

RATIFY WOMEN!

FILMS: CEDAW WOMEN'S RIGHTS TREATY

Peace and Human Rights

BEYOND BELIEF (USA, 2007, 90 minutes)

Powerful story of two soccer moms living in the suburbs of Boston until tragedy strikes when they lose their husbands in the September 11th events at the World Trade Center. Instead of revenge, they support one another to dedicate themselves to empowering Afghan widows whose lives have been ravaged by decades of war, poverty and oppression. An unlikely kinship and sisterhood with widows halfway around the world. Truly moving and remarkable. Directed by Beth Murphy. Distributed by Principle Pictures. www.principlepictures.com

CEDAW: THE SECRET TREATY (USA, 2008, 30 minutes)

This documentary sheds a light on some of the injustices against women in the US and the world and how the US ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) would serve as a blueprint to address them. Produced and directed by the Feminist Majority Foundation's Lorraine Sheinburg. www.store.feminist.org

LO QUE LME TOCO VIVIR /THE LIFE I GOT TO LIVE (USA, 2008)

A film by Veronica Barrera. This film recounts Seattle resident Alicia Barrera's life growing up in rural Chile and the dramatic turn the lives of all Chileans took on September 11, 1973. With her husband wounded the day of the coup, and later imprisoned and tortured by the Pinochet regime, Barrera's story unfolds as one common, yet often untold, experience lived by thousands of women who suffered, struggled, and persevered in the face of extended family rejection, a wider public paralyzed by fear, the terrorist brutality of a CIA-funded dictatorship, and the alienation of political exile. With contributions from an international array of photojournalists, artists, and musicians, *Lo que Me Tocó Vivir -The Life I Got to Live*, both personalizes the political lens and widens the narrative scope of ineffable memories created in the struggle for human rights. In Spanish. Distributed by the filmmaker at veronb@u.washington.edu

PEACE X PEACE: WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES (USA, 60 minutes, 2003)

Directed by Lisa Hepner and Patricia Smith Melton, and narrated by Jessica Lange, *Peace by Peace* profiles women in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi and the U.S. who are building the foundations for sustainable peace with justice. An emotionally-charged film that provides an exclusive view of the world through the eyes of ten strong, determined, and compassionate women, who are transforming both their communities and themselves in a new culture of peace. www.peacexpeace.org

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL (USA, 2008/2009 60 or 72 minute DVD versions)

Chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country. Thousands of women – ordinary mothers, grandmothers, aunts and daughters, both Christian and Muslim – came together to pray for peace and then staged a silent protest outside of the Presidential Palace. Armed with only their white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions, they took on the warlords and nonviolently forced a resolution during the stalled peace talks. A story of sacrifice, unity and transcendence, the film honors the strength and perseverance of the women of Liberia. Inspiring, uplifting, and most of all motivating, it is a compelling testimony of how grassroots activism can alter the history of nations. Producer Abigail Disney, Director Gini Reticker Distributed by Fork Films www.praythediabacktohell.com

REGRET TO INFORM (USA, 1998, 72 minutes)

A rare women's perspective on war, in which two women widowed by the Vietnam War -- Vietnamese translator Xuan Ngoc Nguyen and US filmmaker Barbara Sonneborn -- travel through Vietnam looking at the heritage of the war and its impact on them and on other women. Nominated for a US Academy Award as Best Documentary. www.pbs.org

WHITE RAINBOW (USA, 2006, 60 minutes)

Inspired by true events is the story of Priya (*Sonali Kulkarni – Bride and Prejudice*), a beautiful, affluent young woman widowed and left to fate. Alone in a land of extreme contrasts, she seeks peace in the “City of Widows”, but instead of finding solace, Priya finds a cruel world filled with brutality. Despondent, she meets three remarkable women and together they embark on a journey of empowerment as they fight for the rights of the widows of India in the ultimately hopeful and uplifting story. Directed by Dharan Mandrayar and produced by Linda Mandrayar. www.whiterainbow.com

Political Leadership and Participation

THE CIRCLE/Dayereh (Iran/Italy/Switzerland, 2000, 91minutes)

Banned in his native Iran, Jafar Panahi's The Circle is set almost entirely on the busy streets of Tehran--a place where women are restricted by numerous laws, including a repressive dress code. The beginning of the film focuses on two women who have been given temporary leave from prison and have no intension of returning. The film shifts from one woman to another as this eye-opening tale circles back on itself. Their world is one of constant surveillance, bureaucracy and age-old inequalities. But this stifling world cannot extinguish the spirit, strength and courage of the circle of women. Iranian cinema at its best and most politically aware. Discontinued by original distributor, but DVD copies at www.amazon.com

CUBA MIA: PORTRAIT OF AN ALL-WOMEN'S ORCHESTRA (Cuba, 2005, 85 minutes)

Ten talented and beautiful musicians, playing the harmonies of Cuban soul, demonstrate the power of music to cross boundaries. This story of the musicians of the all-woman Camerata Romeu is filled with dazzling faces and fiery performances that astonish and delight. By turns funny, angry, lyrical and moving, CUBA MIA takes us behind the scenes as ten dedicated musicians juggle a fierce rehearsal schedule with boyfriends, girlfriends, grandparents and children, offering a slice of Cuban life seldom seen on the world's screens.

This award-winning (CINE Golden Eagle, Chicago Film Festival, World Music Festival) was directed by Cecilia Domeyko, creator of Code Name: Butterflies (www.codenamebutterflies.org) and dozens of films capturing the Latina/o experience in the US and Latin America. www.accentmediainc.com

EARTH (India/Canada, 1996, 101 minutes), **FIRE** (India/Canada, 1998, 104 minutes), **WATER** (Canada, 2005, 114 minutes)

Known as her Elements Trilogy, all of these feature films are written and directed by Indian born and Canadian Deepa Mehta. Fire was the first Indian film to address lesbian love and portray positive homosexual relationships on screen. Earth is narrated by a 12 year old India girl with polio about the division of India at the time of partition in 1947. Water, written and directed by Mehta, is set in India in 1938, brings forth the lives of Indian widows living in an ashram. All of Deepa Mehta's exquisite films come from a deep feminist sensibility and have provoked riots, protests and much consciousness-raising in India and worldwide. www.zeitgeistfilms.com

HABLEMOS DEL PODER /TALKING OF POWER: Gender, Race and Power in Revolutionary Venezuela (Great Britain, 2005, 62 minutes)

Women's roles and leadership in the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela: from the Hills of Caracas to the banks of the Orinoco, the grassroots Venezuelan people tell how they are changing our world! Neoliberalism increases women's workload. Who suffers most, who works most when health services are privatized? Women, mothers... The highest participation in the Missions: women. Social Security for housewives is a constitutional mandate (Article 88). Produced by the Global Women's Strike. www.globalwomenstrike.org

LADIES FIRST (USA, 2004, 58 minutes)

Powerful documentary on women's leadership in Rwanda filmed 10 years following the bloody genocide where it is estimated that 800,000 were killed in 100 days. Rwandan women are leading their country's healing process and taking it into a different future. Women are playing a remarkable role in politics and leading role in business as they have achieved political gender balance with the largest parliamentary majority in the world. Profiling women on the forefront of change, Ladies First also reveals the challenges for Rwanda as they re-build a sustainable peace between the majority Hutus and minority Tutsies. www.pbs.org/WNET.org/wideangle

OSAMA (USA, 2003, 90 minutes) One of the first feature films to be made after the US invasion of Afghanistan. Unflinching and true story of 12 young girl in Afghanistan and impact of the Taliban on her life. To save her family, she must pose as a boy and embarks on a terrifying and confusing journey to keep the Taliban from discovering her real gender identity. Golden Globe award winner for 2004 Best Foreign film. www.sonystyle.com

NO LOGO: Brands, Globalization and Resistance (USA, 2003 40 minutes) Best selling author (The Shock Doctrine) Naomi Klein's ground breaking analysis on the rise of international branding and the anti-corporate movements it inspired. Distributed by Media Education Foundation www.mediaed.org

RISING ABOVE: WOMEN OF VIETNAM (USA, 1996, 50 minutes)

A documentary about the role of women in the war against France and the US, Vietnamese women fought alongside men as equals, negotiated the peace accords and later in the highest levels of the new government. But after 30 years of the signing of the peace agreement, a number of forces are conspiring to relegate women once again to the role of second class citizens. www.bullfrogfilms.com

Health & Reproductive Rights

LOVE LABOR LOSS (USA, 2005, 15 minutes)

Throughout the developing world, a relatively unknown childbearing injury called "obstetric fistula" has left over two million women both physically and socially debilitated. A documentary film follows the compelling journey of five women in Niger, West Africa, to reclaim dignity after the tragedy of childbirth. With Music by Zap Mama. Also full length feature documentary format. Distributed by the filmmaker Lisa Russell at www.lovelaborloss.com

MADE IN INDIA

A documentary film that tells the human experiences behind the phenomena of "outsourcing" surrogate mothers to India. The film shows the journey of an infertile American couple, an Indian surrogate and the reproductive outsourcing business that brings them together. Weaving together these personal stories within the context of a growing international industry, "Made in India" explores a complicated clash of families in crisis, reproductive technology, and choice from a global perspective. Co-Directors/Producers, Rebecca Haimowitz & Vaishali Sinha. www.madeinindiamovie.com

MOOLAADE (Senegal/France/Burkina Faso/Cameron/Morocco, 2004, 120 minutes)

Feature film which vibrantly and poignantly depicts the struggles of women in modern Africa by Senegalese director Ousmane Sembene (the founder of African cinema). Moolaade addresses the subject of female genital cutting, a common practice in a number of African nations, especially sub-Saharan Africa. The film strongly argues against this practice and features a village woman who uses moolaade (protective magic) to protect a group of girls. She is opposed by some of the villagers who argue for female circumcision, which they call "purification". Powerful look at impacts of globalization and clash with values of tradition. Only distribution is through www.amazon.com or www.netflix.com

MOTHERLAND AFGHANISTAN (USA, 73 minutes, 2006)

A film about maternal and reproductive human rights issues in Afghanistan—currently, one in seven Afghan women dies in childbirth); “Afghanistan today has the second highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world. After nearly thirty years of war and occupation, the nation's medical system has been devastated and its doctors and other medical personnel are poorly trained. Afghans hoped that the U.S. invasion in October 2001, which initially routed the Taliban regime, would bring improvements in women's health and education, but the rights of Afghan women to adequate healthcare are still denied.” <http://www.frif.com/new2006/afgh.html>

NO ESTAS SOLA I AM NOT ALONE

No Estás Sola dvd with English subtitles. It was produced by Catholics For a Free Choice and we have full screening rights to use it as we was filmed in Colombia prior to legal abortion. But it is used in clinics all over Latin America and it's a good to tool to have around. We have full screening rights and a copy is at the NOW Action Center Resource Library. (www.now.org)

ROSITA (USA, 2003, 58 minutes)

A documentary by award-winning filmmakers Barbara Attie and Janet Goldwater (Silver Docs, Latin American Film Festival in London, Cinefestival in San Antonio), *Rosita* traces a young girls' journey from innocent victim to unwitting victor. When a nine-year old Nicaraguan girl becomes pregnant as a result of a rape, her parents -- illiterate campesinos working in Costa Rica -- seek a legal abortion to save their only child's life. Their quest pits them against the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the medical establishment and the Catholic Church. When their story gains international media attention, the repercussions ripple across Latin America and Europe. "This film is not just for the activists in the reproductive rights movement, it is for all who work in social justice and who work to defend our human rights." - Sylvia Hernandez, ED, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Rights. Distributed by www.bullfrogproductions.com

SALUD!! To Your Health! (USA, 2006, 93 minutes) A powerful film about conflicting values and the urgency of ensuring the universal right to health care. Beautifully filmed in Cuba, South Africa, The Gambia, Honduras and Venezuela, *Salud!* reveals the human dimension of the worldwide health crisis and the central role of international cooperation in addressing glaring inequalities. The film examines the remarkable case of Cuba, a cash-strapped country with what the BBC calls “one of the world’s best health systems”, and accompanies some of the 28,000 Cuban health professionals now serving in 68 countries. *Salud!* invites us to explore new paths to making health a global birthright, wiping out the diseases of poverty. Directed by Academy Award winner Connie Field (*Rosie the Riveter*) and produced by Gail Reed. www.saludthefilm.net

Violence Against Women and Girls

BORDERTOWN (USA, 2008, 114 minutes)

Feature film story of life on the border between the United States and Mexico, based on the tragic account of hundreds of women working in American-owned factories who have been brutally raped and murdered in Juarez, Mexico. Based on true events. Featuring Jennifer Lopez, Antonio Banderas and Martin Sheen. Directed by Oscar Nominee (*El Norte*) Gregory Nava. Distributed by TH!NK Film. www.thinkfilmcompany.com

BORDER ECHOS/*Ecos De Una Frontera* (USA/Mexico, 72 minutes, 2003)

A powerful documentary that tells the story of the killings of girls and women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, through the eyes of investigative reporter Diana Washington Valdez. The film, in English, chronicles the chilling story of the deaths that Amnesty International called "Intolerable Killings" in its 2003 report on Ciudad Juarez. Some victims were as young as 5 and 6 years old, and the majority of the victims were teenagers and young women. Although numerous suspects are in custody, activists and families of victims believe the Mexican authorities have not solved most of the crimes. The film explains why the murders are likely to continue. Produced by Lorena Mendez-Quiroga, Border Echos: The Truth Behind the Juarez Murders also provides previously unreported and shocking details about the murders. Distributed by Peace at the Border Films. <http://www.borderechoes.com/>

DARFUR DIARIES (USA, 2005, 55 minutes)

The conflict about the human rights atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan serves as the ongoing narrative in the film, but the focus is on the people who are living through – what has been termed a ‘genocide.’ Through the voices of refugees, displaced persons, and in particular women and children, who are always among the most vulnerable in any conflict situation, this film seeks to provide space for the marginalized victims of atrocities to speak and to engage with the world. The film presents the Darfurians the filmmakers met (refugees and displaced peoples, civilians and fighters resisting the Sudanese government, child soldiers, teachers, students, parents, children and community leaders) as people whose lives, homes, safety and rights deserve to be protected vigilantly as a fundamental human right.” Distributed by Cinema Libre Studio. <http://www.darfurdiaries.org/>

FINDING DAWN (Canada, 2006, 73 minutes)

Horrifying film about violence against Aboriginal women in Canada; 500 women have gone missing or been murdered in Canada over the past thirty years. This is an epic journey into the dark heart of Native women’s experience in Canada. From Vancouver’s skid row, where more than 60 women are missing, we travel to the “Highway of Tears” in northern British Columbia, and onward to Saskatoon, where the murders of Native women remain unresolved. Finding Dawn illustrates the deep historical, social and economic factors that contribute to the epidemic of violence against Native women in this country. Directed by acclaimed Metis filmmaker Christine Welsh and distributed by Women Make Movies. www.wmm.com

KILLER'S PARADISE (U.K./USA/Canada, 2006, 83 minutes)

Since 1999, more than 2,000 women have been murdered in Guatemala, with numbers escalating every year, yet lawmakers and government officials turn a blind eye. Powerful and uncompromising, Killer's Paradise uncovers an emotionally wrenching human rights tragedy, while exposing an inept judicial system that allows it to happen. After almost four decades of civil war, Guatemala is a troubled society, but it can also be seen as a microcosm of the pervasive violence and injustice against women worldwide.

Spanish/English (English subtitles). Directed by Giselle Portenier. Distributed by the National Film Board of Canada www.onf-nfb.gc.ca

THE GREATEST SILENCE: RAPE IN THE CONGO (USA, 76 minutes, 2007)

Shot in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), this extraordinary film shatters the silence that surrounds the shocking plight of women and girls caught in this country's intractable conflict. The most moving and harrowing moments of the film come as dozens of survivors recount their stories with an honesty and immediacy pulverizing in its intimacy and detail. Heart-wrenching in its portrayal of the grotesque realities of life in Congo, this powerful film also provides inspiring examples of resiliency, resistance, courage and grace. Directed by Lisa F. Jackson, a survivor of gang rape. French/Swahili/Lingala/Mashi with English subtitles. Distributed by Women Make Movies www.wmm.com

V-DAY: UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS (USA, 2003, 72 minutes)

Features playwright and activist Eve Ensler in a powerful film that documents how the Vagina Monologues called V-Day to stop the violence against women and girls. Until the Violence Stops features women from Harlem to Ukiah, CA; from the Pine Ridge Reservations to the Philippines and Kenya, uniting and courageously revealing their intimate and deeply painful experiences with abuse ranging from rape to female circumcision. www.vday.org