

IT'S ALL TRUE ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION DOCS

***** 15 feature/medium length and 9 short length films in competition**

***** 19 countries represented**

***** 8 feature/medium length films are directed by women**

***** Short length documentary is a 2008 Oscar nominee**

A total of 24 international titles compete for the awards of Best Feature Length and Medium Length Documentary and Best Short Length Documentary at the 2008 edition of **It's All True – 13th International Documentary Film Festival** to be held between March 26 to April 6 in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and from April 7 to 13 in Brasília.

Altogether, there are 19 countries represented in both categories of the International Competition. Eight of the feature length and medium length films are directed by women, an unprecedented fact in the Festival's history.

Well-known for her films on women's life experiences and perspectives all over the world, acclaimed British filmmaker Kim Longinotto joins It's All True for the sixth time with **"Hold Me Tight and Let Me Go"**. A 2007 BritDoc winner for best British documentary, the film addresses the instrumental techniques employed by an Oxford school for troubled kids that were expelled from other schools for violent behavior.

Three of the films made by female filmmakers in the International Competition of Feature Length and Medium Length Documentaries are unreleased and make their début in international festivals at the 2008 It's All True. In **"Seven Moments"** (Diana Cardozo, Mexico), seven Uruguayan women who became members of the Tupamaro urban guerrilla movement in the 60's and 70's reassess their experiences. US filmmaker Cindy Kleine creates a painful portrait of her parents' 59 years of marriage and takes a plunge deep into the female soul in her feature length **"Phyllis and Harold"**. A Dutch/Russian co-production directed by Masha Novikova, **"Anna, Seven Years on Frontline"**, reviews the people and places involved in the assassination of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, the

fiercest opposer to Putin government's policies in Chechen. Anna spoke out against the plight of the civil population and the abuse of power by Russian authorities during the Chechen war.

Regarded as a brilliant director of a unique and personal oeuvre, Nina Davenport, who among others directed "Parallel Lines" (2004) and "Always a Bridesmaid" (2000), brings up a discussion on ethics and political correctness in her "**Operation Filmmaker**" (USA). In her feature documentary – selected for the Rotterdam, Toronto and Sydney festivals – an Iraqi cinema student from Baghdad is hired to work in a film production in the Czech Republic. It gradually becomes clear that he is not telling the whole truth about him and he seems to have a hidden agenda.

Awarded at the Entre Vues Film Festival, "**The Other Side of the Wall**" (France), directed by Stéphane Mercurio, follows the long and frustrating waits by visitors – mostly women – to a French male prison. In her "**Cosmonaut Polyakov**", German filmmaker Dana Ranga gathers numerous testimonies from former Russian astronaut Valery Polyakov, who holds the record for the length of time any human has been in space – 437 days in a row. Polyakov speaks about his involvement with the KGB, the secret police of the Soviet era, and his isolation upon his return to Earth. Italian filmmaker Alina Marazzi recovers the collective memory of female behavioral changes in 60's and 70's Italy and explores the effects of these transformations on the life of Italian women today in her "**We Want Roses Too**", an Italian/Swiss co-production, which completes the list of titles directed by women in this year's International Competition of Feature Length and Medium Length Documentaries.

In July 2005, Australian filmmaker Scott Hicks started shooting a documentary about the composer Philip Glass to celebrate his 70th birthday in 2007, "**GLASS: A Portrait in 12 Parts**". In the following 18 months, Hicks had full access to the musician's daily routine and wove a remarkable mosaic about one of the most famous and controversial artists of today. Several movie directors such as Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese and Godfrey Reggio give their testimonial on their partnership with Glass for the soundtrack of their films. Hicks is currently working in a British-Australian co-production starring Clive Owen titled "The Boys are Back in Town".

Shot in 1960, "Description of a Struggle" made by the French director Chris Marker, captured images and people of Israel in a moment in time when this young nation was only beginning to build its future. Forty seven years later, Israeli filmmaker Dan Geva, who was born in 1964, recaptures the film's spirit in his "**Description of a Memory [Thirteen memories following Chris Marker's Description of A Struggle]**" by exploring new realms that Marker could never have imagined. A dialogue between the two films is thus established, and a review takes place of the frustrated hopes raised by a permanent state of war and a growing political uneasiness with the situation in the Middle East today.

In his **“The Not Dead”**, veteran British documentarist Brian Hill turns his camera to the psychological scars left by different wars (in Iraq, Malaysia and Bosnia) and how they affect the lives of three former soldiers, leaving as legacy post-traumatic syndromes and attempts at suicide.

Two Chinese productions portray different aspects of China today and yesterday. Screened at the last Cannes Festival, Wang Bing’s **“Fengming – A Chinese Memoir”** is based upon the memoirs of a 60-year-old Chinese lady who was sent to work in the fields during the Chinese Revolution turning her life into a nightmare that lasted 30 years. In Yung Chang’s **“Up the Yangtze”**, which was selected for the 2008 Sundance Festival and was regarded as best Canadian documentary at Vancouver Festival, a boat full of Western tourists on board travels upstream on the Yangtze River in China, along cities, villages and farms that will be flooded following construction of the Three Gorges dam, a gigantic engineering project which involved the uprooting of nothing less than four million people.

Winner of the jury prize at the Hot Docs Festival in Canada, Michael Skolnik’s **“Without the King”** is about the last monarchy in Africa, the kingdom of Swaziland. A land of startling contrasts, it combines the opulence of king Mswati with alarming poverty rates. More than half of Swaziland's population of one million people live on incomes of less than one dollar a day and 42% of its inhabitants are HIV+, the highest infection rate worldwide.

The Argentinean doc **“Door 12”**, by Pablo Tesoriere, revisits the tragic 1968 event at the exit gate of a soccer stadium following a match between rival teams River Plate and Boca Juniors, when an incident that was never clarified culminated in the death of 71 fans and more than 100 people injured. Forty years on, the causes of the tragedy are still unclear. There are reports that local authorities failed to open the gate as the crowd tried to find its way out, and there is even a political hypothesis - witnesses affirm that Boca's fans were shouting Peronist slogans at the height of the Argentinean military dictatorship.

Short Length Documentaries

Nine short length documentary productions were selected for the International Competition. The highlight is **“Salim Baba”**, a US/India production directed by Tim Sternberg, which depicts a man from Kolkata and his lifelong passion for the cinema. The film is a finalist for this year’s Oscar documentary race.

Winner of the national competition at the 2007 Krakow Festival, **“52 Percent”** by Polish filmmaker Rafal Skalski, follows the struggle of a young girl to become a ballet dancer. Awarded with the Golden Dove trophy at the 2007 Leipzig Festival, **“Merely a Smell”**, by the Lebanese director Maher Abi Samra, is a voyage to the heart of war in Lebanon, where the stench of death saturates everything around them. The innovative and inventive language used by German

filmmaker Jan Peter in his **“How I Became a Freelance Tour Guide”** has garnered him multiple invitations to present his short at international festivals and the film also won a number of jury prizes (as in the European Media Art Festival), critics’ prize (Bremen Festival) and public prize awards at Hamburg, Weisbaden and Bochum.

In his **“Beginning Filmmaking”**, US director Jay Rosenblatt, one of the highlights of the 2007 It’s All True, follows his 4-year-old daughter’s first shots with a camcorder for one year. The experience proves to be quite challenging. Also from the US and not yet released internationally, Alexandre O. Philippe’s **“The Spot”** focuses on the mystique surrounding the spot where president John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

Female filmmakers are also present in the short length international competition. In **“& etc.”**, Portuguese director Claudia Clemente turns her camera to a small publishing house in Lisbon, which is geared to unknown authors and has set an editorial benchmark in Portugal. Spanish newcomer filmmaker, Luciana Julião, presents a view of a world increasingly under surveillance and the effects of this control on the lives of citizens in her **“OP.1207-X”**. And a decaying Caucasus village with only three houses is the set for **“Urzdón: The Territory of Loneliness”**, directed by Russian filmmaker Maria Kozlova.

Founded and directed by the Brazilian movie critic Amir Labaki, **It’s All True – 13th International Documentary Film Festival** is sponsored and supported by Petrobras, CPFL, Oi–Futuro, Banco do Brasil Cultural Center, Sesc-SP, São Paulo State Culture Secretariat, Cinemark, Riofilme and São Paulo City Culture Department with the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Culture through Rouanet Law # 8313/91.

*** International Competition –
Feature Length and Medium Length Documentaries***

- “Anna, Seven Years on Frontline”** - Masha Novikova (Holland/Russia)
- “The Other Side of the Wall”** - Stéphane Mercúrio (France)
- “Without the King”** - Michael Skolnik (USA)
- “Fengming – A Chinese Memoir”** - Wang Bing (China)
- “Hold Me Tight Let Me Go”** - Kim Longinotto (UK)
- “Cosmonaut Polyakov”** - Dana Ranga (Germany)
- “Operation Filmmaker”** - Nina Davenport (USA)
- “The Not Dead”** - Brian Hill (UK)
- “GLASS: A Portrait of Philip in Twelve Parts”** - Scott Hicks (Australia)
- “Phyllis and Harold”** - Cindy Kleine (USA)
- “Door 12”** - Pablo Tesoriere (Argentina)
- “Description of a Memory [Thirteen Memories Following Chris Marker’s DESCRIPTION OF A STRUGGLE]”** - Dan Geva (Israel)
- “Seven Moments”** - Diana Cardozo (Mexico)
- “Up the Yangtze”** - Yung Chang (Canada)

“We Want Roses Too” - Alina Marazzi (Italy/Switzerland)

***** International Competition – Short Length Documentaries *****

“52 Percent” - Rafal Skalski (Poland)

“& etc.” - Claudia Clemente (Portugal)

“Merely A Smell” - Maher Abi Samra (Lebanon)

“Beginning Filmmaking” - Jay Rosenblatt (USA)

“How I Became a Freelance Tour Guide” - Jan Peters (Germany)

“The Spot” - Alexandre O. Philippe (USA)

“OP.1207-X” - Luciana Julião (Spain)

“Salim Baba” - Tim Sternberg (USA/India)

“Urzdón: The Territory of Loneliness” - Maria Kozlova (Russia)

It’s All True – 13th International Documentary Film Festival

From March 26 to April 6, 2008 (São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro) and from April 7 to 13, 2008 (Brasília)

Director: Amir Labaki

Sponsors and Supporters: Petrobras, CPFL, Oi–Futuro, Banco do Brasil Cultural Center, SESC-SP, São Paulo State Culture Secretariat, Cinemark, Riofilme and São Paulo City Culture Department with the support of the Brazilian Ministry of Culture through Rouanet Law # 8313/91.