



In Celebration of the Millennium Development Goals
and the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations

MCA-I New York Presents

Stories from the Field

The Second Annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival

Presented in Cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information
and The New School

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Film Festival

The Media Communications Association – International, New York Chapter and the United Nations Department of Public Information are pleased to announce **Stories from the Field, the Second Annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival**. The Festival is presented in cooperation with The New School. It will take place on Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23, 2006, and will feature film screenings, panel discussions with the filmmakers, and award presentations. The films and their screening times will be listed on the Festival Web site, www.mcainy.org/unfilm, on February 21, 2006.

All filmmakers from or contracted by United Nations offices, funds, programmes, and agencies around the world have been invited to submit entries for consideration. There is no charge to submit an entry. Selected entries will be screened in the Tishman Auditorium, The New School, 66 West 12 Street, New York, NY 10011, and announced to the media. The filmmakers of the selected entries will be invited to attend or send a representative to the Festival.

Panel discussions at the Festival will feature the filmmakers, and invited representatives from the United Nations, The New School, and MCA-I NY.

NOTE: This year for the first time, the competition is open to filmmakers from the general public, who may compete for Best Public Short (45 min and under) and Audience Award for Best Film. Judging categories are explained in further detail below.

Background

The timing of Stories from the Field has special significance since it coincides with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations www.un.org and reflects the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which pledge to:

- ◆ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ◆ Achieve universal primary education
- ◆ Promote gender equality and empower women

- ◆ Reduce child mortality
- ◆ Improve maternal health
- ◆ Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- ◆ Ensure environmental sustainability
- ◆ Develop a global partnership for development

The producers and supporters of Stories from the Field embrace these goals and praise the historic vision that resulted in the founding of the United Nations 60 years ago. We hope our efforts will advance in some small way the United Nations promise of peace, development, equality and justice for all people.

Creative Guidelines

UN filmmakers are invited to submit works that do one or more of the following:

- ◆ spotlight some of the people and cultures in areas with a United Nations presence throughout the world and discover what these groups are doing to overcome challenges such as poverty, hunger, disease, civil unrest, trafficking, and injustice;
- ◆ show how a particular United Nations program or service is helping a developing community to develop a civil society, self-determination, and a better quality of life for its people;
- ◆ afford those in the trenches—United Nations workers, community leaders, and the people they serve—the opportunity to share their stories of adversity and triumph.

Public filmmakers are invited to submit works that address the first Millennium Goal: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger. (Next year, films that address the second Millennium Goal, Achieve Universal Primary Education, will be considered.)

Finalists will be selected by a screening committee of United Nations officials, MCA-I representatives, and New School faculty based on the topical relevance, artistic merit, and production values of their work. Placement and location in the Festival will depend on the availability of screening times.

Preview Guidelines

Preview guidelines for UN entrants are outlined in the Call for UN Entries, which may be downloaded from the Festival Website at www.mcainy.org. Preview guidelines for Public entrants may be viewed at www.withoutabox.com.

Titles chosen for screening at the Festival will be announced on February 15, 2006, and the filmmakers notified by email. (For non-English-language films please follow the guidelines for subtitles listed below).

Entry Identification

Each preview cassette or DVD and its case must be affixed with one of the enclosed Entry Labels, filled out completely, and accompanied by a completed Entry Form. We suggest you make and retain a copy of each for your records.

If your film is chosen as a finalist, we may ask you to email us the following for publicity purposes, which we will use as space and opportunity allow: your headshot, bio, and 2-3 production stills. We cannot accept hard copies; please be prepared to send everything by email.

Exhibition Guidelines

Each title for exhibition should be submitted separately on 16mm film, Beta SP, or DVD. If no higher original than VHS or Mini DV is available, we will accept copies of them, but only in NTSC format. For identification purposes, include a copy of the completed entry form in your shipment. Films/videos/ DVD's must arrive at our offices by 5:00 p.m. EST, March 24, 2006. Titles chosen for screening will be shown during the Festival in their original film gauge or video format whenever possible. Please note that the Festival can only present films with an optical soundtrack. Films with magnetic stripe or a double-system (separate) soundtrack cannot be shown.

Subtitled Entries

All non-English-language entries must have English subtitles for preview and for Festival presentation. Exceptions may be made for entries with little or no dialogue. If you have questions, please contact us before sending your entry.

Award Categories

Awards will be presented in the following categories.

1. Best UN Feature (15 min. & longer)
2. Best UN Short (under 15 min.)
3. Best UN PSA
4. Best Public Short (45 min. & under)
5. Audience Choice Award for Best (UN or Public) Film

Deadline

Deadlines for UN entrants are outlined in the Call for UN Entries, which may be downloaded from the Festival Website at www.mcainy.org. Deadlines for Public entrants may be viewed at www.withoutabox.com.

Shipping

Packaging: Please pack carefully and insure all shipments. Ship your cassette or DVD in a bubble-pack envelope. Fiberpacks can cause serious damage to video tapes and, subsequently, to video equipment. Indicate title of the entry, shippers name and return address on the label. The Festival will not be responsible for any damage to film, tapes or DVD's incurred during shipping.

International Entries: We recommend that all entries from outside the U.S. be sent Air Mail Registered, or by parcel express service (or United Nations pouch for UN entries), whichever is the fastest and most secure from your location. We cannot accept entries shipped via air freight if customs and delivery fees have not been prepaid.

Costs: Shipping costs to and from New York must be assumed by the sender. If you wish to have your exhibition copies returned to you after the Festival, include in your package sufficient return postage in the form of check, money order, or stamps. You may also provide us with your FedEx or DHL account number, and we will return your cassette or DVD by either of these services.

Ship to: Public Inquiries Unit, GA 57, Attn: Film Festival, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA. Preview copies will not be returned.

Liabilities

Although every possible care will be taken with tapes and films in our possession, we shall not be liable for any loss of or damage to entries. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS.**

Reproduction Agreement

Submission of an entry gives the Festival permission to have accepted work photographed, telecast, and otherwise reproduced, in whole or in part, for education or publicity purposes, unless otherwise requested in writing by the filmmaker.

For More Information

Creative guidelines: Isabelle Broyer, broyer@un.org, +1 212.963.9480

Format/production questions: Corinna Sager, corinna.sager@lifestyleintl.com, +1 973.233.1773

Press contact: Linda Lopez, llopez@tellmedia.com, +1 212.663.8412

Visit www.mcainy.org/unfilm

Read UN Chronicle <http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/index.html>