

## FilmFest & Dialogue "Restoring Connection" 17.-22.October 2016 in Cinema Paradiso

*We will be screening documentaries and feature films about Restorative Justice from around the world, based on true stories of pain and loss of connection.*

*People everywhere long to live in peace and harmony, and yet our human story is filled with examples of anguish and conflict that tear us apart, as individuals and as communities. As a response, our human need for justice - our desire to restore balance and fix what has been broken - keeps on arising.*

*In these inspiring films, we showcase different examples of how people involved or impacted by conflict choose to respond - in ways that honour healing and reconciliation over hatred and punishment.*

*Let's vision and dream together!*

- *What does "justice" mean?*
- *What kind of a justice system we would like to have in Auroville, and how could we implement it?*

*Our hope with this FilmFest & Dialogue is to continue to explore the topic of justice in Auroville. After each film screening, we'll host a facilitated dialogue space to deepen and reflect on our film experience.*

*Movie times: 4pm and 8pm, each followed by a facilitated dialogue space.*

*Join us for drinks and snacks - open to all FilmFest enthusiasts in the Town Hall "City Center Canteen", until late after the last show!*

### PROGRAM

Monday 17 October,

4:00 pm:

#### **ON THE PATH OF FORGIVENESS**

South Africa 2007, Dir. Ginn Fourie & Letlapa Mphahlele, Documentary, 82 mins, English w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR

This true, moving story of healing and transformation opens and sets the tone of our FilmFest:

'On the Path of Forgiveness' depicts the extraordinary reconciliation between Ginn Fourie, whose daughter died in 1993 in an attack in Cape Town, and the former commander of the freedom fighters, Letlapa Mphahlele, who had given the order to kill. This film is their account of what led to this personal tragedy, and subsequent redemption, in the context of the political situation at the time of apartheid in South Africa. Ginn and Letlapa became friends and together they spread their message all over the world that "forgiveness is part of moving from victim to survivor to wounded healer."

Some Aurovilians might remember the workshop Ginn and Letlapa gave here about 10 years ago.

8:00 pm:

### **FIVE MINUTES OF HEAVEN**

Ireland 2009, Dir. Oliver Hirschbiegel, w/ Liam Neeson, James Nesbitt, Drama, 81 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: R

The lives of two men from the same town but different sides of the Irish political divide. Alistair killed the brother of Joe. One feels he dare not ask for forgiveness; the other feels incapable of giving it. This film is anything but simplistic. Although there is a quest for understanding, the hatred, trauma and immense pain of the past are still alive years later.

Tuesday 18 October,

4:00 pm:

### **AMISH GRACE**

USA 2010, Dir. Gregg Champion, Writer Sylvie White and Teena Booth, w/ Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Tammy Blanchard, Matt Letscher, and others, Drama, 89 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: NR

The movie is based on the 2006 West Nickel Mines School shooting in Pennsylvania, when a group of Amish schoolgirls are taken hostage and killed in their classroom. The parents and the Amish community stun the outside world by immediately forgiving the killer. Ida, the mother of one of the murdered children has a tougher time than the others, but in her anguish and pain, she begins a personal journey of renewed faith, reconnecting with her husband, family, and community, and showing kindness and compassion to the killer's widow and children.

8:00 pm:

### **UNFORGIVEN**

Germany 2014, Dir. Lukas Augustin, Documentary, 75 mins, English-Rwandan w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR

Twenty years after the civil war in Rwanda, victims and perpetrators live next door. This beautifully filmed documentary interweaves three stories into a portrait of a whole village. Wellars sent the killers to Innocent; they injured him fatally. Ananias buried Claudine's brothers alive. Brigitte conceived after being gang-raped – and has a traumatized teenage daughter. An unsentimental yet touching movie about forgiveness and at the same time a story about freedom.

Wednesday 19 October,

4:00 pm:

### **IL Y A LONGTEMPS QUE JE T'AIME (I've Loved You So Long)**

France, 2008, Writer-Dir. Philippe Claudel, w/ Kristin Scott-Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein, Serge Hazanavicius, and others, Drama, 112 mins, French w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR

Juliette, a former doctor in her forties, spent fifteen years in prison for having killed her six-year-old son. After the release, her younger sister Lea invites her to live with her and her family. Supported by the unexpected goodness of the family, Juliette struggles her way back into life. In a slow process, she is gradually accepted into the family and the community and finds a way to restoring connection. This sublimely acted movie won many international awards.

8:00 pm:

**BEYOND PUNISHMENT**

Germany 2014, Dir. Hubertus Siegert, Documentary, 102 mins, English-German w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR

Three men who have killed and three families who have lost a loved one, in three different countries - Germany, Norway, USA. There is no way to imagine the two sides ever getting closer. This film tells the impossible stories of meeting one's enemy, in thoughts, in messages, and in real life. "Freedom is what you do with what has been done to you" - a movie about restorative justice.

Thursday 20 October,

4:00 pm:

**MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ - THE ARTIST IS PRESENT**

USA 2012, Dir. Matthew Akers and Jeff Dupre, Documentary, 101 mins, English w/Italian subtitles, Rated: NR

The documentary takes us inside the world of performance artist Marina Abramović, following her as she prepares for a retrospective of her life's work in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Abramović's performances - spanning 40 years - are powerful, daring and provocative. The body is her subject, time is her medium. Throughout the three months of the exhibition, Marina sits day after day in the museum's atrium, gazing steadily at one of the thousands of people who come to take the chair across from her. She wants to engage in "an energy dialogue" with the audience - through her art made of trust, vulnerability and connection.

8:00 pm:

**FREEDOM WRITERS**

USA 2007, Writer-Dir. Richard LaGravenese, w/ Hilary Swank, Scott Glenn, Imelda Staunton and others, Drama, 122 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: PG-13.

In spite of ridicule and disrespect, a young white woman teacher perseveres trying to reach African-American and Spanish-speaking high school students. She asks them to keep journals. Discovering the reality they live in changes her; her attitude towards them changes them. In her classroom, prejudice and violence are transformed into an atmosphere of harmony and respect. Based on Erin Gruwell's true account, this movie is relevant to today's political climate in the USA.

Friday 21 October,

4:00 pm:

**MY ENEMY, MY BROTHER**

USA 2014, Dir. Ann Shin, Documentary, 16 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: NR

This is a documentary about two soldiers, one Iranian, one Iraqi, who first encounter each other as enemies during the war between their countries. Although trained to be soldiers, something unusual happens between them: after a battle, one saves the life of the other. Twenty-five years later they meet in Canada by chance - without knowing who the other is. It is an amazingly improbable story that is very moving.

**BLOODLINES** Australia 2008, Dir. Cynthia Connop, Documentary, 52 mins, English, Rated: NR

Bettina Göring is the grandniece of Hermann Göring, second most powerful man in Nazi Germany, responsible for the crimes of World War II that killed millions of people, mainly Jews. Bettina has long tried to bury the dark legacy of her family history. Painter Ruth Rich, a daughter of Holocaust survivors, cannot resolve her deep-rooted anger over the suffering of her parents and the killing of an older brother by the Nazis. Bettina seeks out Ruth in an attempt to confront her enormous guilt and her fear that the capacity for evil is in her blood. When the women meet, their hidden guilt and rage clash in a series of intimate and extraordinary meetings.

After the movie, we will have a live Skype talk with director, Cynthia Connop.

8:00 pm:

### **YOM ECHAD ACHARI HA-SHALOM (One Day After Peace)**

Israel 2012, Dir. Erez and Miri Laufer, Documentary, 86 mins, English-Hebrew w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR

Robi, born in South Africa during the apartheid era, is now an Israeli. Her son has been killed while serving in the Israeli army, but she doesn't want to continue the enmity with the Palestinians. She returns to South Africa to learn about their reconciliation process. Her thought-provoking journey is an exploration of her experiences with the South Africans she meets and her hope for healing of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Saturday 22 October,

4:00 pm:

### **THE RAILWAY MAN**

GB - Australia 2013, Dir. Jonathan Teplitzky, w/ Colin Frith, Hiroyuki Sanada, Nicole Kidman and others, War Drama, 116 mins, English w/English subtitles, Rated: R

The film, based on the autobiography of former British Prisoner of War, Eric Lomax, shows the brutality inflicted by the Japanese army on its prisoners. Eric endured terrible psychological suffering over decades, during a time when there was little understanding of post traumatic stress disorder. Finally, Eric is pushed by his wife to confront his oppressor when they learn that the Japanese officer is still alive. What follows is a deeply moving account of forgiveness and reconciliation.

8:00 pm:

### **MYSTIC BALL**

Canada, 2006, Dir. Greg Hamilton, Documentary-Sport, 83 mins, English-Burmese, w/ English subtitles, Rated: NR.

The film follows Greg Hamilton into the ancient and little-known culture of Myanmar and its traditional sport, Chinlone, a team sport, part dance, part meditation without competition, played in a circle. Over many years, Greg is transformed from an outsider obsessed with learning Chinlone to an accomplished teammate of the masters of the game. Through Chinlone, Greg discovers things he didn't know he was looking for: family, community and love.

*“Restorative Auroville”*: L'aura, Janet, Shanti, Helene and Kati

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