



Media Release

Event: DOXA Documentary Film Festival
Date and Time: Check website for upcoming Fall events
Information: www.doxafestival.ca or 604.646.3200
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DOXA Wraps its Most Successful Festival Yet

Vancouver, B.C.- DOXA's expanded ten-day festival set a new precedent for the highest attendance ever with recurring sold-out screenings. Sold-out shows included *The Queen and I*, *Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love*, *The One Percent*, *The Garden*, *Carmen Meets Borat*, *Who the Jew Are You?*, *Tulku*, *Transit Dubai* and *Yodok Stories*.

Larry Weinstein's film, *Inside Hana's Suitcase*, was honoured three times at this year's festival. His film tells the remarkable story of how a young girl killed in the Holocaust brings together children from around the world 60 years later. *Inside Hana's Suitcase* was selected as DOXA's Opening Night Film and was independently awarded both the DOXA Feature Documentary Prize and the National Film Board Colin Low Award for the most innovative Canadian film. Weinstein was thrilled, "I can't tell you how honoured I am to hear of the two awards that the DOXA juries have bestowed upon *Inside Hana's Suitcase*, a film we all had hoped would reach people because of its timely message of tolerance and hope for humanity. Perhaps with the help of your huge vote of confidence, we can get the film distributed to audiences at home and abroad."

Hanna Heilborn and David Aronowitsch won the DOXA Short Documentary Award for their animated film *Slaves*. In the film two children, Abouk and Machiek, recount their stories of enslavement in the Sudan.

Buzz surrounding the Exposed! Celebrity Camera Auction continues after a bidding war ensued over actress Jennifer Beals' camera. Over fifty celebrities took photos using single-use cameras, and then returned them to DOXA. The cameras have been open for bids since the first day of the festival. Bidding continues as more cameras come in from last-minute celebrities like Michael Moore, Mary Walsh, and George Stroumboulopoulos. The highest bidders win a unique set of undeveloped snapshots, exposing the remarkable lives and extraordinary visions of some of today's most celebrated public figures.

The growing festival also meant using more resources. Taking DOXA's growth into account, the festival offered new innovations to reduce our carbon footprint. Many directors, rather than flying in to attend the festival, were Skyped into the theatre for online Q&A sessions with the audience. Community Partner Bullfrog Power provided 100% low-impact renewable electricity for the entire ten days of the festival. These steps bring DOXA closer to becoming a sustainable festival within Vancouver's green guidelines.

Overall, this year's DOXA Documentary Film Festival has given us higher goals to reach for: maintaining our excellence in programming, increasing attendance, and ensuring clean power runs the festival. Join us again next May for 10 days in 2010! In the meantime, DOXA will keep the momentum going with ongoing screenings and partner events throughout the year.

For more information about the festival, ongoing events, and the camera auction, please visit www.doxafestival.ca or call 604.646.3200.