

# Illuminating Oppression

6th Annual Human Rights Film Festival

25-27 September 2008

**Thursday, September 25, 7 p.m.**

Gaze Engendered

## **The Women's Kingdom**

Director: Xiaoli Zhou  
(23 minutes, 2005-06, China/USA)

A short film offering a rare glimpse into the extraordinary society of Mosuo women, keepers of one of the last matriarchal societies in the world, who live beyond structures of mainstream Chinese culture.

## **A Jihad for Love**

Director: Parvez Sharma  
(81 minutes, 2007,  
USA/UK/France/Germany/Australia)

This film presents a struggle for love in Muslim society and gives voice to gay and lesbian characters, emerging in all their human complexity, challenging assumptions about a monolithic Muslim community and defining jihad as a struggle rather than a war.

*Screening will be followed by a discussion with the director.*

**Friday, September 26, 7 p.m.**

Triumph of the Will

## **I Want to be a Pilot**

Director: Diego Quemada Diez  
(12 minutes, 2006, Kenya/Mexico/Spain)

Deep in the slums of East Africa, a 12-year-old has only one dream—to be able to fly. This moving film depicts a poverty stricken orphan boy, living in Kenya, who looks towards the heavens and dreams of being an airline pilot and of escaping his bleak life of poverty.

## **China Blue**

Director: Micha Peled  
(86 minutes, 2005, China/USA)

This critically acclaimed film is a powerful and poignant journey into the harsh world of sweatshop workers. Shot clandestinely, it is a deep-access account of what both China and the international retailers don't want us to see.

**Saturday, September 27, 1 p.m.**

Vanishing Histories

## **The Mall on Top of My House**

Director: Aditi Chitre  
(6 minutes, animation, 2006, India)

The film explores the consequences of rampant land reclamation and the flouting of environmental laws through the eyes of a fisherman who lives in a dark underground tunnel. He constantly negotiates with the chaos of traffic, fancy malls, and luxury housing built on land that was once his to reach the sea that once sustained him and his community.

## **The Halfmoon Files**

Director: Philip Scheffner  
(87 minutes, 2007, Germany)

The film brings to life voices from the past, Indian soldiers imprisoned during WWI in a German POW camp. Their voices have been preserved on an old shellac record in an archive, produced as the result of a unique alliance between the military, the scientific community, and the entertainment industry.

**Saturday, September 27, 4 p.m.**

Imaginary Homelands

## **El Charango**

Director: Jim Virga  
(22 minutes, 2006, Bolivia)

This short, Spanish-language film explores the relationship between the Bolivian stringed instrument, known as the charango, and Cerro Rico (Rich Mountain), the richest silver deposit in the world, and the peasant miners, who were forced to work the mines, and their struggle for human rights.

*Screening will be followed by a discussion with the producer: Prof. Tula Goenka, SU, The Newhouse School.*

## **My First Contact**

Directors: Maria Correa and Karane Ikpeng  
(83 minutes, 2007, Brazil)

This critically acclaimed film chronicles the story of a tribe of native Ikpeng Indians in Brazil who were relocated by white men to a reservation more than 40 years ago. The film gives painful testament to memory and captures how tribal elders re-enact the "first contact" with the white men for the younger generation.

**Saturday, September 27, 7 p.m.**

Gaze Engendered

## **Devil Rode on a Horseback**

Directors: Ricki Stern and Anne Sundberg  
(85 minutes, 2007, Sudan)

The film documents genocide in Darfur through the eyes of Brian Steidle, a former U.S. Marine who lands a job through the Internet as an unarmed military observer taking photographs for the African Union in Darfur. Stark footage makes the film challenging to watch as Steidle captures Sudan's natural beauty as well as its turmoil from helicopters, moving vehicles, and inside people's homes.



Syracuse Symposium 2008: Migration, the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, the South Asia Center at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Institute for Global Affairs, the LGBT Resource Center, and the South Asian Students Association, in collaboration with Breakthrough, proudly present the 6th Annual Human Rights Film Festival. The three-day festival features award-winning documentaries by independent filmmakers from Africa, Europe, Latin America, North America, South Asia, and West Asia.

**All films shown in the Life Sciences Complex Auditorium,  
Syracuse University.**

**All screenings are free and open to the public.**

**[syracusesymposium.org](http://syracusesymposium.org)**