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Refuge in Films at BFI Southbank 24 – 26 June 2011



BFI Future Film and **RefugeeYouth** presents **Refuge in Films Festival 2011**, a three day festival of films, Q&A's, interactive workshops and discussions to mark **Refugee Week 2011** and to explore issues of displacement, refuge and migration.

A unique, youth-led cinematic event, **Refuge in Films** is dedicated to showcasing films that bring to life the issues affecting young people and refugees. Returning to the **BFI Southbank** for its fifth year, the festival has been developed by a group of young, London-based refugees and migrants from all over the world who have made and selected the films screened. This year the theme of the festival is 1951 in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the UN Convention on Refugees and visitors are encouraged to dress in 1950s style with an international twist.

The Festival offers young people the environment to discuss issues pertinent to their situations and provides a space to celebrate the contribution that young refugees and migrants make to society. *"Refuge in Films provides a platform for catapulting our own ideas and views and gives people the opportunity to look at refugee and migrant issues through a different lens"* Hamid, a young Iranian who leads the project explains.

In addition to a full three day program of international features, shorts and documentary films, there will be creative workshops for young people, photo exhibitions, screenings of short films made by young refugees with professional film-makers and other activities taking place throughout the weekend.

- Ends -

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Supported by **BFI Future Film** www.bfi.org.uk/futurefilm

Opening Party

Join us outside **BFI Southbank** for Rock'n'roll dancing and a 1950's tea party

Fri 24 June 17:00

El Problema

Spain 2010 53min Dir Jordi Ferrer & Pablo Guzman

The documentary tells the story of how hundreds of thousands of Saharawis from Western Sahara became refugees in the harsh Algerian desert more than 35 years ago, and highlights the systematic human rights abuses perpetuated by Morocco's occupational regime in Western Sahara. It shows how all physical expressions of Saharawi identity are forbidden and even the use of the name Western Sahara or the word referendum is a "problem", *El Problema* of the unheard Saharawis. Q&A with Danielle Smith from sand Blast.

Sat 24th June 12:00 BFI Studio

Exile Family Movie

Austria 2006. Dir Arash T Riahi. 92min. EST

An Iranian family living in political exile in Europe and America decides to organise a secret meeting with the rest of the family still living in Iran. They haven't seen each other for nearly two decades. Despite all the dangers, the long-awaited reunion takes place in Saudi Arabia, in a small hotel room. The family members living in exile pretend to be Muslim pilgrims in order to be allowed to enter the holy cities of Medina and Mecca.

Followed by a Q&A with the director Arash T.Riahi

Sat 25 June 13:30 NFT2

Stories the USA Border

Sat 24th June 14:00 BFI Studio

Mojado

UK 2011. Dir Jörn Threlfall 39min

Raul leaves his young family behind in rural Mexico and joins a group of 'mojados' who make the brutal desert crossing to the USA in search for work. When the majority of them are caught by la 'migra' (border control), Raul is suddenly alone. Continuing on, he comes across a young, bewildered 'gringo' boy in this vast nowhere and his journey takes an unexpected turn.

Followed by a Q&A with the director Jörn Threlfall

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Dreams Awake

USA 2010. Dir Kevin Gordon & Rebeka Meredith 7 min

A meditation on the migrant experience through the life and poetry of Doroteo Garcia, a Mexican immigrant, father, janitor, union activist and poet.

Sat 24th June 14:00 BFI Studio

Architecture of Remembrance. The Memorials of Bogdan Bogdanovic

Austria 2010 Dir Reinhard Seiss. 45 min

"Architecture of Remembrance – The Memorials of Bogdan Bogdanovic" is a documentary on the life's work of the former mayor of Belgrade, architect and scholar Bogdan Bogdanović. It combines his extraordinary biography with a specific focus on his work in former Yugoslavia and Belgrade in particular.

Sat 24th June 14.00 NFT 3

A Place without People

Greece 2009. Dir Andreas Apostolides 54 min

Set in the famous Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater, the film explores how one of the most famous natural reserves were created following western perceptions about nature radically altering both east African landscape and society. The film focuses

on the displaced indigenous people whose voices are rarely heard, and are excluded and antagonized while the tourism industry grows depleting the area's natural resources.

Sat 24th June 15:30 BFI Studio

Neukölln Unlimited

Germany 2010. Dir Agostino Imondi & Dietmar Ratsch. 96min. EST

Siblings Hassan, Lial and Maradona are successful musicians and break dancers who've lived in Berlin's notorious Neukölln district since childhood, growing up with hip-hop and street dance as their language and passion. Their family, of Lebanese origin, lives in constant danger of being deported from Germany. In order to secure a residency permit for the entire family, Hassan and Lial plan to use their artistic talents to financially support the family. But the pressure has put a strain on the two teenagers and, in the meantime, Maradona gets into trouble at school...

Followed by a Q&A with the protagonists Hassan and Lial Akkouch

Sat 25 June 15:50 NFT2

Mamá Chocó

Colombia 2010. Dir Diana Cuellar. 56min. EST

Choco region in Colombia is one of the most bio-diverse in the world. It is also where a great part of the Colombian armed conflict takes place. Mamá Chocó follows Paulina, a displaced mother of 26 children, in her quest to find a place that she and her family can call home in Cali, the third biggest city in Colombia.

Sun 26 June 16:00 NFT2

Refuge in Shorts

Gaza Trilogy

Facilitators Rayna Nadin & Stuart Shahid Banforth

Gaza/Palestine 2010 13 min

Short films made by 7 young people from Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza a year after the Israeli offensive operation in Gaza; the films explore the impact of the war on their lives.

Followed by a Q&A with the facilitators Rayna Nadin & Stuart Shahid Banforth

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Buriganga

Dir: Michelle Coomber UK/Bangladesh 2010 12 min

A beautiful observational film about the life and death of the Buriganga River and the migrants who work on it.

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The Camp

UK 2010. Dir, Mark Monti 10min

This dialogue free documentary focuses on the inhabitants of the Mae Refugee camp. Situated on the Thai-Burma border, it is home to more than 50,000 Burmese who have fled the military regime. Although free from dictatorship, Thai authorities guard the camp borders and access to the outside world is forbidden. **Followed by a Q&A with Producer Gigi Berardi and Editor Gary Forrester.**

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Thread

USA 2011. Dir Iva Radivojevic. 7 min

Banned in Lahore, Kite Flying Thrives in Brooklyn where a group of Pakistani Americans Have found a home away from home while still holding on to the threads of their roots. Kite battling is a sport that requires skill, practice, technique, dedication and focus. Every Saturday the kite flyers gather at Dyker Park to battle.

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Skateistan

Dir: Orlando von Einsiedel UK 2010 9 min

Skateistan: To Live and Skate Kabul is a beautiful and moving short film that follows the lives of two young skateboarders from Afghanistan who attend the Skateistan charity project. Juxtaposing the harsh reality of life in Kabul with the hopes and ambitions of the country's children, the film is a touching ray of light from a country only ever in the news for all the wrong reasons.

Followed by a Q&A with the director Orlando von Einsiedel

Sunday 26th June 12:00 BFI Studio

Tiger Spirit

Canada 2008. Dir Min Sook Lee 73min

Award-winning filmmaker Min Sook Lee's revelatory emotion-charged journey into Korea's broken heart explores the rhetoric and realism of the reunification of North and South Through the extraordinary stories of ordinary people.

Sunday 26th June 14:30 BFI Studio

Mama Choco

Colombia 2010. Dir Diana Kuellar 58 min

Choco region in Colombia is one of the most bio diverse in the world. It is also where a great part of the Colombian armed conflict takes place. Mama Choco follows Paulina, a displaced mother of 26 children, in her quest to find a place that she and her family can call home in Cali, the third biggest city in Colombia.

Followed by a Q&A with the director Diana Kuellar

Sun 26 June 16:00 NFT2

Son of Babylon

Iraq-UK-France-Netherlands-United Arab Emirates-Egypt-Palestine 2009. Dir Mohammed Al Daradji. With Yasser Talib, Shazada Hussein. 100min. EST

A highly-acclaimed road movie set against the epic landscape of postinvasion Iraq in 2003, it follows young Ahmed and his grandmother as they travel dusty, battered roads in search of a missing father/son. From ravaged desert plains to the mountains of Kurdistan, the travellers meet fellow migrants caught up in the terrible fate of a region and its people, wracked by tyranny and war. Screening as part of Refugee Week and in association with Runnymede Trust, Migrant Rights Network, Manifesta and Migrant Voice

Tue 21 June 18:00 NFT3

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £9.50, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

BFI Filmstore

The BFI Filmstore is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank /