

V1: Video Presentation

Hoping for Peace

Georgia/Abkhazia region 2002 (35 mins.)

Directed and produced by Svetlana Korsaiia (Abkhaz State Television), Mamuka Kuparadze (Studio Re, Georgia), Mikheil Mirziashvili (Studio Re, Georgia), in collaboration with the London-based NGO Conciliation Resources.

Contact: Rachel Clogg <rclogg@c-r.org>

A unique collaboration between Abkhaz and Georgian journalists. Made in 2002 this is the first joint documentary film in the decade since a ceasefire brought to an end the Georgian-Abkhaz war of 1992-93. Exploring the lives of people in the Gal/i region on the front line between the conflicting parties, this thirty minute film grapples with key challenges in the faltering peace process. Working together on all aspects of the production the four journalists together visited Gal/i, Sukhum/i and Tbilisi.

David Darchiashvili (Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, SAIS, Johns Hopkins U, US) will lead the discussion following the screening, with the filmmakers Svetlana Korsaiia, Mamuka Kuparadze, and Mikheil Mirziashvili.

V2: Video Presentation

Shto Novovo. An Elegy for the Union

US 2003 (52 mins.)

Directed by George FitzHerbert (Harvard U, US)

<fitzherb@fas.harvard.edu>

An evocative portrait of transition in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan. While illustrating the traditional pastoral life of the Kyrgyz, the film addresses issues of industrial depression, corruption, and the outmigration of the Russian population since the Soviet collapse, and gives voice to the nostalgia with which many remember the Soviet era. The film is in Russian, Kyrgyz and Uzbek with English subtitles

preceded by

Women, Water and Social Change: Lessons from Central Asia

US 2003 (20 mins.)

Directed by Billur Gungoren (Columbia U, US)

<bggr@elcat.kg>

An exploration of gender differences in the water sector drawing lessons from a community water management project implemented in six villages in Central Asia between 1998 and 2001. Common myths on women's roles and abilities in water management, specific aspects of gender inequalities during the transformation period, and an innovative social change process are described.

George FitzHerbert and Billur Gungoren will lead the discussion following the screenings.

V3: Video Presentation

Killing the Story

UK 2002 (55 mins.)

Produced by Ewa Ewart (BBC, UK)

<eva.ewart@bbc.co.uk>

What links the murder of a leading journalist, the President of the Ukraine, a shy young bodyguard and allegations of international arms smuggling and sanctions breaking? In a documentary prepared for the BBC investigative series *Correspondent*, reporter Tom Mangold unravels the threads that hold together an extraordinary mystery story involving conspiracies at the highest level, secret tape recordings, beatings by government goon squads and a moving target, running for his life with a six million dollar price on his head.

Adrian Karatnycky (Freedom House, New York, US) and Myroslava Gongadze (George Washington U) will lead the discussion following the screening.

V4: Video Presentation

Fortress Europa (Trndjava Evropa)

Slovenia 2000 (80 mins.), English subtitles

Directed by Zelimir Zilnik

Contact: Alenka Sfiligoj <toni.trsar@siol.net>

Artyom and his daughter Katya try to smuggle their way into Italy to join Artyom's wife Sveta, who had emigrated to Italy a long time before and found a job with the last remaining coachman of Trieste. Artyom, Katya and a group of other refugees are however arrested, first by the Slovenian and then by the Italian police. The refugees are confronted with all kinds of procedures at police headquarters and then moved to a centre for illegal immigrants, awaiting deportation, the heavily guarded "Fortress Europe." Zelimir Zilnik became internationally known in the Sixties for his visually expressive and critical films.

V5: Video Presentation

Soldat

UK 2001 (77 mins.), English subtitles

Directed by Paul Jenkins

Contact: Daniel Wolf <daniel@firstcirclefilms.co.uk>

The Russian Army, up close and personal, the first time a foreign television production has been allowed extensive and long-term access. The film follows conscripts drafted as a cheap alternative to the professional army Russia can no longer afford. For two years, recruits are sucked into a highly ritualized and hierarchical system of barrack room hazing, brutality and humiliation called dedovshchina ("the rule of the grandfathers"). They emerge fundamentally changed. Junior and senior officers are seen struggling against seemingly endless woe in an army starved of basic resources. Though most maintain a grim humour, the results are shocking and sad.

Jake Kipp (Foreign Military Studies Office, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, US) will lead the discussion following the screening.

V6: Video Presentation

The Damned and the Sacred (Dans, Grozny Dans)

The Netherlands 2002 (76 mins.), English subtitles

Directed by Jos de Putter

Contact: Frank van den Engel <zeppers@xs4all.nl>

After *The Making of a New Empire*, which screened at ASN 2000, director Jos de Putter again focuses his attention on Chechnya, with an attractive portrait of a traditional youth dance group. They go on a tour of Europe; the contrast between the destroyed buildings in the Chechen capital Grozny and the concert halls of Europe is gigantic. The dancing teacher impresses on the youngsters that they have to show the Europeans that Chechens are normal people, not terrorists, and that therefore they have to do their utmost. De Putter continuously switches between here and there; the two worlds are bridged by endless bus trips and melancholic music. The alternation makes clear that these children carry their ravaged country with them everywhere they go.

Aude Merlin (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France) will lead the discussion following the screening.

V7: Video Presentation

Greetings from Grozny

UK 2003 (52 mins.), English subtitles

Directed by Paul Mitchell and Tatiana Rakhmanova

Contact: Andy Halper <Halper@thirteen.org>

For three weeks in May 2002, Paul Mitchell filmed in and around Chechnya. He followed a detachment of special Russian forces and a unit of rebel Wahabite fighters. The director and his crew, who also lived with Chechen refugees in Grozny and the surrounding villages, give us a moving glimpse of the life of civilians ruined by the war. They take us to the valley of Pankisi on the border between Chechnya and Georgia, a zone that, according to Russian and American secret services, could well serve as a new base for radical Islamists linked to Al Qaeda. The documentary posits the viewpoints of Russian forces about "cleansing operations"-described as simple identity checks- against those of the civilian Chechen population, often the main victims of these raids. Operations that, according to the human rights groups, constantly violate the most basic rights.

Jake Kipp (Foreign Military Studies Office, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, US) will lead the discussion following the screening.

V8: Video Presentation

Returning Home: Revival of a Bosnian Village

Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001 (48 mins.)

Directed by Tone Bringa and Peter Loizos

Contact: <Tone.Bringa@cmi.no>

Filmed between 1999 and 2001, "Returning Home" documents the return of the internally displaced Muslims or Bosniaks to their homes seven years after being expelled from an ethnically mixed (Bosniak/Croat) village in central Bosnia.

"Returning Home" is a sequel to "We are all Neighbours" produced in 1993 by Granada Television in co-operation with Tone Bringa. The earlier film chronicles the gradual breakdown in personal relationship between Muslims and Croats as war approaches the village of "Dolina". Following some of the same families featured in the 1993 film, this film highlights the decisive role of the international community in facilitating returns to this village by guaranteeing the returnees' security and providing economic means for house reconstruction. Above all, however, it talks to steely determination of the displaced villagers to rebuild their pre-war lives, and their surprisingly sympathetic attitude toward Croat refugees living in their homes.

Chip Gagnon (Ithaca College, US) will lead the post-screening discussion with the director, Tone Bringa (Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway).

V9: Video Presentation

Children Underground

US 2000 (1h45 mins.)

Directed by Edet Belzberg

In Romanian with English subtitles

Contact: <belfilms@aol.com>

Venturing below the streets of Bucharest, Romania to the infamous Piata Victoriei subway station, filmmaker Edet Belzberg introduces us to five members of a "family" of orphaned, abandoned, and runaway children living there. The children beg and steal to buy food and Aurolac, which they sniff to get high. In this striking cinema verite documentary, Belzberg reflects on the difficult problem of youth homelessness at the beginning of a new millennium, where children with highly developed skills of survival are addicted to life on the street. *Winner of the 2001 Sundance Special Jury Prize for Documentary.*

Nancy Soukup (Watson Institute, Brown U) will lead the post-screening discussion with the director Edet Belzberg (Belfilms, New York, US).

V10: Video Presentation

The War (Voina)

Russia 2002 (1h55 mins.)

Directed by Alexei Balabanov

Contact: <intercin@edunet.ru>

Dedicated to the memory of Sergei Bodrov Jr.

Overshadowed by events in the Middle East and Afghanistan, the war in Chechnya goes on and on, the Chechens taking hostages and detonating bombs in southern Russia and the Russian army repressing the rebellion with scorched earth brutality. In Alexei Balabanov's controversial slice-of-war, two Russian soldiers and two touring British actors are taken captive by the Chechen rebels. John, one of the two young Britons, is sent home to fetch 4 million pounds as ransom for his fiancée. Back in England, the authorities don't want to hear anything about it, but the actor finally manages to find the required sum and he and a fellow ex-hostage Vanya revisit Chechnya in a blaze of disorganized, vicious revenge. Twenty-year old lead actor Aleksei Chadov was voted Best Actor at the 2002 Montreal World Film Festival.

V11: Video Presentation

Cinema Verite International

Contact: Mildred Pollner mpollner@hotmail.com

Documentary shorts from Cinema Verite International. The theme this year is "Societies in Transition—Effects on Children" with clips on the former Soviet Union, China, Central America, Cuba, and the Middle East. A clip from "Calming Fears: Responding to Terrorism," will also be shown.

Mildred Pollner (Cinema Verite International and CUNY, US) will present the short documentaries.

V12: Video Presentation

Chypre outragée

France 2002 (71 mins.)

In Greek, Turkish, and English, with French subtitles

An English transcription will be available before the screening

Directed by Serge Poljinsky

Contact: Philippe Djivas <jakaran@club-internet.fr>

Cyprus won its independence on August 16, 1960. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, occupying 38% of the island nation. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Nicosia remained the only capital in Europe divided into two militarily-separated zones. Turkey lacks the means to invest in the development of the occupied zone and its military presence is costly. The south, under a legal Cypriot government, now meets the criteria of Maastricht and its admission into the European Union is a decisive factor for its reunification. Thus, Greek and Turk Cypriot exiles will be able to return to their lands and villages, live together in whatever part of the country they choose.

