



YOUR MEDIA
YOUR RIGHTS
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

2010

HUMAN RIGHTS
DOCFEST

JULY 23/24/25

NATIONAL FILM BOARD MEDIATHEQUE

WELCOME & BIENVENUE!

July 23, 2010

Dear all Human Rights Docfest attendees and supporters, We are so glad that you are able to join us for this empowering documentary festival. We trust that you will thoroughly appreciate the message of this year's winning documentaries, and hope that you will join us for the length of the 3-day festival.

We were truly inspired by the work of the founding members in creating a much needed documentary festival, aiming to promote Canadian talent, filmmakers and advocacy, as well as bring pressing human rights issues to a wider audience. For the 2010 festival, we were adamant on ensuring the liveliness Human Rights Docfest was preserved.

As a student group of volunteers, I have been inspired by the hard work our team has shown. With true belief and confidence in this cause, I witnessed a team truly persevere and succeed. So thank you for making the journey an empowering one.

Thank you to our panel of judges, who were especially impressed with the breadth of submissions this year. We trust that the winning documentaries will take you on a journey, allow you to truly follow the path of persons and communities facing human rights struggles, sharing both their frustrations and hopes.

Following the screenings, please join us in a fruitful discussion with our guest speakers, who have taken time to be here with us and to provide us with their expertise on the issues.

We look forward to spending this time with you over the 3-day festival. Have a look around the NFB Toronto Mediatheque, they have great programs and services which they offer on an ongoing basis. Thank you for joining us and supporting Human Rights Docfest 2010.

Sincerely,

Sophie and your team for Human Rights Docfest 2010.
Journalists for Human Rights UofT Chapter

WELCOME & BIENVENUE



WELCOME TO HUMAN RIGHTS DOCFEST 2010

[an introduction from our founding members]

In September of 2008 we had the idea to start a small, grassroots, campus-oriented documentary film contest, which aimed to bring attention to human rights issues within Vancouver Island's local communities. Little did we know that, after a few initial meetings and a few weeks of brainstorming, Human Rights DocFest would become a national film festival with the support of Journalists for Human Rights, Canada's largest and fastest growing international media development NGO, and National Film Board of Canada's online initiative CitizenShift. Now, Human Rights DocFest is Canada's newest new-media platform for dialogue regarding human rights concerns both at home and around the world. We aim to engage Canadians and encourage them to become conscious global citizens.

We believe that the best way to advocate for human rights is to educate people about their rights, and to create awareness when those rights are being abused. From the international LGBTQ rights movement, to the stories of residential school survivors here at home; to ethnic cleansing in the Sudan—we feel strongly that Canadians should be aware of what is happening in the world around them.

The documentary film medium is a highly effective tool to spread a message. It engages filmmakers with their community and subsequently engages the audience in a creative way with the finished product. Human Rights DocFest offers a unique opportunity for filmmakers to create dialogues about human rights between each other, industry executives, and the community. With this festival, we strive to engage, enlighten, and inspire positive change both within Canada and abroad.

We hope that you care as much about human rights issues as we do. In this age of perpetual globalisation, we genuinely believe that we are all connected and what affects one of us, affects all of us. Beginning right here, at home, we are committed to combining documentary filmmaking and new media to affect positive world change—and with your support we can surely make this happen.

Thank you for actively participating in our efforts to raise human rights awareness!

Sincerely,

Emily Agopsowicz
Director

Thembani Mdluli
Director

Casey Van Wensem
Submissions Coordinator

Erik Lindholm
Communications Manager

THE TEAM

DIRECTOR

Sophie Langlois

CO-CHAIR & EVENT COORDINATOR

Alexandra O'Neil

Naregh Galoustian

GRAPHIC DESIGNER & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Katelyn Bishop

Peter Guzda

CO-CHAIR & MEDIA OUTREACH

Brittney Teasdale

Samya Kullab

Sarah Hickman

MEDIA TEAM

Genevieve Zing

Liz Aldous

Vanessa Furguele

Megan Fowler

Kyana Brannigan

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COORDINATORS

Selena Lucien

Tanzeel Hakak

PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

Kirsty Hong

PROMOTIONS TEAM

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Jesse Cohen

Michelle Newlands

Maria Rose

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Jhr Head Office, Bill Killorn, Brett Nguyen,
Ken Zolatar and Sadia Khan

Danielle Healy

Ellen Shifrin

Kay Armatage

Peter Kent

JUDGES

ALAN BLACK

HELEN WALSH

BEN PETERSON

CITIZENSHIFT TEAM

KATRINA LAGACE

JHR RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO JUDGING

PARTICIPATION | The voices of all involved are offered in the story: Rights media ensures that not only the events, but also the voices of those affected by the events are presented in the story.

ACCOUNTABILITY | Duty bearers and right violators are held accountable: Rights media ensures that those responsible are asked to speak to the rights violation or abuse.

NON-DISCRIMINATION | Journalists do not discriminate when producing a story: Rights media does not discriminate by valuing one human right over another or group of peoples over another.

EMPOWERMENT | The media can empower the public: Rights media is accessible by the communities of those affected by the issue.

LINKAGE TO HUMAN RIGHTS | Stories include sources which link the event to human rights: Rights media ensures that human right stories source human right doctrines relevant to the event and community.

FRIDAY JULY 23 / 6PM

WINNER OF HIGH BUDGET CATEGORY

SEEKING REFUGE

Director: Karen Cho

“Some 30 000 people seek asylum in Canada every year: this is the story of five of them as they journey through our complex refugee system. “

By following five asylum seekers over several months, Seeking Refuge takes us along the lengthy journey of those navigating Canada’s refugee determination system. A moving look at the lives of inspiring people who have escaped war, persecution, rape and political unrest, Seeking Refuge plunges into the experiences, hopes and struggles of asylum seekers looking for protection. From Canada’s border crossings to refugee shelters, Seeking Refuge follows newly-admitted claimants awaiting their hearings and captures the lives of those who have been denied asylum and are facing deportation.

FEATURING |

Panel Discussion with Ben Peterson, Co-Founder and Executive Director of jhr (Journalists for Human Rights).
Jennifer Hyndman: Associate Director, Research in the Centre for Refugee Studies at York.
Paul St. Clair, Executive Director, Roma Community Centre, Community Scholar for the Centre of Refugee Studies.
Karen Cho, Director of Seeking Refuge.

SATURDAY JULY 24 / 6PM

WINNER OF SMALLER BUDGET (UNDER \$1000)

DENENDEH

Director: Kent Morrison and Karin Yeske

Forced isolation and assimilation of aboriginal peoples stole their identity and independence, leaving them at the mercy of the ‘superior culture.’ This system has failed, creating turmoil, suspicion, and dysfunction. Outsiders have again injected themselves into La Loche in an attempt to solve the problem, one originally of their making. The European attitude of “we know best,” shrouded in best intentions, is not working and no one is talking about it.

THIRD PLACE WINNER

BREAKING THE SILENCE: INSIDE BURMA'S RESISTANCE

Director: Pierre Mignault and Helen Magny

After the unrest that was carried to the world by street-shot cell phone images, the Burmese dictatorship pledged ‘free’ elections in 2010. Undercover, Quebec filmmakers Pierre Mignault and H el ene Magny clandestinely were able to enter one of Burma’s most dangerous zones, penetrating into the heart of the Karen Nation, where civil war has been waging for 60 years. Breaking the Silence: Inside Burma’s Resistance demonstrates the strength of the Burmese people’s resistance and takes us deep into the country, disclosing the secret networks of militants fighting along the Thai border.

FEATURING |

Panel Discussion with Karin Yeske, Director of Denendeh.
Jefferson Sackey, award winning Ghanaian Journalist.

SUNDAY JULY 25 / 1PM

SECOND PLACE WINNER

AUDITION

Director: Nelofer Pazira

When Afghan-Canadian director Nelofer Pazira returns to Bamiyan, Afghanistan for the screening of the award-winning film she collaborated on, *The Giant Buddhas*, she is shocked to see a crowd of 2,000 and astonished that many are women. Inspired, she decides to audition locals for a film. The men are eager, enthusiastically laughing and dying on command. The women are intrigued, but reticent, fearing retribution. When they do perform, it is with riveting authenticity. Pazira asks the men and women pointed questions, challenging their preconceptions and renegotiating the balance of power and control. Equal parts fascinating cultural intervention, exploration of the camera's gaze, this multilateral excavation of a society straddling two worlds uses cinema as a mirror to reflect the underlying tensions between power, tradition, ethics, and honor.

FEATURING |

Panel Discussion with Alan Black, Filmmaker and HotDocs Organizer.

Minoo Derayeh, PhD, Departments of Humanities and Equity Studies, Specialist on Islam, World Religions, and Gender Studies.

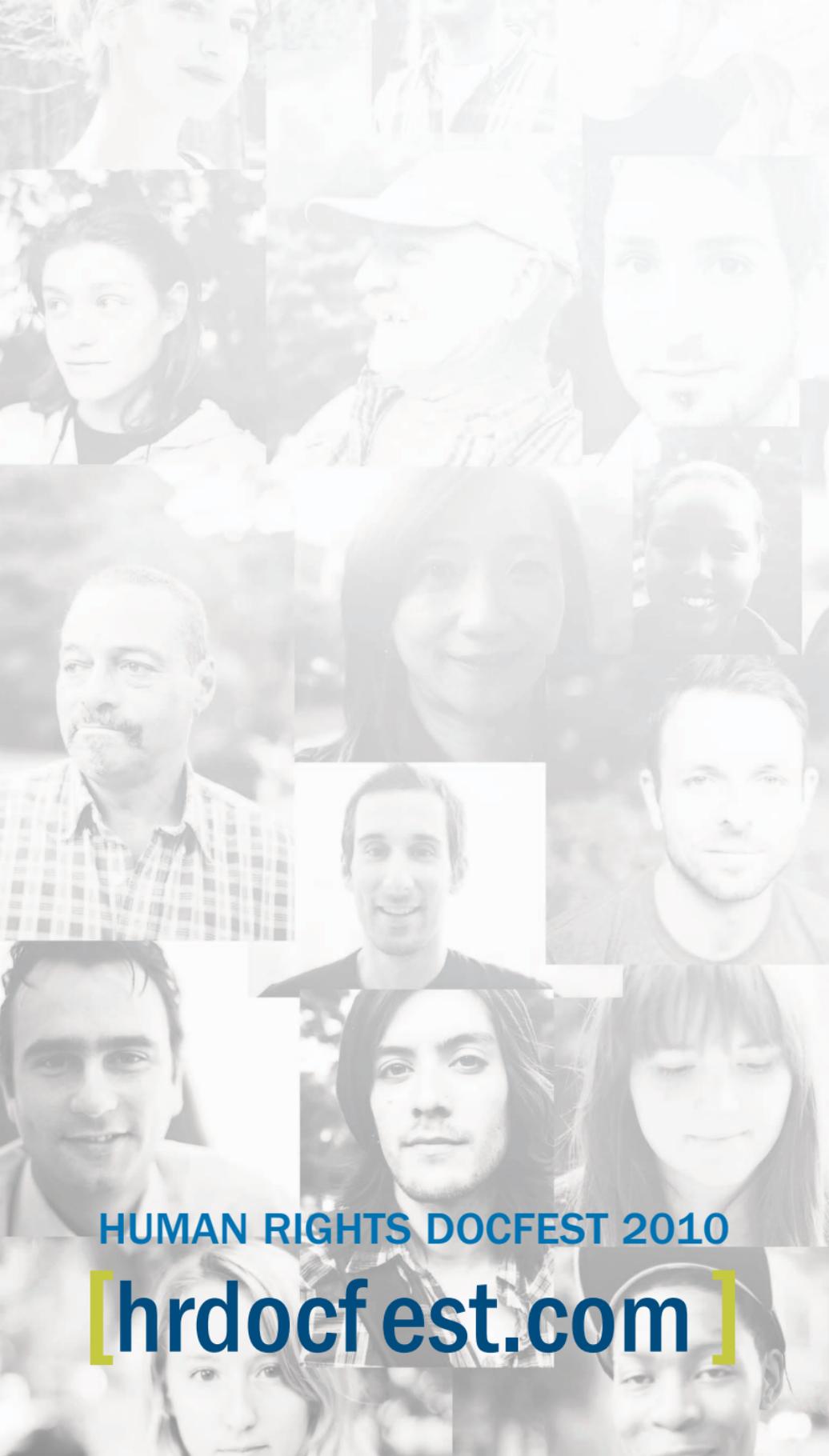
SPONSORSHIP

MAJOR PARTNERS | Executive Producers



PARTNERS | Key Grip





HUMAN RIGHTS DOCFEST 2010

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