

2016

**FREEDOM
FILM FEST**

PROGRAM BOOK

FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016 IN OTHER LOCATIONS

JOHOR BAHRU : September 24

MUAR : September 25

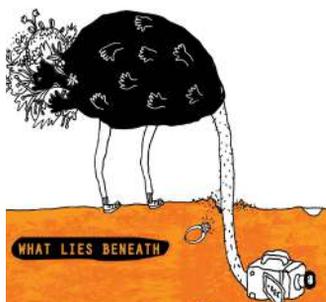
PENANG : September 30 - October 2

IPOH : October 8

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH : October 15

KUCHING, SARAWAK : November 5

SINGAPORE : November 19 - 20



The FreedomFilmFest 2016 theme “What Lies Beneath” reflects this international documentary film festival’s ongoing mission to cast the spotlight on underrepresented human rights and public interest issues through the powerful medium of film. This year’s theme is a call for everyone to dig deeper into the many urgent issues that individuals, groups, society and humanity are facing today.

Photo credits: Front cover - Peluk and Simo of the film “Unlocking Bengoh” courtesy of Evangeline Thian (Malaysia). Back cover - Kachin State (Myanmar) miners scrambling for Jade stones from the film “Vein”, courtesy of Directors Htet Aung San, Ko Jet, Phyo Zayar Kyaw (Myanmar).

FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

The FreedomFilmFest (FFF)

The FFF since 2003 has created a vital platform for social filmmakers and human rights activists to showcase their films and advocate their causes. The FFF's annual film competition, video workshops and film screenings bring us outstanding human rights films that are otherwise unseen by the public due to little commercial support and control of the mainstream media. The FFF harnesses the power of films as a medium for exchanging experiences, sharpening analysis and understanding social and human rights issues.

About The Organizer

KOMAS is the pioneer NGO in Malaysia dedicated to the use of popular communications, creative media and participative methodology in human rights education since its establishment in 1993. Apart from the FFF, KOMAS actively advocates for Democracy and Equality through its non-discrimination program 'Bangsa Malaysia', and 'Citizenship and Voter Education' activities.



PREFACE

Welcome to the 14th edition of the FreedomFilmFest.

This year we are presenting a selection of 30 powerful films from different parts of the world resonating our festival theme which is “What Lies Beneath”. We hope these films will give you new insights and ways to look at critical issues currently confronting humanity today, ranging from food security, refugee crisis and the growing threat of terrorism.



*Anna Har Mei Yoke,
Festival Director, FFF2016
PUSAT KOMAS MALAYSIA*

We also badly need to keep our hopes alive for the possibility of a better world, and continue being part of a practical and powerful people-centered solution.

Thus this year we are introducing a series of specially curated interactive forums called “The Freedom Talk Series”. These forums will zoom in sharply on a particular key issue or question in each of the selected themes for deeper discussions and hopefully to identify viable solutions.

For film makers and film enthusiasts, look out for the masterclasses by international award winning documentary filmmakers Marcus Vetter from Germany and Sean McAllister from the United Kingdom.

The year’s festival will also be a space for the gathering of SEA video activists whose films are being screened at the festival. For the first time a 3-day forum for video activists will be organized for exchanging skills, experiences and knowledge. We are eager to see this as the beginning of a stronger regional solidarity among video activists to support one another and to advocate each other’s causes.

Sustaining an annual international human rights film festival of this level in Malaysia continues to be a big challenge for a small non-profit organization like KOMAS. Besides careful consideration for financial and logistical resources, we also constantly face risks in our quest to promote human rights and support alternative and critical filmmaking and films in Malaysia. Nevertheless, we continue to grapple with this arduous task because we believe that the FreedomFilmFest (FFF) has a critical role to play in maintaining and defending free spaces, and right to information and expression in Malaysia.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our volunteers, partners and sponsors past and present whose support is the reason why the FreedomFilmFest can still exist until today.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FREEDOM TALK SERIES

These are creatively designed and well facilitated forums to encourage meaningful participation from the audience. The series of 5 forums feature different themes which will be commented on by invited resource persons with relevant experiences and expertise in the subjects.

SOUTHEAST ASIA 'VIDEO FOR CHANGE' (V4C) FORUM

This special event is scheduled for 3 half-days and intended for Malaysian and regional activists who use videos for activism and community organizing in their respective Southeast Asian countries. The objective is to build capacity through sharing of skills and experiences in strengthening networking and solidarity. The event will culminate in a regional panel on censorship and freedom of expression. Those who are interested must register with the organizers and be committed to attend the entire 3 half-days of this event. A complete agenda of the SEA "Video 4 Change" program is available upon request.

FILM AWARDS

A total of 30 film entries were screened and 5 winning films and 2 grant winners were selected under the categories as follows:

- Best International Film
- Best SEA Film (short, below 30 mins)
- Best SEA Film (long, above 30 mins)
- Malaysian Film Grant Winners

The winning films were selected by an esteemed panel of judges which consisted of credible members of the film industry and human rights activists. Each winner will receive the 'Justin Louis' trophy, in honour of KOMAS' first coordinator who drowned during a fact finding mission to investigate alleged human rights violations committed on the Indigenous Penan community in Sarawak. The trophies were carved by artisans of the indigenous Orang Asli Mahmeri community, renowned for their woodcraft.

MALAYSIAN FILM PREMIERES

Lookout for the three homegrown films that will premiere at the festival:

• ***Kisah Pelayaran ke Terengganu (Voyage to Terengganu)***

A film by Amir Muhammad & Badrul Hisham Ismail, an impressionistic travelogue of Terengganu which is partly inspired by Munshi Abdullah's scathing 1838 account of the state.

• ***Unlocking Bengoh (Bengoh: Dua Perjalanan)***

Recipient of the FFF2016 Film Grant. A film by Nova Goh that tells the story of the Bidayuh communities affected by the Bengoh Dam in Sarawak.

• ***Stories From My Father (Kisah Ayahku)***

Recipient of the FFF2016 Film Grant. A film by Ashleigh Lim which chronicles her father's experiences in detention without trial from 1968 to 1974 under Malaysia's Internal Security Act.

ORGANIZED BY

Pusat KOMAS

In Cooperation With

Selangor State Government

Penang State Government

Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia

Supported By

Penang Institute

MyDocs

British Council

Amnesty International

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Goethe Institute

Embassy of the United States

Partners

Function 8 (Singapore)

Asylum Art Club Kota Kinabalu

Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam (KUASA)

Panggau (Sarawak)

LOTTA (Muar)

SUARAM (Penang)

LUMA (Penang)

ENGAGE (Johor Baharu)

La Salle Centre (Ipoh)

PJ Live Arts

Festival Team

Festival Director: Anna Har

Festival Manager (Program): Lena Hendry

Festival Manager (Admin. and Finance): Faribel Maglin

Board of Advisors and Facilitators: Tan Jo Hann and Jerald Joseph

Production Consultant: Brenda Danker

PR and Publicity: Debbie Loh & Amanda Soh

Design and Layout: Tsuji Lam and Kua Chia Chi

Translation: Joshua Michael, Debbie Chow, Maisarah Muhd Najib

Technical Consultant: Goldwyn Matthews

Website Input: Justine Chew

Trophy Carver: Mizan Hassan (Mahmeri tribe, Carey Island)

Festival Support: Ryan Chua, Choo Huey Shin, Kayo Sunazawa
and Salbiah Ahmad

Film Preview and Selection Committee:

Brenda Danker

Angela Rodriguez

Fadiyah Nadwa Fikri

Maisarah Muhd. Najib

Philip Wong

Seira Sacha

Thomas Barker

Tham Kar Yin

Andrew Ng Yew Han

Mikkel Dyrting

Mustafa K Anuar

Au Yong Seok Wun

FESTIVAL RULES & REGULATIONS

You can pre register online or get your ticket at the entrance 20 minutes before the screening.

Entry is by donation- RM20 for whole day and RM150 for all festival days. Admission is free for students and senior citizens with valid IDs. This excludes opening and awards ceremonies.

Doors will only be open 10 minutes before each session.

All screenings are private and admission is by registration only. Organizers reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone based on their discretion.

Screenings will start on time, and as indicated in the schedule unless announced otherwise.

Food is not allowed inside the screening venue.

Seats will be on a first come first serve basis and no booking of seats is allowed.

Video recordings and photography in all festival event locations are strictly prohibited without prior permission from the organizers.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Date/Time	Event
Aug 20 (Sat)	
2 - 4 PM	Film: The Borneo Case (90 min)
4 - 5 PM	Film: The Disappearing Hills (30 min)
6 - 7 PM	Dinner Reception
7 - 10:30 PM	FFF 2016 Opening Ceremony
	Stories From My Father (Kisah AyahKu) (25 min),
	Unlocking Bengoh (Bengoh:Dua Perjalanan) (25 min)
	Kisah Pelayaran Ke Terengganu (Voyage to Terengganu) (60 min)

Aug 21 (Sun)	
11 AM - 1 PM	Masterclass 1: Exposing The Invisible
1:30-3:30 PM	Film: Among the Believers (90 min)
4 - 5 PM	Freedom Talk 1: Educating The Believers
5 - 6 PM	Special Event: #ACT4CAT- Campaign Against Torture
7 - 9:30 PM	Film: The Promise (130 min)

Aug 22 (Mon)	
2:30 - 5:30 PM	Masterclass 2: Marcus Vetter
7 - 8 PM	Film: Bangkit dari Bayangan (Rising From the Shadows) (35 min)
8 - 10 PM	Film: Radical Grace (77 min)

Date/Time	Event
Aug 23 (Tues)	
1 - 3:30 PM	Masterclass 3: Sean McAllister
4 - 6 PM	Film: A Syrian Love Story (75 min)
7 - 9 PM	Film: A Very German Welcome (90 min)
9 - 10 PM	Freedom Talk 2: Refugee Phobia

Aug 24 (Wed)	
1 - 6 PM	SEA Video for Change Forum (V4C)
1:30 - 2 PM	Film: Ang Matir Kong Anak (My Martyred Son) (11 min)
2 - 2:30 PM	Film: When Women Fight (16 min)
2:30 - 3 PM	Film: The Forgotten Struggle (15 min)
3 - 3:30 PM	Film: Karatagan Ciremei (17 min)
3:30 - 4 PM	Film: Big Stories Small Town (7 min)
4 - 4:30 PM	Film: Unsilent Potato (22 min)
4:30 - 5 PM	Film: Birthday (8 min)
5 - 6 PM	Film: Kenya: A Guidebook To Impunity (60 min)
7 - 8:30 PM	Film: So Close So Far, the Ancestral Forest (60 min)
8:30 - 10 PM	Film: I Am Chut Wutty (53 min)

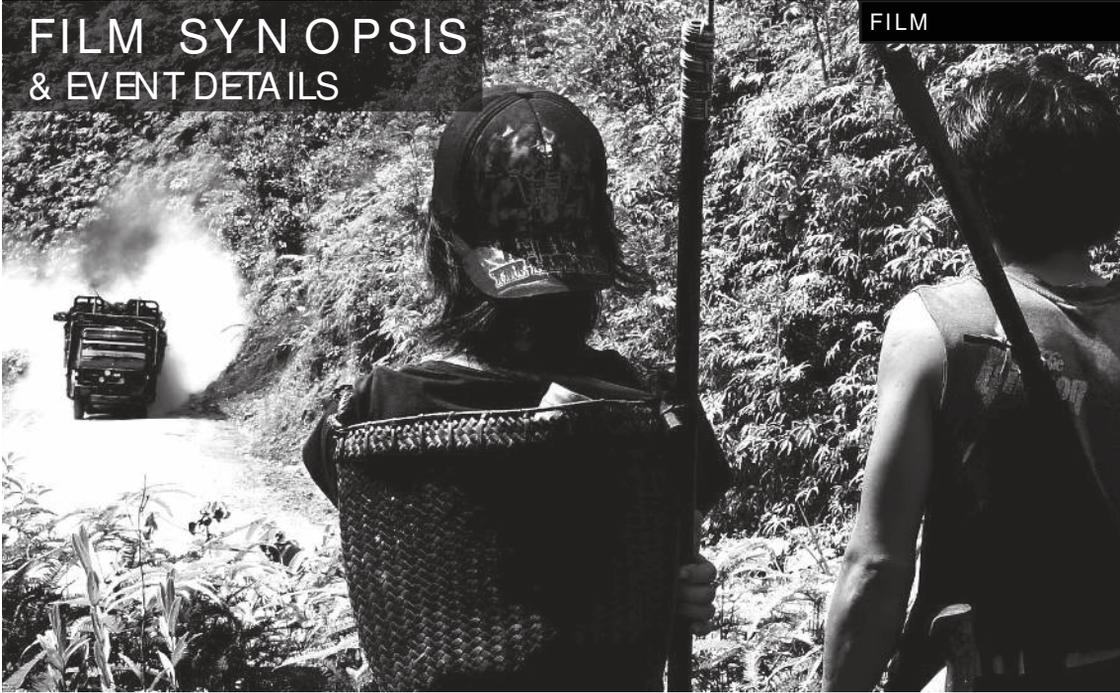
Date/Time	Event
Aug 25 (Thurs)	
1 - 6 PM	SEA Video for Change Forum (V4C)
7 - 8 PM	Film: Emak Dari Jambi (Mom from Jambi) (38 min)
8 - 9 PM	Film: Pertanyaan Untuk Bapak (A Question For My Father) (40 min)
9 - 10 PM	Film: Nyalon (40 min)

Aug 26 (Fri)	
11 AM - 1 PM	Freedom Talk 3: Dealing With the Cut - SEA Perspectives
1 - 6 PM	SEA Video for Change Forum (V4C)
7 - 8 PM	Film: Vein (30 min)
8 - 9:30 PM	Film: Heartware (5 min)
	Film: Naked DJ (60 min)

Aug 27 (Sat)	
11 AM - 1 PM	Film: 10 Billion- What's On Your Plate (102 min)
1 - 2 PM	Freedom Talk 4: The Good Food Revolution
2 - 4:30 PM	Masterclass 4: Sean McAllister (Simultaneous Event)
2 - 3:30 PM	Film: Moest Valjas (Out Of Fashion) (60 min)
4 - 5 PM	Freedom Talk 5: Everyday Activism
5 - 6 PM	Film: Moving Voices: Stories From The Block
6 - 7 PM	Dinner Reception
7 - 10:30 PM	Awards Night
	A Syrian Love Story (75 min)

FILM SYNOPSIS & EVENT DETAILS

FILM

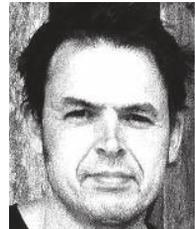


THE BORNEO CASE

90 min
2015

The "Borneo Case" tells the compelling story of the ongoing destruction of the Borneo rainforest and of the hunt for the billions of dollars of profits that have been filtered away into secret bank accounts and property portfolios around the world. The film follows an unlikely cast of investigators as they try to make sense of what has happened in Sarawak in the last 30 years.

Filem 'The Borneo Case' menghuraikan kisah kemusnahan yang sedang dialami hutan-hutan rimba Borneo serta pencarian berbilion wang ringgit yang telah lesap ditapis ke dalam akaun bank rahsia dan portfolio hartanah di merata dunia. Filem ini mengikuti sekumpulan penyiasat serta usaha mereka dalam mengekspos apa yang sebenarnya berlaku di negeri Sarawak sejak 30 tahun yang lepas.



Erik Pauser (top) & Dylan Williams (below), Directors, SWEDEN

AUGUST 20
(SAT)
4-5 PM

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FILM



30 mins
2015

THE DISAPPEARING HILLS

Soldiers wielding M-16 rifles stood guard as excavators mowed down rows of chrysanthemums, while farmers watched years of their hard work destroyed under government orders. Although development in Cameron Highlands (Malaysia) resulted in secure and comfortable lifestyles for many farmers, it also cleared forests for farm expansion and caused annual flooding that destroyed lives and properties. Rivers are also contaminated with human waste, plastics and dangerous levels of pesticides. This film documents the human stories behind these environmental issues.

Sekumpulan anggota tentera memegang senapang M-16 sambil mengawasi sebuah kawasan dipenuhi mesin pemotong yang memusnahkan deretan bunga krisantemum. Para pekebun hanya mampu melihat hasil usaha bertahun mereka lesap dalam sekelip mata. Baru-baru ini, pihak kerajaan telah mendesak bahawa kawasan Cameron Highlands perlu dimajukan lagi. Walaupun hal ini telah membawa kehidupan yang lebih selesa dan terjamin di kalangan pekebun, namun telah menyebabkan kemusnahan hutan semula jadi, masalah banjir, kemusnahan harta, serta pencemaran sungai daripada pembuangan najis manusia, plastik dan penggunaan racun perosak yang tinggi. Filem ini menguraikan kisah-kisah mereka yang terlibat dalam isu alam sekitar ini.



Yeo Kai Wen,
Director,
SINGAPORE

OPENING CEREMONY

There will be an official opening ceremony followed by the premiere of 3 Malaysian films, "Stories From My Father" (Kisah Ayahku) and "Bengoh Unlocking" (Bengoh: Dua Perjalanan), and "Kisah Pelayaran ke Terengganu" (Voyage to Terengganu)



STORIES FROM MY FATHER (KISAH AYAHKU)

25 min
2016

A daughter tries to make connections between her seemingly ordinary life and her father's past as he shares with her about his experiences in detention without trial from 1968 to 1974, under Malaysia's Internal Security Act (ISA). He was jailed for his involvement in the Labour Party which was subsequently outlawed because of its pro-communist leanings. The film also offers us a glimpse of his experience after detention, his continued friendship with other ex-detainees as well as life with his family.

Usaha seorang anak perempuan untuk menghubungkan kehidupannya sekarang dengan masa silam ayahnya yang pernah ditahan tanpa bicara di bawah Akta Keselamatan Dalam Negeri (ISA) Malaysia dari tahun 1968 hingga 1974 atas penglibatan beliau dalam Parti Buruh yang telah diharamkan kerana pengaruh pro-komunisme. Filem ini juga menceritakan pengalaman beliau selepas ditahan, persahabatan beliau dengan bekas banduan yang lain serta kehidupan seharian bersama keluarganya.

**FFF2016 Film
Grant Winner**



Ashleigh Lim
Director, MALAYSIA

AUGUST 20

(SAT)

7-10:30 PM

FILM

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25 min
2016

UNLOCKING BENG OH

(BENG OH : DUA PERJALANAN)

Simo, Peluk and Sagen's families had lived in Sarawak's Bengoh valley for generations until recently, when they were forced to leave their ancestral home to make way for the Bengoh reservoir dam. This story follows the director's journey as he discovers the true price of relocation that these families have to pay in the name of development.

**FFF2016 Film
Grant Winner**



Nova Goh
Director, MALAYSIA

Setelah bergenerasi, keluarga Simo Sekam, Peluk Apeh dan Sagen Adan yang hidup di Lembah Bengoh, Sarawak telah dipaksa meninggalkan tempat tinggal nenek moyang mereka untuk memberi laluan kepada pembinaan Empangan Bengoh. Kisah ini mengikuti perjalanan seorang pengarah yang ingin mengetahui lebih tentang kesusahan yang sebenarnya dialami keluarga-keluarga ini akibat kemajuan.

FILM



K I S A H P E L A Y A R A N K E T E R E N G G A N U

(VOYAGE TO TERENGGANU)

65 min
2016

The laid-back, scenic and conservative Terengganu was the only one out of the 13 states of Malaysia that director Amir Muhammad had never been to. So he decided to go there for the first time in December 2015 and do a kind-of-travelogue about it. He quotes from “Voyage to the East Coast” (1838), a book by Munshi Abdullah (often referred to as the father of Malay journalism) which had some very scathing observations about the state and the men who live in it. These quotes are interspersed with conversations with some Terengganu men of today. Co-directed by Badrul Hisham Ismail who is a Terengganu native.

Dengan tradisi yang kaya, pemandangan indah serta keadaan yang tenang, Terengganu merupakan satu-satu daripada 13 negeri Malaysia yang tidak pernah dijejaki pengarah Amir Muhammad. Setelah berputus untuk mengunjungi negeri tersebut pada bulan Disember 2015, beliau telah menghasilkan rakaman perjalanannya. Berdasarkan kata-kata Munshi Abdullah (sering dianggap sebagai bapa kewartawanan Melayu) dalam bukunya “Pelayaran ke Pantai Timur” (1838), yang telah memberi gambaran buruk kepada negeri serta penduduk Terengganu, pengarah telah berbual bersama penduduk-penduduk megenainya. Membantunya ialah Badrul Hisham, seorang anak jati Terengganu.



Amir Muhammad (top), Badrul Hisham Ismail (below), Directors, MALAYSIA

AUGUST 21
(SUN)
11 AM - 1 PM

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MASTERCLASS 1

EXPOSING THE INVISIBLE

The digital age especially the internet has profoundly transformed the way activists, hackers and journalists find and share information. Non-experts can learn how to conduct investigative research and information gathering to uncover hidden information, expose corruption and bring the truth to light. This masterclass helmed by the Tactical Technology Collective, a non-profit organization based in Berlin, will share different techniques, tools and methods designed to help advocates and individual practitioners promote rights, accountability and transparency by using information and digital technologies effectively.





AMONG THE BELIEVERS

84 min
2015

Firebrand cleric Abdul Aziz Ghazi an ISIS supporter and Taliban ally is waging 'jihad' against the Pakistani government with the aim of imposing 'Syariah' law. His primary weapon is his expanding network of Islamic seminaries or 'Madrasahs' for children as young as four years of age. The documentary 'Among the Believers' follows Aziz's personal quest and charts the lives of two of his teenage students who are pawns in his ideological war.

Ulama Abdul Aziz Ghazi, seorang penyokong ISIS serta sekutu kepada Taliban telah mengumumkan jihad ke arah kerajaan Pakistan. Tujuan jihad ini adalah untuk mendesak kerajaan pusat untuk melaksanakan undang-undang Syariah di Pakistan. Kaedah utama yang digunakan Ulama Abdul Aziz untuk menyebarkan sentimennya adalah melalui pembukaan Madrasah yang diperuntukkan untuk kanak-kanak semuda 4 tahun. Dokumentari 'Among the Believers' ini menerangkan misi peribadi Ulama Aziz serta cara hidup dua orang pengikut remajanya yang menjadi bidak dalam sebuah peperangan ideologi.



Hemal Trivedi (top),
Mohammed Ali
Naqvi (below),
Directors, PAKISTAN

AUGUST 21
(SUN)
4-5 PM

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FREEDOM
TALK 1

EDUCATING THE BELIEVERS

The spread of Islamic radicalism & the check and control of Islamic Madrasahs and other religious bodies responsible in teaching and spreading this ideology/theology is of great concern in the wake of global and domestic terrorism. The forum aims to discuss these issues especially the role and responsibility of the state and religious bodies in monitoring extremists groups in the country.



MALAYSIA,
LET'S MAKE A STAND ON
TORTURE
SIGN OUR PETITION
#ACT4CAT
#HENTISEKSA

SPECIAL EVENT

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN
FOR MALAYSIA'S
ACCESSION TO THE...

CONVENTION
AGAINST
TORTURE

PHOTO: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

#ACT4CAT

Join us at the FreedomFilmFest 2016 on August 20 - 21 2016 to learn more about the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) and what you can do to help the campaign in Malaysia! You can also support the campaign to criminalize and eradicate torture by signing the petition at amnesty.my/calling-ratify-un-convention-against-torture to urge the Malaysian Prime Minister to ratify the UNCAT.

This is a joint campaign by SUHAKAM, Amnesty International Malaysia, the Malaysian Bar, Lawyers for Liberty and SUARAM which calls for the ratification of UNCAT in Malaysia. To achieve this, the campaign tries to increase public awareness of the need for Malaysia to ratify the convention. At the moment we are highlighting these issues and generating public support before coming out with concrete ways to galvanize those in power to move forward on them.

#ACT4CAT SPECIAL SESSION

Date: August 21 2016

Time: 5 - 6 PM

Venue: Studio, PJLA

EXHIBITION

Date: August 20 - 21

Venue: PJLA Foyer (Outside Theatre)

AUGUST 21
(SUN)
7-9:30 PM

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FILM



THE PROMISE THE STORY OF JENS SOERING & ELIZABETH HANSON
A special preview of Marcus Vetter's latest documentary organized in conjunction with his Masterclass on August 22.

131 min
2016

On March 30, 1985, Elizabeth's parents were brutally murdered in their Virginia home in USA. The authorities suspect Elizabeth and her lover Jens and they flee the country to Asia and Europe but were finally arrested in April 30, 1986 and Jen was convicted of the crime. He was 19 years old then but after having spent more than half of his life in prison in the United States, he is now 48 years old. He has been denied parole 13 times and the next hearing is in 2016. New forensic evidence and other discoveries have thrown dramatic twists to his conviction and these are captured in this film which is a love story, a tragedy, a mystery, a tale about provincial America and of the American justice system.

Pada 30 haribulan Mac 1985, kedua ibu bapa Elizabeth telah dibunuh dengan kejam dalam rumah mereka di Virginia, Amerika Syarikat. Setelah disyaki untuk jenayah tersebut Elizabeth bersama kekasihnya Jen telah melarikan diri ke Asia dan Eropah. Namun mereka berjaya ditangkap pada 30 April 1986 di mana Jen telah disabitkan atas pembunuhan tersebut semasa umurnya 19 tahun. Setelah meringkuk di dalam sebuah penjara di Amerika syarikat selama lebih separuh hayatnya, beliau kini berumur 48 tahun. Permohonan parol beliau juga telah dinafikan sebanyak 13 kali dan perbicaraan seterusnya akan diadakan pada tahun 2016. Penemuan bukti forensic terkini telah memberikan corak nada yang baru kepada kes beliau. Filem ini menceritakan sebuah kisah cinta, tragedi, misteri serta menghuraikan sistem keadilan di Amerika Syarikat.



Marcus Vetter (top), Karin Steinberger (below), Directors, GERMANY

MASTERCLASS 2

THE THIN LINE BETWEEN
DOCUMENTARY & FICTION

This masterclass covers the journey of a documentary – from the first idea to the final festival strategy. 'The Promise' which is a case study based on the true crime story will be screened on August 21. It is conducted by Marcus Vetter in collaboration with the Malaysian Documentary Association (MyDocs) and supported by the Goethe Institute, KL.

Marcus Vetter is a German film maker whose films have received attention in national and international film festivals and have won numerous prizes including three 'Adolf Grimme Awards', the German equivalent to the American Oscar Award. He was born in 1967, graduated in Economics and Media Theory and Practice and since 1994 he has been working as a TV editor, producer and director at ARD/SWR in Baden-Baden and Stuttgart, Germany. Among his films are: The Tunnel (1999), War Games (2002), The Unbreakables (2006), My Father the Turk (2006), Heart of Jenin (2008) and the Forecaster (2014).

MyDocs is a non-profit association, first established in 2013 by a group of passionate documentary filmmakers in Malaysia who wanted to create a more integrated network and platform for local filmmakers to grow and excel in the documentary industry.



AUGUST 22
(MON)
7-8 PM

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FILM



**BANGKIT
DARI
BAYANGAN**
(RISING FROM
THE SHADOWS)

35 min
2015



Norhayati Kapriwi
Director, MALAYSIA

Nyai Masriyah Amva the wife of a religious leader in Indonesia is in fear of losing her identity along with the demise of her husband. The Islamic religious boarding school 'peasantren' which has been a big part of her life would be closed down since Indonesia's patriarchal society acknowledges only male leaders. She has transformed herself from being an ordinary housewife to become the leader of the 'peasantren' and also advocating for gender equality and inter-religious harmony among her 700 male and 500 female students and community. This documentary portrays her life and challenges as she sets a new tradition in her society based on her beliefs that female leadership is also part of the Islamic tradition.

Nyai Masriyah Amva seorang isteri kepada seorang pemimpin agama menghadapi ancaman kehilangan identitinya setelah kematian suaminya. Oleh kerana masyarakat Indonesia yang mengamalkan patriarki di mana hanya pihak lelaki diberikan kesahan untuk memimpin, 'peasantren' iaitu asrama keagamaan yang diketuai suami beliau ditutup selepas kematiannya. Beliau kemudian telah menjadi ketua 'peasantren' mendiang suaminya serta advokasikan keharmonian antara agama di kalangan pelajar 700 orang pelajar lelaki dan 500 orang pelajar wanita. Documentari ini membawa para penonton ke dalam kehidupan harian Nyai Masriyah Amva serta cabaran yang di hadapi beliau yang memulakan tradisi baru bahawa kepimpinan wanita adalah salah satu bahagian dalam Islam.



RADICAL GRACE

75min
2015

In February 2012, the Vatican officially censured American nuns putting them under the supervision of conservative bishops as an effort to stamp out 'radical feminism' and to coerce sisters to follow its conservative interpretation of the doctrine. The Vatican's message was clear - Feminism is simply incompatible with Catholicism and if you want to remain a part of the Church you must abandon your 'radical' ideology.

Pihak Vatikan pada bulan Februari 2012 telah secara resmi meletakkan para rahib perempuan di bawah pengawasan biskop-biskop dalam usaha menghalang sentimen feminisme radikal daripada merebak di antara mereka di samping mendesak mereka untuk mengikuti doktrin keagamaan yang lebih konservatif. Dengan mengambil langkah ini, pihak Vatikan telah menyatakan dengan tegas bahawa feminisme tidak sejajar dengan ajaran gereja Katolik dan telah memberikan kata dua kepada para rahib untuk memilih antara meneruskan menjadi sebahagian daripada gereja atau ideology 'radikal' feminisme.



Rebecca Parish
Director, USA

AUGUST 23
(TUES)
1-3:30 PM

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MASTERCLASS 3

THE LONELY LIFE OF A SELF SHOOTING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

In this masterclass, Sean McAllister will introduce his work by showing clips from his previous films in Iraq, Israel, Yemen and will focus on his most recent film, "A Syrian Love Story" which will be screened on August 23 and 27. The film was shot in Syria where McAllister was arrested and held in prison. He illustrates how to craft a character driven film, 'casting' the right person to 'allow in' and intimately follow him in this project which took 5 years in the making. McAllister will address the hurdles he faced in developing a relationship with his protagonists and ways to humanise a people often only seen in 3-minute news bites. Sean has been making award winning documentary films for 15 years mostly around the Middle East. He was one of the first pioneers of 'self shooting' in an unscripted way, making very intimate films. His films, "Working for the Enemy" (1997) and "Minders" (1998) were both nominated for a Royal Television Society Awards, and "Liberace of Baghdad" (2004) won the Sundance Jury Prize. "A Syrian Love Story (2015) was nominated Best Debut at the 2016 British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) and Best Documentary at the 2015 British Independent Film Awards. It won the Best Documentary Award at the 2015 European Film Awards; Documentary Of The Year Award in the 2015 The Critics Circle; Grand Jury Award at the 2015 Sheffield Doc/Fest, and Best Film Award at the One World International Human Rights Film festival in Prague 2016.

This masterclass is conducted in collaboration with MyDocs and supported by the British Council, KL. MyDocs is a non-profit association, first established in 2013 by a group of passionate documentary filmmakers in Malaysia who wanted to create a more integrated network and platform for local filmmakers to grow and excel in the documentary industry.





A SYRIAN LOVE STORY

75 min
2015

45 year old Amer met 40 year old Raghda in a Syrian prison cell 15 years ago. They soon fell in love and when they were released, they got married and started a family. The family was given political asylum in France and watched the revolution from afar waiting for Assad to fall. We see their new life in France develop as their relationship is now beginning to fall apart. The film powerfully points out why people are literally dying for change in the Arab world.

15 tahun yang lalu, Amer yang pada ketika itu berumur 45 tahun telah berjumpa Ragda yang berumur 40 tahun di dalam sebuah penjara Syria. Penemuan tersebut telah menyebabkan mereka jatuh hati lalu berkahwin dan berkeluarga selepas dilepaskan penjara. Semasa revolusi menentang Assad di Syria mereka telah diberikan perlindungan politik di Perancis. Filem ini menceritakan kehidupan baru mereka di Perancis di mana hubungan mereka semakin merekah sert sentimen dunia Arab yang kini mendahagakan perubahan.



Sean McAllister
Director, UK

AUGUST 23
(TUES)
7-9 PM

26 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FILM



90 min
2014

A V E R Y G E R M A N W E L C O M E



Carsten Rau (top),
Hauke Wendler (below),
Directors, GERMANY

The 90-minute documentary film focuses on two communities (representation of 81 million Germans) and follows refugees, local residents and the division manager of the overburdened administration for nearly a year and questions what is it that prevents a sustainable policy shift in the way the country deals with foreigners and integration. The film is made by multiple award winning Directors Carsten Rau and Hauke Wendler.

Filem ini menggambarkan 2 komuniti yang berbeza (di antara 81 juta rakyat Jerman) dan mengikuti kisah para pelarian, penduduk tempatan, serta seorang pengurus dari pihak pentadbiran yang telah mengalami bebanan kerja selama setahun dan membangkitkan isue mengenai pelaksanaan sebuah dasar yang lebih sesuai dalam menangani pendatang asing serta integrasi. Filem ini ciptaan pengarah ternama Carsten Rau dan Hauke Wendler.

REFUGEE PHOBIA

Millions of refugees cross borders each day and receiving countries and host communities are confronted with adjustments and coping with these new arrivals. While some communities are deeply moved by the plight of the refugees they are also afraid of their own safety and security living next to their new neighbours. Socio-cultural habits, religious practices and even dietary preferences are often nagging factors affecting adaptations and compromises between refugees and their host countries. The forum will seriously look at initiatives, good practices or even failed ventures in order to explore viable and practicable solutions towards a more harmonious co-existence between refugees and receiving host communities in Malaysia.

AUGUST 24

(W ED)

1:30-2 PM

28 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FILM



11 min
2016

ANG MATIR KONG ANAK (M Y MARTYRED SON)

In March 30, 2016, thousands of drought-stricken farmers from North Cotabato in Mindanao, Philippines had occupied the main highway of their provincial capital to demand rice and agricultural support from the government. The police shot and killed two people and injured many others. 'My Martyred Son' is a story about the untimely death of the young Darwin Sulang, one of the farmers killed in the incident told by his parents.



King Catoy
Director, PHILIPPINES

Pada March 30 2016, beribu pekebun ayng mengalami kemarau yang teruk daripada Utara Cotabato, Mindanao, Filipina telah menduduki kawasan jalan raya di ibu pejabat daerah untuk menuntut beras daripada pihak kerajaan. Dalam insiden tersebut, pihak polis telah menembak mati 2 orang serta mencederakan ramai lagi. 'My Martyred Son' merupakan sebuah kisah mengenai kematian Darwin Sulang, salah seorang daripada pekebun yang ditembak mati. Kisahnya diceritakan oleh kedua ibu bapanya.



WHEN WOMEN FIGHT

16 min
2016

This film tells the story about Kalimantan's 18 years of forest fires and haze shared by a young indigenous Dayak woman who has been fighting to stop the forest fires and haze on the ground. The film presents facts which are already known by many people and talks about the government's responses, the suffering of the people and their ongoing efforts to end this 18-year terror.

Filem ini menghuraikan masalah pembakaran hutan serta jerebu yang telah melanda kawasan Kalimantan selama 18 tahun dari perspektif seorang wanita Dayak pribumi yang telah berusaha menghentikan masalah ini. Filem ini memperlihatkan fakta-fakta yang telah diketahui ramai mengenai masalah jerebu, respon dari pihak kerajaan, penderitaan rakyat serta usaha-usaha yang dilaksanakan untuk menghentikan masalah jerebu yang telah berlanjutan selama 18 tahun.



Emmanuela Dewi Shinta
Director, INDONESIA

AUGUST 24

(W ED)

2:30-3 PM

30 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FILM



15 min
2015

THE FORGOTTEN STRUGGLE: A STORY OF WEST PAPUA

Mama Tineke Rumakabu is a victim of extreme violence in the Biak (an island of West Papua or Irian Jaya) massacre. She was divorced by her first husband because of the shame he felt after she was raped and tortured. Mama Tineke then had to leave her children and village and she had remarried. Both she and her new husband had become figureheads of the non-violent movement of the Biak people against the oppressive and cruel Indonesian government. In late 2015 Mama Tineke returned to her children and village. This documentary film captures her homecoming in late 2015 and shows that the spirit of nationalism continues to thrive in West Papua.



Wensislaus Fatubun
Director, West Papua
INDONESIA

Mama Tineke Rumakabu merupakan seorang mangsa penyeksaan dan beliau juga dirogol dalam kejadian pembunuhan beramai-ramai di Biak [sebuah pulau di Papua Barat atau Irian Jaya]. Suami pertamanya telah menceraikan beliau kerana malu akan nasib yang ditimpa Mama Tineke Rumakabu. Beliau kemudian terpaksa meninggalkan anak-anak serta kampung halamannya dan kahwin dengan suami baru. Mereka berdua telah menjadi barisan hadapan sebuah gerakan aman yang menentang kerajaan Indonesia yang menindas orang Biak. Dokumentari ini memaparkan kepulangan beliau pada tahun 2015 dan juga menunjukkan semangat nasionalisme masih hidup di kalangan rakyat Papua Barat.



KARATAGAN CIREMAI

17 min
2015

Anih Kurniasih (15 years old) who lives in the village of Cigugur, Kuningan, West Java Indonesia adheres to the ancestral belief 'Sunda Wiwitan'. Since the Indonesian government recognizes only 6 official religions excluding animistic or ancestral beliefs, Anih and her family constantly face religious and structuralized discrimination. She is considered an adopted child in her birth certificate just because her parent's marriage was never legally recognized by the state. Anih and her sister have been struggling hard to obtain the correct birth certificates and other official administrative documents. She is uncertain if she can pursue higher education due to her predicament.

Anih Kurniasih (15 tahun) yang tinggal di Kampung Cigugur, Kuningan, di Java Barat Indonesia merupakan seorang penganut kepercayaan turun temurun 'Sunda Wiwitan'. Namun, kerajaan Indonesia hanya mengiktirafkan 6 agama rasmi yang tidak merangkumi kepercayaan animisme atau turun temurun. Oleh sebab itu, secara rasminya, Anih dikategorikan sebagai anak angkat pada sijil lahirnya kerana perkahwinan ibu bapanya tidak diiktiraf kerajaan. Anih, bersama adik perempuannya berusaha untuk mendapatkan sijil kelahiran serta dokumen rasmi lain yang betul. Persoalannya adalah-situasi ini akan manghalang Anih daripada melanjutkan pelajarannya atau tidak?



Ady Mulyana
Director, INDONESIA



BIG STORIES SMALL TOWN

Film 1: "We don't want to forget how our ancestors gathered food" (2.42 min)

From time to time, Geluing and his gang of tough guys go hunting to wind down but also to remember how their ancestors gathered food.

Dari masa ke masa, Geluing bersama gengnya akan pergi memburu. Aktiviti ini bukan dilakukan semata-mata untuk melepaskan stress tetapi juga untuk mengingati cara hidup nenek moyang mereka.

Film 2: "Our village made a sacred oath" (2.48 min)

In the 1970s, a pagan oath over native land was made between two villages in Borneo. Directed by Chief Bindang Mantakag, Kampung Bongkud.

Pada 1970-an sebuah perjanjian telah dilakukan antara 2 perkampungan Borneo ke atas sebidang tanah pribumi. Filem arahan Ketua Bindang Mantakag, Kampung Bongku.



Nadira Ilana, Director film 1 (right), Bindang Mantakag, Director, film 2 (left), MALAYSIA

Nadira Ilana and her team ran film and photography workshops in Kampung Bongkud and assisted locals in producing films and images with a focus on their Dusun heritage, relationships and dreams. The films focus on Bongkud Village which is about 140 km from Kota Kinabalu, the capital city of Sabah State in Malaysia.

Nadira Ilana bersama kumpulannya telah menganjurkan bengkel fotografi serta perfileman di Kampung Bongkud serta membantu penduduk tempatan menghasilkan filem mengenai warisan, hubungan serta impian mereka. Filem ini memfokus kepada Kampung Bongkud di daerah Raunau, terletak hampir 140km daripada Kota Kinabalu, ibu negeri Sabah di Malaysia.



UN SILENT POTATO

22 min
2016

Potato is a young disabled Karen ethnic girl. In 2014, she was raped by her neighbor, a married man and later gave birth to a baby boy. She was determined to seek justice instead of accepting monetary compensation from the man who had raped her. The case was deferred until 2016 when the family finally decided to let the world know her daughter's devastating story to raise awareness about the rights of women and the disabled. Potato describes her deep sorrow, despair and frustration through her sketches.

Potato seorang gadis muda kurang upaya yang beretnik Karen yang di rogol oleh jirannya, seorang lelaki yang telah berkahwin pada tahun 2014. Lelaki tersebut kemudian disabitkan atas kesalahannya. Selepas Potato melahirkan seorang anak lelaki, beliau berazam untuk mendapatkan keadilan dan keluarga beliau juga memutuskan untuk menceritakan kes tersebut kepada khalayak ramai di samping meningkatkan kesedaran umum tentang hak-hak wanita dan mereka yang kurang upaya. Potato, yang mengalami kesukaran untuk menunjukkan kesedihan dan kesakitan beliau melakukan sedemikian menggunakan lukisan dan lakaran. Kes tersebut masih sedang dikendalikan.



Sein Lyan Tun
Director, MYANMAR

AUGUST 24

(W ED)

4:30-5 PM

34 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FILM



8 min
2015

BIRTH DAY

In 2000, a trip to town was not easy for stateless Karen ethnic villagers in Thailand. However, a Karen village headman had made up his mind that he was going to take the long and difficult journey to celebrate their new lives.



Supamok Silarak
Director, THAILAND

Pada tahun 2000, pergerakan dari kampung ke bandar merupakan sesuatu yang mustahil bagi mereka yang beretnik Karen di negara Thailand. Walau bagaimanapun, seorang penghulu etnik Karen telah mengambil keputusan untuk mengambil perjalanan yang mustahil tersebut dalam semangat meraikan kehidupan yang baru.



KENYA : A GUIDE BOOK TO IMPUNITY

60 min
2015

A human rights reality film on how a Kenyan presidential candidate and his running mate, both charged with crimes against humanity succeeded in winning the 2013 general election. In this film, Maina Kiai, a Kenyan human rights defender and the United Nations Special Rapporteur shows the Kenyan view of how authoritarian regimes make use of 'democratic' elections and how the rest of the world goes along with it. The film also uses actual video evidence submitted in the Supreme Court to show the reluctance of courts worldwide in handling powerful video evidence.

Sebuah filem berlatarkan hak asasi manusia di mana seorang calon president Kenya dan rakannya berjaya memenangi pilihan raya umum pada tahun 2013 walaupun kedua mereka disabitkan atas jenayah terhadap kemanusiaan. Maina Kiai, seorang pembela hak asasi manusia serta Pelapor Khas Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu mendedahkan perspektif warga Kenya dalam konteks pengeksploitan sistem demokrasi dalam sebuah kerajaan autoritarian. Filem ini juga menunjukkan keengganan sistem mahkamah untuk mengambil kira bukti dalam bentuk video.



Lucy Hannan
Director, UK

AUGUST 24
(WED)
7-8:30 PM

36 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FILM



60 min
2015

SO CLOSE SO FAR, THE ANCESTRAL FOREST

An entire village of ethnic people had moved from the forest where they had been living for thousands of years to a town. The Vietnamese Government decided to build a hydro-electric barrage (like a dam) on their land. Since then their lives and destinies were changed forever. In their new home the three generations of the Hoi Lon family try to find ways to adapt to their new lives. The film shows how people's lives are affected by industrialization in Vietnam.



Doan Hong Le
Director, VIETNAM

Setelah mendiami sebuah kawasan di dalam hutan untuk beribu tahun, sebuah perkampungan etnik dipaksa berpindah ke kawasan pekan. Hal ini demikian kerana kerajaan Vietnam ingin membina sebuah lombong hydro-electric di atas tanah tersebut. Semenjak itu, cara hidup mereka berubah selamanya. Di kawasan penginapan baru tersebut, 3 generasi keluarga Hoi Lon sedang berusaha menyesuaikan diri dengan kehidupan baru mereka. Filem ini menghuraikan kesan pengindustrian terhadap kehidupan penduduk di Vietnam.



I AM CHUT WUTTY

53 min
2015

Chut Wutty was a quiet, charismatic environmental activist who coordinated a network of protestors in Prey Lang forest, Cambodia, where deforestation was destroying people's livelihoods. He was allegedly killed by the military at a logging site in the Cardamom Mountains. In the aftermath, important questions are being asked - Who was behind the killing? Can the network fight for the forest without him?

(Chut Wutty adalah seorang aktivis alam sekitar yang pendiam dan berkarisma dan mengkoordinasikan serangkaian kumpulan pembantah di perhutanan Prey Lang negara Kemboja dimana aktiviti penyahhutanan secara besar-besaran telah mengancam punca pendapatan penduduk tempatan. Beliau ditembak mati 5 bulan kemudian di sebuah pusat pembalakan di pergunungan Cardamon. Berikutan kematiannya persoalannya adalah, pihak manakah yang bertanggungjawab membunuh beliau? Adakah rangkaian pembantah tersebut mampu mempertahankan misi mereka tanpa kepimpinan beliau?)



Fran Lambrick (top),
Vanessa de Smet (below),
Directors, UK

FILM



38 min
2015

EM A K D A R I J A M B I (MOM FROM JAMBI)

A mother's journey from a small village in Jambi Sumatra to the capital city of Jakarta, Indonesia where she is confronted by revelations of her transgender child's life. She is caught between her Islamic values and unconditional love for her child. It is a heartwarming story about love, truth, and acceptance.



Anggun Pradesha (top)
& Rikky M Fajar (below)
Directors, INDONESIA

Perjalanan seorang ibu dari sebuah kampung di Jambi Sumatera ke bandar Jakarta di mana beliau akan menghadapi kenyataan kehidupan transgender anaknya. Beliau dibelah antara ajaran agama Islam beliau serta perasaan sayang terhadap anaknya. Filem ini merupakan sebuah kisah menghayat hati tentang cinta, kebenaran serta penerimaan.



PERTANYAAN UNTUK BAPAK
(A QUESTION FOR MY FATHER)

40 min
2015

This documentary tells the journey of a man looking for his biological father who had used to rape him when he was a boy. Yatna now in his 30s and also the co-director of this film confronts his father with his question. The film portrays his courage in making this heart-breaking trip.

Dokumentari ini menghuraikan perjalanan seorang lelaki yang ingin mencari bapa kandungnya yang pernah merogolnya semasa kecil. Yatna, kini telah berumur 30-an dan merupakan seorang daripada pengarah filem ini menghadap ayahnya. Filem ini memaparkan keberanian beliau dalam pembikinan filem ini.



**Yatna Pelangi
& Mayk Wongkar**
Directors, INDONESIA

AUGUST 25
(THURS)
9-10 PM

40 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FILM



40 min
2014

NYALON

Indonesians in big cities, small towns and villages always regard the hair saloon as a place to treat men and women's hair. But for many years husband and wife, Dini and Kardi, who own their own respective hair saloons in Wates village, Central Java get to hear many stories from their loyal customers who often talk freely about family gossips, local politicians and even national politics. The conversations are blunt, honest including opinions about the chaotic presidential campaign and its divisive election. At the end of the day it seems like not a bad idea to learn about politics in a hair saloon.



Ima Puspita Sari
Director, INDONESIA

Untuk kebanyakan warga Indonesia di kota maupun desa, salon rambut merupakan sebuah tempat untuk merawat rambut. Namun untuk pasangan suami isteri, Dini dan Kardi, yang mempunyai salon rambut tersendiri di Kampung Wates, di tengah Java seringkali bertukar pandangan mengenai umpatan kekeluargaan, serta politik tempatan dan kebangsaan dengan pelanggan pelanggan mereka. Mereka juga memberikan pendapat tulus mengenai pilihanraya presiden baru-baru ini.

DEALING WITH THE CUT

SEA PERSPECTIVES

Governments often justify the practise of censorship and control in the name of national security and maintaining social harmony. This forum is participated by video activists from 7 SEA countries who will exchange experiences and perspectives and explore viable and practicable ways to address the issue of censorship and control in their respective countries and as a region. The forum is part of the SEA “Video for Change (V4C)” Forum.

FILM



30 min
2016

Htet Aung San (left), Ko Jet (below left), Phyo Zayar Kyaw (below right), Directors, MYANMAR



V E I N

The film is an expose on the human cost of jade mining in Kachin state in Myanmar. The images of hordes of freelance miners scrambling onto dangerous slag heaps to find a nugget of jade are fascinating and appalling. Blood diamonds seem tame in comparison.

Filem ini bertujuan mendedahkan kesan-kesan kemanusiaan dalam industri perlombongan batu jed di negeri Kachin, Myanmar yang memaparkan situasi yang dasyhat seperti para pelombong berebut mencari batu jed di atas sanga timbunan yang merbahayakan. Situasi ini kelihatanya lebih teruk dari industri 'Blood Diamonds'.



HEARTW A RE

5 min
2016

A documentary film that explores the theme of loneliness in Singapore's aging population through the eyes of a 59-year-old 'karung guni' (gunny sack) man looking for a life partner.

Sebuah filem dokumentari yang bertemakan kesunyian dalam kalangan warga emas di Singapura yang dipaparkan melalui perspektif seorang lelaki 'karung guni' berumur 59 tahun yang sedang mencari teman hidup beliau.



Claire Low Mu Hian,
Director & her production team, SINGAPORE

AUGUST 26
(FRI)
8-9:30 PM

FILM

44 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016



60 min
2014

THE NAKED DJ

Chris Ho (X'Ho) a veteran Singaporean DJ, known for his sharp wit and tattoos, travels to China for the first time to reflect on his homeland, Singapore.

Perjalanan serta renungan Chris Ho (X'Ho) tentang kampung halamannya Singapura apabila DJ veteran yang lebih dikenali untuk sindirannya yang tajam tersebut mengunjungi negara China untuk pertama kali.



Kan Lume,
Director, SINGAPORE



FILM

10 BILLION - WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE

102 min
2015

In 2050, the population of the world is set to hit a staggering 10 billion which would mean a worsening food shortage problem in the near future. A best selling author and film maker travels the world in search of ecologically and economically responsible alternatives to the current food production systems. He visited India, Thailand, United States, the United Kingdom and Germany and found that many people were in fact in favour of small-scale agriculture and eating locally produced food as often as possible. This is perhaps the only viable option in resolving food supply problems of the future.

Populasi dunia telah dijangka mencecah 10 bilion orang pada tahun 2050. Hal ini akan menyebabkan masalah kekurangan sumber makanan bertambah teruk. Seorang penulis dan pembikin filem ternama mengembara dunia untuk mencari penambahbaikan sistem sumber makanan kini dari segi ecologi dan ekonomi. Setelah mengunjungi negara India, Thailand, Amerika Syarikat, United Kingdom, dan Jerman beliau telah mengenal pasti yang orang ramai kini lebih menggemar penanaman berskala kecil serta pembelian makanan buatan tempatan. Situasi ini berkemungkinan merupakan satu-satunya cara penyelesaian masalah kekurangan sumber makanan pada masa akan datang.



Valentin Thurn
Director, GERMANY

AUGUST 27
(SAT)
1-2 PM

46 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FREEDOM
TALK 4

THE GOOD FOOD REVOLUTION

This is an interactive 'show and tell' by a professional chef who will present contemporary and creative approaches to make tasty and healthy meals out of things that we do not usually consider edible and discard. Learn how to devise clever food and cooking plans so that food costs will not burn a hole in our pockets.

(Simultaneous event held in the studio)

MASTERCLASS 4

THE LONELY LIFE OF A SELF SHOOTING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

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This masterclass is conducted in collaboration with MyDocs and supported by the British Council, KL. MyDocs is a non-profit association, first established in 2013 by a group of passionate documentary filmmakers in Malaysia who wanted to create a more integrated network and platform for local filmmakers to grow and excel in the documentary industry.



AUGUST 27
(SAT)
2-3:30 PM

48 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FILM



60 min
2015

M O E S T V Ä L J A S (O U T O F F A S H I O N)

We live in an era of global consumption where the speed of consumption keeps increasing. It is no secret that the fashion industry is at the forefront of this consumerist rally. The result is a perishing environment and imperceptibly large amounts of waste. In this film 'Out of Fashion', trash is fashion. It is the black conscience hidden behind the fashion industry's radiant smile.



Jaak Kilmi (top),
Lennart Laberenz (below),
Directors, ESTONIA

Dalam marcapada penggunaan secara tahap global, manusia hidup dalam situasi di mana kadar penggunaan meningkat dari hari ke hari. Dalam hal ini, industri fesyen merupakan antara industri yang berada di barisan hadapan himpunan para pengguna. Aktiviti industri fesyen yang berkembang secara pesat ini telah mengakibatkan pemusnahan alam sekitar serta pengumpulan bahan buangan yang banyak. Filem pendek 'Out of Fashion' ini menyelarikan fesyen dengan sampah serta mengekspos kegelapan di sebalik senyuman manis industri fesyen.

EVERYDAY ACTIVISM

Social activism has become almost a daily and regular phenomenon in many countries. From advocating indigenous people's land rights to petitioning against highway toll charges, social activists have often been driven by the popular dictum that "philosophers have interpreted the world in many ways, but the point is to change it!" But not everyone can actually commit entire energies and time to this world of activism. This forum will showcase 3 examples of social activists each with their own area of concerns and unique approach in carrying out their passion and commitment. The key of the forum is to discuss and explore how ordinary people can creatively engage in social activism in their everyday lives.

AUGUST 27
(SAT)
5-6 PM

50 | FREEDOM FILM FEST 2016

FILM



MOVING VOICES: STORIES FROM THE BLOCK

This is a series of 6 short animated real stories of residents in an urban poor temporary longhouse settlement in *Jinjang Utara* (North) in Kuala Lumpur. The 1,000 families and individuals residing there have been waiting for the past 26 years since their relocation from different parts of the city in 1990. But they have yet to see the promises for permanent homes being fulfilled. Despite the area being seriously deteriorated and notorious for gangsterism and drug related activities, they have no choice but to persevere and make the most out of their situation.

The FREEDOMFILMFEST initiated a project to record the voices of this seldom-heard community and to make them into short videos so that more people will become aware of their situation. This project was done in collaboration with BFM Radio and students of the DASEIN Academy of Art.

Siri ini mengandungi 6 filem animasi pendek yang memaparkan cerita-cerita sebenar daripada penduduk penempatan sementara Jinjang Utara di Kuala Lumpur. Mereka hidup dalam keadaan yang serba kekurangan setelah di pindahkan daripada beberapa kawasan di sekitar bandaraya Kuala Lumpur ke penempatan itu pada tahun 1990. Namun selepas 26 tahun, janji kepada 1,000 keluarga yang masih tinggal di situ untuk menempatkan mereka di kediaman kekal masih tidak di kota. Mereka tidak mampu menampung kos membeli atau menyewa rumah sendiri dan terpaksa tabah dan meneruskan kehidupan dalam keadaan yang bertambah buruk dengan adanya gejala gangsterisme dan penagihan dadah.

FREEDOMFILMFEST telah melancarkan projek ini untuk merakam kisah-kisah sebuah komuniti yang tidak mempunyai suara sendiri dan menghasilkan video-video pendek daripadanya untuk memberi kesedaran kepada orang ramai mengenai keadaan hidup mereka. Projek ini juga merupakan hasil kerjasama daripada Radio BFM serta pelajar-pelajar dari Akademi Seni DASEIN.

AWARDS NIGHT

The FreedomFilmFest 2016 Awards Presentation Ceremony will be followed by the screening of the film "A Syrian Love Story"



A SYRIAN LOVE STORY

75 min
2015

15 years ago Amer and Ragda fell in love, got married and started a family after their release from being imprisoned for their political beliefs. While they watch the fall of their country's regime, their personal relationship also suffered. The film powerfully points out why people are literally dying for change in the Arab world.

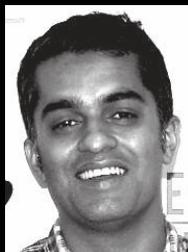
15 tahun yang lalu, Amer yang pada ketika itu berumur 45 tahun telah berjumpa Ragda yang berumur 40 tahun di dalam sebuah penjara Syria. Penemuan tersebut telah menyebabkan mereka jatuh hati lalu berkahwin dan berkeluarga selepas dilepaskan penjara. Semasa revolusi menentang Assad di Syria mereka telah diberikan perlindungan politik di Perancis. Filem ini menceritakan kehidupan baru mereka di Perancis di mana hubungan mereka semakin merekah serta sentimen dunia Arab yang kini mendahagakan perubahan.



Sean McAllister
Director, UK

JUDGES

JUDGES

**Film Grants
Selection Panel**

ALOPE DEVICHAND is a senior commissioning producer in the documentaries department at Al Jazeera English. In the past he was a producer for AJ+, CNN International, Channel 4, Al Jazeera English and the BBC.



NORHAYATI KAPRAWI is a Muslim woman activist interested in exploring the use of popular media in promoting Muslim women's rights and progressive thinking in Islam. Yati has made several documentaries including "Mencari Kartika" (2010), "Aku Siapa" (2011), "Kudaku Menari" (2012) and her most recent film is "Bangkit dari Bayangan" (2015).



BRENDA DANKER is a Malaysian media producer and film festival production consultant. She also mentors a new generation of social documentary filmmakers through the FreedomFilmFest in Malaysia. Her areas of research include visuals and digital media used by activists; activism among university students; impact of human rights film festivals; and impact of technology in classroom teaching. Her work especially showcases social issues affecting women, youth, and the marginalised.



PREMESH CHANDRAN is the CEO and co-founder of Malaysiakini, and serves as non-executive director of KiniTV and FG Media. He was named Media Personality of the Year 2012 (Kancil Awards), awarded A TED Fellow and Asia Foundation Chang-in Tien Fellow Award (2010).



SHAMINI DARSHNI is currently the Executive Director for Amnesty International (AI). She was a journalist for 7 years at the New Straits Times with a focus on HIV and AIDS issues. She also worked as the Head of Communications and Fundraising for two years in MERCY Malaysia to primarily build the organization's media profile and coordinating fundraising efforts. Shamini later joined Monash University Sunway Campus as the Media and Communications Manager. She was also a columnist with The Malaysian Insider.

Best International Film



JERALD JOSEPH is a recipient of the SUHAKAM Human Rights Award in 2015. and currently appointed as a SUHAKAM Commissioner in 2016. He is a member of KOMAS' Board of Directors and has been an advisor of the Non-Discrimination Program since 2006. He also chaired the steering committee of the APF (Asia Peoples' Forum) in 2015 and was in the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the '3rd World Conference Against Racism' (WCAR) in 2001. He has extensive experience working on human rights issues in different countries in South East Asia, Asia-Pacific and Africa and has authored several human rights training manuals.



ASSOCIATE PROF. KHOO GAI CHENG currently teaches film and cultural studies at the University of Nottingham Malaysia. She has published numerous essay collections and written mostly about Malaysian and Singaporean independent films in journals such as Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, Asian Cinema, Journal of Chinese Cinemas, SEAR, Concentric, Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography and Criticine.com. Her forthcoming publications include an essay "Bersih and Civic Empowerment in Malaysia" for the Australian National University. She recently organized the 9th Association of Southeast Asian Cinemas Conference in KL (19-22 July).



MARCUS VETTER is a German film maker whose films have won numerous prizes including three 'Adolf Grimme Awards', the German equivalent of the American Oscar Award. He was born in 1967 and graduated in Economics and Media Theory and Practice. Since 1994 he has been working as a TV editor, producer and director at ARD/SWR in Baden-Baden and Stuttgart, Germany. Among his films are, "The Tunnel" (1999), "War Games" (2002), "The Unbreakables" (2006), "My Father the Turk" (2006), "Heart of Jenin" (2008) and "The Forecaster" (2014). He will be sharing his latest feature documentary thriller, "The Promise" (2016) as part of the masterclass he will be conducting in the FreedomFilmFest 2016.

JUDGES

Best SEA Film (Long)

JAHABAR SADIQ was, until the middle of March 2016 the chief executive officer and editor of The Malaysian Insider which he co-founded in 2008. He started his career in the Business Times of the New Straits Times before joining Reuters in Kuala Lumpur as a senior producer with Reuters Television, the international news and information broadcast agency. He was also a political and economic news correspondent for Reuters from 1998 to 2009. He also worked as a producer in AP Television.



RAFIDAH ABDULLAH is popularly known as one of the original hosts in the TV program '3R' and also in the children's game show, 'Clever'. She is also a prolific and extensive scriptwriter for the small and large screens with works including the original screenplays for the films "Gol & Gincu", "Pisau Cukur", "Istanbul Aku Datang" (Best Comedy Screenplay [Film] Award at the 2013 Anugerah Lawak Warna), "Kami Histeria", and the adapted screenplay for "Manisnya Cinta Di Cappadocia". She writes for print media and is also an active lyricist for songs including "Generasiku", "Berdiri", and "Aku Datang". She has a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from the Universiti Malaya.



AIDIL RUSLI is a film geek who's also the singer-songwriter of Malaysian power pop band Couple. He endlessly writes about films in as many avenues and publications as he possibly can. His writings has appeared in the likes of Esquire Malaysia, Taste Of Cinema, The Star, The Malaysian Insider and many other media platforms and publications. He still maintains his weekly column at The Malay Mail Online.

Best SEA Film (Short)

ARUL PRAKKASH is the Program Manager for Asia and the Pacific of WITNESS, an international human rights NGO. He was the Executive Director and also a senior program staff member of Pusat Komnas, a human rights NGO in Malaysia. He has extensive community organizing experience with urban poor youth, indigenous communities and plantation workers. He has trained SE Asian NGOs and communities in the use of internet and social media technology for human rights and founded “code4change” an initiative using digital information and communication technologies to effect social and environmental change. He was also a steering committee member of BERSIH 2.0, and co-coordinated a nationwide election observation body using a web based platform.



MON MON MYAT is an independent writer, journalist and producer from Burma. In 2013 she co-organized the first edition of the Human Rights Human Dignity International Film Festival in Burma. She has also written for news agencies, including Spectrum, Bangkok Post, The Irrawaddy News Magazine, AFP, IPS and IRIN News. Her first documentary film, “The Floating Tomatoes”, won second prize in the ASEAN Festival of Photos-Reportage-Documentary Film 2010 in Vietnam. Her other films include “Transparency or Accountability in Practice” and “An Old Man’s Homesickness”. Currently she is working on a documentary project of Aung San Suu Kyi’s Journeys of Nonviolence



SITI KASSIM is a consummate Human Rights lawyer and also an active member of the Human Rights and Orang Asli Committees in the Bar Council. Currently, she is involved in many orang Asli land right issues and often engage in Watching Brief for the Bar Council in cases involving public interests.



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