



NYC GRASSROOTS MEDIA COALITION

6th Annual NYC Grassroots Media Conference Film Schedule:

Session 1: 10:30am – 12pm

ARTS ENGINE AND CINEREACH SCREENING WITH TALKBACK SESSION: SOCIAL ISSUE SHORTS – HOW TO REACH AN AUDIENCE

A screening and discussion with Ben Herson and Annie Waldman, two filmmakers who have made - and built audiences for - socially relevant short films. This workshop will be full of useful advice for filmmakers trying to fund, produce and build an audience for short fiction and nonfiction films that balance artful storytelling with socially relevant themes.

Ben will discuss his film *African Underground: Hip Hop in Senegal* and the work of the Media That Matters Film Festival, which featured his film last year. Annie Waldman and a staff member from Cinereach will talk about the Reach Film Fellowship program, through which Waldman made her Sundance-selected film *And So the Wind Won't Blow it All Away*

Films to be screened:

African Underground: Hip Hop In Senegal, 6:14 min

Directed by Magee McIlvaine, Ben Herson, Chris Moore, Produced by Nomadic Wax and Sol Productions

Step into the African Underground and listen to a new voice inspired by religion, politics, old school Hip Hop and Senegalese culture. Official selection of the eighth annual festival

And So The Wind Won't Blow it All Away, 9:41 min

Annie P. Waldman

Teenagers displaced by Hurricane Katrina grapple with a new concept of home.

Session 2: 12:15pm - 1:45pm

CALL FOR CHANGE SERIES: PRESENTED BY THIRD WORLD NEWSREEL *with Q&A to follow*

The Call for Change 2009 is a vibrant series of short documentaries about communities in the U.S. and abroad who are fighting for their rights - from farmers battling to keep their land in South Korea, to parishioners struggling for their church in East Harlem and homeowners fighting foreclosures in Brooklyn. Each documentary opens a window into a collective struggle for social change and the fierce spirit of these fighters. A few of the NY pieces are being shown in this screening. Series Curated by Third World Newsreel.

Here to Stay 7 min 2008 ManSee Kong

Illustrates the effects of gentrification in Manhattan's Chinatown as an elderly man and fellow tenants in endangered single-room occupancy building await the results of an anti-eviction lawsuit. A TWN Workshop production and part of the Call for Change Series.

PRIMETIME: Fighting Back Against Foreclosure 23 min 2009 Jennifer Fasulo & Manuvasakar Kublall

This timely film takes the viewer behind the foreclosure statistics and into the homes and hearts of two NYC women who have been pummeled by the foreclosure tsunami. It breaks down the complex issues of the sub-prime mortgage industry into easy to understand language and reveals the systematic culpability of the financial institutions. PRIMETIME weaves individual stories into a collective narrative, bringing to light the disproportionate impact of the foreclosure crisis on communities of color. As the US government continues to bail out the financial industry, PRIMETIME is an urgent reminder of the on-the-ground struggles of people fighting to keep their homes. A TWN Workshop production and part of the Call for Change Series.

Our Lady Queen of Harlem 2008 17 minutes Trinidad Rodriguez

On a crumbling sidewalk in the heart of Spanish Harlem, a small but impassioned group of women are fighting for their community. When the Archdiocese of New York locked the doors of the church where many of them spent their entire lives worshipping, this determined family of parishioners decided to resist the ministerial decision and take matters into their own hands. A portrait of faith and disobedience, *Our Lady Queen of Harlem* is an exploration of activism and the very definition of church. Part of the Call for Change Series.

In Bed with a Mosquito 2008 18 min Sarah Frank
Betty Brassell has spent nearly every day of her retirement - rain or shine - protesting in the streets of New York City as part of the Granny Brigade. In Bed With a Mosquito is an intimate portrait of activism and aging in New York City. Part of the Call for Change Series.

LUNCH: 1:45pm-2:45pm

SOME PLACE LIKE HOME:

The Fight Against Gentrification in Downtown Brooklyn

A documentary by FUREE, Narrated by Kevin Powell, 40 min
Followed by Q&A and discussion with filmmakers from FUREE

Some Place Like Home tells the stories of community residents and small businesses that are displaced to make way for high-end retail and luxury condominiums to the area. It depicts the pulling out of Downtown Brooklyn and Fort Greene's legacy of being a once-forgotten neighborhood built from the ground up by generations of low-income and working families from all walks of life. Small business owners that have helped to make the area the 3rd largest retail district in New York City talk about the deferment of their dreams as entrepreneurs. It reveals practices and policies used to support massive real estate projects as the historical, economic and cultural fabric of the area is torn apart. It follows the battle of community residents and small businesses as they fight for some place like home.

Session 3: 2:45pm-4:15pm

Listen Up!

VERY IMPORTANT PRODUCER AWARD WINNING FILMS

An eclectic selection of youth-made films from the Listen Up! Youth Media Network's annual online film festival, "The Very Important Producer's Awards (VIP2008)." The top films were selected by the youth filmmakers themselves as the best achievements in youth media in 13 categories.

I Hate My Life (TRT: 08:48)

Young people from My View Video Project
My View Video Project

3 different teens going through personal problems, contemplating suicide. *Winner of the Audience Award for Best Achievement in Youth Media*

Another Statistic (TRT:10:27)

Young people from BCAMTV
BCAMTV

A teen couple faces sudden drama and tough choices when the girl receives some shocking news. *1st Runner Up for the Audience Award for Best Achievement in Youth Media*

Journey To Paradise (TRT 11:45)

Sandeep Singh
Grover Cleveland High School

The tragedy of the Middle East is played out in the thwarted romance of a Jewish girl and Palestinian boy. *Audience Award for Best Achievement in Youth Media*

Nuclear Terror (1:41)

Zavyalov Innokenty
Perpich Center for Arts Education

Have you ever thought about the terrifying, shocking, and incomprehensible power of nuclear energy? Footage and audio are public domain, and were taken from archive.org. *Winner of Best Achievement in Creative Use in Audio*

Wake Me Up Later (TRT 12:05)

Young people from Chicago Vocational Career Academy
Chicago Vocational Career Academy

You think you've had a bad day? Welcome to Andy's world. Andy's a high school student whose day turns into a hilarious nightmare. Andy's only hope - please let it be a dream. *Winner of Best Achievement in Photography*

Jerry (TRT 13:51)

Youth from Spy Hop Productions
Spy Hop Productions

Jerry, your everyday zombie, must get through his days at work while dealing with poor motor skills, disrespect from his co-workers, loneliness, and the fact that the woman he loves is dating the most popular undead guy in the office.
Runner Up Best Achievement in Original Score

Thicker Than Water (TRT 15:29)

Young People from Reel Grrls
Reel Grrls

Abby is going through something that will transform her life forever. Can she keep her identity and be happy in a harshly judgmental society? *Runner Up Comedy Narrative*

Truth and War (TRT: 11:28)

Unknown Talent Films
Phillips Community Television (PCTV)

A documentary about the war in Iraq and the war's impact on the lives of veterans.
Runner Up Best Achievement in Documentary Filmmaking

Nuestras Dignidad (TRT 01: 58)

Young People from In Progress
In Progress

A video poem addressing contradictions regarding US policies and US philosophies regarding immigration. *Winner of Best Achievement in Photography*

Pinata Protest (TRT: 3:00)

Jessica Torres and Yvonne Hernandez
SAY SI

This is a music video created for the song "Suckcess" by Pinata Protest, a band from San Antonio, TX. *Runner Up Best Achievement in Music & Music Videos*

This Is Me (TRT3:46)

Young People working with In Progress
In Progress

A personal documentary about a young man's struggle to overcome the cruelty of school bullying in his life. *Runner Up Best Achievement in Personal Storytelling*

You Have the Right (00:36)

Michael Maldonado
BAVC - Next Gen Video Programs

Declaring your rights in your relationship. *Runner Up Best Achievement in PSA*

Session 4: 4:30-6pm

HUNTER COLLEGE STUDENT FILM SCREENING

Q&A with filmmakers to follow

A screening of new social issue film works produced by students of Hunter College. Full film lineup to be announced day of conference, please check the theater for full film descriptions.