


SILVER DOCS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
 JUNE 20-26 2011



To Be Heard



If A Tree Falls



Wiebo's War

Environment

CAFETERIA MAN

Richard Chisolm

USA, 2011, 65 MINUTES

Tony Geraci's job was to provide healthful food in Baltimore's schools, and his successes earned attention far beyond Maryland. He also found that some things aren't so easy in a bureaucratic educational system. CAFETERIA MAN tracks Geraci's quest to change how a community thinks about school lunches – and how it thinks about its children.

Thursday, June 23, 12:30 p.m.

Friday, June 24, 2:30 p.m.

SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL

Rachel Libert, Tony Hardmon

USA, 2011, 75 MINUTES

Retired Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger devoted 25 years of service to the U.S. Marines. When his 9-year-old daughter dies from a rare form of leukemia in 1985 while living at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Ensminger wants to know why. His exhaustive search for answers leads him to a shocking discovery: the very organization that was supposed to protect its own – the Marine Corps – has been covering up one of the worst cases of toxic water contamination in history.

Tuesday, June 21, 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 25, 4:15 p.m.

REVENGE OF THE ELECTRIC CAR

Chris Paine

USA, 2011, 90 MINUTES, ENGLISH

When the electric car first appeared on the scene in the 1990s, it seemed to hold great promise for the future. That is, until its mass production was abruptly – and rather dubiously – shut down. Yet today, with gas prices skyrocketing and established car companies in disarray, the electric car is making a triumphant comeback. In this lively follow-up to WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?, director Chris Paine takes us behind the scenes at Nissan, GM and the Silicon Valley start-up, Tesla Motors, where he focuses on four dynamic entrepreneurs dedicated to creating a fast, furious and clean electric car that doesn't require a single drop of foreign oil.

Saturday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 26, 4:15 p.m.

IF A TREE FALLS

Marshall Curry

USA, 2010, 85 MINUTES

A nuanced portrait of the domestic terrorism trial of activist Daniel McGowan, IF A TREE FALLS explores the provocative activities of the Earth Liberation Front, a radical environmentalist group, and explores the FBI's activities in the case, questioning how we define domestic terrorism.

Tuesday, June 21, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 22, 11:00 a.m.

WIEBO'S WAR

David York

CANADA, 2011, 90 MINUTES, ENGLISH/STERLING WORLD COMPETITION

When Wiebo Ludwig moves his sizeable family to the rural plains of northern Canada to live closer to God and become self-sufficient in terms of food and energy, the last thing he expects is to be transformed from a holy man into an eco-terrorist. Yet when energy companies start encroaching on his land soon after it is discovered that his farm lies on one of Canada's biggest gas fields, Wiebo feels compelled to protect himself and his family from their newly toxic surroundings. WIEBO'S WAR

is an intimate portrait of a charismatic leader and weaves a thriller-like tale of one man waging a war against big oil.

Wednesday, June 22, 1:15 p.m.

Sunday, June 26, 9:15 p.m.

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Box Office Hours: 11:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center | 8633 Colesville Road | Silver Spring, MD | 301.496.6776



SILVER
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DOCUMENTARY
FESTIVAL
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At the Edge of Russia



Hell and Back Again



Where Soldiers Come From

Military/War

AT THE EDGE OF RUSSIA

Michael Marczak
POLAND, 2010, 72 MINUTES, RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES/
STERLING WORLD COMPETITION
Aleksy is eager to serve Mother Russia, but this 19-year-old recruit sees little soldiering while stationed at the country's frozen northern border. With invasion unlikely, his burly superior's lessons teach more about isolation, quotidian civil service and drunken paternity than anything else. This hyper-masculine coming-of-age narrative captures these life lessons while evoking a popular Russian social sentiment.
Thursday, June 23, 12:45 p.m.
Sunday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.

DIARY

Tim Hetherington
USA, 2010, 20 MINUTES, ENGLISH
DIARY is the late Tim Hetherington's haunting first-person account of what it is like to be on the front lines of war every day as a daring photojournalist who sought to bring truth to the world through his provocative images. Dreamlike, piercing and somewhat experimental, DIARY becomes a posthumous tribute to the man behind its camera as well as a testimonial to all war journalists who risk their lives every day.
Friday, June 24, 3:30 p.m.
[with USIP post-screening panel]

HELL AND BACK AGAIN

Danfong Dennis
USA, 2011, 88 MINUTES, ENGLISH, PASHTO WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
Following US Marine Corps Sgt. Nathan Harris both on the battlefields of Afghanistan and back at home recovering from his devastating war wounds, HELL AND BACK AGAIN is a powerful portrait of war and its lasting impact on those who survive it. Brilliantly shot using a DSLR camera, the film is remarkably intimate in portraying the chaos of battle as well as the disorientation of Sgt. Harris as he struggles physically and emotionally with coming home.
Wednesday, June 22, 11:45 a.m.
Thursday, June 23, 3:00 p.m.

MUSHROOMS OF CONCRETE

Martijn Dayens
BELGIUM, 2010, 23 MINUTES, ALBANIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
During his 40 years in power, Enver Hoxha built over 250,000 defense bunkers to prepare for a war that never came. With less than 3 million citizens, building the unsightly shelters drained vital resources and crippled Albanian industry. Presently, Albanians struggle to put the abandoned hollows to productive, creative use.
Shorts Preceding Features: Preceding BAKHMARO

SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL

Rachel Libert, Tony Hardmon
USA, 2011, 73 MINUTES
Retired Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger devoted 25 years of service to the US Marines, whose motto, "Semper Paratus," means "Always Faithful." When his 9-year-old daughter dies from a rare form of leukemia in 1985 while living at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Ensminger wants to know why. His search for answers leads him to a shocking discovery: the very organization that was supposed to protect its own — the Marine Corps — has been covering up one of the worst cases of toxic water contamination in history. With remarkable dedication and perseverance, Ensminger spearheads a lengthy battle to hold the Marine Corps accountable for its actions and make the bombshell information public.
Tuesday, June 21, 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 25, 4:15 p.m.

THE REDEMPTION OF GENERAL BUTT NAKED

Eric Strauss, Daniele Anastasion
USA, 2010, 84 MINUTES
One of the most feared and ruthless warlords of Liberia's First Civil War, Joshua Milton Blahyi was also known as General Butt Naked due to his fondness for fighting in a primal state, wearing nothing but a pair of sturdy boots while wielding his weapons of death. Having stopped fighting in 1996, Blahyi now claims to have turned over a new leaf. Denouncing his past and reinventing himself as a Christian evangelist, Blahyi embarks on a quest to track down and face the people whose lives he destroyed, and ask for forgiveness.
Tuesday, June 21, 8:15 p.m.
Saturday, June 25, 1:45 p.m.

THE RESCUERS

Michael King
USA, 2011, 91 MINUTES, ENGLISH
Filmmaker Michael King follows Rwandan anti-genocide activist Stephanie Nyombayre as she teams with noted Holocaust historian Sir Martin Gilbert to trace the little-known story of 12 diplomats who put themselves at great risk to help save tens of thousands of Jews from Nazi concentration camps. In a journey that covers 15 countries, Nyombayre and Gilbert unravel the remarkable true story of a dozen heroes of World War II.
Wednesday, June 22, 10:45 a.m.
Thursday, June 23, 5:15 p.m.
[with USIP post-screening panel]

THE TEAM

Patrick Reed
CANADA, 2010, 80 MINUTES, ENGLISH, SWAHILI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
Can a soap opera help to heal a country? Producers in Kenya were willing to give it a try after the relatively prosperous African nation suffered spasms of violence following a disputed 2007 election. THE TEAM provides an emotional behind-the-scenes look at the making of a show about a multiethnic, coed soccer club in a country where distrust runs deep. For the actors, in particular, far more than culture is at stake.
Saturday, June 25, 3:00 p.m.
[with USIP post-screening panel]

WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM

Heather Courtney
USA, 2011, 91 MINUTES, ENGLISH
From rural America to Afghanistan and back again, WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM tells the story of three childhood friends who join the National Guard and find themselves risking life and limb to detonate roadside bombs. Filmmaker Heather Courtney follows the friends over the course of a four-year journey, from teenagers stuck in their sleepy northern Michigan town to 23-year-old combat veterans trying to start their lives again. This is a poignant portrait of the young men who fight our wars and the families and communities they leave behind.
Thursday, June 23, 12:15 p.m.
Saturday, June 25, 2:45 p.m.

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AFI | **SILVER DOCS** DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
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If a Tree Falls



The Redemption of General Butt Naked



Better This World

Law & Order

BETTER THIS WORLD

Katie Galloway, Kelly Duane de la Vega
USA, 2011, 98 MINUTES/STERLING US COMPETITION

When two Midland, Texas activists make Molotov cocktails at the 2008 Republican Convention, a dramatic story unfolds, with multiple domestic terrorism charges, an entrapment defense and a surprising FBI informant. The film sets in high relief the impact the war on terror has on civil liberties and political activism in a post-9/11 world.

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GIVE UP TOMORROW

Michael Collins

USA, UK, 2011, 95 MINUTES/STERLING US COMPETITION

In 1997 two sisters vanished without a trace on the island of Cebu in the Philippines. Paco Larrañaga was sentenced to death for their rape and murder despite overwhelming evidence to support his innocence. Spanning more than a decade, GIVE UP TOMORROW chronicles the shocking corruption within the Philippine judicial system and one of the most sensational cases in the country's history.

Thursday, June 23, 12:45 p.m.

Sunday, June 26, 6:45 p.m.

SCENES OF A CRIME

Blue Hadaegh, Grover Babcock
USA, 2011, 88 MINUTES

Why would anyone confess to a crime he didn't commit? SCENES OF A CRIME explores the phenomenon of false confessions and the controversial tactics behind them using the disturbing case of Adrian Thomas, a man arrested on suspicion of killing his infant son. After being interrogated mercilessly for 10 hours, Thomas confessed to the crime, despite his previous cries of innocence and medical evidence to the contrary.

Friday, June 24, 3:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 25, 10:45 a.m.

KARAMAY

Xu Xin

CHINA, 2010, 350 MINUTES

An epic and unforgettable achievement in documentary filmmaking, KARAMAY tells the story of a horrific fire that broke out on December 8, 1994 in the Chinese city of Karamay, killing more than 300 people - mostly schoolchildren - who were participating in a performance for government leaders. Ordered to remain in their seats while the state officials exited first, the children's stories are heart wrenchingly told by their still-grieving families. This six-hour film will be shown with one 15-minute intermission.

Sunday, June 26, 12:00 p.m.

HOT COFFEE

Susan Saladoff

USA, 2011, 88 MINUTES

Using the infamous lawsuit against McDonald's for injuries caused by hot coffee as a jumping-off point, this film illuminates the tactics used by big business to fight against the average person's ability to hold companies responsible for injurious and careless behavior, and to vilify those who dare to sue.

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Saturday, June 25, 1:45 p.m.

INCENDIARY: THE WILLINGHAM CASE

Steve Mims, Joe Bailey, Jr.

USA, 2011, 101 MINUTES/STERLING US COMPETITION

In 2004, Cameron Todd Willingham was executed in Texas for the 1991 arson murders of his three daughters, despite overwhelming evidence that the fire wasn't arson. INCENDIARY masterfully explores why Willingham has become a cause célèbre for arson investigation reform and death penalty repeal.

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