



THE 2006 ASN WORLD CONVENTION FILM LINEUP

13 NEW DOCUMENTARIES SCREENING WITH 100 PANELS!

The 2006 ASN World Convention, taking place at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York, on 23-25 March, is unveiling a lineup of thirteen recent international documentaries on topics ranging from ethnic violence to terrorism, identity formation, modernization, and the Orange Revolution.

From Denmark comes *ONDSKABENS ANATOMI (THE ANATOMY OF EVIL)*, a searing investigation into the motivations of the perpetrators of mass killing in the recent Balkan wars. Director Ove Nyholm and experts on ethnic violence will participate in a post-screening debate. The film was in official competition at the 2005 International Documentary Festival Amsterdam.

No less than five films will focus on the Caucasus. *POWER TRIP* relates the rocambolesque attempt by a multinational power company to make their Georgian customers pay for their newly privatized electricity. *ABKHAZIA: ONE SIDE OF A CONFLICT* and *TEN YEARS AND STILL WAITING* provide Georgian and Abkhaz perspectives on the enduring Abkhaz conflict. The two films were made by local journalists with the support of the British NGO Conciliation Resources. *BESLAN: SIEGE OF SCHOOL NO. 1* documents the terrorist attack that has riveted the world's attention. *MASSACRES EN TCHETCHENIE*, shown on France's premier pay-TV channel, includes disturbing amateur video filmed by Russian officers during an anti-terrorism operation in a Chechen village.

Two documentaries look at history. *HOW TO FIX THE WORLD* is a digitally animated adaptation of Soviet psychologist Luria's research on the cognitive changes that people experienced when learning to read in Central Asia in the 1930s. *THEY LOOKED AWAY* investigates the controversial issue of why Auschwitz was not bombed by the Allies at the end of World War.

Hours before Ukrainians will go back to the polls for a contested parliamentary election, the ASN Convention will screen a brand new documentary on the Orange Revolution, *ORANGE CHRONICLES*, shot diary-like by a young Ukrainian-American. *BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT: CHRIS JACKSON'S JOURNEY TO ISLAM* is a documentary examining the life and career of a NBA star, and his controversial refusal to stand during the national anthem, serving as an ethnographic window into Muslim American communities. *DAYS MADE OF FEAR—KOSOVO 1998-2005* and *THE GLORY OF HIGH DECANI* are two short films on the fate of ethnic minorities in Kosovo since the 1999 war.

In addition, regular academic panels, *CINEMA AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER IN HUNGARY, SLOVENIA, AND THE UNITED STATES* and *MOVING IMAGES AND MODERN WAR*, will revolve around the medium of cinema and television.

The ASN 2006 World Convention features a hundred panels (as well as these thirteen films) covering the Balkans, Central Europe, Eurasia (including Turkey and Afghanistan), the Caucasus, Russia, Ukraine, and a fast-developing Nationalism Studies section. The program of the convention can be accessed at www.nationalities.org. The convention is open to the public and a registration form can be downloaded at < http://www.nationalities.org/ASN_2006_REGISTRATION_FORM.pdf >. For information on the convention, please contact Gordon N Bardos, ASN Convention Director, at < gnb12@columbia.edu or 212 854 8487 >. For information on the films, please email Dominique Arel, ASN President, at < darel@uottawa.ca >.

FRIDAY MARCH 24 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM

V3***Beslan: Siege of School No. 1***

US 2005 (45 mins)

English voice-overs and subtitles

A film by **Eamonn Matthews**

Contact: Tamara Rosenberg, Channel Thirteen

< RosenbergT@thirteen.org >

The siege of School No. 1 in Beslan, Russia, on September 1, 2004 was the bloodiest act of terrorism in Russia since Chechnya declared independence in 1991. As the trial of the only terrorist who survived the siege begins, this wrenching film examines the three-day ordeal that saw Chechen gunmen hold more than 1,000 hostages, most of them children. The film includes firsthand testimony and video shot by terrorists inside the school, examining the events that unfolded, the Russian government's failure to manage the crisis, and the legacy of Beslan for survivors, bereaved families and Russia's future stability.

**V9*****Massacres en Tchetchénie (Massacres in Chechnya)***

France 2004 (32 mins)

Russian and Chechen with French subtitles

A film by NPA Productions < nathalie.hecher@canal-plus.com >

An English voice-over will be provided

Journalist Mylène Sauloy recovered amazing amateur video filmed by Russian officers during an anti-terrorism operation in a Chechen village in the south of Grozny. One soldier shot footage of his company surrounding the village of Komsolmskoe, where hundreds of injured Chechen fighters sought refuge. The village was razed and many rebels were arrested on camera. In another document presented during the inquest, many rebels were found dead or tortured. Mylène Sauloy returns to the village to find many surviving fighters and civilians. Living hidden in Chechnya or as European refugees survivors testify to the violence of Russian repression in Chechnya.



FRIDAY MARCH 24 2:45 - 4:45 PM

V5***Ondskabens anatomi (The Anatomy of Evil)***

Denmark 2005 (89 mins)

Serbo-Croatian with English subtitles

A film by **Ove Nyholm** < info@angelfilms.dk >**Director Ove Nyholm will attend the screening.**

Danish director Ove Nyholm searches for an answer to questions like: what are a mass murderer's motivations in a situation of war? After genocide, how does he manage to return to everyday life as if nothing happened? Looking specifically at the Serbian case, Nyholm examines how police and paramilitary dealt with the aftermath of the murders they committed, and at the role of politicians in the crisis. Nyholm also draws parallels with the logic and justifications of Hitler's Einsatz troops. Nyholm ultimately formulates the line that lies at the basis of genocide: "You have to die, so I can live."

**V7*****By the Dawn's Early Light: Chris Jackson's Journey to Islam***

2004 (52 mins)

English

A film by **Zareena Grewal** (zareena@umich.edu)**Director Zareena Grewal will attend the screening.**

This documentary examines Mahmoud Abdul Rauf's life, career, and controversial refusal to stand during the national anthem at an NBA game, serving as an ethnographic window into Muslim American communities. The film explores constructions of nationalism and religion, the centrality of the American media as the stage for competition for religious authority, and the complexities of identity politics in America at the end of the twentieth century, especially urgent after the tragedy of 9-11. Ironically, the film ends invoking another terrorist attack; Mahmoud's home was burned down by the KKK two days after filming ended.

FRIDAY MARCH 24 5:00 - 7:00 PM

V6

How to Fix the World

US 2004 (89 mins) English

A film by **Jacqueline Goss** < goss@bard.edu >Director **Jacqueline Goss** will attend the screening.

A digitally animated adaptation of Soviet psychologist A. R. Luria's research in Central Asia and interviews with Uzbek and Kyrgyz farmers who lived on or near the Soviet-sponsored collective farms in the 1930's. The Soviets had introduced literacy programs into these primarily Muslim oral-based agricultural communities, and, interested in documenting the cognitive changes that people experience when learning to read, Luria captured the cultural conflict of Soviet Socialism and Islam. These interviews are brought to life through digital animation, illustrating a particular historical moment when one culture attempted to transform another in the name of education and modernization.



SATURDAY MARCH 25 9:00 - 11:00 AM

V2

Abkhazia: one side of a conflict

Georgia 2004 (52 mins)

Russian with English subtitles

A film by Studio Re in conjunction with Conciliation Resources

Ten years and still waiting

Georgia [Abkhazia] 2004 (48 mins)

Russian with English subtitles

A film by Studio Re in conjunction with Conciliation Resources

Rachel Clogg < rclogg@c-r.org > will introduce the films.

These two films, made together by Georgian and Abkhaz journalists, in consultation with Teresa Cherfas and George Carey, and with the support of the British NGO Conciliation Resources, explore life on both sides of the Georgian-Abkhaz divide. Mamuka Kuparadze's "Abkhazia: One Side of a Conflict" is a Georgian view on life and attitudes in Abkhazia a decade after a yearlong war between Georgia and Abkhazia. Sveta Korsai's subsequent film, "Ten Years and Still Waiting," gives an Abkhaz perspective on life in Georgia and the aspirations of its population, including those displaced by the conflict.



SATURDAY MARCH 25 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM

V4***Power Trip***

US 2003 (55 mins)

English and Georgian with English subtitles

A film by **Paul Devlin**, **Valery Odikadze**, and **Claire Missanelli**

< cmissanelli@nyc.rr.com >

[Claire Missanelli will attend the screening.](#)

In an environment of corruption, assassination, and rioting, the story of chaotic post-Soviet transition is told through culture clash, electricity disconnections and blackouts. AES Corp., the massive American "global power company," has purchased the privatized electricity distribution company in Tbilisi, capital of the former Soviet Republic of Georgia. While manager Piers Lewis teaches the formerly communist populace that they must pay for electricity, the Georgians devise clever ways to get it free. Lewis must balance his love for the Georgian people with the hardships his company creates for them as they rebuild a nation from the rubble of Soviet collapse.



SATURDAY MARCH 25 2:45 - 4:45 PM

V8***They Looked Away***

US 2003 (53 mins) English

A film by **Stuart G. Erdheim** < s.erdheim@verizon.net >and **Ashley Lazarus**[Director Stuart G. Erdheim will attend the screening.](#)[Paul Miller will lead a discussion after the film.](#)

In the debate over the Allied response to the Holocaust no issue has aroused more controversy than the (non) bombing of Auschwitz. *They Looked Away* is the first documentary to present evidence of the Allies' knowledge about Auschwitz during the Hungarian deportations, and to assess, using comparative historical methodology, the feasibility of destroying gas chambers and crematoria. The film presents archival research on reconnaissance, intelligence, defenses, and bombing operations in the Auschwitz region, aerial imagery of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, and first-time interviews with Hungarian survivors, Holocaust scholars and WWII pilots, bombardiers, and photo interpreters directly involved in Allied bombing missions.



SATURDAY MARCH 25 5:00 - 7:00 PM

V10***The Orange Chronicles***

US 2006 (105 mins)

English and Ukrainian with English subtitles

A film by **Damian Kolodiy** < OrangeDoc@gmail.com >

< www.orangechronicles.com >

Taras Kuzio will lead a discussion after the film.

After the US Presidential Election, disillusioned Ukrainian-American filmmaker, Damian Kolodiy, journeys to his family's homeland and finds himself in the middle of the Orange Revolution where he witnesses the true meaning of democracy. Orange Chronicles focuses on the passionate people who filled the frozen streets of Kyiv in protest of an unjust election and the corrupt government that created it. Narrated by the filmmaker, who volunteered as an election monitor, the documentary captures the revolution from the inside out, and in the process, Kolodiy rediscovers his own modern Ukrainian identity as does the country itself.

**V11*****Kosovo: Images of an Unresolved Tragedy***Films by **Ninoslav Randjelovic*****Days Made of Fear - Kosovo, 1998-2005***

November 2005 (24 mins)

Serbian with English narration and subtitles

The Glory of High Decani

February 2003 (23 mins)

Serbian with English narration and subtitles

Director **Ninoslav Randjelovic** < ninoslav28@yahoo.com > will attend the screening.

These two documentaries examine events, changes, and life in Kosovo over the past several years. Days Made of Fear examines the issue of standards for the treatment of ethnic minorities, offering evidence based on events from 1999-2005 that these standards have not yet been met. The Glory of the High Decani examines spirituality in Kosovo through the ancient Serbian monastery High Decani, one of the last centers of Orthodox faith in Kosovo today. The film testifies that true spirituality is the ultimate diplomacy – “diplomacy of the heart,” shown in our ability to forgive, show compassion, and love one another.