

LIDF 2012 PROGRAMME A - Z

For further information on any of the films listed, to arrange interviews, stills, or screeners, please call contact press@lidf.co.uk

About my Father

Guillaume Suon | Cambodia | 2010 | 52
UK Premiere

Kaing Guek Eav, aka Duch, was the first leader of Cambodia's brutal 1975-1979 Khmer Rouge regime to stand trial by an international court for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Duch headed Phnom Penh's notorious Tuol Sleng prison and torture centre, known as S-21. Amongst the first to file a lawsuit against Duch was Phung-Guth Sunthary. She testified in the name of her father, Professor Phung Ton, a highly respected Cambodian intellectual and senior civil servant who was imprisoned at S21.

Sunthary visits S21, she walks the corridors of what is now a museum and centre for reconciliation – she sits down and talks with those who beat and tortured her father. She pieces together the story of his last days and those of many of the, at least, 1.7 victims of the regime.

Abuelas

Afarin Eghbal | UK | 2011 | 9
London Premiere

In a small apartment in Buenos Aires, an old woman eagerly awaits the birth of her grandchild and all the joys of becoming a grandmother. However, horrific circumstances mean that she will be forced to wait for over 30 years. 'Abuelas' explores the traumatic ramifications of General Videla's military dictatorship in Argentina from 1976-83. During this time, an estimated 30,000 men, women and children, 'disappeared'.

Using real-life testimonials from members of the 'Grandmothers of May Square', this animated-documentary raises issues of memory, repression and loss. The film is a testament to the extraordinary tenacity of these women, who continue to fight for the truth about their missing relatives.

All for the Nation

Carol Mansour | Lebanon | 2011 | 52
UK Premiere

According to the Lebanese nationality law, Lebanese women that choose to marry a foreign man are denied the right to extend their citizenship to their husband and children. Without citizenship, those families are denied most social, civil and economic rights. This is the first documentary in Lebanon that deals with such a fragile and controversial topic. The film is told through the intimate stories of five Lebanese families from different social, religious and economic backgrounds but whose lives and experiences are bound together by a discriminatory nationality law. It chronicles the lives of these families, their joys, pain, expectations and deceptions.

All I Wanna Do

Michelle Medina | Morocco | 2011 | 59
UK Premiere

48-year-old Simohamed works as a parking guard, but he has dreams. His 17-year-old son Ayoub once acted in a Hollywood film and thought he may go to Hollywood. It doesn't happen, so Ayoub turns to music and forms a hip hop group with his father. Like two fish out of water, the duo set out to meet their heroes, enter studios and radio stations, make music and try to change everything.

Twists, turns, disappointment and hope, confront them.

Ameer Got His Gun (Bnei Dodim La'Neshek)

Naomi Levari | Israel | 2011 | 57

UK Premiere + panel

Special Mention, Jerusalem International Film Festival

FIPA D'OR Grand Prize 2012, FIPA- International festival of audiovisual programs

Presented in association with the Embassy of Israel in the UK

Ameer, an Arab-Moslem-Israeli citizen, volunteers to join the Israeli Army with the innocent belief that his induction will turn him into an equal citizen. Things are not as straightforward as he hoped. A thoughtful and unusual depiction of the situation in Israel.

An Encounter with Simone Weil

Katie Hipp | USA | 2010 | 85

UK Premiere

The 20th century French philosopher, educator and activist Simone Weil spent the majority of her too-short life advocating for the rights of the socially and politically disadvantaged. In 'An Encounter with Simone Weil,' filmmaker Julia Haslett explores the issue of moral responsibility and personal action against the backdrop of 21st century America. Using Weil's writings and teachings as a framework for her own experience, Haslett creates a moving portrait of an extraordinary young woman whose decision to live by her convictions proved that the quest to live a principled life is a journey we should all consider taking.

Aside the Sea

Sine Skibsholt | Denmark | 2011 | 29

European Premiere

A portrait of a vanishing place and its family of men: In the far North of Denmark lies the small fishing village Thorupstrand. It is the last place left where an otherwise extinct life form still exists, and where things are the way they've always been: The boats are pulled up upon the beach, there is no harbour. Weather conditions are foretold by watching the waves. Everybody knows everybody and their fathers before them. It's a tough and harsh life here. The young fishermen head out to sea, while the older fishermen wait on shore, hoping for the big catch. Many myths about the sea are told, as well as stories about life, and the ancient struggle with nature is always present.

Atelier Colla

Pietro De Tilla, Guglielmo Trupia, Elvio Manuzzi | Italy | 2011 | 49

UK Premiere

The sheer daily hard work of the company Carlo Colla & Figli is filmed on the quiet, in front of and behind the scenes, with empathy and respect, in the Atelier laboratory. It reveals how this art is subject to strict discipline. A group of students at the Scuola Civica in Milan are the creators of the film, who choose a perspective of shadowing and coaching, and never passive spectatorship and returns, reliving in its own way, the harmony of collective effort which for more than 200 years has been the real strength of the Atelier.

A Way with Voices

Rosie Tate | UK | 2011 | 21

London Premiere

Peter has heard voices since the age of 7. His witty and touching story takes us on a delusional

journey through the peaks and troughs of his life. An experimental mixture of drawings and photography.

Back to Earth (Retour sur Terre)

Pierre Lacourt | Switzerland | 2011 | 91

International Premiere + panel

Oil is our daily energy staple. Or is it a drug our society has been flying high on for over a century? And isn't it time we started getting ready to detox?

The filmmaker sets up temporary home in a petrol station and engages Alain, the petrol attendant, in his search for answers. Together they turn that symbolic microcosm - where money meets energy - into a stage where they re-evaluate their own beliefs and carry out experiments to illustrate the extent of our addiction and dependence. For good measure, they call in energy and environment experts to take stock and predict the different paths - some optimistic, some less so - we may have to go down in the future.

Bee Fever

Rebecca E Marshall | UK | 2010 | 17

London Premiere

This carefully observed character study of a woman with cancer uses her love of beekeeping as a metaphor to understand death and the cycle of life.

Better on the Inside

Christopher Haysom | Australia | 2011 | 6

European Premiere

Graham has Sotos syndrome; similar to autism. He was diagnosed at the age of 3 and he has just celebrated his 29th birthday. The film explores the social, cultural and personal aspects of the relationships people share with those who have a disability. It does so from the perspectives of three individuals. The mother, drafted into the role of full time carer for 29 years. The younger sister, coming to terms with her brother's disability and learning to communicate with him. And her boyfriend, the outsider who has no prior experience with special needs.

Bowling for Finchley

Colum Eastwood | UK | 2011 | 13

World Premiere

A light hearted look at life within a traditional English lawn bowls club

Breathing Under Water (Unter wasser atmen)

Hinnen Andri, Stefan Muggli | Switzerland | 2011 | 90

Audience Award, Zurich Film Festival!, 2011

Nominated for the 'Prix de Soleure', Solure Film Festival, 2012

The Jent family watch images from their super-8 film archive of a strong, bright-eyed youth, who moves with an extraordinary grace, taking a daring high dive into a pool of water. Then comes the day when the 19-year-old almost loses his life in a motorbike accident. After four weeks in a coma he wakes up, paralysed and robbed of his sight and speech. The film is a powerful document of how satisfaction, happiness and even professional success can find a place in such a life. Step by step, and with boundless willpower and patience, Nils fights his way back into everyday life. He explores the frontiers of his handicapped body, and draws on the one thing that remains completely unscathed: his intelligence. Thanks to the unwavering support of his parents, Nils achieves goals nobody believed possible. Twenty years after his accident, Nils has lost none of his

sparkle – in fact, he now shines brighter than ever.

Carmen

Olatz González Abrisketa | Spain | 2011 | 4
World Premiere

A black sock, white thread, a needle, a thimble and a plea: 'Santitum zaina urtu, zaina bere lekuen sartu', in a mixture of Latin and Basque. This is the full extent of Carmen's treatment for the healing of sprains. The mantra has to be repeated three times, on three different days. Healing rituals live on in the Basque Country, a place where magical practices have been transmitted from woman to woman for generations. For the time being, Carmen has no successor.

Carrying Pictures. A Case Study In Visual Politics

Tom Holert | Germany | 2010 | 11
UK Premiere

'Carrying Pictures' brings together excerpts from press photographs, fragments from a treatise on visual theory, and scenes from the feature film Under Fire (Roger Spottiswoode, USA 1983) into a paradigmatic demonstration of the practices and practical knowledge in the visual spaces of the political. The unavoidably staged quality of such observations of a second or third order is emphasized by the original soundtrack by Robert and Roland Lippok (To Rococo Rot, Tarwater), which dramatises the text-image-event.

Children of the Jaguar (Los descendientes del jaguar)

Eriberto Gualinga, Mariano Machain, David Whitbourn | Ecuador, UK | 2012 | 29
World Premiere + panel

The Sarayaku Indigenous community is determined to defend their basic rights. An oil company occupied their ancestral land without their consent. Now they have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to present their case to an international court. Their journey will take them from the Amazon to Costa Rica.

City World

Brent Chesanek | USA | 2012 | 75
World Premiere

In order to avoid the realities of his unravelling family life, a young boy recounts his past few days as he embarks on great adventures throughout Orlando's landscape, his stories based on the city's history, mythologies, and international reputation as a theme park haven. The film is a landscape narrative/doc hybrid, blending imagery of mundane and eerie suburbs, lush natural settings, and stark architectural environments - all filtered through the point of view of the boy's consciousness.

Faulknerian, the fantastical yet forlorn nature of the narration creates a heartbreaking portrait of a family by collecting historical facts, myths, and modern day tourist adventures into our narrator's imagined memory. At the same time, the film presents an incredible portrait of the true visual identity of Central Florida--all shot documentary style throughout Orlando and its surrounding counties.

Confidence Game

Nick Verbitsky | USA | 2011 | 88
European Premiere

The demise of the investment bank known as Bear Stearns; the first Wall Street domino to fall in America's, and the world's, most dire economic crisis since the Great Depression. Though the firm collapsed in the space of five short days, 'Confidence Games' reveals that the bank's downfall was

many years in the making due to a confluence of fraud, Washington's political ambitions, lax federal oversight, media manipulation and out and out greed. The film features interviews with investigative reporters like Bryan Burrough from Vanity Fair, William D. Cohan of FORTUNE and Andrew Sorkin of the New York Times who give a blow by blow account of the firm's collapse.

Crossed Out (Los Tachados)

Roberto Duarte | Sweden | 2011 | 28
European Premiere

Roberto left Mexico when he was 17. Now he comes back with his 4 year old daughter. Growing up in Mexico City, Roberto had seen haunting photographs at his grandmothers house: children, who's faces had been erased, cut out, taped over – images about which no-one will speak openly. They are simply referred to as 'the erased ones' and Roberto has only heard their real names mentioned in hushed conversation - and never in front of his grandmother.

Nobody in the family dares to talk to his grandmother about these pictures. But Roberto always had a special relationship with her and if there ever was a perfect occasion to raise the forbidden subject - it would be her 90th birthday party, when his entire family will be assembled. Not wanting his daughter to grow up in a family full of secrets he decides to confront his family over their dark and secret story.

Crulic – the Path to Beyond (Crulic - Drumul spre dincolo)

Anca Damian | Romania | 2011 | 73 min

This animated documentary tells the life story of Crulic, a 33 years old Romanian who died in a Polish prison while on a hunger strike. The acclaimed Romanian actor, Vlad Ivanov, gives Crulic his voice.

Debtocracy (Χρεοκρατία)

Katerina Kitidi | Greece | 2011 | 74
UK Premiere

For the first time in Greece, a documentary produced by the public. 'Debtocracy' seeks to explain the causes of the Greek debt crisis, which is at the heart of Eurozone storm, and proposes solutions. Economists, journalists and intellectuals from all over the world describe the processes that led Greece into the current debt trap. What do these discussions mean for each of us as individuals, what do they mean for the rest of Europe?

Declaration of Immortality (Deklaracja Nieśmiertelności)

Marcin Koszałka | Poland | 2011 | 29
London Premiere

50th Krakow Film Festival- Audience Award and The President of the Association of Polish Filmmakers Award

In his new film Marcin Koszałka returns to a forgotten genre, the mountain film. The protagonist of his story is Piotr "Mad" Korczak, and in the background there is his rival Andrzej Marcisz. The director focuses on the decline of the career of the great master, provoking his reflections on his future life, when he will no longer be able to climb mountains. It's a moving story about the inability to come to terms with old age and the desire for immortality.

Democratic Locations

Thomas Kutschker | Germany | 2011 | 6
World Premiere

Many historic places are now transformed into city squares, or shopping centres, or new roads.

These sites where momentous event occurred are now no different to any other place. Everything seems mundane, where once History happened. How do we keep that History alive? Is there some residue present in these locations of uprising, demonstration and manifestation.

demo_lition

Dorothea Carl | Germany | 2011 | 12
UK Premiere

In the course of urban gentrification the demolition of buildings provides numerous spectacles of precise destruction. Passers-by gather and watch. Collective protest is rare. Instead, there is either admiration for the unbelievable power of the demolition machinery or fascinated dismay. This experimental film examines the zone of uncertainty that exists between the spectacular and the (hidden) structural elements of capitalism.

Derailments (Deragliamenti)

Chelsea McMullan | Italy | 2011 | 11
World Premiere

Originally written by Federico Fellini as a film, 'Il Viaggio di Mastorna detto Fernet' was coined, 'the most famous film never made'. Mystery surrounds Fellini's decision to abandon the project immediately before production. At seventy-two Fellini began collaborating with celebrated illustrator Milo Manara, and together they started to draw Fellini's vision of the afterlife as a comic. In this short meditative documentary, Milo Manara remembers their journey together into the hereafter.

Difficult Loves (Los Amores Dificiles)

Lucina Gil | Spain | 2011 | 64
UK Premiere

Jury prize: Best Documentary at ALCANCES 2011

Jury prize "Madrid Community": ALCINE 2011

"In my heart, I had a thorn of passion. One day I managed to rip it out. Now I don't feel my heart anymore". It is summer, a town in Spain, loves unfulfilled, loves blossoming, loves dormant. A universal tale. Summer, full of hope, comes and goes.

Doctors (Lekarze)

Tomasz Wolski | Poland | 2011 | 80
UK Premiere

51st Krakow Film Festival, Poland – Special Mention

International Film Festival of the Art of cinematography Plus Camerimage, Poland – The Golden Frog Grand Prix

What happens behind the closed doors of surgical wards, treatment rooms and other spaces where specialist medical consultations take place? The film follows the everyday work of doctors in a surgical ward: the hierarchy between them, the need to take important decisions, the struggle with economic problems. There are jokes, insider moments, a working environment that is vital, and yet unknown.

Drive-in Dreams

Anna Bowman | UK | 2011 | 10
World Premiere

Just off Abbey Road, north London there is an ugly concrete multi-storey car park – a utopian space: Originally designed a new living space that would include housing and separate cars and people, the new urban promise seemed to wither until the complex was transformed from within

into music studios, upholsterers, picture framers, car repair workshops and even a roof-top flat, all co-existing with a working car park. What dreams, what experiences make people like being there? Why are they concerned about new plans to pull the place down?

Drowning (Berlin City Tours)

Steffen Ramlow | Germany | 2010 | 6

Moments of everyday life, observations, inconspicuous situations, sounds, music – as ellipses, parallels, something abstract, concrete, interwoven – miniatures in black and white and colour.

The Ruins of the Palace of the Republik in Berlin and the waters of Venice. The last witnesses of the Palace as fragments of memory are drowning in the water of the sinking city. The coarse-grained Super 8 Material itself seems bygone and underlines the melancholic atmosphere of the images and the music.

El Medico - The Cubaton Story

Daniel Fridell | Sweden, Estonia, Finland | 2011 | 85

UK Premiere

Nominated NORDIC DOX AWARD, Copenhagen, Denmark 2011

DocPoint Tallin Opening Film 2011

Reynier "El Médico" Casamayor raised in a militant revolutionary communist family in Santiago de Cuba is working as a general practitioner high up in the Sierra Maestra mountains where Castro's revolution began, but he would prefer to be singing. He sees his opportunity when the Swedish music and video producer Michel Miglis comes to Cuba. Together they record some music and with Michel's marketing it becomes a global hit. But in the struggle to become an artist El Medico ends up in a series of conflicts and dilemmas: with his revolutionary family that believes he owes it to the Revolution to be a doctor; with the Cuban Government that doesn't allow their doctors to become artists or travel abroad; and with Michel the music producer who wants to promote the music in exploitative and sexist ways.

End of the Line

Colloborative | UK | 2011 | 5

World Premiere

Made by four students 'End of the Line' is a short film looking at the inhabitants of, and visitors to, Southend's pleasure pier in the depths of winter. It is a journey, an evocative film about nostalgia, memory and change.

Ends

C.B. Picasso | USA | 2011 | 7

Five people talk about how and why they ended romantic relationships.

European Premiere

Fishing in Esperanza

Anders Flatlandsmo | Argentina | 2011 | 13

European Premiere

A journey from the civilized chaos into the deep rivers of the Amazon jungle, to a small community called Esperanza, where life is still in harmony with nature, and a father and his son are waiting for the fish to bite.

Fishing with Popo

Lilian Fu | Hong Kong SAR, China | 2011 | 9
European Premiere

As she visits her grandmother's grave, a girl remembers the funeral, her grandmother's vivid storytelling and a curious dream that she had of her grandmother in the after-life.

Forerunners

Simon Wood | South Africa | 2011 | 52
UK Premiere

'Forerunners' soulfully explores what it means to be black and middle class in South Africa today. At the frontier of unprecedented social change Miranda, Mpumi, Martin and Karabo are part of the first generation of black South Africans to rise from poverty and join the country's 'middle class'. They delicately balance the traditional views of their childhood with the western consumerism that rules their professional lives, selecting and discarding elements from each world to forge a new legacy for their descendants.

Frayland (Fraylandia)

Sebastián Mayayo, Ramiro Ozer Ami | Uruguay | 20`11 | 74
UK Premiere
Jan Vrijman Fund supported

Job opportunities or environmental disaster? A Uruguayan border town welcomes the arrival of a Finnish wood pulp factory, the largest in the world. But, across the border in Argentina the inhabitants of Gualeguaychú fearful of environmental pollution organise a sustained protest. They have now been blocking the bridge that serves as the border between the two countries for five years.

The film observes the situation on both sides of the border, following passionate demonstrators, Finnish expats who enjoy the beautiful weather, and a local woman who reads the love letters she receives from a factory employee who has returned home to Europe. The two countries bring the conflict before the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Generation Singles (Generace Singles)

Jana Pochtova | Czech Republic | 2011 | 77
UK Premiere

The unabashed testimony of six characters over the course of one year. The six 'singles' openly speak about wasted chances, about their fear of time passing, about sex and intimacy. They see the field of potential partners growing narrower and narrower. Insightful, funny, wryly observed – generation singles is all around us.

Gilad and all that Jazz

Golriz Kolahi | UK | 2012 | 63
World Premiere + panel

A portrait of one of the modern era's best saxophonists; a man who has stolen hearts with the sounds of his sax and angered many with his political activities. A gentle giant, charismatic and somewhat shy, Gilad is a complex character. Born into an Israeli, pro-Zionist family and serving in the Lebanon War of 1982, Gilad had a dramatic turnaround: he quit the army, picked up his sax and exiled himself, declaring himself an enemy to the Israeli state. Since then he has produced some of the modern era's greatest Jazz albums, and collaborated with the likes of Ian Drury, Paul McCartney.

Gokula – A Place on Earth for Cows

Donna Lipowitz | UK | 2011 | 11
World Premiere

In 1972 George Harrison donated New Gokul Farm in the grounds of the Bhaktivedante Manor to Hare Krishna devotees. Today the farm is managed by Syam who uses oxen to plough the fields and other traditional farming methods. As interest in ethically raised livestock and organic produce increases New Gokul Farm offers a glimpse of an alternative, sustainable lifestyle.

Goodbye Mubarak!

Katia Jarjoura | Egypt | 2011 | 72
UK Premiere

On January 25, 2011, the world was captivated as thousands of protesters flooded Tahrir Square in Cairo, demanding an end to the regime of President Hosni Mubarak. But the ground for the protests had been laid in the weeks and months preceding the mass outpouring of opposition. 'Goodbye Mubarak!' takes us to Egypt during the autumn of 2010, in the run-up to legislative elections. What we discover is a revolution-in-waiting already simmering under the surface of Egyptian society.

Over several weeks, the documentary crew travels the country - from Cairo, to Alexandria, to the industrial city of El-Mahalla El-Kubra - introducing us to activists, politicians, and ordinary Egyptians. Activist Mahitab el Gilani walks through a market at night, urging people to sign a petition calling for the end of Egypt's draconian Emergency Law and for free elections. "If this conversation is broadcast on TV, we'll all be arrested," one woman tells her. Later, a man she approaches says he hopes she makes it out of the neighborhood alive.

We also meet opposition candidates in the midst of their campaigns - feminist Gameela Ismail, liberal politician Ayman Nour (who was sentenced to five years in prison after winning election in 2005) and Muslim Brotherhood members Saad El Hussein and Hamdi Hassan. They may not agree on much, but all see endemic corruption, the repressive Emergency Law and the lack of political freedom as the key elements that must change if the Arab world's largest and most influential country is to move forward. And while young, web-savvy activists get much of the credit for the demonstrations, 'Goodbye Mubarak!' shows just how deep opposition to the regime ran in the months leading up to the revolution. "We only have corrupt and old leaders with nothing to offer," says one angry pensioner. Another adds, "The solution is in the hands of our 12 million jobless kids. They need to go out, demonstrate, and overthrow the regime."

Within weeks, Mubarak's opponents - led by many of those we meet in this film - would be doing just that.

Grandma Neyde`s House (A Casa da Vó Neyde)

Caio Cavechini | Brazil | 2010 | 20
European Premiere

It had once been a full house, full of family, food, laughter. Now Grandma Neyde lives alone except for her crack addict son, whom she protects and cares for even though he is violent, keeping others from the house, shaming her and tiring her out. Finally, things must change. The last chance is to seek help and leave the house. Still Grandma Neyde sticks by her son, waiting for the time he might return.

Habana Muda

Eric Brach | France, Cuba | 2011 | 61
UK Premiere

Chino is Cuban, he is also deaf and having trouble supporting his family. When Jose, a Mexican

tourist, falls in love with him, Chino sees the chance for a better life. He discusses the possibility of immigrating to Mexico with his wife. We follow Chino as he moves within the small community of deaf people, where his friends respond frankly to Chino's plans. While Jose is in Mexico making arrangements for him to immigrate, Chino and his wife talk about their future. Can they already ask Jose for some money for a car? Who will help Chino get a job once he's in Mexico? Who is going to fix things in the house? Would it be sensible to practice safe sex, now that Chino is also having sex with a man? The family muddles along as they await developments. Meanwhile, Jose finds himself contending with his own questions. Is Chino really in love with him, or is he after his money? And is it right to start a family this way?

Hamedullah: The Road Home

Sue Clayton | UK | 2012 | 23

World Premiere + panel

Hamedullah has just turned 18. Like many other young asylum seekers in the UK upon his 18th birthday he is arrested in a terrifying and brutal dawn raid. First held without trial, he is then flown out on a secret 'ghost flight' where he is dumped in his native home country, Afghanistan. Taking with him a camcorder, he records his penniless arrival in the war zone he fled as a child, alone and scared; with no friends, family or home.

Her Master's Voice

Nina Conti | UK | 2011 | 64

World Premiere + panel

Internationally acclaimed ventriloquist Nina Conti, takes the bereaved puppets of her mentor and erstwhile lover Ken Campbell on a pilgrimage to 'Venthaven' the resting place for puppets of dead ventriloquists. She gets to know her latex and wooden travelling partners along the way, and with them deconstructs herself and her lost love in this unique ventriloquial docu-mocumentary requiem.

Ken Campbell was a hugely respected maverick of the British Theatre, an eccentric genius who would snort out forgotten artforms. Nina was his prodigy in ventriloquism and has been said to have reinvented the artform. This film is truly unique in genre and style. No one has seen ventriloquism like this before

Nina Conti's funny, highly original and poignant documentary, takes us on two journeys. A personal journey, and a professional one, through the strange, surprising and often hilarious world of ventriloquism. When Nina was just another twenty-something wannabe actress, Ken presented her with a teach-yourself ventriloquism kit. This set her on a path to becoming a sell-out act in Britain and abroad, with a clutch of major awards.

On the road, Nina brings all the puppets to life as struggles to meet the conflicting demands of her old acerbic partner Monkey, and the new characters she has been bequeathed. But one puppet remains silent. Ken's doll of himself sits mournful and judgemental in the hotel bedroom. Nina can't find her master's voice and until she does, she won't be able to lay her old life to rest.

Himself He Cooks

Valerie Berteau | Belgium | 2011 | 65

World Premiere

In the Golden Temple in Amritsar hundreds of volunteers prepare 50,000 free meals every day. A scale of effort and devotion that must seem to be appreciated. Glorious, confusing, aesthetic.

Home (Hos far)

Kasia K hler Larsen | Denmark | 2010 | 7

UK Premiere

A diary note from a place, a place once called Home. A diary note from an old father, who lives alone in a big house filled with memories of his one and only love – the one that never came back. A diary note about the love, still alive in a house full of loneliness.

HONK!

Arnold Galliard, Florent Vassaul | France | 2011 | 62

UK Premiere

At nightfall, on the outskirts of Salt Lake City, surrounded by his family, a grandmother will attend the execution of her husband's murderer.

In Oklahoma, a former death row inmate exonerated after 22 years in prison tells his amazing story.

In Texas, a woman struggles against the criminal justice system for his son to survive, while he is awaiting his execution for 14 years.

In Huntsville, a small provincial town in eastern Texas, the Department of correction performs the executions by lethal injection almost as a weekly ritual.

Based on the numerous absurdities of the death penalty, the film shows through these three characters how this death sentence generates pain, unfairness, violence and inefficiency in the heart of the American society.

Hurdy Gurdy

Daniel Seideneder, Daniel Pfeiffer | Germany | 2011 | 4

London Premiere

“Hurdy Gurdy” is the English term for a barrel organ. Just like a barrel organ that repeats its song over and over again, everything in this film is in constant motion: trains, cars, airplanes, ships and people. Yet what is real and what is fake? This short film uses its extraordinary aesthetics to question reality.

IBIZA Occident

Gunter Schwaiger | Austria/ Spain | 2011 | 85 min

UK Premiere

In the Hollywood of electronic music, musicians, DJs, gogo dancers and promoters are working on a sophisticated entertainment machine to satisfy stressed-out Westerner's desire for fun, sex and freedom. 'Ibiza Occident: 9 1/2 Music Stories' takes a diverting peek behind the inebriated surface dazzle of the island of Ibiza, Europe's long time party capital, offering different takes on paradise as occupation, lifestyle, creative passion and big business.

Incident in New Baghdad

James Spione | USA | 2011 | 22

European Premiere + panel

Best Documentary Short, Tribeca Film Festival

On April 5th, 2010, the whistleblower website Wikileaks released a grainy black-and-white video that stunned the world. Recorded from the gunsight camera of an U.S. Army attack helicopter during one of the most chaotic and deadly periods of the Iraq War, the footage depicts the violent deaths of two Iraqi journalists, Namir Noor-Eldeen and Saeed Chmagh, along with at least eight other mostly unarmed individuals on the streets of Baghdad in July 2007. Minutes later on the

video, when the driver of a passing van attempts to come to the aid of the mortally wounded Chmagh, a second helicopter attack occurs that destroys the van and kills several more people, wounding two small children in the process.

For several days, there was a media frenzy, as commentators and pundits from all sides of the political spectrum alternately clamoured to explain, debunk, justify, or condemn the actions of the pilots in the video. Controversy swirled around the ethics and legalities of Wikileaks' actions in releasing the footage, and profiles soon followed about its enigmatic Australian spokesman, Julian Assange. Especially in America, however, very little follow-up reporting was undertaken to find out the context of this tragic event from the people who were actually involved or affected. As has become the custom in this country, discussion about the shootings was quickly framed as a foreign policy or strategy debate; almost wholly absent was any curiosity or interest in finding out about the real victims of this calamity.

'Incident in New Baghdad' examines what happened that day from the first-hand perspective of an American infantryman whose life was profoundly changed by his experiences on the scene. U.S. Army Specialist Ethan McCord bore witness to the devastating carnage, found and rescued the two children caught in the crossfire, and soon turned against the war that he had enthusiastically joined only months before. Denied psychological treatment in Iraq for his PTSD, McCord returned home, struggling for years with anger, confusion, and guilt over the war. When Wikileaks released the video of the incident, McCord was finally spurred into action, and began traveling the country, speaking out for the rights of PTSD sufferers and against the American wars in the Middle East.

INDIGNADOS. How a Protest is Born (INDIGNADOS. Como nace una protesta)

Miko Meloni | Spain | 2011 | 53
World Premiere

Marisa and David have something in common: a deadline which is threatening their families, a day on which they must abandon the home that has been theirs for years. The banks are demanding the mortgage payment which in this time of financial crisis has become unaffordable – the law demands their eviction.

Marisa and David and thousands of others take their fight onto the streets and, through the Mortgage Affected Citizen's Platform, block the evictions. The Indignados, exhausted by the seemingly never ending financial difficulties and the austerity cuts form the largest civil protest movement seen in Spain for many years – and perhaps a hint of what may come elsewhere.

In My Mother's Arms

Atia Al Daradji, Mohamed Al Daradji | Iraq, Netherlands, UK | 2011 | 85
UK Premiere + panel

Husham works tirelessly to build the hopes, dreams and prospects of the 32 damaged children of war under his care at a small orphanage in Baghdad's most dangerous district. When the landlord gives Husham and the boys just two weeks to vacate a desperate search ensues.

It's All in Lebanon

Wissam Charaf | Lebanon, United Arab Emirates | 2011 | 62

Director Wissam Charaf traces the recent history and identity of Lebanon through its political campaigns, PR imagery and pop videos. And most importantly, how has Lebanon gone about nation-building during the 20 years since the Civil War? A must-see for all those involved in politics, advertising, public relations and the media.

Juku

Kiro Russo | Bolivia | 2011 | 18

UK Premiere

Honourable Mention 22 festival de cortometrajes de Sao Paulo Brazil (Kino Forum)

The dark the screen appears impenetrable, then a light appears. Deep in the darkness a man moves. He's got a lamp. His light illuminates the rocks that fill the screen. He lifts his pick-axe in the confined space. This is what it is to be a miner in Posokoni, the largest tin mine in Bolivia.

Kirkcaldy Man

Julian Schwanitz | UK | 2011 | 17

London Premiere

Audience Award - Glasgow Int'l Short Film Festival

Who is Jocky Wilson? 20 years ago every child in Kirkcaldy, on the east coast of Scotland, could answer this question. One of the best darts players ever, world champion in 1982 and 1989 – a hero of an entire nation. But, in '95 Jocky paid the price for his self destructive life style. Suffering from diabetes, arthritis, and depression he retired into a reclusive existence. In search of his myth, we follow the forces that shaped Jocky's hometown and its inhabitants as we discover lost memories of the man who once inspired the nation.

Krisis (Κριση)

Nikos Katsaounis, Nina Maria Paschalidou | Greece | 2011 | 63

World Premiere + panel

'Krisis', is a feature documentary film connected to the Prism GR2011 project, a collective documentation of Greece made with DSLR cameras during 2010/11. It focuses on the economic crisis and how it has affected a wide variety of people and situations in this quiet and usually calm country.

It is a new type of narrative. Through a process of creative collaboration and documentation, a group of 14 photojournalists and filmmakers synthesise different stories into a film that explores how Greece, and the Greeks, are handling the crisis. In addition, The Prism and Krisis are testaments to how creativity is the best antidote to the crisis, and that innovation can occur in the darkest of hours.

La Blanquita

Jaime Rogel Roman | Mexico | 2011 | 11

European Premiere

At the heart of Mexico City, a group of homeless people live outside the famous Teatro Blanquita – they call themselves the Blanquita gang.

Laura

Fellipe Gamarano Barbosa | Brazil, USA | 2011 | 77

UK Premiere

Going out every night is not only a way for Laura to keep her glamorous life alive, it is also her survival strategy. Distanced from her family, Laura has found a community among the party crashers, the benevolent restaurant staff, party hosts and organisers of New York city. Shot over 12 days Laura is an actress constantly playing for the camera, seducing us, eager to show us her unique way of life. Gradually, it becomes apparent that all is not as it seems - Laura is broke, and lives in a tiny room, sharing a communal bathroom. Nevertheless, she continues to walk a delicate tightrope of her own making: her evenings spent amongst New York's high and mighty while she daily cheats total poverty. Into this world walks Fellipe with his camera. Soon, they find themselves involved in a cat and mouse game, a power struggle over who is the author of this tale.

LEMON

Beth Levison, Laura Brownson | USA | 2011 | 82
UK Premiere

Three-time felon, one-time Tony award winner, Lemon Andersen is a pioneering poet whose words speak for a generation. But Lemon has landed back in the 'hood, living in the projects with thirteen family members and desperate for a way out. So he turns to the only thing he has left, his pen and his past. In this intricately crafted documentary, LEMON follows one man's harrowing journey to bring his life story to the stage while battling the demons from his past. Featuring a surprise turn by Spike Lee and music by Hip-hop phenomenons Kanye West, Mos Def, Talib Kweli and Aloe Blacc, this riveting documentary debut personalises the anguish of a generation of men clinging to the margins of society but fighting for something more.

Letters from Iran (Chroniques d'un Iran Interdit)

Manon Loizeau | France, Iran | 2011 | 78
UK Premiere

When a girl named Neda was murdered on the street during the student protests in Iran in 2009, images of her were transmitted all around the world. Since then, Western media access to the country has been very limited. The French filmmaker Manon Loizeau has attempted to reconstruct the protest, and for the last two years she has been following a group of Iranians living outside their homeland. She put together excerpts of archive footage, leaked YouTube clips, and amateur recordings of demonstrations to create an impression of the failed Green Revolution. We see jerky images of emotional protest meetings, harrowing interviews with dissidents who have fled the country after the torture they suffered, and unique material showing the nerve-wracking cat-and-mouse game with the regime. The students' zeal breeds hope.

Love, Hate and Everything in Between

Alex Gabbay | UK | 2012 | 55
World Premiere + panel

What is the relevance of empathy in today's increasingly interconnected world, where conflict and compassion exist in equal measure. The discovery of mirror neurons – the biological basis for empathy – has led to exciting new experiments, debates and studies about how such knowledge can be applied to understand and enhance human behaviour, whether it is to control violence, facilitate conflict resolution or treat behavioural disorders such as autism.

Made in Wolverhampton

Adam Kossoff | UK | 2011 | 74
World Premiere + panel

'Made in Wolverhampton' explores the melancholic identity of an English post-industrial city in the digital age, and the changing nature of space, and memory. A documentary essay, it is filmed from the perspective of the wandering flâneur and makes use of a fictional voice-over: a letter from a guy in Wolverhampton, to his girlfriend in Havana. Comparisons between Wolverhampton and Havana are discovered and these unexpected connections confirm the city as a space of historical juxtaposition and cinematic montage.

Maurice

Patrick Kack-Brice | France | 2011 | 19
World Premiere

A short documentary portrait of Maurice Laroche, owner and projectionist of the 'Beverley', the last Porno Cinema in Paris (possibly Europe, maybe the entire world) still playing 35mm films. A technician holding on to his dying Art, even if it is against his own better judgement.

Memoryland

Marie-Pierre Jaury | France | 2011 | 50
World Premiere

Ground Zero, New York, is being turned into a place where the events of September 11 are endlessly replayed, or rather re-lived. As if it were not just a question of remembering the final moments of all those who died there, but the necessary reaffirmation of a narrative that explains how America came to see itself as the innocent victim of a crime, and courageous avenger.

Work on the construction of the National 9-11 Museum progresses in view of the opening in Sept. 2012. It will welcome millions of visitors from around the world. For now, everything here is a pretext for commemoration. The victory cries of 'Obama got Osama' and demonstrations of patriotic fervour following the death of Bin Laden have shown that the wound is still raw, and kept raw in Memoryland.

Metro

Guilherme Hoffmann | Brazil | 2011 | 50
World Premiere

The underground wanderings of a not-so-young Brazilian student who, without knowing what to look for in life, goes to the Paris subway to meet those he values most ... the strangers. Over two years, always with a camera on him, he observed and interacted with all kinds of metro 'inhabitants': passengers, bill posters, homeless persons, musicians, metro drivers, frequently conversing about life expectations. The result is a film that reveals this eclectic underground world from an unusual, irreverent and personal point of view.

Mind Your Mind - A primer for psychological independence

Jason Brett Serle | Spain | 2011 | 46
World Premiere

What do we mean by 'attention', or the lack of it? Are we quite as attentive as we think? Do we miss things that are right under our nose, blinded by suggestion, assumption and 'commonsense'? If so, how might this be used against us? Are the opportunities here to manipulate beliefs, alter behaviours? If so, who is doing the manipulating? Learn more about the Human Biocomputer, about Advertising, Ambiguities and Politics in this fast paced yet light-hearted film.

My Fancy High Heels

Ho Chao-ti | Taiwan | 2010 | 55
London Premiere

This is a film about dreams, and a tale bound together by beautiful high-heeled shoes. Brand-name high heels costing anywhere from \$300 to \$1000 – exactly who is it that makes them? From procuring the leather, to the assembly line, to the contract manufacturer, to the moment when lily-white feet slip into each pair of high heels, how many people's hands do these shoes pass through? The farming woman who tends the cattle, the worker, the manager of the contract manufacturing firm, the young New York woman from a wealthy family who wears the shoes – they all have their own difficulties and little sources of happiness in life. This film adopts their dreams as its central theme and reveals the story that lies behind a pair of beautiful high heel shoes.

Niether Allah, Nor Master! (Lacite, Inch'Allah!)

Nadia El Fani | France | 2011 | 75
UK Premiere

Winner of the International Secular Prize,

Tunisian-Franco filmmaker Nadia El Fani, an avowed atheist, takes a personal approach to this cinematic exploration of secularism in the Muslim country of Tunisia before and after the deposition of Ben Ali. The film, which was made by at the height of the 2010-2011 revolutions in North Africa, has proven so controversial that it has made the director a target of extremist death threats.

Nadia El Fani films a country which seems open to the principle of freedom of conscience and liberal in its relationship to Islam. 3 months later, the Tunisian Revolution breaks out, Nadia is out in the field. While the Arab World enters an era of radical change, Tunisia, which initiated the wind of revolt, is once again a 'laboratory country' testing its attitudes towards religion and secularism.

No Known Health Benefits

Chris Mizen | UK | 2011 | 9

World Premiere

On a bitter January day in 2011 one of the more unusual events in the sporting calendar took place – the UK Cold Water Swimming Championships. While not everyone's cup of tea the event appeals to an increasingly large group of people. The activity clearly causes the contestants a fair amount of pain. A day for hot tea, cake and eccentrics.

Normal

Merzak Allouache |Algeria, France | 2011 | 111

UK Premiere

Best Film, Doha Tribeca Film Festival 2011

FEATURE / NARRATIVE

As the Arab Spring begins in Tunisia and Egypt, Fouzi gathers a group of actors to show them footage of a documentary he started shooting two years ago about the disillusionment of youth seeking to express their artistic ideas. He searches for an alternative ending, relying on the actors' reactions to the historical changes currently taking place in the streets. He seeks alternative perspective and especially an ending. He relies on the reactions of his actors to invent a new conclusion in a country suddenly rocked by a wave of protests. During the process the questions begin: what is the place of creation in Algeria today? How does one create without confronting censorship? How to resist? By making films or taking part in the new revolution? Two stories entwine, fiction and reality merge. A new vision of today's Algerian youth in the middle of a new political and artistic moment.

Not Giddy Yet Aerial

Jenny Holt | UK | 2011 | 25

World Premiere

An observation of life in the Cumbrian village of Grasmere and its surrounding fells, one of the most revered landscapes in England and home of William Wordsworth. The film questions the detached view of landscape symbolised by picturesque ideals, focusing on the minutiae of the everyday taking place within the landscape and community. Beautifully shot over the period of one year, these observed activities are entwined within a four-part symphonic structure, addressing tensions between narratives of place in the Lake District.

Not Hotel Art

Isabella Wing-Davey | USA | 2011 | 5

World Premiere

A short documentary about the interaction between culture and the corporate world. The film follows one project of a New York Corporate Art firm, as they pick and install art for a large media company in Philadelphia. It's a wry look at the function of art in the workplace and those who promote it.

Not Without You (Niet zonder jou)

Peter Lataster | Netherlands | 2011 | 84

UK Premiere

Grand Prix and Students Prize, Beograd

Nomination Magnolia Award, STVF Shanghai

Best Portrait, PARNÜ Estonia

Best Feature Documentary, National Film Festival, Utrecht

Golden Plaque, FIRST SHOT Sarajevo

An elderly artist couple has to say goodbye to life and to each other. Does love and passion for art help them through the most difficult part of their lives?

Out of the Game

Katharine Round | UK | 2011 | 18

World Premiere

Tower Hamlets in London is one of the most deprived parts of the country: gang culture is commonplace, there is a lack of well paid jobs, and high rates of disease and ill health. It is also one of the boroughs hosting the upcoming Olympics. Against this backdrop three young people are refusing to conform to stereotypes. Instead they devote their time to teaching and inspiring a new generation of children in sports ranging from football to fencing, hoping to create a legacy in time for the Olympics in 2012.

Oli, Marlan and Iffath tell their own stories, in their own words. Sport has given them their voice, and one they will fight to keep. As they train groups of young children to take part in the biggest inter-school sports competition in the borough, we see them losing themselves in the game, taming bad behaviour and spotting gifted youngsters. Off the pitch, they're dealing with the unique growing pains of being a teenager in Tower Hamlets: forming new friendships, embarking on university, providing for their own families, and fighting the cultural prejudices that prevent some from reaching their full potential.

Paparazzi

Piotr Bernas | Poland | 2011 | 33

UK Premiere

European Film Award Nomination, 51st Krakow Film Festival, Poland

Best Short Documentary, International Music & Film Festival, Latvia

Golden Frog Grand Prix for the Short Documentary Film, International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography Plus Camerimage, Poland

Paparazzi is a film about a world in which values are confused and rules are flexible – but it shows also that there is always a second chance!

Paying Your Dues - The Cost of Protection (Mettersi a posto- Il Pizzo a Palermo)

Marco Battaglia, Gianluca Donati, Laura Schimmenti, Andrea Zulini | Italy | 2011 | 60

World Premiere

The Mafia enriches itself in many ways, one of these is the demand for Pizzo, the Sicilian slang term for protection money. In Palermo 80% of businesses are believed to pay this tax to Cosa Nostra. However, over the last few years something has started to change. At the forefront of this change is a group of young people called 'Addio Pizzo' (Goodbye Protection money). In 5 years their civil campaign has broken down the wall of silence that surrounds the Mafia extortion processes.

Phnom Penh Lullaby

Pawel Kloc | Poland | 2011 | 93

London Premiere

Silver Horn in the International Documentary Competition, Silver Hobby, 51th Krakow Film Festival, Poland

Everyone holds a secret. The secret of the future.

'Phnom Penh Lullaby' is an intimate story of a man looking for love and acceptance. Ilan Schickman left Israel dreaming of a new life. He now lives in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with his Khmer girlfriend Saran and daughters Marie, 2 years old, and Jasmine, 6 months, trying to make ends meet as a street fortune-teller.

Radici

Carlo Luglio | Italy | 2011 | 60

With Enzo Gragnaniello

UK Premiere

68. Mostra di Venezia 'Venice Days'

The film is a musical journey with Enzo Gragnaniello through the magic, mythology and history of the Neapolitan underworld. Gragnaniello, together with the Sud Express, mixes his own music with other Neapolitan artists. A light "musicarello" of the past and present. An evocative musical and visual narrative revealing the local beauty and vitality too often obscured by images of corruption and decline.

Returns (Powroty)

Krzysztof Kadłubowski | Poland | 2011 | 7

UK Premiere

Best Documentary, International Short Film Festival Lille, France

Best Experimental Documentary, Couch Fest Films 2011, Iceland

On April 10th, 2011, the first unsettling news about the air catastrophe concerning the government plane Tu-154 breaks across Poland. On board the plane there was the President of the Polish Republic Lech Kaczyński, his wife Maria, government representatives, state institutions officials, members of parliament, church officials, commanders and different divisions of the Polish Army. Tension builds. It becomes clear that all the passengers and crew are dead. The film is a record of those days in April.

Roger The Real Life Superhero

Cathy MacDonald | UK | 2011 | 10

World Premiere

Nineteen-year-old Roger Hayhurst lives on an estate in Salford, Manchester. With the unwavering support of his mum Jennifer, Roger dresses in a spandex suit and cape and patrols the streets at night, handing out food packages to the homeless. Roger the Real Life Superhero is a story of courage and self-transformation in troubled times.

Sailing Lessons

Lina Žilinskaitė | UK, Lithuania | 2012 | 5

World Premiere

A self portrait, this short film explores the gap between dreams and reality. It is an elegy for the beautiful world promised to us in the childhood and the struggles we face accepting the real, not so simple, world.

Saloon

Tom Pietrasik | UK | 2011 | 3
European Premiere

For many Indian men, a visit to the barber shop involves more than just a haircut. Filmed over the course of a weekend in a lower middle-class suburb of New Delhi and with music by A.R. Rahman, "Saloon" offers an affectionate glimpse inside the Indian barber shop: an institution dedicated to male-pampering.

Schurback

Arne Körner | Germany | 2012 | 29
World Premiere

W. Schurback sold umbrellas. For thirty years he crouched down in his half basement shop until one day no customers showed up. But, he has much to say about umbrellas, work and computers. Things changed, he didn't want to, but much of what he says resonates in positive ways. A portrait of a failed entrepreneur?

Shadows of Liberty

Jean-Philippe Tremblay | UK | 2012 | 93
European Premiere + panel

'Shadows of Liberty' is a documentary feature-film examining the media crisis in the United States. The film takes a harrowing journey through the dark corridors of the American media landscape where massive corporations exercise extraordinary political and economic power.

Artfully mixing interviews, actuality, reconstructions, and archive material, we hear insider accounts from a broken media system, where journalists are prevented from pursuing controversial news stories, citizens are censored for speaking out against abuses of government power, and individual lives have been shattered as the arena for public expression has been turned into a private profit zone.

The democratic principles of free press have been eroded by a new corporate media monopoly. The principles of a free and open Internet are changing as corporations and governments are restricting access. We need to take action and take our public media back.

Shakespeare in Havana

David Riondino | Italy | 2011 | 57
World Premiere

Romeo and Juliet as never seen before. Reinterpreted and performed by Cuban poet improvisers. Verse and theatre meet on the streets of Havana as an international poetry competition becomes the backdrop for a spontaneous, Goddard-like, essay on performance, film and Shakespeare.

Solipsoid

Frederik Jan Depickere | Belgium | 2011 | 12
World Premiere

A minimalist portrait of a night guard contemplating violence and his place in the universe

Solo, Piano - NYC

Anthony Sherin | USA | 2011 | 5
European Premiere

On a cold winter morning, a lone piano stands curbside in New York City. All day long, passersby stop to play. They collect and disperse, measure and push. Who abandons a piano?

Plinking slightly out-of-tune over the white noise of Broadway's cars, buses, trucks, and sirens, the piano awaits its fate. Solo, Piano - NYC is a 5-minute film of the last 24 hours of a once-wanted piano.

Somos Wichi (We Are Wichi)

Andrew Buckland | Argentina, USA | 2011 | 44
World Premiere + panel

'Somos Wichi' is a glimpse into the lives of a relatively unknown indigenous people. Set in the Gran Chaco forest of northwestern Argentina, the Wichi are struggling to cope with the destructive effects of agricultural development, which is eradicating most of their traditional food sources. A number of characters lend their voices to the film: Roque, who is struggling to protect what little forest remains from wood poachers, Tiluc the shaman, who is trying to preserve and to pass on their traditional culture, and Karina, who is determined to give the children a basic education despite rampant discrimination at school. From their stories along with insights from two well respected anthropologists, Dr. John Palmer and Dr. Morita Carrasco who work with the Wichi, a picture begins to develop that reveals a people living under great hardship and yet, for the moment, are still able to maintain their unique identity and strength of character. This character is what the Wichi call *Husek* and anthropologists describe as goodwill, a quality that emphasises balance and avoids conflict. Often misunderstood by the non-indigenous society that surrounds them, the Wichi are seen as having little value. 'Somos Wichi', however, invites the viewer to see things differently.

Space Station (Raumstation)

Felicitas Sonvilla | Germany | 2011 | 8
UK Premiere

An airport. People are waiting for their flight home, crossing, touching, each other's lives for a short moment. How do they spend their time in this strange, artificial place? A short documentary about the feeling of transit and non-places.

Spirit of the House

David Mead, Ed Beck | UK | 2011 | 14

Rodney Archer is the owner of an 18th century townhouse in Spitalfields, east London. The relationship between house and owner is deep. Rodney looks back at his life in this historic house, reflecting on what drew him to the area and why he still loves it even after many years of transition.

Station Day (En dia en Constitucion)

John Dickinson | Argentina | 2011 | 63
European Premiere

Constitucion Station is a huge railway terminal in Buenos Aires. Here, filtered through the mundane stories of a mixed cast of characters, we view a day in the life of the station, and the station in the day of the life of the characters. The building speaks of their present tribulations, and of lives lived elsewhere, but also of the imperial British beginnings, the present state of decay, and the quotidian reality of contemporary Argentina. Throughout the course of a single day stories and trajectories entwine and collide, meetings occur, lives change, lives stay the same, and this portrait of the 'Great Lady' speaks of the wider country and its uncertain future.

Suburban Swingers

Lucas Santo | Canada | 2011 | 8
European Premiere

Two couples from different generations have found an escape from life's monotony by embracing the swinging community. However, as their circumstances change they are confronted with questions about the viability of their lifestyle choice.

Sudor Seco

Thomas Bouet | France | 2011 | 6
World Premiere

Buenos Aires is a port, but no-one there seems to think of it in that way. The water seems distant. To encounter it one must leave downtown and make one's way to the northern waterside path. Here there is incredible chaos, noise, and machines, people who fish, cook, and play chess. This is a different city, a city of details.

Susya

Dani Rosenberg, Yoav Gross | Israel, Palestine | 2011 | 15
UK Premiere
Best Short Film, Milano International Film Festival, Italy, September 2011

A 60-year-old Palestinian and his son arrive at an archaeological site of an ancient Jewish settlement and buy tickets to enter. This is their only way to return to their abandoned home village, which they have not visited for 25 years.

Talibe – The Least Favoured Children of Senegal

Daniela Kon | Senegal, USA | 2011 | 58
UK Premiere + panel

The important tradition of Islamic education in Senegal has been left to develop in disturbingly perverted ways. 50,000 koranic students (Talibes), young boys between 4 and 15 years old are subjected to exploitation in conditions akin to slavery. They are forced to beg on the streets by their koranic schoolteachers and suffer severe physical abuse and neglect.

Following the staff of local grassroots NGO 'La Maison de la Gare' (MDG) during their daily efforts to find solutions for the terrible conditions the boys are subjected to, the documentary sets out on a poetic exploration of the nature and circumstances that breed and prolong the suffering of these children.

Tamam Gol

Payam Zinalabedini | Iran | 2011 | 30
World Premiere

Tamam Gol has lived for more than seven decades. She's an old woman living in a western village of Iran called Yaromjeh Bagh like all her ancestors before her. The villagers believe that only a son can keep the name of his family alive. A man who has no son is regarded as sterile. When she was a child Tamam Gol was asked by her father to wear boy's clothing, and help him run the farm. Tamam Gol does so and takes care of her parents and her three sisters as if she were the young man of the family. Her parents die. She helps her sisters get married. Tamam Gol still wears men's clothes and people have forgotten that she ever was a woman.

Tempest

Rob Curry, Anthony Fletcher | UK | 2012 | 76
Special Preview Screening + panel

Fifth Column's follow-up to 'Way Of The Morris' is a euphoric blend of drama and documentary, Tempest is a re-imagining of Shakespeare's last great play for the 21st Century. 17 young actors from South London struggle to put on a production while the story of Prospero's magical island

unfolds, and the old magician, played by the charismatic Zephryn, 21, casts his spells to reclaim his dukedom.

The Ambassador and Me (L'Ambassadeur & moi)

Jan Czarlewski | Switzerland | 2011 | 15

UK Premiere

His Excellency, the plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Belgian Crown sacrificed his entire life for his country. His dedication came with a price. He never really had time for his son. His son, however, admires his father, and longs to be like him, but knows he is quite different. This is what happens when he goes to Brussels to try to make up for lost time.

The Chewing Gum Man

Ana de la Válgoma Romero | Germany, UK | 2011 | 18

UK Premiere

"Sometimes things are not what they seem to be at first sight. When I first noticed Ben Wilson, I thought he was homeless. But sometimes you just have to take a closer look at things."

The Children of Sisyphus

Joachim Philippe | Belgium | 2011 | 56

World Premiere

An encounter with the daily life of children with autism or psychosis. It is a glimpse, from the inside, of a world that has rarely been observed so freely, and for such a long time. Over an entire year in a day-care centre in the South of Belgium, we share in the children's evolution and regression, experience their moments of joy and grief. During the long preparation that precedes the moment when one of the kids leaves the centre to attend school, we come to see that the caregivers are torn between their pride in his achievements, and their apprehension to let him go.

The Clockmaker

Adam Haggerty | UK | 2011 | 4

World Premiere

'The Clockmaker' is an intimate look at Ray Savage's relationship with his now deceased wife. A clockmaker, working in Derby for 40 years. we see Ray surrounded by the objects that remind us all that time is slipping away.

The Honey Hunting

Lotta Granbom | Thailand | 2011 | 14

World Premiere

Musa and his family live on an island in the Andaman Sea, Thailand. Theirs is the only village left on a part of the beach where no Westerners have yet settled. Leaving the sea Musa and his sons go inland 'hunting-honey'.

The Job

Didier Cros | France | 2011 | 94

World Premiere

Ten job seekers. One position. Two days to impress and get that job! What starts as a simple job interview quickly becomes a brutal test of both professional skills and mental fortitude. The questions are never random and the answers are always prepared. The recruiters lay traps and the applicants try to dance around them. Just trying to make a living, these people are spared nothing: role play, aptitude tests, provocation and competition with each other. Everyone knows the rules of

the game. But what do recruiters expect when they put you under pressure? Just what are they looking for when they ask about a candidate's enthusiasm and motivation? An ability to adapt or a willingness to submit? 'The Apprentice' with the volume turned up.

The Last Day of Summer (Koniec lata)

Piotr Stasik | Poland | 2010 | 32

UK Premiere

*Documentary Award "Remembrance and Future", Go East Film Festival, Germany
Onda Curta Prize, Festival Tous Courts, Aix en Provence, France –RTP2*

Piotr Stasik's film portrays contemporary Russia through the eyes of young students at a cadet school in Penza 700 km from Moscow. Following their daily routine we observe how deeply the school influences the children's lives, how their personalities change, how they hope and they dream, how slowly they enter the world of the adults and say farewell to the bliss of childhood.

The Little Thai Fighters

Damon Logan | Australia | 2011 | 11

World Premiere

Muay Thai is the national sport of Thailand. For thousands of Thai children, it can provide an escape from poverty. Some may become champions. For many, the training and fights are brutal. Follow the children who live, train and fight in a training camp in Bangkok.

The Man Who Got Away

Trevor Anderson | Canada | 2012 | 25

UK Premiere

A unique musical documentary that tells the true life story of Trevor's great-uncle Jimmy in six original songs. Jimmy joins the Navy, discovers gay sex, treads the boards on Broadway, meets Judy Garland before his tragic demise.

Themerson & Themerson

Wiktoria Szymańska | Poland | 2011 | 52

UK Premiere

Special Screening, Cameraimage

This sensitive and intelligent documentary shows us two British artists of Polish origin: the late Stefan and Franciska Themerson. He wrote. She painted. Considered significant figures in the avant-garde they produced much original and poetic work that combined humour and absurdity. The span of their artistic experiments covered literature and painting, but also cinema, music and drama. The film is a charming portrait of an exceptionally complementary couple, and their shared passion for life and Art.

The Mutability of all Things and the Possibility of Changing Some (De la mutabilité de toute chose et de la possibilité d'en changer certaines)

Anna Marziano | France | 2011 | 16

UK Premiere

How should one accommodate the perpetual new beginning of things and continue participating in the transformation of a community? This journey into mutability begins in the Abruzzi region, Italy, an area that was severely damaged by an earthquake in 2009. Moving to a new house, a new place, and rebuilding a network of relationships these are a painful necessity for many of the former inhabitants. The changes wrought by the earthquake have touched every one of them, and each reacts in their own way, building a new future, holding onto the past - even if the only thing left is just a cheap souvenir from Pompeii.

The Olympic Side of London

Daniele Rugo | UK | 2011 | 72
World Premiere + panel

Narrated by award winning writer Iain Sinclair and featuring stories from 7 characters over 3 generations, 'The Olympic Side of London' is a critical portrait of East London in the lead up to the 2012 Olympic Games.

The film moves from post second world war East End to the present day projecting the future of an area subject to multiple regenerations throughout its modern history. 'The Olympic Side of London' projects the cultural vibrancy and historical complexity of an area that is now, after many years at the margin, on the world's centre stage. With a lyrical cinematic style that oscillates between stunning images and ground level interviews, The film gives space to shocking accounts of street life, poverty and social issues, exploring the contradictions and hopes of East Londoners in the midst of the Olympic extravagance.

The Pacifist and the Khmer Rouge (Le Khmer Rouge et le Non Violent)

Bernard Mangiante | France, Cambodia | 2011 | 90
UK Premiere

It is the last trial in the career of François Roux, a lawyer specialising in the defence of non-violent activists and a supporter of civil rights. He defends Kaing Guek Eav, aka Douch, considered to be one of the bloodiest torturers of our times. Douch, who directed the detention centre S21 in Phnom Penh from 1975 to 1979, is accused of torturing and executing more than 15,000 people. Kar Savuth, who was detained in the jails of the Red Khmers, is the lawyer assisting Roux in the defence of Douch. On one side Gandhi's disciple, on the other Pol Pot's follower, and in the middle a young aide. The three figures are bound by a complex relationship where nothing is taken for granted, including terms like 'guilt' and 'remorse'. From the preparation of the defence strategy to the final pleading, this film follows the backstage of one of the major international trials in the last few years and without any hesitation confronts the banality of evil, challenging the absolute notion of 'good'.

The Panda Rabbit

Randy D. Rosario | USA | 2011 | 7
World Premiere

The Panda Rabbit is hybrid animal disliked by others because he is different. All he wants is to find someone he can talk to. The only friend he has is his television, but over time it possesses him. His mission is to snap back into reality and find his way home. The Panda Rabbit is in for a bumpy ride.

The Russians

Christian Klinger | Russian Federation | 2011 | 52
European Premiere

A film about the photography of Oleg Videnin. A film about contemporary Russia. It looks at the unknown world of so-called normal Russian life and the real people Oleg Videnin uses in his work. The film accompanies Videnin as he photographs people on the streets of Bryansk, as well as in Russia's empty villages and along Russia's roads.

The Safest Nuclear Power Station in the World (Erntefaktor Null)

Helena Hufnagel | Germany | 2012 | 28
World Premiere

There is a nuclear power plant in Zwentendorf, Austria. Since 1978 the plant has been ready for

operation. Shortly before its official opening popular protest prevented the start up of the plant – it was never put to use until today. There is a primary school in the unused office buildings, parties are held in the front yard, tourists holiday nearby and eat wiener schnitzel, Greenpeace practices abseiling down its chimney in readiness for real protest operations on active plants in Europe. At the centre of it all is the caretaker Johann Fleischer. He oversees the vast complex, alone, in what must be one of the most unique jobs in the world.

The Summer of Giacomo (L'estate di Giacomo)

Alessandro Comodin | France, Italy, Belgium | 2011 | 78
UK Premiere

It's summer in the countryside of north-eastern Italy. Nineteen year-old Giacomo, deaf since childhood, and Stephanie, his childhood friend, go to the river for a picnic. As if in an enchanted fairytale they get lost in the woods and find themselves in a heavenly place, alone and free, during an afternoon that seems to last a whole summer. Love, lost time, escape, youth. A gorgeous evocation of those private moments that define lives and memories.

The Talking Walls of Lahore

Numra Siddiqui | Pakistan | 2010 | 13
World Premiere

Graffiti in Pakistan's cultural heartland. Words consume the city's every wall: from herbal practitioners advertising impotency cures to political and religious slogans. In a country battling economic and political instability, and facing an uncertain future, these 'wall chalkings' form a rich public display of contradictory messages. Each script, each slogan lays claim to the city.

The Thin Line

Michel Gajardo | Chile | 2011 | 9
World Premiere

A short documentary film about stability in our city-lives and the paths we follow to achieve this. Starring Rob Tito Cartwright an Australian slack rope walker who makes a living by performing close to the traffic lights.

This is Not my Home

Gabriel Berretta | UK | 2011 | 11
London Premiere

A man walks the streets of London. The sort of person we pass everyday without giving a thought to. A man with a story to tell. A man from Guatemala, living a life that doesn't belong to him, in a place that is not his home.

This is Our House

Ramtin Nikzad | USA | 2011 | 10
European Premiere

In the aftermath of the Iraq war, Abdul Ameer Alwan seeks asylum in the USA. There he experiences overwhelming isolation and anonymity. A renowned painter in his native Iraq, his artwork had been inspired by routine encounters in his neighbourhood. Now, living abroad, he is disconnected from the source of his creativity. Meanwhile, his young daughter Aman, born just weeks before the 2003 invasion, has spent most of her life outside Iraq and retains only the faintest understanding of her country of birth. The film explores a relationship between a father and a daughter through the themes of memory, culture, identity, and displacement.

Tonia and Her Children (Tonia i jej dzieci)

Marcel Łoziński | Poland | 2011 | 57
UK Premiere
Golden Hobby Horse, 51st Krakow Film Festival, Poland

11-year-old Werka and her 9-year-old brother Marcel wind up at the front door of a children's home in Wrocław. Asked who they are, Werka replies, "We are children of communists." In return the teacher yells, "Why do they only send us Judeo-communists?!!!" It is 1949. Werka and Marcel's mother, a pre-war communist, is arrested and charged with collaborating with American intelligence. She will do five and half years. Her children will spend these years in children's homes. A film about a brother and a sister marked by the ideological choices of their parents.

Touch the Sky

Martin Bolduc | Canada | 2011 | 70
World Premiere

A film for anyone who has ever wanted to travel to space. Using a fly-on-the-wall-style, we follow the owner and founder of world famous Cirque du Soleil, Guy Laliberté, as he makes his way from the training program in Russia to the International Space Station (ISS) 150 miles above the earth. Through his often hilarious and poignant encounters with the extraordinary group of people who have travelled to space before him, we discover the exacting process of space travel, the ineffable bond between astronauts and cosmonauts, and the true heroism of space exploration.

Tree of Forgetting

Dan Luis Boord Valdovino | USA | 2010 | 9
World Premiere

The world's shortest short story takes a detour to a place where time is a forking path of possibilities leading to the same eventuality, the past. A place where it was possible to vanish among family and friends and where the places and things of everyday life may also take on horrific features and meanings. 'Tree of Forgetting' is a place where a poet laureate may aspire to become an inspector of chickens and where many live in a state of exile.

Uncle Nasshat

Asheel Mansour | Jordan, Lebanon, UAE | 2011 | 86
World Premiere

Nashaat is a Palestinian fighter who was killed by the Israelis in 1982. When Aseel, Nashaat's nephew, comes across a fact that makes him doubt the circumstances of his uncle's death, he embarks on a quest to find the truth. Not only does this quest lead him to disturbing facts, but it also makes him understand the real reasons behind his broken relationship with his father during his childhood.

Under the Cranes

Emma-Louise Williams | UK | 2011 | 55
+ panel

Emma-Louise Williams's film, 'Under the Cranes', is based on the documentary play for voices, 'Hackney Streets', by poet and former Children's Laureate, Michael Rosen. Blending rare archive footage and dreamlike sequences of present-day Hackney, Williams links the everyday with the social and literary history of this dynamic and culturally diverse East London borough.

Under Your Skin

Cristina Picchi | UK | 2011 | 8

This immersive audio-visual project sets out to explore carefully chosen Olympic sports from a fresh angle. London-based athletes reveal a world which sports fans do not normally have access to. We have explored three very different but complementary moments during their training - preparation, participation and rest.

Vakha and Magomed (Vakha i Magomed)

Marta Prus | Poland | 2010 | 13

UK Premiere

Best Short Documentary, 52nd Festival dei Popoli, Italy

A short documentary which shows the everyday struggles of two immigrants from Chechnya - Vakha and his son Magomed. The harsh reality of life for the newly arrived immigrant is obvious, but clearer still is the bond of true affection and care between father and son that deepens despite the circumstances. An intimate and endearing snapshot of two lives and the love between a father and a son. A beautiful film.

Vermont, Montpelier

Carlos Martin - Penasco | Spain | 2012 | 22

World Premiere

“That Sunday morning, my father woke up and went to the bathroom. After a shower, he noticed he couldn't comb his hair properly. He headed for the kitchen where my mother and some old friends of them were having breakfast. He walked in saying no word, sat at the table, stared at his cup of coffee and put strawberry jam in it. That's how it all started.”

Vielas Coloridas

Philip Ilic | UK | 2011 | 8

World Premiere

Follow Eduardo, one man with a mission: To inspire hope in favela communities in Brazil through Art. Meet the favela inhabitants. Listen to their hopes, dreams, and mistakes while they transform their community.

Vittorio, Captain Pistone and All the Others (Vittorio, Captain Pistone e Tutti gli Altri)

Mara Consoli | Italy | 2011 | 59

World Premiere

Vittorio is a man full of life, a character – he also suffers from Alzheimers. A daughter touchingly records the last months and weeks of his life. A humorous and poignant insight into the daily difficulties, joys, and sorrows undergone by the sufferer and the carers. Above all Vittorio shines through, and in his acts and words reveals far more than illness and much more about love, family and the unquenchable need for others.

Voiceless Reel

Valentina Ippolito | UK | 2010 | 3

You love going to the Cinema. But, have you ever wondered what goes on inside a Projection Room? The film is an elegant black and white observation of a working day for a 3D cinema projectionist with 52 years of experience in the industry.

Waidmannsheil: 'Hail to the Good Shooter' (Waidmannsheil: 'Heil aan de goede schutter')

Klaas Boelen | Belgium | 2011 | 26

UK Premiere

The pomp and savagery of a Belgian group hunt is exposed in this atmospheric, suspenseful and

sometimes ironic piece of direct cinema. With an icy detachment the rituals of a wily group of bourgeois weekend warriors are scrutinised as they compete to kill deer in a pastoral landscape. Power and weakness appear to go hand in hand in this most primitive and beautiful experience.

Wanted

Ali Essafi | Marocco | 2011 | 20
World Premiere

In the seventies, Moroccan schoolboys and students were constantly dreaming of freedom and democracy. Removals, arbitrary detentions and disappearances, marked the period out as the 'years of lead'. Many militants had to lead dangerous and clandestine lives. Now, more than 30 years later we see the long incubation of the present unrest. This is the story of Aziz, 23 years old at the time, who lived for two years in loneliness and under a false identity before capture.

War Matador

Avner Faingulernt, Macabit Abramson | Israel | 2011 | 70
UK Premiere + panel

Presented in association with the Embassy of Israel in the UK

In January 2009, during the war in Gaza, two courageous Israeli directors grabbed their cameras to shoot material along the common border. The bombs are filmed from a distance, out of focus and at extreme focal length – the tourists' point of view. The impact of the bombs in the distance is muffled, which is why the visual opposition between close up/long shot draws the attention to the spoken words, which are blunt, without compassion. The result of their journey is a disturbing essay about war and tourism, an absurd, surreal journey.

White Elephant (nzoku ya pembe)

Kristof Bilsen | UK | 2011 | 34

Winner Audience Award, International Short Documentary Competition at 52th Festival dei Popoli, Italy

Somebody passed by one day:

'Mama, does the Post really work?

If I leave this letter with you, will it ever arrive?'

I told him: 'of course it will'. He started laughing.

'I know for sure it will never reach its destination.'

'White Elephant' is a documentary about the Central Post-Office and its employees in Kinshasa, DR Congo. This grandiose relic of the colonial past has trapped its employees in a frozen timewarp from which they are planning their escape. From past to present, through the cracks in the walls, and leaks in the ceilings, we glimpse present-day Congo.

Why I Had an FGC

Suzanne Cohen | UK | 2011 | 8

'Why I had an FGC' is a fully animated documentary commissioned by the social services and produced in collaboration with BSC Computer Animation students at London Metropolitan University. The film is aimed at young people with child protection issues and those who are in danger of offending to persuade them of the benefits of Family Group Conferencing. This is a collaborative process in which families and social workers come together to make a plan to improve a young person's situation. There can also be a restorative justice aspect if the young person has been involved in anti social behaviour.

Character animation was used to protect the identities of the interviewees – young people who had benefited from having an FGC. The documentary also features a short drama about a young person who decides to have an FGC and manages to get his life back on track.

Wild Lilly

Sanne Rovers | Netherlands | 2011 | 15
UK Premiere

With her mother and brothers Robbin and Melvin, Lilly lives in a squatter community deep in the woods, with boundless freedom to roam around the bushes and build fires in the backyard. When the squat is evicted, Lilly has to say goodbye to her native ground. Their house is torn down and after a final exuberant party Lilly's family moves to a conventional terraced house. It's quite a change for Lilly. Can she find her freedom once again between the paving stones and the brick walls?

With Fidel Whatever Happens (Con Fidel pase lo que pase)

Goran Radovanovic | Serbia, Montenegro | 2011 | 47
World Premiere

Sierra Maestra, Cuba, 850 km east of Havana.

The day before the celebration of the 52nd anniversary of the Revolution.

An old man is repair a motorcycle a few decades old.

A young dentist is trying to find some transport to a clinic in a remote mountain, where - among other patients - he is to treat a patient called Vladimir Ilich Rodriguez.

A middle-aged married couple has a public telephone booth in their modest house for villagers who have no phone.

The fate of these people and many other inhabitants of Sierra Maestra, are depicted on a day of ideological ecstasy, the day of the celebration of the 52nd anniversary of the Revolution ... And the following day?

The next day, they all return to the rhythm of everyday life and it's lack of promise. Even the speakers that constantly blast out 52 years old ideological slogans..

But the revolution continues...

Con Fidel, pase lo que pase.

'With Fidel, come what may'.

Yakuaya

Marcelo Castillo | Ecuador | 2011 | 52
European Premiere

'Yakuaya' means the essence of water in a native language of Ecuador. The documentary follows the journey of a drop of water from a high glacier to the sea. On the way the water touches the lives of a peasant, is enclosed in the rhythm of a water bottling factory, passes through a city, transforms the life of a woman, awakens hope in a desert and welcomes the innocence of two children beside the sea. A stunningly original and beautiful film that turns water into a marvel.

Zelal

Marianne Khoury, Mustapha Hasnaoui | Egypt, France, Morocco, UAE | 2010 | 90
Winner of FIPRESCI, Best Documentary Film

A quiet masterpiece of hard-hitting reportage, Mustapha Hasnaoui and Marianne Khoury's 'Zelal' has drawn global critical praise for its hard-hitting and sobering insight into the lives of those afflicted by mental illness in Egypt today. Filmed in two large asylums, the film reveals the horrific conditions in which patients are expected to live - squalor and neglect is endemic, staff are stretched beyond breaking point, therapy and treatment seems non-existent. Khoury interviews inmates with gentle sensitivity and respect, never veering into sensationalism or patronising

sentimentality. It's a brutal indictment of the country's failed healthcare system and the consequence of an increasingly religious conservatism in policymaking that leaves the afflicted stigmatised and left to rot. Harrowing 'Zelal' may be, but as a piece of vital social documentary, its sensitivity and uncompromising respect for its subjects imbues them, and the films arguments for fair treatment, with dignity and eloquence.