

HOTDOCS 2011 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

World Premieres

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NEW
RELEASE

OPEN SECRET

A film by STEVE LICKTEIG | USA | 2011 | 70'

What if everything you thought you knew about yourself was a lie? And everyone knew the truth except you? Steve Lickteig was adopted at birth by the Lickteig family, who had a farm in Kansas and eight other (natural) children. Steve always wondered who his real parents were. The day before his high school graduation Steve's two best friends decided they had enough and told him shocking news: that he was not adopted from unknown parents - they were actually his natural grandparents and he was the illegitimate son of his oldest sister, Joanie. Not only that, everyone in his life had always known the secret: his siblings, schoolmates, teachers, even his girlfriends and townsfolk. Steve was the only one who didn't know his own identity. Two decades later, Steve's upcoming marriage spurs a desire for reconciliation—and information. So he takes a camera back to Kansas and starts asking questions, a quest leading him to unexpected places.

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UNRAVELED

A film by MARC H. SIMON - USA | 2011 | 80' & 58'

Just days before Bernard Madoff captured headlines as the largest Ponzi schemer in U.S. history, Marc Dreier, a prominent Manhattan attorney, was arrested for orchestrating a massive fraud scheme that netted hundreds of millions of dollars from hedge funds. Brazen forgeries and impersonations branded the white-collar crime spree remarkable. **UNRAVELED** is set in the "purgatory" of house arrest — an upper East Side penthouse — where the Court has ordered Dreier confined until his sentencing day. The film weaves Dreier's struggle to prepare for the possibility of life imprisonment with first-person flashbacks, which reveal his audacious path of destruction. Destroyed by his own hubris, Dreier attempts to grasp his tragic unraveling. With unprecedented access, **UNRAVELED** exposes a portrait of a man who achieved the distinction he so desperately craved, but not for his keen intellect or ambition, but rather as a "mastermind of criminal deception."

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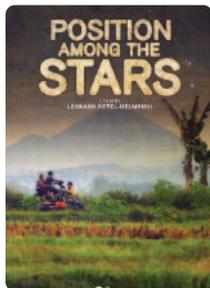
IF A TREE FALLS: A Story of The Earth Liberation Front

A film by MARSHALL CURRY - USA | 2011 | 85' & 58'

Focusing on Oregon-based activist Daniel McGowan, **IF A TREE FALLS** relates the tale of a mild-mannered, middle-class citizen driven to extremes and brought to trial on charges of terrorism for his participation in ELF-related arson plots. Detailing activists' past disillusionment with peaceful public protest, the film poses difficult questions about the possibility of effecting change from either within or without the System in a world fixated on branding all dissenters as terrorists.

Best Editing Award Sundance 2011

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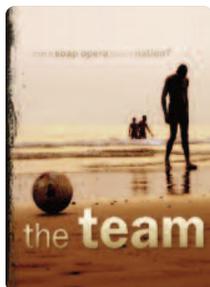
POSITION AMONG THE STARS

A film by LEONARD RETEL HELMRICH - Netherlands | 2010 | 109', 89' & 58'

For 12 years, filmmaker Leonard Retel Helmrich has followed an Indonesian family from the slums of Jakarta. Just as in his previous two multiple award-winning documentaries **EYE OF THE DAY** and **SHAPE OF THE MOON**, Retel continues to show us the underlying patterns of life in Indonesia through the Sjamsuddin family.

Winner: Grand Prize, Feature Length Competition & Best Dutch Documentary Award - IDFA Dec 2010. Special Jury Award Sundance 2011

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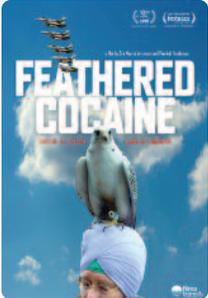
THE TEAM

A film by PATRICK REED - Canada | 2010 | 80' & 56'

Kenya has long been Africa's success story—relatively stable and ethnically harmonious. But following the 2007 elections, everything changed. Voting controversies pushed Kenya toward civil war. A taboo-breaking TV soap was created, **THE TEAM**, following the struggles of a fictional multi-ethnic soccer squad to overcome their differences, both on and off the shoot.

Feature Length Competition - IDFA Dec 2010

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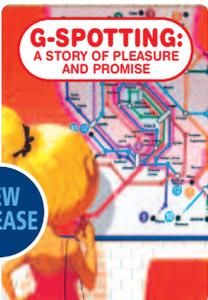
FEATHERED COCAINE: On The Trail of Osama Bin Laden

A film by ÖRN MARINO ARNARSON and THORKELL HARDARSON - Iceland | 2010 | 80' & 58'

One of the worlds leading falconers trained falcons for the Persian Gulf power elite for decades, including the King of Saudi Arabia, President of the United Arab Emirates, and Shah of Iran. After witnessing relentless falcon smuggling in the wake of the USSR's collapse, he left the Middle East and formed a global nature conservation group with like-minded people to protect the falcons. Through his connections he learned of the whereabouts of Osama Bin Laden, who is an obsessed falconer, and also how the Taliban and Al Qaeda receive much of their funding. The falcons are the link to it all.

Nominated First Appearance Competition - IDFA Dec 2010

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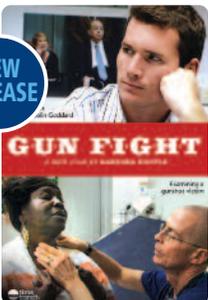


G-SPOTTING: A Story of Pleasure and Promise

A film by SÉGOLÈNE HANOTAUX, GILLES BOVON and HOWARD GOLDBERG
Canada / France | 2011 | 52'

A joyful and surprising film, full of colorful characters, exploring science, sexual liberation, ideological conflicts, and of course ...pleasure. How, in 2011, can there still exist myths around female sexuality? How can the simple mention of this erogenous zone provoke such argument, doubt, and even salacious laughter? How can a simple erogenous zone mysteriously denominated as the "G-Spot" be known to all yet... only very few (or almost no-one) know its location, its physiology or the story of its discovery?

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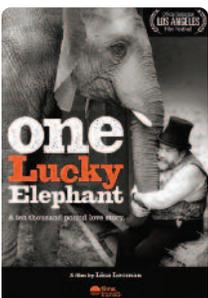


GUN FIGHT

A NEW film by BARBARA KOPPLE | USA | 2011 | 90'

GUN FIGHT, by two-time Oscar-winner Barbara Kopple, takes a fresh look at the impact of guns in America, through vivid stories of people who have a personal stake in the issue. With an estimated 250 million privately-owned guns in America, about 30,000 people are killed by guns in the U.S. every year, and another 65,000 wounded. The debate about how to decrease gun violence has raged for years, with one side campaigning for stricter regulations on gun ownership, and the other side, led by the National Rifle Association (arguably the most powerful lobby in the U.S.) countering that any controls are an infringement of freedoms guaranteed in the U.S. Bill of Rights. Through characters like a gun lobbyist steeped in politics, an ER doctor turned gun researcher, gunshot victims (among them a survivor of the Virginia Tech massacre) and young people trying to make sense of how guns play into their lives, **GUN FIGHT** provides a fresh perspective on an unavoidable part of America's image and reality.

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ONE LUCKY ELEPHANT: A Ten Thousand Pound Love Story

A film by LISA LEEMAN - USA | 2010 | 81' & 58'

Where does an elephant go after a life in the circus? Sixteen years have passed since David Balding adopted Flora, the orphaned baby African elephant he lovingly raised as part of his family and made the star of his circus. Now, an adult animal, he realizes that she is not happy performing. The road to Flora's retirement, however, is a difficult and emotional journey which tests their bond in unexpected ways.

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SEX + RELIGION

A documentary series by **LIAM ROMALIS, JASON CHARTERS** and **ROBERT SANDLER**
Canada | 2011 | 13 x 23'

In a world overflowing with divergent attitudes about sex and religion how do we navigate this provocative landscape? Where does sex fit into the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment? Or does it at all? Is it an integral part of who we are or is it a blind biological drive that leads us away from the spiritual and the divine? **SEX + RELIGION** looks at stories of people trying to answer that question. This unique series shot (in HD) around the world speaks to experts both inside and outside the fold: sex therapists, imams, polygamists, Catholic bishops, rabbis, priests, sex workers, philosophers and gurus, all of whom shed much-needed light on the relationship between **SEX + RELIGION**.

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SEX CRIMES UNIT

A film by **LISA F. JACKSON** - USA | 2011 | 90' & 58'

SEX CRIMES UNIT is an unprecedented look inside the NYC District Attorneys office at the first full time Unit in the country dedicated to the prosecution of rape and sexual assault: the film follows the process of investigation and prosecution every day; tracks through trial the case of a prostitute who dared cry rape, and follows the solving of a 'cold case', the inspiring story of one survivor's 16-year journey to justice. Never before have cameras been allowed into these offices and courtrooms to tell the stories of the dedicated men and women who seek justice for victims of a crime that is under-reported and misunderstood.

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WHITE AND BLACK – The Murder of Albinos in Africa

A film by **JEAN-FRANÇOIS MÉAN** - Canada | 2010 | 58'

White and Black is a unique and shocking 52' documentary film intended to raise awareness about the murder of albinos in East Africa where there is a higher rate of albinism than on other continents of the world. Whereas in North America and Europe it is estimated that 1 in every 20 000 people have some form of albinism, in Tanzania and East Africa albinism affects 1 in 4000 people. Caused by deep rooted superstition and occult practices, people with albinism in Africa are subject to discrimination and often hunted down and savagely hacked to pieces as there is belief that owning a body part of an Albino brings luck...

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!WOMEN ART REVOLUTION - A Secret History

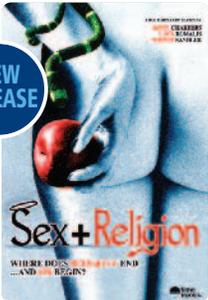
A film by **LYNN HERSHMAN LEESON** - USA | 2010 | 83'

The Feminist Art Movement was an activist movement, providing a model of cultural and political change. Art protests were waged against discrimination and racial exclusion as well as violence against women. Over time, the tenacity and courage of these pioneering women artists resulted in what many historians now feel is the most significant art movement of the 20th century.

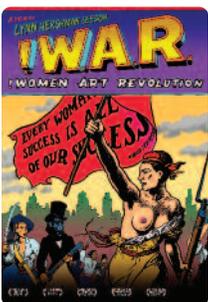
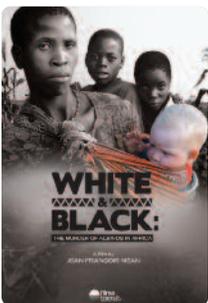
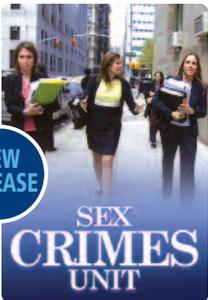
Official Selection: Toronto International Film Festival 2010, Sundance 2011 and Berlin Panorama 2011

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THE 2010 RELEASES

AUTUMN GOLD (90' & 55')

The charming and life-affirming story of five athletes in their preparation for the Track and Field World Championships. Their toughest challenge is their age: these potential world champions are between 80 and 100... An inspiring, insightful view how we can continue to live a vital life right up to and through one's elder years.

DISH, WOMEN, WAITRESSING AND THE ART OF SERVICE (58')

Travel to the North American classic diners, the "sexy restos of Montreal", Paris' haute eateries, and Tokyo's fantasy "maid bars" and get an insider's look at gender, power, and the art of service, revealing the fantasies and desires that customers project onto female servers. You'll never look at a waitress in the same way again.

ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE (82' & 58')

One of the most harrowing and compelling personal documentaries of our time, **ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE** exposes the truth about the Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge who were behind Cambodia's horrific genocide.

FATAL PROMISES (58')

Every year, an estimated 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders from countries of origin to countries of destination. It is a multibillion-dollar global criminal enterprise, now second in size after drugs trafficking and before arms smuggling.

HOLY WARS (80' & 58')

The film follows danger-seeking Christian missionary Aaron Taylor and radical Muslim Irish convert Khalid Kelly, both of whom believe in an apocalyptic battle, after which their religion will ultimately rule the world.

IN THE NAME OF THE FAMILY (58')

On December 10, 2007, a 16-year-old Toronto schoolgirl, Aqsa, was strangled to death by her father; Three weeks later, two teenage sisters were shot to death by their father in Dallas; Six months later a 19-year-old college student was stabbed by her brother. A chilling investigation into honor killings in the Western world, heartbreaking tragedies committed against some young girls who are caught between two cultures.

IN THE WAKE OF THE FLOOD (48')

On the eve of her 70th birthday, Canadian writer Margaret Atwood set out on an international tour criss-crossing the British Isles and North America with her new novel, **IN THE WAKE OF THE FLOOD**.

INTO ETERNITY (75' & 58')

Every day large amounts of high-level radioactive waste are placed in interim storage, vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters or changes in society. In Finland, the world's first permanent repository is being cut out of solid rock - a huge system of underground tunnels - that must last the entire period the waste remains hazardous: 100,000 years....

RAW OPIUM (80')

A journey around the world and through time, where conflicting forces do battle over this narcotic sap. Through interconnected stories filmed in East and West, our assumptions about drug addiction and the War on Drugs are profoundly challenged.

SOUNDS LIKE A REVOLUTION (58')

A pro-active and energizing documentary about a new generation of activist musicians who discuss their motivations and struggles in a post-9/11 environment when media outlets ignored them or forced them into self-censorship before their material was released. Now with the decade gone, the Internet and Obama bring new hope....

STEAM OF LIFE (80')

Naked Finnish men in all types of saunas all over Finland speak straight from the heart about love, death, birth and friendship; about life. In the warmth of the stoves they cleanse themselves both physically and mentally in an exceptionally intimate and poetic film with a deeply emotional and unforgettable finale.

THE DESERT OF FORBIDDEN ART (52')

The incredible story of how a treasure trove of banned Soviet art worth millions of dollars was stashed in a far-off desert of Uzbekistan develops into a larger exploration of how art survives in times of oppression.

THE NUCLEAR COMEBACK - *updated re-release* (52')

The Nuclear Lobby has been quite successful in recent years - the number of nuclear power plants on the planet is set to double. but the nuclear industry has a reputation for human error and accidents, cover-ups, and is linked to nuclear weapons....

THESE AMAZING SHADOWS: The Movies That Make America (58')

What do Casablanca, Blazing Saddles and West Side Story have in common? They are on a list of "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" movies compiled by the Library of Congress in the USA. An extraordinary selection from these American cinema treasures and indeed the American experience itself!

YOU DON'T LIKE THE TRUTH - 4 days inside Guantánamo (99' & 58')

Omar Khadr has been in Guantánamo since 2002. This unique film is about the encounter between a team of Canadian intelligence agents and OMAR using the never before seen video footage of his questioning, recently declassified by the Canadian Courts.