

Documentary films

Absolutely Must Go | Dir. S. Jean-Noël Pierre | 73min | Luxembourg

From 1967 to 1973, in the midst of the Cold War, the Bancoult family and nearly 2,000 other Chagossians were taken from their archipelago, in the Indian Ocean, by Great Britain and the United States. The latter set up one of their most important military bases on the main island, Diego Garcia. It is from Diego Garcia that the B52s leave for the Middle East. Uprooted, but not resigned, Rita Bancoult, the matriarch, and her children Olivier, Ivo and Mimose have chosen to fight against this injustice and the drama that is affecting their people. This is their story.

Blurring the Color Line | Dir. Crystal Lee Kwok | 76min | United States

Digging into her Grandmother's past who grew up Chinese in Augusta, Georgia's Black neighborhood during Jim Crow, director Crystal Kwok layers the black and white narrative while exposing uncomfortable truths behind today's Afro-Asian tensions.

Chez Eux | Dirs. Abouardham Norbert Befve, Pierre Vagnon François 97min | France

This French road movie presents 12 improvising musicians who welcome us into their homes. Each duo revolves around a theme and an improvisation between Norbert Abouardham's accordina (a small wind accordion) and another instrument (Guitare, harp, violin, snake...). We meet Marcel Dreux, Ludovic Beier, Dan Gharibian (Bratch), Théo Girard, Bruno Girard, Michel Godard, Olivier Manoury, Isabelle Olivier, Max Robin, Antoine Boyer, Laurent Zeller and a "surprise guest".. This musical track is accompanied by an interview about the life of jazz musicians, their artistic choices, their way of life and the transmission of their art.

The Desire To Live | Dir. Mariam Avetisyan | 90min | Armenia

Stories of the indigenous people of Artsakh, after the 44-day war with Azerbaijan in 2020, and the suffering resulting from the devastating loss of lives and land. The Desire to Live is about the right of the people of Artsakh to live on their own indigenous lands and their right to protection from the threat of war, genocide and crimes against their humanity.

Do you remember me? | Dirs. Désirée Pomper, Helena Müller 83min | Switzerland

Sara, a young muslim woman from Switzerland, finds her christian circumciser after 20 years in an Ethiopian village and decides to become an activist against Female Genital Mutilation. This is a story about FGM, pain and anger. But also about hope, trust and empowerment. Or to say it in Saras words: "It doesn't matter what happened to you in the past. There is a way to be happy again." Award-winning composer Marcel Vaid has created the film music. Associates: Unicef, Amnesty International and Menschen für Menschen.

ENOUGH! Lebanon's Darkest Hour | Dir. Daizy Gedeon | 90min | Australia

The eyes of the world were forced to turn their gaze upon Lebanon, not only because of the Beirut Port explosion that devastated this ancient city on 4th August 2020, but also because, sadly, Lebanon stands as an allegory for kleptocratic regimes that have seen a resurgence across the globe, and their catastrophic impact. Seen through the eyes of Lebanese-Australian journalist and filmmaker, Daizy Gedeon, this film is the wake-up call for all people to stand against oppression and corruption by using their voice and democratic right to VOTE FOR CHANGE! Exclusive and controversial interviews with many of the key political leaders (Prime Minister Saad Hariri, former Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, Dr. Samir Geagea, Hezbollah Minister Mohammad Fneich, Former Justice Minister Salim Jreissati, Governor of the Central Bank, Riad Salame, among others) prior to the explosion feature in the film. These are the very men responsible for much of Lebanon's desecration.

The Free Ones | Dir. Nicolas Lévesque | 94min | Canada

Les Libres is a full-length documentary feature which shows us how four detainees are dealing with the end of their prison sentence, in a sawmill. Can a factory job help them to make the necessary transformation and become free men? Hidden from society's view and through meetings with their instructors, psychotherapists and other participants, we accompany Samuel, Pierrot, Fred and Steve talk about their hopes and fears during this six-month transition period.

Glimpses | Dir. Guy Pigden | 56min | New Zealand

Glimpses is a shared collection of intimate thoughts and experiences from a man dying of a rare and aggressive neurological disease Multiple System Atrophy (MSA). He can no longer communicate these thoughts verbally but framed by the narration of his own writing, we discover his mind that is still very much alive.

HER | Dirs. Juan Carlos Borrero, Melodie Carli | 45min | United States

A Trilogy that explores the backgrounds of women heroes who have a meaningful impact on their communities or countries, the film shows perspectives on the work and turning point in their lives to give up everything they had to empower others. We follow the footsteps of women leader on each continent, women with various backgrounds, culture and religions who made a difference in their communities and around the world.

Invisible Imprints | Dir. Jay Paris | 59min | United States

The experiences of a troupe of 9 dancers and 3 poets from Boston as they toured from Jackson, MS, up the Great Black Migration Trail to Chicago while performing an original piece about the complex divisions of racism, are depicted through dialogues with audiences, as well as Civil Rights veterans. They discover the invisible truth about America's racial history and its powerful effects on their identities as artists and activists.

Let's do this differently | Dir. Annette Ernst | 96min | Germany

This unusual rainbow family chronicle was filmed over a period of 12 years. In 2009, the documentary journey begins with two mothers, their three sons and a man. From diapers to soccer, babies mature into teenagers with their own opinions. Old family secrets are revealed, love comes and goes. An unexpected letter arrives from a girl to her half-brothers. Surprisingly, this constellation develops into a much larger non-traditional family universe.

My Yang Gang Diary | Dir. Ching Juhl | 90min | United States

Andrew Yang's presidential campaign and the grassroots movement from the Yang Gang supporters is captured on film, shot on iPhone where Ching Juhl documents her one year journey across 12 cities in the US. The film was created during the pandemic lockdown. Suspending his presidential campaign in February 2020, Andrew Yang's Humanity Forward movement and the Universal Basic Income policy continues on for America's future. Written, directed, filmed, edited and produced by Ching Juhl.

Nomad Meets the City | Dir. Anji Sauvé Clubb | 80min | Mongolia

Former herder Tumurbaatar works tirelessly as a garbage truck driver in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar to give his daughter a better education and compete in the modern economy. His wife, Tungaa, a doctor in the countryside, maintains her roots and helps tend the family herd. Tumurbaatar's visits home reveal fault lines in their marriage and identities. They both speak romantically about retiring as true nomads, but his nomadic roots are already lost to the city. Torn between life in the city and his home and family in a countryside town, they cling fast to dreams for their children to lead lives they cannot while the pressures of distance and separation take their toll.

Others Before Self | Dir. Seth McClellan | 54min | United States

The kids at the Tibetan Children's Village tell the story of the occupation of Tibet and show how their school teaches the wisdom of their culture and helps them work towards returning to their homeland. An intimate and visually stunning portrait of the lives, history and beliefs of the young refugees at the Tibetan Children's Village in the Indian Himalayas.

Pieces of Us | Dir. Cheryl Allison | 92min | India/United States

An intimate look at the personal journeys of LGBTQ+ hate crime survivors who, by choosing to take their recovery public, inspire the survivor in all of us. The film juxtaposes the inspirational stories of recovery each of the film's subjects (including transgender activist and Stonewall Riots survivor Victoria Cruz, and Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil of India) have experienced with the powerful connections their public actions have produced. Their stories take us to New York City, Denver and India to witness how intersectionality and speaking your truth can build a support community and even spark global change.

SanDance! A Journey to the Heart of San Culture | Dir. Richard Wicksteed 60min | South Africa

Set in the transcendent dance culture of Africa's San First Peoples, SanDance! celebrates and regenerates humanity's original essence of dance. SanDance! explores the ancient trance-healing dance at the heart of San culture, then follows San dancers from rehearsals in remote Kalahari villages to electrifying performances at Botswana's Kuru Dance Festival.

Shoah Ambassadors | Dir. Keith Famie | 57min | United States

Through their own personal expressions of music and sculpture, two ambassadors bridge the chasm between the generation that endured the nightmare of World War II and today's bright-eyed, tech-savvy young people who have only a limited grasp of what happened just decades before they were born.

State of Rest | Dir. Claudio Maurici | 60min | Italy

Sahrawis have been sending to Europe their children, the so-called "Little Peace Ambassadors", for decades, to show the world the injustice they suffer. A 2700 km long mined wall across the desert, and there's no mention of it even in UN resolutions on Western Sahara. This former Spanish colony, just in front of Canary Islands, is occupied by Morocco since 1975. In 2011 I spent 5 weeks in the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf, outer south-west of Algeria. This is where the Sahrawi's escape from their war-devastated land stopped, though none of them imagined they would stay there so long. Western Sahara has been occupied by Morocco and plundered by many others for over 40 years.

Surviving Sex Trafficking | Dir. Sadhvi Siddhali Shree | 72min | United States

With 45 million sex trafficking victims worldwide, only 1% manage to escape. The film examines the ongoing struggles of survivors as they fight to break free of their past, heal their bodies and minds and find hope for the future. Executive produced by Alyssa Milano, Jeannie Mai and Jeezy, filmmaker Sadhvi Siddhali Shree, (Stopping Traffic: The Movement to End Sex-Trafficking) travels across US, India and Ethiopia to hear these powerful stories and shines a light on this horrific epidemic.