

**DITSHWANELO 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Film Festival 19 March– 3 April 2009 at The AV Centre, Maru a Pula School**

**P 25 per ticket. Tickets available at Maitisong from Thursday 12 March and at the door during the festival.**

Thursday 19 March 2009

**7.00 – 7.30 p.m.**

Film Festival Opening by:

Minister Phandu Skelemani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

*Theme: Zimbabwe*

**7.30 – 9.00 p.m.**

**Zimbabwe.** South Africa (2007) 84 minutes. Director: Darrell James Roodt. *Courtesy of dv8 Films.*



A young orphan named Zimbabwe by her patriotic father is forced to seek survival in neighbouring South Africa as a result of the deteriorating economic and political situation. The film shares the experiences of the undocumented migrant in Southern Africa whose only aim is to survive in an often hostile environment. Roodt was initially commissioned by an NGO, The International Organisation for Migration

(IOM), to produce a short film, but the idea developed into this feature film.

Winner: Kenya Film Festival – Best Feature Film 2008; Carthage Competition – Best Actress Tunisia 2008; Lumiere d’Afrique – Lyceens et Apprentis au Cinema Region de Franche Comte Award France 2008.

**After the film, a discussion will be led by Mr Madoda Nasha (UNHCR) about the situation of refugees in Botswana.**

Friday 20 March 2009

*Theme: Zimbabwe*

**7.00 – 8.30 p.m.**

**The Shame of Musina.** South Africa (2009) 7 minutes. Produced by Save Zimbabwe Now. *Courtesy of Save Zimbabwe Now.*



The Save Zimbabwe Now campaign which launched on the 21st of January 2009 in Johannesburg aims to lend support and offer solidarity to the people of Zimbabwe as they enter into a new era of political life. This short film shows in graphic detail the lives of refugees living in the Musina Showgrounds on the South Africa /

Zimbabwe border. 4 000 people, under the watchful eye of the government are forced to live in inhumane conditions where rape, abuse of all forms and limited access to medical care are left unattended by the State. A situation which has the potential to spark another Xenophobic attack in South Africa and one which leaves people in limbo as there is a new power-sharing government in Zimbabwe. Nomboniso Gasa, head of the Commission for Gender Equality in South Africa in this short film was in the middle of her 21 day hunger strike for Zimbabwe.

**Democracy: Missing Presumed Dead.** South Africa (2008) 17 minutes. Produced by Solidarity Peace Trust. *Courtesy of Solidarity Peace Trust.*



This film shares the experiences of violence and torture which occurred in early 2008 between the Presidential election of March 2008 and the Presidential Run-Off elections of June 2008. Those who speak out in the film are aware that they are risking their lives in boldly sharing their experiences. In at least one case, one of those interviewed is found fatally stabbed after being treated in hospital for multiple injuries following an attack by known assailants.

**Death of a Nation .** South Africa (2008) 16 minutes. Produced by Solidarity Peace Trust. *Courtesy of Solidarity Peace Trust.*



This film shows the daily struggles of ordinary Zimbabweans forced to survive on wild fruits and berries. With the collapse of health services and business, the acute food shortages and the cholera outbreak, poverty has entrenched itself in a country which was once known as the bread basket of Southern Africa.

**The People's Voice (Our Song).** Botswana (2008) 45 minutes. Directors: Kabelo Nyenye and Mandla Moyo. A play filmed by Camelthorn Media for Development Trust. *Courtesy of BOCISCOZ – The Botswana Civil Society Solidarity Coalition for Zimbabwe.*



This is a sequel to the play 'Our Song' (2007) which was performed in 2007 and screened at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual DITSHWANELO Human Rights Film Festival in March 2008. This play, 'The People's Voice (Our Song)' was first performed in December 2008 as part of the BOCISCOZ activities to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UDHR. It shares the experiences of Batswana and Zimbabwean citizens. Fieldwork was conducted in Botswana by the cast comprising Zimbabwean and Batswana actors. This ensured that the play truly depicted the lives of ordinary people living in contemporary Botswana as they struggle with the effects of the continuing crisis in Zimbabwe.

**After the screening of all the films a discussion will be led by Zimbabwean human rights activists about the current situation in Zimbabwe following the swearing in of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai on 11 February 2009.**

Saturday 21 March 2009

**SPECIAL FREE SCREENING FOR STUDENTS**

*Theme: Child Soldier, Hip Hop and Human Rights*

**3.00 -4.45 p.m.**

**War Child.** USA (2008). 94 minutes. Director: C. Karim Chrobog. Reel U Films. *Courtesy of Karim Chrobog.*



An award-winning documentary chronicles the tumultuous, shocking, inspiring and ultimately hopeful journey of Emmanuel Jal. A former child soldier of Sudan's brutal civil war, he is now an emerging international hip hop star sharing a message of peace for his war-torn land and beloved Africa. At the age of seven, Jal was swept into Sudan's civil war, becoming one of 10 000 child soldiers conscripted on both sides of the two decade long conflict. Hopefully, Emmanuel's quest for peace and wish to make the world a better place through his music, activism and youth education will prove to be more significant than his earlier war. He shines a light on the growing African hip hop scene while tackling the continent's ills through its music.

Winner: Tribeca International Film Festival – Cadillac Audience Choice Award 2008; Truly Moving Pictures Film Festival – Crystal Heart 2008; Bologna International Film Festival – Best Documentary 2008; Maui International Film Festival – Audience Choice Award 2008; Norway Bergen International Film Festival – Best Documentary Award 2008.

Winner: SAFTA Awards - Best Documentary Film 2009.

### Film Director in attendance

Saturday 21 March 2009

*Theme: The Anti-Apartheid Struggle and Human Rights*

**6.00 – 8.30 p.m.**

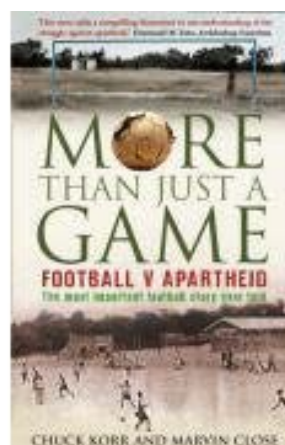
**A Blues for Tiro.** South Africa (2007) 48 minutes. Directors: Steve Kwena Mokwena. *Courtesy of South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).*



The film pays tribute to Onkgopotse Abraham Ramothibi Tiro, a South African black consciousness activist and inspirational leader. He was murdered by the apartheid forces while he was a teacher at St Joseph's Secondary School at Kgale in Botswana in 1974. Told through searing artistic imagery and moving interviews with family and friends, the life of an extraordinary man emerges born. A Blues for Tiro provides a cinematic slice of South African history.

*Theme: Sports and Human Rights*

**More Than Just A Game.** South Africa (2007) 89 minutes. Director: Junaid Ahmed. *Courtesy of Videovision Entertainment.*



A moving docu-drama feature film which tells the inspiring story of organised soccer among prisoners on Robben Island – the high-security prison where Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were incarcerated by the apartheid regime in South Africa. In the energetic, dangerous urban landscape of the late 1950s, five youngsters are weeks or even days away from being arrested. Their backgrounds are as diverse as their personalities, but all share an activist's zeal and a desire to change the racist status quo. ANTHONY SUZE is a hothead

and athlete, a world away from the cool, introspective activism of MARK SHINNERS or the steady, stocky rugby-paying LIZO SITOTO. Others have come to the struggle in their own way: SEDICK ISAACS, the impassive bomb-making schoolteacher; MARCUS SOLOMONS the non-aligned guerilla. But all are targets of the state, and all are destined to spend their youth on Robben Island. This is the story of political activists sent to Robben Island in the 1960s, who rise above their incarceration to discipline through the Beautiful Game. This film was submitted as part of the successful South African bid to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Winner: 26<sup>th</sup> Milano International Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS) Festival – Mention D’Honneur 2008.

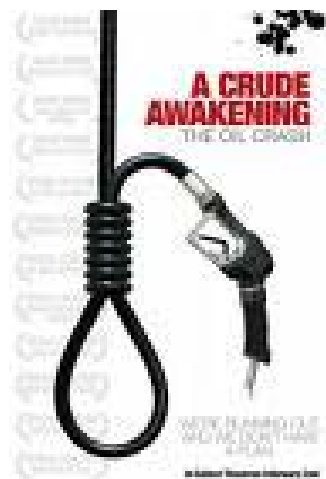
**After the screening of both films, a discussion will be led about the anti-apartheid activism during the apartheid era by Steve Mokwena, Director of ‘A Blues for Tiro’.**

Sunday 22 March 2009

*Theme: Environment and Human Rights*

**6.00 – 7.30 p.m.**

**A Crude Awakening – The Oil Crash.** Switzerland (2006) 90 minutes. Directors: Basil Gelpke and Ray McCormack. *Courtesy of Basil Gelpke and Ray McCormack.*



This film tells the story of how our civilization’s addiction to oil puts it on a collision course with geology. Oil is a finite commodity. There will come a day when demand overtakes supply (peak oil) resulting in large and possibly catastrophic price increases. Should oil substitutes be developed or should we begin to live more carefully? OilCrash visits cities around the world to learn of our future from such leading authorities as oil investment banker Matthew Simmons, former OPEC chairman Fadhil Chalabhi, Caltech's head of physics, Professor David Goodstein, Stanford University political scientist and Terry Lynn Karl, a peak oil expert.

Winner: Barcelona Cinema Festival - Jury Golden Sun Prize 2007; Bergen International Film Festival 2007 – Winner, Youth Documentary Award; Catalan International Film Festival 2007; Tellubrid, Colorado Mountain Film Festival 2007; Zurich Film Award 2006 – Best Documentary; Tahoe (Reno) International Film Festival 2006 – Festival Prize ; Galway International Film Festival 2006 – Audience Award; Palm Beach International Film Festival 2006 – Best Documentary; FIMCA Environment Film Festival – Winner Golden Sun, Best Film;

Palm Beach – Best Documentary Feature – 2006.

**After the screening, there will be a discussion about the current world fuel situation and its relevance to Botswana.**

Monday 23 March 2009

*Theme: Poverty and Human Rights*

**7.00 – 9.00 p.m.**

**The End of Poverty?** USA (2008) 106 minutes. English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. Director: Philippe Diaz. *Courtesy of Cinema Libre Studio.*



Poverty is not an accident. The global economic system has been financed by

the poor. The theme of the film, according to Director Diaz is that “they are poor because we are rich.” It traces the history of poverty in the developing nations to colonial policies that imposed European land tenure arrangements, deprived peasants of their land and created plantation economies, displaced internal trade with an economy that relied solely on exports of a few raw materials, attacked indigenous cultural practices, and destroyed industries that might have competed with European factories. Those historic practices have been perpetuated in the era of political independence with differential tariffs on processed goods that are four times higher on former colonies than on former colonizers. Private banks and the World Bank and IMF have encouraged developing nations to take on large amounts of debt to finance large projects that disproportionately benefit foreign companies engaged in resource extraction. Land tenure arrangements that grant privileges to American and European companies are sustained not only by corrupt governments, but also by the use of American military power in overthrowing governments that seek to extricate themselves from the system of neo-colonialism. Thus, poverty is revealed as the result of an extreme imbalance in the world, which allows those with power to extract economic surplus from nations with little power.

The film tells the story by interspersing interviews with American and European analysts with interviews with poor families and workers in Africa and Latin America. Thus, this film combines theoretical explanations of poverty with testimony by the poor themselves.

Official Selection: Critic's Week, Cannes, France 2008; Durban International Film Festival, South Africa 2008; Festival des Films du Monde, World Film Festival, Montreal, Canada August 2008; Athens International Film Festival, Athens, Greece 2008; ATTAC Film Festival, Brussels, Belgium 2008; Kolkata Film Festival, Kolkata, India 2008; International Film Festival of the Environment, Paris, France 2008; Kenya International Film Festival, Nairobi, Kenya 2008.



Egyptian journalist Philip Rizk brings the heart-wrenching stories of Palestinian villagers to the fore of international attention through this one-of-a kind short documentary/ethnography.

The root of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is closely tied to an unspoken chain of events in history. In 1948 Israel carried out an ethnic cleansing campaign of hundreds of villages, which would lead to the uprooting over 700,000 people from their homes and work. This Palestinian Life is a film about the Palestinian nonviolent struggle in the face of Israel's occupation and annexation of their land. Israel maintains control over a majority of Palestinian land. Surrounding the valleys of many Palestinian villages lie Israeli communities- labeled settlements- yet in fact which are more akin to colonies due to that a majority of them are illegally built on the land of Palestinian villages.

Wednesday 25 March 2009

*Theme: Human Rights and The Middle East*

**7.00 – 9.00 p.m.**

**This Palestinian Life.** Gaza and The West Bank (2008) 28 minutes. Arabic with English sub-titles. Director: Philip Rizk. *Courtesy of Philip Rizk.*

**Occupation 101 – Voices of the Silenced Minority.** USA (2007) 90 minutes. English and Arabic with English sub-titles. Directors: Syfyan Omeish and Abdallah Omeish. *Courtesy of Occupation 101 Team.*



A thought-provoking and powerful documentary film on the current and historical root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Unlike any other film ever produced on the conflict, *Occupation 101* presents a comprehensive analysis of the facts and hidden truths surrounding the never-ending controversy and dispels many of its long-perceived myths and misconceptions.

The film also details life under Israeli military rule, the role of the United States in the conflict, and the major obstacles which stand in the way of a lasting and viable peace. The roots of the conflict are explained through first-hand on-the-ground experiences from leading Middle East scholars, peace activists, journalists, religious leaders and humanitarian workers whose voices have too often been suppressed in American media outlets.

Winner: Beverley Hills Film Festival – The Golden Palm Award for Best Film – 2007 and Best Editing Award 2007; New Orleans International Human Rights Film Festival – Special Recognition Best Documentary 2007; Big Muddy Festival – John Michaels Memorial Film Award for John Michaels Award for Social Justice and Human Rights 2006; East Lansing Film Festival – Audience Award for Best Documentary 2006; River's Edge Film Festival – Best Feature Film Award 2006; Dead Centre Film Festival – Best Documentary Feature 2006; Activist Film

Festival – Best Feature Film Award for Human Rights Category 2006.

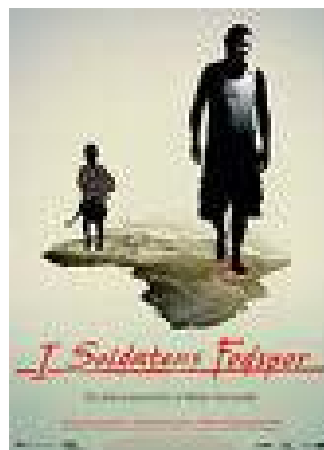
**After the screening of the film, there will be a discussion about the current situation in the Middle East and the effects of the recent attacks on Gaza by Israeli armed forces.**

Thursday 26 March 2009

*Theme: Child Soldiers and Human Rights*

**7.00 – 8.30 p.m.**

**In a Soldier's Footsteps.** Denmark (2005) 89 minutes. Director: Mette Zeruneith. *Courtesy of The Danish Film Institute.*



'In a Soldier's Footsteps' is the dramatic real-life story of Steven, a former child soldier from Uganda, who after a terrible sequence of events – including imprisonment, torture, escape and the death of his wife and son – reached Denmark as a UNHCR refugee. Steven receives news that his missing son is not dead, but is now himself a child soldier. Steven is determined to free his son, but things go terribly wrong, and suddenly Ugandan government representatives arrive in Copenhagen to stop the film. This film is also a portrait of contemporary

Uganda, Pearl of Africa and darling of the West, as a country attempting to make the transition from military dictatorship to democracy.

Friday 27 March 2009

*Theme: Democracy and Human Rights*

**7.00 – 8.45 p.m.**

**The War on Democracy.** UK/Australia (2006) 96 minutes. English and Spanish. Directors: Christopher Martin and John Pilger. *Courtesy of John Pilger.*



BAFTA-winning journalist, John Pilger travels to Latin America to uncover the consequences of the United States' greed as he holds to account the deceptive words of America's politicians. Pilger explores how the US has for decades, installed presidents in South and Central America who have kept the rich in palaces and the poor in the desperate poverty of the barrios. Through interviews with ex-CIA chiefs, the people of Latin America themselves and a rare interview with President Hugo Chavez, John Pilger seeks to prove that you should never believe anything until it is officially denied.

Official Selection: Galway Film Festival 2007.

**After the film, there will be a discussion about whether President Obama's US Foreign Policy can be different?**

Sunday 29 March 2009

*Theme: The Environment and Human Rights*

**6.00 – 7.30 p.m.**

**Taking Root.** USA (2008) 81 minutes. Directors: Alan Dater and Lisa Merton. *Courtesy of Marlboro Productions.*



**Taking Root** tells the story of the Green Belt Movement of Kenya and its founder Wangari Maathai, the first environmentalist and first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. She discovered her life's work by reconnecting with the rural women with whom she had grown up. They were walking long distances for firewood, clean water was scarce, the soil was disappearing from their fields and their children were suffering from malnutrition. 'Well, why not plant trees?' Maathai suggested. These women found themselves working successfully against deforestation, poverty, ignorance, embedded economic interests and government corruption,

until they became a national political force which helped to bring down Kenya's 24 year dictatorship.

Winner: Rencontres Internationale du Documentaire de Montreal (RIDM) – Prix du Public 2008; Rencontres Internationales du Documentaire du Montreal (RIDM) – Prix Ecocamera 2008; Vermont International Film Festival – The Harold and Margaret Blank Award for Storytelling 2008; Durban International Film Festival – Amnesty International Durban Human Rights Award 2008; Maui Film Festival – Green Cinema Award 2008; Projecting Change Film Festival – Audience Award 2008; Hotdoc Canadian International Documentary Festival – Audience Award Winner 2008; Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Durham – Full Frame Women in Leadership Award 2008; Nashville Film Festival – Nashville Women in Film and Television Award for Best Feature Length Film Directed by or Co-Directed by a Woman 2008.

Monday 30 March 2009

*Theme: The Media and Human Rights*

**7.00 – 8.30 p.m.**

**Burma VJ.** Denmark (2008) 85 minutes. Burmese and English. Director: Anders Ostergaard. *Courtesy of The Danish Film Institute.*



Armed with handycams, undercover Video Journalists (VJs) in Burma keep up the flow of news from their closed country, risking torture and life in jail. Their material is smuggled out of Burma and broadcast back via satellite. "Joshua" aged 27, becomes the tactical leader of a group of reporters when a march by Buddhist monks in September 2007 leads to a massive uprising. Foreign crews are banned from entering the country, so it is left to Joshua and his crew to keep the revolution alive on TV screens all over. As the government intelligence begins to understand the power of the camera, the VJs become their primary target.

Winner: Sundance Film Festival – World Cinema Documentary Film Editing Award 2009; Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival for Joris Ivens Award 2008 and Movies That Matter Award 2008

**Following the screening of the films, a discussion will be held about freedom of the press in Botswana following the passing of the Media Act in 2008.**

Wednesday 1 April 2009

*Theme: Child Soldier, Hip Hop and Human Rights*

**7.00 – 8.45 p.m.**

**War Child.** USA (2008). 94 minutes. Director: C. Karim Chrobog. Reel U Films. *Courtesy of Karim Chrobog.*



An award-winning documentary chronicles the tumultuous, shocking, inspiring and ultimately hopeful journey of Emmanuel Jal. A former child soldier of Sudan's brutal civil war, he is now an emerging international hip hop star sharing a message of peace for his war-torn land and beloved Africa. At the age of seven, Jal was swept into Sudan's civil war, becoming one of 10 000 child soldiers conscripted on both sides of the two decade long conflict. Hopefully, Emmanuel's quest for peace and wish to make the world a better place through his music, activism and youth education will prove to be more significant than his earlier war. He shines a light on the growing African hip hop scene while tackling the continent's ills through its music.

Winner: Tribeca International Film Festival – Cadillac Audience Choice Award 2008; Truly Moving Pictures Film Festival – Crystal Heart 2008; Bologna International Film Festival – Best Documentary 2008; Maui International Film Festival –

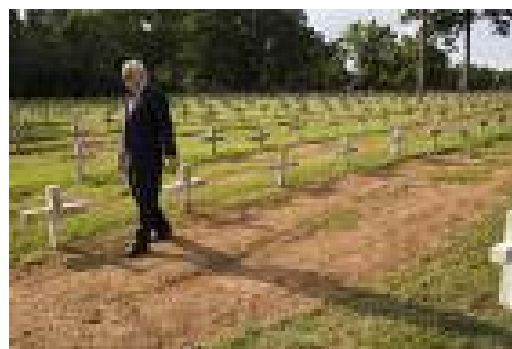
Audience Choice Award 2008; Norway Bergen International Film Festival – Best Documentary Award 2008.

Thursday 2 April 2009

*Theme: The Death Penalty*

**7.00 – 8.45 p.m.**

**At the Death House Door.** USA (2008) 96 minutes. Directors: Peter Gilbert and Steve James. *Courtesy of Kartemquin Films.*



From 1982 to 1995, Reverend Carroll J. Pickett accompanied 95 death row inmates to their death in Texas, USA. After every execution he made tapes of his experiences. Some people confessed and others did not. Some were executed even though they were innocent. Now retired, Pickett is working to clear the name of one of the people whom he believes was executed for a crime which he did not commit.

Winner: Full Frame Documentary Film Festival – Inspiration Award 2008 and Atlanta Film Festival - Best Documentary Feature 2008. Finalist: IDFA – Finalist for Human Rights Award 2008.

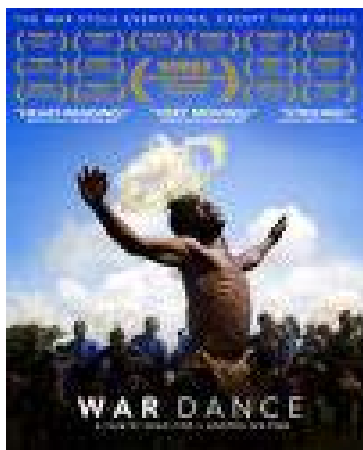
**After the screening, a Member of Parliament shall lead a discussion about the death penalty in Botswana**

Friday 3 April 2009

*Theme: Children and War*

**7.00 – 8.45 p.m.**

**War Dance.** USA (2007) 105 minutes.  
Directors: Sean Fine and Andrea Fine.  
*Courtesy of Andrea Fine.*



Set against the backdrop of Uganda's 20 year civil war during which over 30,000 children have been abducted by a rebel army, the documentary tells the story of Dominic, Rose, Nancy and their school in the Patongo Internally Displaced Persons camp as they take an historic journey to compete in Uganda's national music and dance festival.

Winner: Aspen Filmfest - Audience Award for Best Documentary 2007; Jackson Hole Film Festival – Cowboy Award for Best Cinematographer 2007; Sundance Film Festival – Directing Award for Documentary 2007; Wisconsin Film Festival – Audience Award for Best Documentary Film 2007; Woodstock Film Festival – Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature 2007; Woodstock Film Festival – Haskell Wexler Award for Best Cinematography 2007.