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American Documentary Film Festival in Bishkek

On May 24-28, 2009 the U.S. Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic and the Union of Kyrgyz Cinematographers present the American Documentary Film Festival at Dom Kino, Logvinenko Str. 13. The screening will be followed by a discussion with visiting film experts: Margaret Brown, the winner of the Truer Than Fiction Award at the 2009 Spirit Awards, and Harrison Engle, director and producer of more than eighty documentary and dramatic productions. They will also visit Kara-Balta and Osh.

The program is free and open to the public. All movies will be in English with Russian subtitles.

Program and Synopsis:

May 24 at 17:00 «The Sputnik Moment», 90 min., 2008, Director: David HOFFMAN

May 25 at 18:00 «The People's President», 58 min., 2006, Director: Chuck WORKMAN

May 25 at 19:30 «Beginning Filmmaking», 23 min., 2008, Director: Jay ROSENBLATT

May 26 at 18:00 «Flow: For the Love of Water», 84 min., 2008, Director: Irena SALINA

May 27 at 18:00 «A Man Named Pearl», 78 min., 2008, Directors: Scott GALLOWAY and Brent PIERSON

May 28 at 18:00 «Empowering the Yard», 11 min., 2007, Directors: Emily KIRSCH, Erin PERSLEY, Vincent HORNER

May 28 at 18:30 «A Fair to Remember», 59 min., 2007, Director: Allen MONDELL

" THE SPUTNIK MOMENT"

DIRECTOR: DAVID HOFFMAN

RUNNING TIME: 90 MIN., YEAR: 2008

SYNOPSIS: CHRONICLES THE RADICAL CHANGE IN EDUCATION THAT THE UNITED STATES UNDERWENT AS A RESULT OF THE LAUNCHING OF SPUTNIK, REINVENTING THE SYSTEM TO MAKE SCIENCE AND MATH AND ENGINEERING A TOP PRIORITY.

-- **DIRECTOR HOFFMAN:** HAS MADE FOUR FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES AND MORE THAN 100 PRIMETIME DOCUMENTARY TELEVISION SPECIALS AND SERIES OVER A 40-YEAR CAREER. HIS REALITY-STYLE FILMS PRESENT A VIEW OF RECENT AMERICAN EVENTS AND HOW THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPERIENCED THEM.

" THE PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT"



DIRECTOR: CHUCK WORKMAN, **RUNNING TIME:** 55 MIN., **YEAR:** 2006

SYNOPSIS: EXAMINES THE ROLE OF HOLLYWOOD FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRIES IN BOTH SHAPING AND REFLECTING AMERICA'S VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENCY WITH COMMENTARY FROM HISTORIANS, MEDIA CRITICS AND FORMER PRESIDENTS.

-- **DIRECTOR WORKMAN:** AN AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR, WRITER, AND PRODUCER FOR OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, HIS THEATRICAL SHORT FILM "PRECIOUS IMAGES," MADE FOR THE DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA, WON AN ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT AND IS THE MOST WIDELY SHOWN SHORT IN FILM HISTORY. WORKMAN ALSO CREATED SHORT FILMS AND OPENING SEQUENCES FOR TEN ACADEMY AWARDS SHOWS AND TWO EMMY AWARD SHOWS.

"BEGINNING FILMMAKING"

DIRECTOR: JAY ROSENBLATT

RUNNING TIME: 23 MIN., **YEAR:** 2008

SYNOPSIS: A PORTRAIT OF A VERY YOUNG ARTIST AND AN ENTHUSIASTIC FATHER WHO DISCOVERS TRUTH IN THE CLICH "CREATIVE DIFFERENCES" WHEN HE ATTEMPTS TO TEACH HIS 4-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER ABOUT FILMMAKING. ELLA LEARNS WHAT SHE WANTS TO, DISCARDS WHAT SHE DOESN'T, AND IS DETERMINED TO BE A STAR IN HER OWN MIND.

-- **DIRECTOR ROSENBLATT:** A FORMER A FILM AND VIDEO PRODUCTION INSTRUCTOR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND ELSEWHERE, HIS FILMS HAVE WON OVER ONE HUNDRED AWARDS AND HAVE BEEN SCREENED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

"FLOW: FOR THE LOVE OF WATER"

DIRECTOR: IRENA SALINA, **PRODUCER:** STEVE STARR

RUNNING TIME: 84 MIN., **YEAR:** 2008, NOMINATED FOR GRAND JURY PRIZE AT SUNDANCE, WON BEST DOCUMENTARY AT VAIL FILM FESTIVAL

SYNOPSIS: AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT EXPERTS LABEL THE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE OF THE 21ST CENTURY--THE WORLD WATER CRISIS--THAT BUILDS A CASE AGAINST THE GROWING PRIVATIZATION OF THE WORLD'S DWINDLING FRESH WATER SUPPLY WITH A FOCUS ON POLITICS, POLLUTION, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE EMERGENCE OF A DOMINEERING WORLD WATER CARTEL. INCLUDES A LOOK AT PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO THE WATER CRISIS AND THOSE DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL AND ECONOMIC TURNAROUND.

-- **PRODUCER STARR:** FOUNDED THE ONLINE VIDEO-SHARING MEDIA NETWORK REVVER.COM, ALSO A WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER OF AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT FILMS.

"A MAN NAMED PEARL"



DIRECTORS: SCOTT GALLOWAY AND BRENT PIERSON, **RUNNING TIME:** 78 MIN., **YEAR:** 2008

SYNOPSIS: A BIGOTED REMARK MADE IN 1976 DISSUADES PEARL FRYAR FROM MOVING INTO A WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD. TOLD THAT "BLACK PEOPLE DON'T KEEP UP THEIR YARDS," PEARL CREATES AN EXTRAORDINARY TOPIARY GARDEN, WHICH RECEIVES OVER 5,000 VISITORS A YEAR.

-- **DIRECTOR GALLOWAY:** HAS PRODUCED MORE THAN 650 TELEVISION PROGRAMS FOR NETWORKS INCLUDING ABC, A&E, COURT TV, ESPN, FOOD NETWORK, HGTV, HISTORY CHANNEL AND THE TRAVEL CHANNEL. HE HAS WON AN EMMY, A NEW YORK FILM AND TELEVISION AWARD AND MORE THAN TWENTY TELLY AWARDS.

-- **DIRECTOR PIERSON:** HAS PRODUCED AND WRITTEN DOCUMENTARY FEATURES AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS FOR A&E, DISCOVERY CHANNEL, HISTORY CHANNEL, NBC, PBS, UNIVERSAL-MCA AND OTHERS .

"EMPOWERING THE YARD"

DIRECTORS: EMILY KIRSCH, ERIN PERSLEY, VINCENT HORNER

RUNNING TIME: 11 MIN., YEAR COMPLETED: 2007

SYNOPSIS: THE FILM PROFILES AN INSPIRING PROJECT AT A WOMEN'S PRISON IN OKLAHOMA AND INTRODUCES FIVE PRISONERS WHO WORK AS PEER EDUCATORS, CONDUCTING TRAINING FOR FELLOW PRISONERS ON PREVENTING HIV, AIDS AND OTHER DISEASES. THE PROJECT SERVES AS REHABILITATION, JOB TRAINING AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH OUTREACH BECAUSE THE FIVE PRISONERS GAIN BOTH PUBLIC HEALTH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AS EDUCATORS WHILE ALSO DELIVERING A POWERFUL AND IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THEIR PEERS. OFFICIALS ARE HOPING TO REPLICATE THE PROGRAM ACROSS OKLAHOMA'S PRISONS.

-- **DIRECTOR KIRSCH:** IS A GRADUATING SENIOR FROM SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY MAJORING IN URBAN HEALTH, JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY.

-- **DIRECTOR PERSLEY:** IS WORKING ON HER MASTER'S THESIS DEALING WITH WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON.

--**DIRECTOR HORNER:** IS COMPLETING HIS FINAL YEAR IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CINEMA PROGRAM AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY.

" A FAIR TO REMEMBER"

DIRECTOR: ALLEN MONDELL

RUNNING TIME: 59 MIN., YEAR: 2007

SYNOPSIS: A ROLLER-COASTER RIDE CHRONICLING THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT STATE FAIR OF TEXAS FROM ITS INCEPTION IN 1886 TO ITS PRESENT STATUS AS THE LARGEST FAIR OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY. GENERATIONS HAVE COME TO GAZE AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST COWBOY, RIDE THE HIGHEST FERRIS WHEEL AND CONSUME THE MOST EXOTIC DELICACIES THIS SIDE OF THE RIO GRANDE.

-- **DIRECTOR MONDELL:** STARTED AS NEWSPAPER REPORTER AND WRITER/DIRECTOR OF DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT URBAN AND SOCIAL ISSUES. HIS FILMS HAVE AIRED NATIONWIDE ON PUBLIC TELEVISION, CABLE AND AT FESTIVALS WORLDWIDE.