

Films from the archive

Tues 9 March 2010, 1pm - 6pm

Wimbledon space, Wimbledon College of Art, Merton Hall Road, London, SW19

Document 1, 2003

War vs Peace

Laith Al-Juneidi, UK, 2003, 13min

War vs Peace is a short filmic-essay on the portrayal of war—in particular, the representation of war by media and television. This film criticises the media censorship which allows us variations on a theme whilst smothering the harsh realities of war from public view.

War vs Peace attempts to raise the debate about what the viewer should/should not see, criticising the media hypocrisy in its hidden representations of war.

Document 2, 2004

Pretty Dyana

Boris Mitic, Serbia, 2003, 45 mins

An intimate look at four Roma families from a Belgrade favella who live by selling cardboard and bottles which they collect with their souped-up Citroen Dyanas. They even use the car batteries as power generators in order to get some light, watch TV and to recharge their mobiles.

Document 3, 2005

Hidden Gifts; Angus McPhee

Nick Higgins, Scotland, 2004, 24 min

Hidden Gifts is a creative documentary that explores the mystery of art and mental illness. It tells the story of Angus McPhee, "the quiet big man" from South Uist, who wove clothes from grass. Diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1946 Angus was taken from his island home on South Uist to Craig Dunain psychiatric hospital among the hills near Inverness in the Scottish highlands. For fifty years he spoke not a single word to any member of the hospital staff. His presence was also an absence; his secret grass weaving his only form of expression.

Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan

Petr Lom, Kyrgystan/Canada, 2004, 51 min

According to an old Kyrgyz proverb, a good marriage always begins with tears. If this were truly the case, then this Central Asian country would be a newly weds paradise. Among the traditions practiced here is the kidnapping of young girls, who are subsequently violently forced into marriage by the family of the groom. "Stop struggling and don't cry anymore, in time you will get used to it, after all we were also kidnapped when we were young". These are the words of two older women trying to calm down the newly kidnapped girl, who is cowering in fear in the corner of her "new home". Only in extraordinary cases do these girls succeed in escaping. Although illegal this tradition continues.

Document 5, 2007

Document 5 – a documentary film by Diversity Films

Diversity Films, Scotland, 2008, 17 min

A short documentary about the Document International Human Rights Film Festival, featuring acclaimed filmmakers such as Paul Watson and John Akomfrah.. Made by 15 new filmmakers.

Arthur Balfour and Me

Charlotte Cornic, Scotland, 2007, 11 min

What links Arthur J Balfour, the British Politician born in 1848 on an extensive family estate in East Lothian and Fatima, a young Palestinian woman, born in 1971 in a refugee camp in Lebanon and now seeking asylum in Glasgow?

From the beautiful farming landscapes of East Lothian to the narrow alleyways of a refugee camp in Lebanon, Arthur Balfour and Me is an emotional journey through history, a hidden story about how one politician's actions continue to affect the life of a young woman from the Middle East.

We are the Saharawis

Marta Fernandez, UK , 2007, 25 mins

This film explores the lives of a refugee community; the Saharawis. Expelled from their homeland in the 1970s, they were condemned to live as refugees in one of the harshest corners of the Algerian desert. 30 years later, they are still waiting for their fate to be decided.

Document 7, 2009

10 min

Jorge Leon, Belgium, 2008, 19 min

A small kitchen alarm clock sets the time. She has exactly 10 minutes to finish a customer. Through the reading of a witness declaration, 10 Min. narrates how a young Eastern European woman ends up against her will in the Brussels prostitution network.

"Let us bring to the attention of the presiding judge that we have ruled the working conditions of the prostitutes, investigated by our services throughout this inquiry, deserved to be revealed. They were particularly painful."

The video 10 Min was realized in the framework of the International Day against Traffic in Human Beings.

The Marina Experiment

Marina Lutz, USA, 2009, 18 min

My father documented himself abusing me throughout the first 16 years of my life. After his death I uncovered his collection; boxes of audiotape, super 8, and over 10,000 photographs.

I am the daughter as well as the filmmaker, presenting this evidence in what I am told is a subtle intellectual investigation that is grotesquely truthful and forthrightly condemning.

Umoja, The Village Where Men Are Forbidden

Jean-Marc Sainclair / Jean Crousillal, France, 2008, 52 min

Between 1970 and 2003, about 1600 local women claimed to have been raped by British soldiers stationed in Northern Kenya. Many were beaten and rejected by their husbands as having brought shame on their community.

In 1990, a few such women gathered and created Umoja, a village forbidden to men, which rapidly became a refuge for those in a similar plight. Since then, jealous men have frequently attacked Umoja and created many problems for Rebecca Lolosoli, its founder and matriarch.

Total Running Time 275 min.

Document 8, Oct 2010

Call For Submissions - www.docfilmfest.org.uk