

## Voices in Action: Human Rights on Film

For many committed makers and viewers, film is a vital medium of information and engagement and a powerful tool for social action. Tackling wide-ranging, thought-provoking issues, activist filmmakers help deepen our awareness of injustice and the values of dignity and equality as they tell universal stories of struggle and triumph. We hope these informative and inspirational films both broaden understanding and stimulate involvement as they reveal the commitment, experience, and courage of hearts and minds focused on challenges that touch us all. Thanks to KBOO FM for their promotional support.

Wednesday, September 21, 7 pm

***Hooligan Sparrow***, China/US, 2016

Dir. Nanfu Wang (84 mins., Documentary, DCP)

*Hooligan Sparrow* follows brave, maverick Chinese activist Ye Haiyan (a.k.a. Hooligan Sparrow) as she fights to bring justice to an elementary school principal who sexually abused six of his students in exchange for government favors. Director Nanfu Wang becomes a target herself as she surreptitiously chronicles the lengths to which the authorities in Hainan Province in southern China go to suppress Sparrow and her fellow activists. Dodging harassing government agents, spies within their ranks, and corrupt police, we see first-hand how fiercely China works to control its citizens—and the courageous few who face imprisonment as they work for social justice. In Mandarin and English with English subtitles.

Wednesday, September 28, 7 pm

***Abortion: Stories Women Tell***, US, 2016

Dir. Tracy Droz Tragos (93 mins., Documentary, DCP)

The US Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* gave every woman the right to have an abortion, but today a woman's right to choose remains one of the country's most divisive issues, with each year seeing more restrictions on abortion access. Director Tracy Droz Tragos sheds new light on this contentious issue, with a focus not on the debate, but rather on the women themselves: those struggling with unplanned pregnancies, the providers who show up at clinics to give medical care, as well as the activists on the sidewalks hoping to sway decisions and lives.

Wednesday, October 5, 7 pm

***When Two Worlds Collide***, US, 2016

Dir. Heidi Brandenburg, Mathew Orzel (103mins., Documentary, DCP)

Brandenburg and Orzel's stirring film takes us to the heart of a tense and controversial battle between Peruvian leaders invested in extracting natural resources from the Amazon, and indigenous activists equally determined to protect their homes and a fragile ecosystem. As the

government passes legislation that enables opening the rainforests to exploitation, indigenous leader Alberto Pizango makes an impassioned stand to stop the extraction of oil, minerals, and gas that will forever change the land. Sparking one of the largest public protests in Peruvian history, Pizango is accused of inciting violence and exiled. As visions bitterly collide, environmental destruction hangs in the balance. Winner of the World Cinema documentary prize for best first feature at Sundance Film Festival. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Wednesday, October 12, 7 pm

***Under the Sun***, Czech Republic/Russia, 2015

Dir. Vitaliy Manskiy (106 mins., Documentary, DCP)

Shot with the permission and supervision of North Korean authorities, Russian director Vitaliy Manskiy's film turns a propaganda effort into a deep-cover documentary about life inside one of the world's most repressive nations. Offering a rare glimpse of everyday life in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, its subjects—a young girl and her family—ideal patriots—rigorously stick to the ideological approved script, but by keeping the camera rolling between takes of their carefully staged “real life,” Mansky reveals the grinding gears of the totalitarian message machine. “Surreal and sinister. . . a real-life version of *The Truman show*.”—Stephen Dalton, *The Hollywood Reporter*. “Critics’ Pick! Startling and chilling.”—The New York Times. In Korean with English subtitles.

Tuesday, October 18, 7 pm — Visiting Artist

***Do Not Resist***, US, 2016

Dir. Craig Atkinson (73 mins., Documentary, DCP)

Winner of the Best Documentary award at the Tribeca Film Festival, *Do Not Resist* starts on the streets of Ferguson, Missouri as the community grapples with the death of Michael Brown and offers a stunning look at the current state of policing in America and glimpses into the future of increasingly militarized forces. From a ride along with a South Carolina SWAT team, to a look inside a police training seminar that teaches the importance of “righteous violence,” to the floor of a congressional hearing on the proliferation of armed-combat equipment, a picture emerges of a future of high-end weapons and battlefield tactics in communities large and small.

Wednesday, October 26, 7 pm

***After Spring***, US, 2016

Dir. Ellen Martinez, Steph Ching (101 mins., Documentary, DCP)

The Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan is the largest gathering spot in the Middle East for the millions of refugees fleeing the bloody civil war in Syria. While some have escaped to Europe, the majority of people driven from their homes find themselves in an endless limbo, fearful

that their children will never have a normal life and that violence will be generational. As we follow two refugee families in transition and aid workers fighting to keep the camp running, we come to understand the experience of camp life and the anguish of rebuild lives in a place that was never meant to be permanent. In Arabic, English, and Korean with English subtitles.

Followed by

***The Crossing***, Norway, 2015  
Dir. Geroge Kurian (55 mins., Dgeocumentary, DCP)

A first-hand account of the perilous journey made by a group of Syrian refugees. Traversing land and sea on an old fishing boat manned by smugglers, the nail-biting journey leads to Europe where the refugees disperse. Each must battle to stay sane and create an identity among the maze of regulations and refugee hostels. *The Crossing* shows us the lengths to which people go to find safety and forge their own destiny. In English and Arabic with English subtitles.

Tuesday, November 1, 7 pm  
***The Road***, China/Denmark, 2015  
Dir. Zanbo Zhang (95 mins, Documentary, DCP)

In 2008, the Chinese government initiated an ambitious plan to build a superhighway in the Hunan province in an attempt to stimulate the economy. Zhang's film, four years in the making, chronicles the imposed project, from villagers forced to leave their homes, to the plight of migrant construction workers accepting hazard and low pay, to the project managers as they negotiate with Communist Party members, careless employers, and local gangsters. The portrait that emerges reveals not just the corruption and violence surrounding the Xu-Huai highway, but also the road that China has taken in trying to build a modern economy with little regard to human and environment cost.