

International Week of Justice Festival

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) has been an affirmation of the universality and indivisibility of human rights. The 60th anniversary of UDHR on 10th December 2008 and the World Dignity Day on 5th December 2008 taken together provide the context for Amnesty International India to launch a week of human rights activities from 5th to 10th December in the form of International Week of Justice Festival (IWJF). IWJF draws upon Amnesty International's Art for Activism endeavour in order to promote human rights awareness and action through creative, performative art with active involvement of artists, educators, cultural organisations, youth and media. Through international cinema, photo-exhibition, theatre, music, talks and discussions IWJF takes up the key concerns of right to life with dignity, a world free of torture and fear, freedom of expression and non-violence enshrined in the UDHR.

The main themes of IWJF are:

The Vanishing Act: Death Penalty, Disappearances

Dreams and Nightmares: Conflict, Borders, Ideology, Dictatorships, Citizenship, War on Terror

Out of Place: Displacement, Evictions

Behind the Bars: Prison Diaries, Trials, Tribunals and Testimonies

Why Democracy?

Special Tribute to Journalists and Artists: Freedom of Expression

Neighbourhood Spotlight: Afghanistan, Burma and Tibet

Anchored in the worldwide experience of defence of fundamental freedoms, politics of exclusion, impunity, redressal and justice, the festival speaks in the voices of prisoners, journalists, artists, lawyers, youth and children.

Neighbourhood Spotlight highlights the issues of conflict in Afghanistan, Burma and Tibet, the right to protest, fair trials, freedom of expression and other freedoms in the neighbourhood.

Special Tribute to Journalists and Artists focuses on their struggles, their rights as human rights defenders and the fragility of freedom of expression.

Running through the heart of the festival is the desire to lend sanctity to the right to physical and mental integrity. Thus two Talk Shows, focusing respectively on Freedom of Expression and Torture, are key sites of participation. The festival showcases a theatrical performance on the evolution of terror laws in India to further amplify the theme.

IWJF aspires to create wider socio-political consciousness amongst college, university and school students in key cities and towns of India by deepening the element of art and rights in education. The festival will be followed by Art and Film Tours in different parts of the country. IWJF is an invitation to a shared platform where the possibilities and impossibilities of human rights find room for debate, dialogue and intervention.



FILM FESTIVAL

Over 50 Screenings

Opening Film

Trouble Sleeping

(UK/2007/feature)

by Robert Rae

Festival Theme: Out of Place

India Islamic Cultural Centre

5th December 2008

A powerful drama based on real experiences of a group of Palestinian refugees in Edinburgh, Scotland, who do what they must to survive. Despite the watchful eye of the security services, they have found a way to get on, but Ahmed's arrival changes everything for ever. The film features real life immigrants as actors and as writers.

Principal Cast: Hassan Naama, Alia Alzougbi, Waseem

Closing Film

Ira Madiyama (August Sun)

(Sri Lanka/2003/feature)

by Prasanna Vithanage

Festival Theme: Dreams and Nightmares

India Islamic Cultural Centre

10th December 2008

Based on true incidents, this film revolves around three stories that unfold simultaneously. During two scorching August days, three different groups of people thrown into the heat of the war, face different experiences due to circumstances beyond their control. They have to continue to exist in a society that is traumatized by nearly twenty years of war between the Sinhalese government forces, and rebel movement from the Tamil community fighting for self determination

Principal Cast: Peter D'Almeida, Nimmi Harasgama,



WINNER
Best Narrative Feature
Award
Peace on Earth Film
Festival 2008

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Edinburgh International
Film Festival 2008

WINNER
BAFTA Best New Work
(Fiction) 2008

WINNER
BAFTA New Talent Award
2008

NOMINATION
BAFTA Best New Actor
2008

BAFTA Special
Commendation for Writing
2008

WINNER
Silver Award, Las Palmas
Film Festival 2004

WINNER
Best Actress
Las Palmas Film Festival
2004

WINNER
Special Mention Fribourg
Film Festival 2004

WINNER
FIPRESCI Award
Singapore Film Festival
2004

WINNER
Grand Jury Prize
Cinemania Film Festival
2004

Other Key Films

Four minutes by Chris Kraus

(Germany/2008/feature)

Festival Theme: Behind the Bars

Jenny is young but her life is over. She has been locked up in a women's prison for killing someone, and she would do it again. Buried beneath her impenetrable facade, however, Jenny has an invaluable musical talent. When an 80-year-old piano teacher Traude Krueger, discovers the girl's terrible secret, her raging brutality and her dreams, she makes it her mission to re-transform Jenny into the musical wonderkid she once was.

Forgive, Forget Not by Pranay Limbu

(Nepal/2007/documentary)

Festival Theme: Special Tribute to Journalists and Artists

A journalist fights for survival in a Nepali barrack. The film provides a mirror to the terrible times just past in Nepal, during the people's war' and the state's reaction to the Maoist movement.

Deadline by Katy Chevigny

& Kirsten Johnson

(USA/2004/documentary)

Festival Theme: Vanishing Act

What would you do if you discovered that thirteen people slated for execution had been found innocent? Deadline details the gripping drama of state's clemency hearings and is a compelling look inside America's prisons.

The Windhorse by Paul Wagner

(USA/2008/feature)

Festival Theme: Neighbourhood Spotlight
(courtesy Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H.H. The Dalai Lama)

Windhorse is a searing political drama that rips the veil off Western idealism about Tibet. This movie, starring Tibetan exiles who are not professional actors, was shot with a documentarian's eye for everyday detail.

Katyn by Andrzej Wajda

(Poland & UK/2007/feature)

Festival Theme: Dreams and Nightmares

Katyn describes the tragedy of a generation. The film follows the story of four Polish families whose lives are torn apart when, at the outset of WWII, a great number of Polish soldiers (who are also fathers, husbands and brothers) fall into the hands of Soviet troops and later brutally become victims of Stalinism.

Talabghar (The Suitor) by Khaleq A'Lil

(Afghanistan/1969/feature)

Festival Theme: Neighbourhood Spotlight

Nasser, a confidence trickster and crook, falls in love with a beautiful young student, who comes from a middle-class family in Kabul. With his affected prestigious behaviour, he attempts to impress her father. However she is involved in her own revolution.

In Search of Gandhi by Lalit Vachani

(India/2007/documentary)

Festival Theme: Why Democracy

In the early decades of the twentieth century Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of non-violent revolution or Satyagraha inspired a mass movement of millions of Indians to rise up against the British colonial state and successfully agitate for the establishment of a democratic and free India. In 2007, the country celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of its existence as an independent nation. But what does it actually mean to live in the world's largest democracy?

Machuca by Andrés Wood

(Chile, Spain, UK, France/2004/feature)

Festival Theme: Dreams and Nightmares

In 1973, in Santiago of Chile, President Salvador Allende, the first Socialist President democratically elected in a Latin-American country, and the principal of the Saint Patrick School, Father McEnroe (Ernesto Malbran) make a trial of integration between students of the upper and lower classes. Meanwhile conflicts

PHOTO EXHIBITION

AT WWF GALLERY

5-TH TO 10TH DECEMBER 2008

Jointly curated by Parthiv Shah, CMAC and Amnesty International India, the exhibition is a collection of images contributed by some of the finest photographers in India and parts of South Asia.

Key Contributors

Sohrab Hura (*India*)

Suvenu Chatterji (*India*)

Swapan Nayak (*India*)

Sonia Jabbar (*India*)

Parthiv Shah (*India*)

Harikrishna Katragadda (*India*)

Sara Rahbar (*Iran*)

Salima Hashmi (*Pakistan*)

Inder Salim (*Kashmir*)

Daniel Pepper (*USA*)

Gowhar Fazili (*Kashmir*)

Abdul Rahman Roslan (*DRIK- Bangladesh*)

Shahzad Noorani (*DRIK- Bangladesh*)

K.M. Asad (*DRIK- Bangladesh*)

Shahidul Alam (*DRIK- Bangladesh*)

Themes

Metamorphosis

Life under Conflict

Hangjng

Uprooting

Dissent

Disappearances

Fading Hope, Child Labour

Hashimpura, Wounds

Burma, Homelessness

Gujarat, Miill Workers

Kashmir, Every Day Life



THEATRE

Necropolis: rehearsing Koltes in such times...

5th December 2008

India Islamic Cultural Centre

Dedicated to the 60th Birth Celebrations of Bernard-Marie Koltes and

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Direction and dramaturgy: Parnab Mukherjee

A play by Best of Kolkata Campus in collaboration with Five Issues

Necropolis is a part of a three part repertoire called The Trilogy of Unrest. What happens when the state makes a deal? When the nation state becomes a 'notion' state... What happens when a doctor of the stature of Binayak Sen is arrested on imaginary charges? The performance probes into the image-word relationship, gets into the rationale of images. What images are we looking at? Nellie-Morichjhaanpi, Malom, Mokochung, Nandigram... What was the process of transforming the "us" into "them"? How are "they" celebrating diversity and "their" culturalness in these times? The performance negotiates these terrains.

TALK SHOWS

Freedom of Expression

Mahesh Dattani, Salima Hashmi,

Ghazi Hussein, Mallika Sarabhai, Pranay Limbu

7th December 2008

India Islamic Cultural Centre

The talk show will focus on risks taken through legal, creative and journalistic efforts, the struggle experiences of the speakers in their cultural-political setting and the global context of infringement and protection of the right to freedom of expression.

No Hiding Place for Torture

Tehmina Durrani, Robert Rae, Malalai

Joya, Sam Zarifi, Fali S Nariman, Prasanna Vithanage

9th December 2008

Alliance Francaise

The talk show focuses on displacements, detention, disappearance, death penalty and domestic violence as five forms of torture. The combination forms the five Ds of Amnesty International worldwide campaigns



Alliance Française

ARTS ENGINE

CMAC



Inform Action

MOVIES THAT MATTER

NETPAC
NETWORK FOR THE PROMOTION OF ASIAN CINEMA

pyrnest
PUNJAB YOUTH RESEARCH CENTRE



steps international

"Alliance Française de Delhi is very proud to be a partner of Amnesty International India for the International Week of Justice Festival. As the main venue partner, we are very happy to welcome high quality screenings from all over the world. The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10th will be an important opportunity to recall the leadership of France on the international stage. According to the "Voices of Dignity" as the main theme of the Festival, we hope thus to take part in reaffirming the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings."

CMAC (Centre for Media and Alternative Communication) is happy to be a part of "Voices of Dignity" an important event, which also celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As the main curator of the Photo exhibition and the accompanying book we are excited at the variety of good work that has come in from the region. It is our ardent hope that we are able to mainstream more voices into this fight for social justice and dignity for all. This extends our work as a leading non-profit strategic communications and advocacy agency working on human rights, social justice, public interest and pluralism.

"For this year's International Week of Justice Festival 2008 (5-10 Dec), NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) has curated the Festival's film programme consisting of 15 features which touch on issues such as border conflicts, dictatorships, war on terror, displacement and evictions, prison diaries and the criminal justice system. These films reflect the political tumult that Asia has struggled with and the conscience of its filmmakers."

"Reel Afghanistan is very pleased to be a part of this festival and we hope to develop partnerships further in the future working through cinema, art and music as a form of education and as a tool for empowerment."

Steps International has curated the Why Democracy series for IWJF.

Amnesty International India

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entry on first come first serve basis

KEY GUESTS

Ghazi Hussein, Writer (Palestine - Scotland)

Pranay Limbu, Filmmaker (Nepal)

Tehmina Durrani, Author (Pakistan)

Salima Hashmi, Artist (Pakistan)

Robert Rae, Filmmaker (Scotland)

Mahesh Dattani, Playwright (India)

Mallika Sarabhai, Dancer (India)

Malalai Joya, Parliamentarian (Afghanistan)

Sam Zarifi, Director Asia Pacific

Amnesty International (London)

Prasanna Vithanage, Filmmaker (Srilanka)

Nazir Josh, Performer (Kashmir)

Eran Riklis, Filmmaker (Israel)

Fali S Nariman, Advocate (India)

Parnab Mukherjee, Theatre Artist (India)



Amnesty International India's

International Week of Justice Festival

5-10 December 2008

VOICES OF DIGNITY

AT ALLIANCE FRANCAISE
INDIA ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE * WWF GALLERY

ENTRY FREE

60th anniversary of universal declaration of human rights