2011 Global Health Film Festival Lineup

"The Other City"
Thursday, April 7th, 4-6 pm, Linsly-Chittenden Hall (LC) Rm. 102 (63 High Street, New Haven, CT)
*Refreshments provided

As the capitol of the most powerful nation on Earth, Washington D.C. is a city dominated by wealth and political influence, but when you move past the Beltway and haunts dominated by the Federal Government and those who serve it, a very different town emerges. The significant majority of Washington D.C.’s permanent residents are African-American and Latino, a large number are gay, and poverty, drug abuse and inadequate housing are all issues the city has struggled with for years. Since the early 1980s, D.C. has also dealt with another crisis, AIDS -- at least three percent of the city's population is HIV Positive, and some have estimated that as much as seven percent may carry the virus.

Filmmaker Susan Koch explores the impact of the AIDS crisis in Washington D.C. in the documentary The Other City, which offers a penetrating glimpse into the Washington D.C. tourists rarely see as well as the people who are living with the disease, survivors dealing with their loss (some of whom are also HIV Positive) and those working to make a difference through education and needle exchange programs. The Other City was an official selection at the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival.

"Red Dust" (short)
Friday, April 8th, 3-5pm, Linsly-Chittenden Hall (LC) Rm. 101 (63 High Street, New Haven, CT)

Red cadmium dust drifted freely in China’s nickel-cadmium battery factories owned and operated by GP BATTERIES (GP), one of the world’s top battery manufacturers. Ren, a migrant worker originally from Sichuan, suffers from frequent headaches and breathing difficulties. If untreated, the cadmium poisoning can lead to kidney failure, cancer, and even death. Red Dust tells an unexamined side of China’s economic development: the resistance, courage, and hope of workers battling occupational disease, demanding justice from the local government and global capital. This documentary is about women who are the engine of the global economy. Although the film takes place in China, the characters’ experiences are universal to workers on the margins around the world, where poverty, migration, and workplace hazards are common realities.
"The Warriors of Qiugang": 2011 Oscar Nominee (short)

Friday, April 8th, 3-5pm, Linsly-Chittenden Hall (LC) Rm. 101 (63 High Street, New Haven, CT)

The Warriors of Qiugang is a 39-minute documentary film that chronicles the story of the Chinese village of Qiugang (pop. 1,900 in ca. 2010), in the suburbs of Bengbu City in Anhui Province in central-eastern China. It tells how a group of Chinese villagers put an end to the poisoning of their land and water by three chemical plants, the worst being Jiucailuo Chemical. For five years they fight to transform their environment and as they do, they find themselves transformed as well.

It was directed and produced by Academy Award winners Ruby Yang and Thomas F. Lennon, respectively. Guan Xin was the field producer and cinematographer. The film was nominated for an Oscar for best Documentary Short Subject.

"The Lazarus Effect" (short)

Friday, April 8th, 3-5pm, Linsly-Chittenden Hall (LC) Rm. 101 (63 High Street, New Haven, CT)

Made in Zambia, the 30-minute film tracks several people who were seriously ill but return to a healthier condition in a relatively short period of time after starting free antiretroviral drug therapy. HIV-positive patients and medical staff recount their experiences and the impact medication has made on their lives in their own words. They include Constance Mudenda, a mother whose children all died of AIDS, and who now works as a peer education supervisor at an AIDS clinic; Paul Nsangu, a young husband and father; Bwalya, an 11-year-old girl who at the beginning of the film looks like a child half her age, because of her disease; and Concillia Muhau, a young mother who recovered from the brink of death, and now also works as a peer counselor.

Interviewees describe their illness and recovery; they also speak about the difficulties involved in persuading people to have themselves tested for HIV, given the severe social stigma that results from a positive test result, and in getting word about the available treatment out to remote rural areas, as well as the logistical problems of providing care to patients who may have to walk for three days to reach a clinic.
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"A Walk to Beautiful"
Friday, April 8th, 6-8:30pm, Linsly-Chittenden Hall (LC) Rm. 101 (63 High Street, New Haven, CT)

Filmmaker Mary_Olive_Smith addresses the troubling topic of obstetric fistula by detailing the arduous journey that many Ethiopian women make to reach the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in an attempt to end their constant misery and overcome the pressing sense of shame that is often associated with the disorder. Every year obstetric fistula affects at least two million women across the globe. A result of neglected childbirth, obstetric fistula is a hole that forms between the vagina and the bladder (and occasionally the rectum) in incidents of prolonged, obstructed labor. In addition to incontinence, obstetric fistula can also result in nerve damage, and, occasionally, the inability to bear future children. Ethiopian women afflicted with obstetric fistula must travel for days and spend a virtual fortune on bus fare simply to receive treatment. By detailing the harrowing birth stories and subsequent journeys of five women who decide to reclaim their dignity by traveling to Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and receiving the free treatment offered by doctors Reginald and Catherine Hamlin, Smith offers hope to the women who have been shunned by family and neighbors while opening the world's eyes to a pressing problem that many are simply too embarrassed to discuss.

“Into Eternity”
Saturday, April 9th, 3-5pm, William L. Harkness Hall Rm. 208 (100 Wall St. New Haven, CT)

Into Eternity is a feature documentary film directed by Michael Madsen. It follows the digging and pre-implementation of the Onkalo nuclear waste repository in Olkiluoto, Finland. This film explores the question of preparing the site so that it is not disturbed for 100,000 years. Even though nothing else ever made by man before has lasted even a fraction of that time. Experts above ground strive to find solutions to this crucially important radioactive waste issue to secure mankind and all species on planet Earth now and in the near and very distant future.

Director Michael Madsen is questioning Onkalo's intended eternal existence, addressing a remotely future audience. More importantly, this documentary raises the question of the authorities responsibility of ensuring compliance with relatively new safety criteria legislation and the principles at the core of nuclear waste management.
“Living In Emergency: Stories of Doctors Without Borders”

(Warning: contains graphic images)

Saturday, April 9th, 7-10pm, Linsly-Chittenden Hall (LC) Rm. 101 (63 High Street, New Haven, CT)
*Refreshments provided

Set in war-torn Congo and post-conflict Liberia, Living in Emergency interweaves the stories of four doctors as they struggle to provide emergency medical care in extreme conditions. Two of the doctors are new recruits: a 26 year-old Australian stranded in a remote bush clinic and an American surgeon struggling to cope under the load of emergency cases in a shattered capital city. Two others are experienced field hands: a dynamic Head of Mission, valiantly trying to keep morale high and tensions under control, and an exhausted veteran, who has seen too much horror and wants out. Amidst the chaos, each volunteer must confront the severe challenges of the work, the tough choices, and the limits of their idealism.

Living in Emergency premiered at the 65th Venice Film Festival and continues to screen at film festivals around the world. It was released theatrically at the Lumiere Theater in San Francisco and other theaters in the US on June 4, 2010.