Herskovits to follow

**3:30pm THE PRICE OF SEX** (US/UAE/Bulgaria/Moldova/Greece/Turkey, 72m)

Q&A with filmmaker Mimi Chakarova and special guests to follow

#### **Festival Centerpiece and Reception**

**6:00pm SING YOUR SONG** (US, 104m)

Q&A with film subject Harry Belafonte, moderated by Amy Goodman of “Democracy Now!” + reception to follow

**9:15pm 12 ANGRY LEBANESE: THE DOCUMENTARY** (Lebanon, 78m)

#### **Sunday, June 26**

**1:30pm THE PRICE OF SEX** (US/UAE/Bulgaria/Moldova/Greece/Turkey, 72m)

Q&A with filmmaker Mimi Chakarova + reception to follow

**4:00pm 12 ANGRY LEBANESE: THE DOCUMENTARY** (Lebanon, 78m)

**6:30pm LOST ANGELS** (US, 77m)

Q&A with filmmaker Thomas Napper to follow

**9:00pm TIM HETHERINGTON: NO BOUNDARIES** (US, 80m)

Screening of DIARY and panel discussion to follow

#### **Monday, June 27**

**4:00pm THIS IS MY LAND... HEBRON** (Israel/Italy, 75m)

Q&A with filmmakers Giulia Amati and Stephen Natanson to follow

**6:30pm FAMILIA** (Sweden, 82m)

Q&A with filmmaker Alberto Herskovits to follow

**9:00pm LOST ANGELS** (US, 77m)

Q&A with filmmaker Thomas Napper to follow

#### **Tuesday, June 28**

**4:00pm LOST ANGELS** (US, 77m)

Q&A with filmmaker Thomas Napper to follow

**6:30pm THIS IS MY LAND... HEBRON** (Israel/Italy, 75m)

Q&A with filmmakers Giulia Amati and Stephen Natanson to follow

**8:45pm LA TOMA (THE SIEGE)** (Colombia/US, 88m)

Q&A with filmmakers Angus Gibson and Miguel Salazar to follow

**Wednesday, June 29**

**4:00pm** **FAMILIA** (Sweden, 82m)

Q&A with filmmaker Alberto Herskovits to follow

**6:30pm** **LA TOMA (THE SIEGE)** (Colombia/US, 88m)

Q&A with filmmakers Angus Gibson and Miguel Salazar to follow

**9:00pm** **THIS IS MY LAND... HEBRON** (Israel/Italy, 75m)

Q&A with filmmakers Giulia Amati and Stephen Natanson to follow

**Thursday, June 30**

**4:00pm** **LA TOMA (THE SIEGE)** (Colombia/US, 88m)

Q&A with filmmakers Angus Gibson and Miguel Salazar to follow

**Closing Night and Reception**

**7:00pm** **LIFE, ABOVE ALL** (Germany/South Africa, 105m)

Q&A with filmmaker Oliver Schmitz and lead actress Khomotso Manyaka + reception to follow