

MEDIA RELEASE

EVENT: DOXA Documentary Film Festival 2009

DATES: May 22 – 31, 2009

VENUES: Empire Granville 7 Theatre (855 Granville St), Pacific Cinémathèque (1131 Howe St), Vancity Theatre (1181 Seymour St)

ADMISSION: Opening Night Film: \$15

Single Tickets: \$10 plus one-time \$2 Membership

Full Festival Passes (includes Membership): \$125

TICKETS: DOXA website (www.doxafestival.ca)

Videomatica (1855 West 4th Ave.)

Biz Books (302 West Cordova St.)

Bibliophile (2010 Commercial Dr.)

INFORMATION: www.doxafestival.ca or 604.646.3200

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Untold Stories and Hidden Gems Premiere at DOXA 2009

Vancouver, BC – Continuing the tradition of showcasing stories that aren't often told, DOXA brings Vancouver several exciting premieres of eye-opening and unexpected films.

Carmen Meets Borat is a movie within a movie. A filmmaker documents the life of 17 year-old Carmen in her sleepy Romanian village called Glod which, literally translated, means mud. As she dreams of escaping her depressed village, Sacha Baron Cohen and crew show up to use Glod as Borat's hometown in the eponymous feature film. After realizing they've been duped by Cohen, the village is up in arms, mistrustful of anyone with a camera, and files a \$30 million lawsuit against 20th Century Fox. Could this be the chance for Glod to create a sustainable economy and get out of the permanent post-communist transition they've been suffering since the Soviet Union collapsed?

Hip hop is known as a masculine culture, which is why *Say My Name* is such an important film. It gives voice to the other half of hip hop: women. *Say My Name* chronicles the struggles and triumphs of women MCs and shows that there are many aspects of hip hop that have not yet been touched upon by the mainstream.

Youssou N'Dour, a devout Muslim, is the most famous African musician of our time with unparalleled global popularity. But when he released the Islam-based album *Egypt* in 2004, he and his music were attacked in his home country of Senegal. His career, connection to his country, and his faith were tested in a struggle documented in *Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love*.

The general public accepts weapons of mass destruction to be nuclear and chemical arms. But *Devil's Bargain* reveals another truth; the most used weapons of mass destruction are small arms. The film reports the startling realities of the unregulated small arms trade that allow some states to remain in a perpetual state of war. Small arms kill 500,000 people every year, but that is just one of the many ugly truths that are exposed in this extremely timely and topical film.

Little is known about the dictatorship of North Korea, points out filmmaker Andrzej Fidyk, which is why he made *Yodok Stories*. Yodok is one of many North Korean concentration camps where 200,000 people are imprisoned and in the film, former prisoners and guards mount a spectacular musical production to tell their unbelievable tale of the horrors.

Who knew that such an engaging film could tell the tale about the journey of a hair extension? *Hair India* is a ridiculously relevant account of the life of the international human hair industry. From a poor, long-haired villager in India, to the thriving hair extension company in Italy, to the upwardly mobile urban Indian professional who buys back the Indian hair as an accessory, *Hair India* takes economic globalization to a new level.

My Mother's Farm is a beautifully quiet film about not-so-quiet Latvian farmer and political activist Tale Kalna.

Shooting Women tells the story of women directors and cinematographers in the film industry. *Rough Aunties* shifts the focus from Africa's hardships to the resilience and victories of a group of dedicated women fighting to end child abuse.

These stories are just a sample of the many hidden gems to be discovered at this year's DOXA.

DOXA Documentary Film Festival runs May 22-31, 2009. Tickets to the Opening Night Film are \$15; and \$35 including the Opening Night Party. Single tickets for all other screenings are \$10 each plus one-time \$2 Membership. Festival Passes allow access to all films except Opening Night and are available for \$125. Tickets and Passes are available at Bibliophile Bookshop, Videomatica, Biz Books and online at www.doxafestival.ca. For further information, call DOXA at 604-646-3200.

DOXA is presented by the Documentary Media Society, a Vancouver-based non-profit, charitable society.