

Doras Luimni - World Witness Film Festival

Belltable Cinema - (Thurs. 31 Jan - Sun. 3 Feb 2008)

The Belltable and Doras Luimni present a selection of international films inspired by human rights issues. The festival opens on Thursday January 31st at 7.30 pm and runs until Sunday February 3rd 2008. Visual images of human life as it is lived all over the world will be screened during this festival. Stories will be told of men and women, of families, of children, of individuals, of groups and of peoples from around the globe. The stories will be stories of the heroic and the mundane, of the elite and the masses, of the free and the enslaved, as they enjoy, or are denied, their humanity. Human rights will be the inspiration, as the festival celebrates a common human family, recognising that equality is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

ALL TICKETS €5

THURS 31st.

7.30pm - reception and launch of festival. Guest speaker is AHMED KEDIR SIMEA (a refugee from Ethiopia) who will speak about trade and human rights issues.

8.00 pm - BLACK GOLD UK-USA 2006 / Dir.- Marc and Nick Francis/
Col.-78 mins

Multinational coffee companies now rule our shopping centres and supermarkets and dominate an industry worth over 80 billion dollars, making coffee the most valuable trading commodity in the world after oil. But while we continue to pay for our lattes and cappuccinos, the price paid to coffee farmers remains so low that many have been forced to abandon their coffee fields.

**** WINNER - Best Production Award- 2007 British Independent Films Festival

**** NOMINATED - Grand Jury Prize- 2006 Sundance Film Festival

FRI. 1st FEB.

12 NOON- The Minister of Defence, Mr Willie O'Dea, T.D. will speak on the role of U.N. peacekeeping work, which is particularly timely given the imminent deployment of Irish troops to Chad and Jean Hakizimana, an asylum speaker from Rwanda, will speak of his experiences of the Rwandan genocide.

SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL Canada 2007 / Dir.- Roger

Spottiswode / Co. 113 mins Cast - Roy Dupuis, Jean Hugues Anglade, Amanda Alden, Justin Craig.

- This is the film adaptation of the Romeo Dallaire autobiography - "*Shake Hands With The Devil*" - Lt. General Dallaire was the military commander of the U.N. mission in Rwanda and this film is personal and, all too true, story of his time there during the genocide of 1994 and how Dallaire's request for more aid went ignored by the United Nations.

7.30 pm - GOD GREW TIRED OF US - THE LOST BOYS OF SUDAN USA

2006 / Dir - Christopher Dillon Quinn, Tommy Walker / Col.98 mins

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award at Sundance in 2006 - the film explores the indomitable spirit of three "Lost Boys" from the Sudan who leave their homeland. These teenagers were among the 25,000 children who fled villages, formed surrogate families and sought refuge from famine, disease, wild animals and attacks from rebel soldiers. They triumphed over seemingly insurmountable adversity and civil strife in their own country, and were selected by a U.S. programme, brought to America, given jobs and accommodation. These people have never known air travel, electricity, lifts or running waters. Will the USA prove to be their nirvana ? What about the tribe they left behind ? Narrated by Nicole Kidman.

(Junior Film Fleadh Programme/2007)

SAT. 2nd FEB

2.00PM - CATCH A FIRE (FR/UK/South Africa/ USA 2006) / Dir- Philip

Noyce / Col. 101 mins Cast- Tim Robbins, Derek Luke, Bonnie Henna, Mncedisi Shabangu, Tumisho Masha.

Powerfully telling the story of a South African hero's journey to freedom, "Catch A Fire" is a political thriller that takes place during that country's turbulent and divided times in the early 1980's, and in the new South Africa of today.....

Right off the bat, "Catch A Fire" distinguishes itself from other recent international films about Africa (including **THE CONSTANT GARDENER** and **THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND**) in that it is actually told from an African perspective.

4.30pm- BAMAKO (Mali /USA /Fr. 2006) Dir- Abderrahmane Sissako /

Col. 115 mins Abderrahmane Sissako grew up in a mudwalled house in Bamako, Mali's capital city. Now he returns to that modest family home to take on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In the courtyard once presided over by his late father, Sissako gathers lawyers, judges, and witnesses to put globalization itself on trial. 7.30PM - Raphael Chikukwa, film producer and art curator, will join us from Zimbabwe for a screening of his documentary **AFRIKAN HEROES** (2006) which relates the experiences of Zimbabwean, Zambian and Tanzanian soldiers in the British army in World War II. This is the untold story of the forgotten heroes of the Commonwealth - this film supported by the British Imperial War Museum and will precede the screening of **DAYS OF GLORY** (aka **INDIGENES**)

DAYS OF GLORY (Algeria/Fr./Morocco/ Belgium 2006) Dir - Rachid

Bouchareb / Col. 118 mins Cast - Sami Bouajila, Antoine Chappey, Roschdy Zem, Bernard Blancan, Samy Naceri.

World War II drama depicting the plight of the North African troops enlisted to fight in the French army between 1943 and 1945 - these four young Arabs were called upon by one colonial oppressor to fight another, they say goodbye to their families in Algeria, Morocco and Senegal and willingly step forward to take up their arms - all they get is abuse and constant discrimination from bigots from within the French armyBouchareb's powerful and persuasive film was instrumental in Prime Minister's Jacques Chirac's decision to compensate all North Africans who fought in WW II by unfreezing their pensions.

SUN. 3rd FEB

2.00 PM - GHOSTS (UK 2006) / Dir. Nick Broomfield / Col. 96 min Cast-
Ai Qin Lin, Man Qin Lin, Zhan Yu, Marc Hoferlin

On February 5th 2004 twenty three Chinese people are drowned in Morecambe Bay in England - their families in China are still paying off their debts. When a young girl, Ai Qin, pays 25.000 dollars to be smuggled into the UK in order to support her family back in China, she becomes another one of 3 million migrant workers that have become the bedrock of the UK economy.

Forced to live with eleven other Chinese people in a two bedroom house, they work in factories preparing food for British supermarkets. Risking their lives for pennies these unprotected workers end up cocklong in Morecambe Bay at night. With an extraordinary debut performance from Ai Qin Lin in a film whose principal characters are played by Chinese former illegal immigrants, GHOSTS offers a unique insight into a secret world that surrounds us.

***** Winner **SOLIDARITY AWARD** at 2006 San Sebastian International Film Festival

***** Nominated - Grand Jury Prize at 2007 Sundance Festival

4.30PM HERE TO STAY (Ireland 2007) Dir - Alan Grossman & Aine O'Brien / Col. 72 mins

In this new Irish documentary, the filmmakers follow Filipino gay nurse, Fidel Taguinod, over a two year period as he lives out his multiple roles of nurse, migrant activist and bakla (gay) performer in Dublin. Fidel leads the viewer through a series of migrant-led events, as well as through his working & personal life, in which gay politics are playfully mixed with migrant & multi-cultural issues. Fidel and the film's co-director and producer Alan Grossman attend and speak before the screening at 4.30pm.

PERMISSION TO LAND (Ireland 2006) Dir- Aimee Graham / Col.24 mins

This Irish made documentary features the ongoing protest at the use of Shannon Airport as a landing and refuelling stop for US Military aircraft - it closely examines possible financial theories as to why the the Irish Government has permitted the US Military to land in a supposed Country of National Neutrality - it illustrates the struggle and determination of Irish Peace Protestors who have stopped at nothing in order to cease the US Military Refuelling in Ireland enroute to the war in Iraq.

Limerick born Aimee Graham, an ex HSI graduate for Radio and Print Journalism-formed **KALO** Productions with Katie Coughlan,

Lynn Larkin and Orla Maher and the quartet have already made 3 films to date -

PERMISSION TO LAND, THE FAST AND THE CURIOUS (about boyracers) and **THE SINGLE FATHER** - about single fathers in modern day Ireland.

THE MEMORY BOX (Ireland 2006) Dir- Siobhan Twomey

A 6 minute animated film produced by the **FORUM ON MIGRATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (FOMACS)** It is the first in a series of three interconnected and stand alone stories on the topic of immigrant "family reunification". It was produced with support from the Atlantic Philanthropies and Dublin Institute of Technology.

Belltable

<http://www.belltable.ie/>

Limerick Arts Services

<http://www.limerickcity.ie/OurServices/LimerickArtsServices/>