

# 10th Annual Planet in Focus International Environmental Film & Video Festival October 21-25, 2009

- Over 85 environmentally-focused films from 25 countries.
- Canadian Films from *Toward a 2020 Vision* Spotlight Open & Close Fest.
- Special Series of films from China include Feature Dramas.
- Unprecedented *Land & Conflict* program features works from Palestine, Israel and Canadian Artists from Diasporic Communities.
- Film industry panels, workshops, youth and children's programs and more!

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Planet in Focus International Environmental Film & Video Festival, Canada's premiere environmental film festival, runs **October 21 to October 25** in Toronto.

Over 85 outstanding and compelling films and videos from 25 countries – documentaries and dramatic, animated, and experimental works of all lengths – created by Canadian and international filmmakers on key environmental themes will be screened at the Royal Cinema, Bloor Cinema, Gardiner Museum, The Bata Shoe Museum, Innis College, Arta Gallery and the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Each day's program features pre- and post-screening discussions, panels, workshops and networking events, designed to further engage with the films' subjects, and foster dialogue and community amongst audiences, filmmakers and broadcasters.

This year's Program Spotlight is **Fast Forward Toward a 2020 Vision**, which features 10 cinematic works that provide a panorama of the future and includes both the opening and closing films. The festival also includes a **unique lineup of environmental films from China** ranging from superb feature length dramas to documentaries. As well, **Planet in Focus International Environmental Film & Video Festival, Voices Forward** and the **International Diaspora Film Festival** have banded together in a joint initiative entitled **Land & Conflict** to present an unprecedented program of artistic works in the medium of film, photography, poetry and music focused on people and land in contested terrain that begins during the Planet in Focus Festival (October 21-25) and segues through to the International Diaspora Film Festival (November 1-8).

#### For tickets:

**In advance** visit [www.planetinfocus.org](http://www.planetinfocus.org) OR call the **Box Office** at **416-967-1528**  
OR visit the **Festival Box Office in person** at **2 Carlton St.**, West Mezzanine, Toronto.  
**Tickets also available one hour prior** at screening venue.

**Screenings:** \$10 (\$8 seniors and students, \$5 children under 12);  
**Opening & Closing Galas:** \$20 Opening Night Gala and Reception;  
\$15 Closing Night Awards and Reception.

For **All Access Passes** (\$100) and **Special Events** call: **416 531 4689**  
(All Access Passes allow entry to screenings, panels, galas & receptions.)  
**For full schedule details, visit [www.planetinfocus.org](http://www.planetinfocus.org)**

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 2

### VENUES:

**Royal Cinema** - Opening Night Gala Screening Venue (Wednesday October 21)  
608 College St. West (at Clinton)

**Bloor Cinema** - Thursday Night Screening Venue (Thursday October 22)

**Bata Shoe Museum** - Industry Workshops, Children's Programs Screening Venue  
327 Bloor St. West

**Innis College Town Hall & Innis College Rm 222** - Screening Venue  
2 Sussex Avenue

**Royal Ontario Museum** - Closing Night & Screening Venue  
100 Queen's Park

**Gardiner Museum** - Screening Venue  
111 Queen's Park (Bloor & Avenue Road)

**Arta Gallery** - Photography Exhibition, Literary and Screening Venue  
55 Mill Street Suite 102, Bldg. 9, Toronto

**Revival Bar** - Music Event. *At Home Around the World - A Musical Mosaic With David Amram and Friends Celebrating the Spirit of Diaspora*  
783 College Street.

## PLANET IN FOCUS Schedule DAY-BY-DAY

### Wednesday October 21

#### ROYAL CINEMA

7:00 – 9:00pm

**Opening Night Gala, International & Canadian Eco-Hero Award Presentation**

**TSHITASHUN (NUMBERS) (3/CANADA)**

Simple concept. Brilliant execution. People counting in Innu in Pessamit, Quebec with a surprising twist.

**FINDING FARLEY (75/CANADA)**

If Farley Mowat invited you to visit, what would you do? Karsten Heuer and Leanne Allison packed up their then-2-year-old son Zev and dog Willow, and began paddling 5,000 kilometers to Cape Breton. Mapping settings from many of their hero's beloved classics, their film revisits literary landscapes and reassures us that the Canadian wilderness still exists. (Director and Farley Mowat in attendance.)

### Thursday October 22

#### BLOOR CINEMA

7:00 – 9:00pm

**ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS (21/GREECE)**

A couple traveling in the mythical Greek countryside comes across a strange old man, who seems to have something to tell them. Zorba the Greek meets Medicine Man, imbued with the magical air of a fairy tale.

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 3

### **BIRD'S NEST (90/CHINA)**

A young boy from a Miao minority village, receives a letter from his father, who is in Beijing working on the Bird's Nest. His friends think it must be a home for birds, but he knows it's for the Olympic Games – and decides to go to Beijing to prove it in this feature-length drama.

**9:30 – 11:30pm**

### **CULTURES OF RESISTANCE: BATTLE FOR THE XINGU (11/BRAZIL/USA)**

Along the Xingu River in the Amazon, the Brazilian government has plans to build 60 to 70 hydroelectric dams – projects that would have dire consequences for the area's indigenous population.

### **THIS LAND (35/CANADA)**

Seven male Canadian and Inuit rangers and one female documentary filmmaker set out to cover more than 2000 km of the harshest terrain on the planet, in March 2007. Their mission was to raise the flag, on the furthest reach of Canadian soil, 412 km from the North Pole.

### **THE BLOOD OF KOUAN KOUAN (64/GREECE)**

There are many films about the long battle between Texaco and the people of Ecuador. Few turn protest into poetry: juxtaposing the forests of the native tribes with the looming presence of oil rigs.

## **INNIS TOWN HALL**

**7:00 – 9:00pm**

### **CANADIAN SHORTS**

#### **From the Ashes (4/CANADA)**

A forest is re-imagined and rejuvenated from the ashes of forest fires. Mixed media, live action and animation of hand-painted film create a textural visual experience.

#### **Skylight (5/CANADA)**

Penguins. Antarctica. Hole in the Ozone. A recipe for disaster? Or, an animated mock documentary that is big on laughs and twisted in perspective.

#### **The Green Film (6/CANADA)**

“This will be the greenest film ever” declares the director of a film inside The Green Film. But it's not easy being green. His leading lady has just flown in from Bali (with offset credits) and has green ideas of her own.

#### **The Last Feast (6/CANADA)**

Wicked puppetry brings a phantasmagorical world to life in a tale of conspicuous consumption gone too far.

#### **Becoming (8/CANADA)**

Something is stirring in the clear waters of the mountain stream – and it's not happy. A stunning piece of dance-driven short cinema.

#### **Love, Emma (10/CANADA)**

Alice is too cool to be a part of her great-grandmother's funeral. Plugged into her own mobile device, she escapes into a room filled with memories. This lovely little film unplugs the I-pod generation with some raw emotions.

#### **Hyperhelion (26/CANADA)**

Aboard a biosphere adrift in space, a distress signal heralds the arrival of a visitor, whose intentions may not be what they seem.

#### **Flak (30/CANADA)**

In 1970s Toronto, a group of young men living in the shadows of a gypsum plant discuss the political options available to average citizens in a post-1960s world. Some advocate for “proper channels,” others for bombs.

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 4

**9:30 – 11:30am**

**BEEBLE QUEEN CONQUERS TOKYO (90/JAPAN/USA)**

Jessica Oreck has brilliantly captured Japan's obsession with insects with poetry and a cast of incredible characters. The film floats documentary moments above an experimental stream of images that contrast humans in cities with bugs in the wild.

### **Friday October 23**

#### **BATA SHOE MUSEUM**

**Film Industry Symposium. Pre-register for sessions 416.531.4689 (limited seating)**

**10:00am – 12:00pm (Registration 9:30am)**

**WORKSHOP #1: AN EARTH FRIENDLY LIGHTING KIT (AND HOW TO USE IT).**

Co-presented by Green Screen Toronto

Filmmakers can now consider treading a smaller environmental footprint. This workshop will explore new innovative lighting fixtures and a portable lighting kit for cinematographers.

Workshop Leader: Lance Carlson, CSC

**10:30am – 12:00pm (Registration 10:00am)**

**ROUNDTABLE: "BITING THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU"**

Canadian filmmakers are largely funded by the public purse through government agencies. Does such funding shape the way filmmakers tell their environmental stories? Filmmakers, Arts Officers and Broadcasters will participate in this important and timely discussion.

Participants: Mark Haslam, Visual & Media Arts Officer, Ontario Arts Council; Lawrence Carota, Sylvie Van Brabant and other participating Festival filmmakers.

**1:00 – 3:00pm (Registration 12:30pm)**

**WORKSHOP #2: GREEN PITCH**

Sponsored by: CBC, The Nature of Things, Canadian Environmental Network, Precision Transfer and Wallace Studios

Five filmmakers selected from a pool of competitors will pitch their green film ideas to a panel of industry professionals made up of broadcasters, producers and filmmakers. This is a chance for you to hear what works, what doesn't, and to mingle with key industry players.

Moderator: Candida Paltiel, Artistic Director/CEO Planet in Focus

Participants: Michael Alder, Executive Producer, CBC The Nature of Things; Bruce Glawson, Executive Producer Programming, Discovery Channel; Christine Lee, Programmer TVO; and others TBA.

**3:30 – 5:00pm**

**PANEL DISCUSSION: "DO WE CARE?"**

At the end of the day. do audiences care about the environmental stories that are currently being broadcast and produced? What does audience response tell us about our programming? Broadcasters and producers will inform us about what works and what doesn't from leading providers of environmental content.

Moderator: Paul Lewis, President, Discovery Channel

Participants: Michael Alder- Executive Producer, CBC The Nature of Things; Bob Culbert- Culbert Productions; Mark Terry- Polar Cap Productions and filmmaker Rob Stewart (*Sharkwater*).

**5:30 – 7:00pm** Industry Reception

## **GARDINER MUSEUM**

**7:30 – 9:30pm**

### **SPECIAL SCREENING AND PANEL**

Sponsored by SunTV

#### **TIME (4/CANADA)**

Toronto's architectural history is compressed in to a 4-minute time-lapse wonder as familiar corners are built, rebuilt and re-branded into the modern streets of today.

#### **TORONTO – 2020 (25/CANADA)**

Five architects, five questions, looking ahead 10 years – their 2020 vision for Toronto followed by an exciting panel.

#### **A CONVERSATION WITH 4 OF TORONTO'S TOP ARCHITECTS**

Panel Moderator: Rob Granatstein, Toronto Sun

Architects: Tarek El Khatib, Les Kline, Jonathan Kearns, Jill Taylor

## **INNIS TOWN HALL**

**5:00 – 7:00pm Wapikoni: Shorts (18/Canada)**

#### **From the Forest of Kitcisakik to Xingu (5/CANADA)**

A small plane flies over forest, straw huts and native people appear as if turning back time. Algonquin filmmaker Evelyne Papatie visits the Ikepeng people of Xingu, Brazil where she is welcomed like a little sister.

#### **Something Right (5/CANADA)**

As aboriginal artist, Daniel McLaren paints, a complicated past is revealed. Drugs and anger blend with the bright colours and memory of his own children.

#### **Still Alive (5/CANADA)**

Clear cutting from an Aboriginal perspective. Still Alive draws a poignant contrast between deforestation and the assimilation of Aboriginal peoples into mainstream society.

#### **Two and Two (3/CANADA)**

Two and Two measures our modern lifestyle in trees and garbage. In this elegant film, the images say it all.

#### **SCARS OF MERCURY (90/CANADA)**

Traditional hunters and trappers, the Anishnabe people of Grassy Narrows agree to move near Dryden, Ontario to have a local school. Then, mercury contamination was identified from a paper mill upstream and a Japanese doctor started to visit to monitor the effects of mercury on the people.

**7:00 – 9:00pm**

#### **PANČEVO – THE DEAD CITY (27/ITALY)**

In Pančevo, Serbia, a biohazard alarm goes off every few days, announcing that the air has gone toxic again. Thanks to a nearby petrochemical plant, the local newspaper has declared the city “the largest gas chamber in the world.”

#### **RURAL LITIGATION (90/CHINA)**

Single mother Song Sanmei owes money to a group of gangsters, who are threatening to tear her house down. *Rural Litigation*, a dramatic feature, is essential viewing for anyone interested in the ethical complexities of environmentalism in the developing world.

**9:00 – 11:00pm**

#### **DARKNESS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN (12/BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA)**

An old woman lives alone in a grimy hovel outside of Vlasenica and Mili'ci in Bosnia Herzegovina. Scarred by war and neglect, she is lost to the normal world.

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 6

### **THE BAGYELI PYGMIES AT THE FRINGES OF THE WORLD (85/France)**

Modernization has reached the tropical forests of South Cameroon, where the Bagyeli pygmies struggle to maintain their traditions while adapting to new ways of life. An urgent and compelling documentary on a unique culture in crisis.

## **ROM**

**5:00 – 7:00pm**

### **SO FAR, SO CLOSE (25/France)**

Delicate shots, filled with danger and disguise, paint the spider as the good guy, committing the most gruesome crimes. This magnificently filmed documentary frames the spider in a web of diminishing biodiversity spun by humankind.

### **RIVERWEBS (57/USA)**

Shigeru Nakano's pioneering work on stream ecology explored the interconnectedness of species through inventive field studies. Using clever storytelling, this film itself becomes a feat of correlation, finding parallels between Nakano's ecosystems and global scientific collaboration.

**7:00 – 9:00pm DISCOVERY GALA**

### **DISCOVERY CHANNEL WINNING SHORT (TBA)**

### **THE MUSIC TREE (75/Brazil)**

The future of classical music hinges on the survival of the tree for which Brazil was named. Only a Brazilwood bow can express the soul of the music. Bow makers have united to save the species and their profession with the help of researchers.

**9:30 – 11:30pm**

### **A TIME COMES (19/UK)**

Gadfly filmmaker Nick Broomfield takes up the activist banner with this film about the Kingsnorth Six who, in October 2007, scaled the 220-metre-high chimney of a coal-fired power station in England to protest new coal plants.

### **THE REAL MCCOYS (22/USA)**

School teachers Nina and Mickey McCoy of Inez, KY are protesting for the first time in Washington, D.C. The Real McCOYS documents their journey to activism, fueled by coal strip mining near their home that has poisoned their drinking water.

### **BATTLESHIP ANTARCTICA (49/UK)**

UK filmmaker Morgan Matthews climbed on board the Greenpeace boat, the Rainbow Warrior as it chased the Japanese whaling fleet. He expected intense drama in the Antarctic Ocean and he got it, just not with the adversary he expected.

## **Saturday October 24**

### **BATA SHOE MUSEUM**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM. Free Admission. Pre-registration recommended 416.531.4689.**

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Generously supported by the Zukerman Family Foundation & The National Film Board. Screenings are followed by an animation workshop that focuses on endangered species.

**10:00am – 12:30pm (Ages 3–6)**

### **CHICKENS OF THE SEA (7/USA)**

Prairie chickens are rare. Rare also is the filmmaker who can find such an entertaining way to choreograph their mating habits.

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 7

### **KATE & BRADBURY (1/CANADA)**

A sweet hand-drawn animation about the relationship between a kite and a bicycle where the balance between up and down is friendship.

### **LOST AND FOUND (20/UK)**

Based on Oliver Jeffers award-winning children's picture book and narrated by Jim Broadbent a young boy is surprised by a knock on the door with the appearance of a penguin. The boy is determined to return him to the South Pole at any cost.

**1:30 – 4:00pm (Ages 7–13)**

### **CHICKENS OF THE SEA (7/USA) (See above)**

### **KATE & BRADBURY (1/CANADA) (See above)**

### **VARMINTS (24/UK)**

An innocent creature tries to save a world in danger of being lost forever through heartlessness, recklessness and indifference in this exquisite animation based on Helen Ward's award-winning picture book.

## **INNIS TOWN HALL**

**11:00am – 1:00pm**

### **SUPERMÂCHÉ (14/France)**

A film that takes the term "pig out" literally. A pack of wild boars ransacks a picnic in the woods, then heads to the city to run amok in a grocery store.

### **GROWN IN DETROIT (60/NETHERLANDS)**

Detroit's a city of vacant lots and dangerous gangs undergoing a green revolution, with teen moms at the wheel. Welcome to the Catherine Ferguson Academy where students learn planting, harvesting and bee-keeping on an urban farm.

**1:00 – 3:00pm**

### **A BLOOMING BUSINESS (52/NETHERLANDS/KENYA)**

Roses are thorns in Jane's hands ... with a lot of chemicals. A Blooming Business exposes some of the prickly issues around the flower farms in Naivasha, Kenya that deliver roses to the world's biggest flower auction in Holland.

### **THE TOXINS RETURN (45/GERMANY)**

Your clothing could be killing you. With recent concerns over contaminated food and toys making headlines, The Toxins Return is a timely look at how banned substances infiltrate our wardrobes and nurseries.

**3:00 – 5:00pm**

### **NO PART OF PIG IS WASTED (18/France)**

Six seasonal labourers grow tired of eating river fish and decide to raise a pig for meat. While some have only bacon in mind, others take a shine to the oinklet, and the line between pet and pork chop begins to blur.

### **BASIL & NETTLES (24/NETHERLANDS)**

Julie's kitchen is a cinematic experience of local and wild food prepared by love ... until her father, Simon, returns. The small town begins to whisper and Julie's life of sweet basil begins to dissolve into the bitterness of stinging nettles.

### **HOMEGROWN (52/USA)**

The Dervaes family has a farm in downtown Pasadena. Defying the idea that says you can't live in the city and live off the land, they harvest over 6,000 pounds of produce a year, and prove the myriad possibilities of the urban garden.

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 8

**5:00 – 7:00pm**

**CAMPESINOS ...WE WILL INHERIT THE EARTH (54/CANADA)**

Delectable things grow in Central America: nuts, coffee, chocolate ... and the articulate words of the children who help harvest them. Duly, Paul and Jenier show how sustainable cooperative farming brings their families together.

**SCHOOL ON THE MOVE (50/France/Russia)**

An experimental nomadic school is set up by the Evenk people, the guardians of the Taiga in eastern Siberia, who traverse their terrain with their beloved reindeer herds.

**7:00 – 9:00pm**

**LIVING WITH SHAME (25/China)**

Fengjiang, China is a center for the dismantling of global waste metals. The promise of income has brought many migrant workers to the town, but the work has untold health costs.

**BIRD WHISPER (29/China)**

Nicknamed the “Bird-Watching Lama,” Zhaxi Sange is a joyous Tibetan abbot who has recorded more than 400 bird species in drawings and field journals in the context of Buddhism and the culture of the people of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau.

**SILENT VALLEY (56/China)**

This dark, captivating film from China focuses on the masked palm civet, an animal that was briefly believed to be a carrier of the SARS virus. What at first seems to be a wildlife documentary becomes a strange, cautionary poem about where we allocate our fear.

**9:30 – 11:30pm**

**AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH: OF WELLS AND MEN (25/Niger)**

In the rural areas of Niger, most wells are dug the traditional way: with men lowered deep into the ground on a rudimentary rope harness. This documentary takes you to the center of the earth with them.

**NORTH-SOUTH.COM (53/BELGIUM)**

The Internet has arrived in Cameroon, and become a lottery where Cinderellas look for Caucasian Prince Charmings. North-south.com is not a fairy tale but a cautionary story of women hoping to meet rich husbands in France and Belgium on-line.

### INNIS 222

**3:00 – 5:00pm**

**FRÉDÉRIC BACK, NATURE ABOVE ALL (25/CANADA)**

The biopic of the animator of *The Man Who Planted Trees* reiterates why Planet in Focus awarded him the Media Eco-Hero Award. Insightful glimpses into his private life, activism and art, capture the essence of an artist and man who holds “Nature Above All.”

**THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES (30/CANADA)**

Based on the allegorical tale *The Man Who Planted Trees* by French writer and pacifist Jean Giono (1953) and set against the background of two world wars, this simple animation by Frédéric Back reveals the efforts of a humble shepherd to transform his barren landscape into a living forest of green.

**AIGOUAL, REBIRTH OF A FOREST (52/France)**

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Mount Aiguol in southern France was bare rock. This is the story of two men who made it green again – George Fabre, a guard with the French military, and Charles Flahault, a botanist.

**7:00 – 9:00pm**

**DÉCHETS: LE CAUCHEMAR DU NUCLÉAIRE (98/France/Germany)**

What happens to nuclear waste and is it being stored safely? This documentary unravels the “clean image” of the nuclear process as it traces the journey of tons of contaminated material to its final destination.

**ARTA GALLERY (Free admission)**

**Opening 2:00 – 6:00pm**

**PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION & SCREENING – LAND & CONFLICT**

***Off The Wall***

Babak Salari, an Iranian photographer in exile, presents a photographic chronicle of the wall separating Israel and Palestine in 2004.

***The Liberty Project***

Renowned Toronto based photographer Anne Bayin will present her latest exploration of social justice and liberty, with portraits of high rank politicians and artists wearing a mask of Aung San Suu Kyi, the imprisoned opposition leader of Burma. The notables include Vaclav Havel, the Dalai Lama and many more.

**3:00 – 4:00pm LAND & CONFLICT**

**KALANDIA – A CHECKPOINT'S STORY (59/ISRAEL)**

Over a span of six years, filmmaker Neta Efrony, a member of Machsom Watch (Checkpoint Watch), documented Kalandia (an Israeli military checkpoint) on the road between East Jerusalem and Ramallah – which grew and expanded into becoming a Terminal. (Followed by a post screening discussion.)

**ROM**

**11:00am – 1:00pm**

**THE GOLDEN MONKEY FAMILY IN QINLING MOUNTAINS (40/CHINA)**

Deck rules his colony of golden monkeys perched on a red birch. His favorites are Yuanyuan and her son Little Yuan. His adversary is Parted Hair. A story of rivalry and tragedy is framed by the pristine forest home to crested ibis and giant panda.

**LIVES AT RISK: THE TOADS (53/SOUTH KOREA)**

This South Korean spin on the nature doc spices up its thorough study of toad ecology with excellent photography, dramatic music and a few unexpected twists.

**1:00 – 3:00pm**

**THE PRAYER (27/HUNGARY)**

An elderly couple sighs through their twilight years in the Hungarian countryside, in this deeply spiritual meditation on what it means to age and to survive.

**OVER LAND (60/CANADA)**

Over Land is an intimate and personal portrait of the Sudermans, who are facing the end of their family farm. This is the Canadian farm in crisis. The local bakery has set up a “fair trade for farmers fund” – maybe we should be doing this on a national level.

**3:00 – 5:00pm**

**ONE DAY AFTER THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY (25/IRAN)**

Iranian director, Narges Abyar, delicately captures the special bond between Uncle Reza and his camel. Her story builds complex layers around this simple man as the rituals of the Day of Ashura, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Muharram is staged with the camel at its centre.

**MARINA OF THE ZABBALEEN (70/EGYPT/USA)**

The Zabbaleen are a culture of Coptic Christians living in Egypt, who make a living through garbage collection and recycling. With a fluid, impressionistic style worthy of Kiarostami, this film gives a close-up look at the daily life of one family.

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 10

**6:30 – 8:30pm**

**NATURE ON ITS COURSE (2:30/CANADA)**

Nature on its Course is a brilliant mixed-media animation about a careless hunter who takes more than he needs. Of course there is a surprise ending. Not to be missed.

**CRUDE SACRIFICE (78/CANADA)**

A multitude of perspectives and stories expose the lies, injustices and contradictions buried in Alberta's Tar Sands. A truly independent film, Crude Sacrifice is a thorough, angry, fair and honest look at one of the most controversial places on earth.

**9:00 – 11:00pm LAND & CONFLICT**

**VOICES FROM EL SAYED (75/ISRAEL)**

The Bedouin village of El Sayed houses the largest community of deaf people in the world. When Salim, a villager, is presented with an opportunity to offer his son Muhammad a cochlear implant the close-knit community has mixed reactions in this beautiful and layered documentary. Producer Itay Ken-Tor will be in attendance for a post screening discussion.

### **Sunday October 25**

#### **BATA SHOE MUSEUM**

**1:00 – 2:00pm**

**GREEN SPROUTS/YCA 2009 SCREENINGS**

Green Sprouts Youth Filmmakers Showcase values and celebrates diverse films made by youth from Canada and around the world. These expressions are an important component of our annual environmental film festival.

We are also pleased to present the 2009 edition of films from our annual Youth Camera Action! Program. These films were created by youth from across the Greater Toronto Area, aged 14-18.

**3:00 – 4:00pm**

**GREEN SPROUTS/YCA 2009 SCREENINGS (See above)**

#### **INNIS TOWN HALL**

**11:00am – 1:00pm**

**INTO THE COOL (20/USA/PANAMA)**

We live in the complexity of many rules. What if there was one law that defined it all? Authors Eric D. Schneider and Dorion Sagan apply the 2nd law of thermo-dynamics to climate change and reveal a paradox that affects us all.

**THE FUTURE MAKERS (46/AUSTRALIA)**

In the face of global warming, Australia is leading the race to design sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels.

Scientists there are looking to this continent's unique natural resources to create sustainable designs that won't cost the earth.

**1:00 – 3:00pm**

**JI JI GRASS (35/CHINA)**

HeXiZouLang traces the path of the Great Wall of China within the Gobi Desert. A wild grass grows there that has seven roots. Called JiJi grass, it is resilient like the villagers who face a new challenge: becoming a tourist site.

**A VANISHING VILLAGE (55/CHINA)**

The flip-side of preserving wild areas for species is the displacement of people who have lived on the land for generations. This is life unraveling under the weight of bureaucracy: villagers leaving a sustainable lifestyle to save the environment in China.

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 11

**3:00 – 5:00pm LAND & CONFLICT**

**JERUSALEM MOMENTS (80/ISRAEL)**

Seven young Palestinian and Israeli directors create short documentaries that reflect the complexity of urban life in Jerusalem in the context of the Israeli Palestinian conflict, in a series commissioned by Ir Amim (City of Nations), a Jerusalem NGO. (A post screening discussion will include participating filmmakers.)

**5:00 – 7:00pm**

**THE HUNTER AND THE BEAR (7/GERMANY)**

A hunter stalks a lonely meadow, searching for an elusive white bear that has frightened the townsfolk. A gorgeous animation with hints of Bruegel, set to the majestic music of Sigur Ros.

**THE INVISIBLE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER (25/HUNGARY)**

Dressed in camouflage, hidden in a tent, aiming with precision and patience, Bence Máté prepares to shoot birds. This funny, endearing documentary explores the lengths the renowned photographer goes to in order to capture his remarkable pictures.

**DARK SIDE OF LIGHT (50/GERMANY)**

Since the invention of the electric light bulb, artificial light has transformed life for humans, and changed biological clocks, hormone secretions and entire ecosystems. Scientists are trying to change the world one light bulb at a time to save a view of the stars for nocturnal insects, migratory birds, sea turtles and humans.

### INNIS 222

**1:00 – 3:00pm**

**A GARDEN UNDER THE LINES (117/CANADA)**

In a sunbaked patch of land in Montreal, aging first-generation immigrants tend the gardens they have planted underneath the power lines, and we sense how their way of life is fading like the late-afternoon light.

### ROM

**11:00am – 1:00pm**

**NUTKIN'S LAST STAND (18/USA/UK)**

Warning: grey squirrels were harmed in the making of this film. A group of concerned Britons is out to defend the native red squirrel against the pox carried by invasive, American greys.

**BUDAPEST WILD (30/HUNGARY)**

Budapest's nightlife is wilder than you think. This playful documentary takes us into the urban jungle, where ecosystems largely invisible to the human eye live distinct yet interconnected lives.

**DARWIN'S DANGEROUS IDEA (59/UK)**

This BBC production aims to reassess Charles Darwin's place in the modern environmental movement – and underline what his work has to tell us about our current crisis of mass extinctions.

**1:00 – 3:00pm**

**EVERY DAY IS A FISH DAY (1:30/NORWAY)**

An average, law-abiding fish wakes up, takes a shower, commutes through the rain and puts in a day's work.

**'IMUSH Q'UYATL'UN (4/CANADA)**

"Q'uyatl'un" is the Penálexeth' word for the hooded nudibranch – a bulbous, translucent mollusk that swims in a swaying, rhythmic manner. Contained in its strange, beautiful movements, we see the great contradictions in life and nature.

**A SEA CHANGE (86/USA)**

Sven Huseby is worried about what the oceans will look like when his grandson grows up. His investigations into ocean acidification take him across the globe, talking to scientists, artists, entrepreneurs and scholars about this "unambiguous threat."

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 12

**3:00 – 5:00pm**

**LOOPLOOP (5/CANADA)**

In this shifting, dynamic experimental work, Patrick Bergeron manipulates footage shot from a train to give us a layered look at the colorful world of urban Vietnam.

**CONCRETE COAST (26/SPAIN/USA)**

The modern tools for colonization are the bulldozer and the credit card, as illustrated in this visually striking documentary essay about tourist developments on the Iberian Peninsula.

**THE GOLDEN BEACH (58/SWEDEN)**

Global travel and the transformation of a seaside village in India are the subjects of this film, which illuminates the moral ambiguities of pleasure seeking in foreign places.

**5:00 – 7:00pm**

**KSCAPES (10/ITALY)**

KScapes captures the patterns, colours and sounds of the Keita Valley in Niger. The multi-framed presentation emphasizes the importance of water to this fragile land.

**FOOTSTEPS IN AFRICA (67/USA)**

An intoxicating soundtrack fuels this evocative homage to the nomadic tribes of the Malian desert. A colourful, rhythmic epiphany of a film, pulsing with the rapturous mystery of the desert.

**7:00 – 9:00pm**

**CLOSING NIGHT GALA, FILM AWARDS & INDUSTRY/MEDIA ECO HERO AWARD**

Salute Planet in Focus 2009 Industry/Media Eco Hero – *The Nature of Things with David Suzuki*. Also, the Film Award Winners for Best Canadian Short & Long Form Films and the Best International Short & Long Form Films. The 2009 Mark Haslam Award will also be presented as well on this special evening. The Awards will be followed by the Closing Night Film Earth Keepers and a reception at the Bata Shoe Museum.

**EARTH KEEPERS (83/CANADA)**

Once an angry young man, now a young father, Mikael Rioux is concerned about the legacy he will leave. His mentor, Christian de Laet, suggests meeting visionaries with projects for the future of society. Earth Keepers is a manifesto against apathy.

\*\*\*\*

## 2009 Planet in Focus International Film & Video Festival - 13

Presented by Planet in Focus, Voices Forward and the International Diaspora Film Festival, the following events are part of the **LAND & CONFLICT** series that segues into the International Diaspora Film Festival.

**Tickets for LAND & CONFLICT Music and Film Programs after October 25**  
**416-571-2150** OR email [info@diasporafilmfest.com](mailto:info@diasporafilmfest.com) / [www.diasporafilmfest.com](http://www.diasporafilmfest.com)

**Films: \$10** (\$8 seniors and students, \$5 under 12).

**Music event at Revival: *At Home Around the World - A Musical Mosaic With David Amram and Friends*: \$25** (\$20 students, seniors)

### Sunday November 1

#### ARTA GALLERY (Literary Event)

**5:30 – 7:30pm** *Perspectives on the Wall*. A Reading with Hanadi Loubani at Arta Gallery. FREE.

**Hanadi Loubani**, a Palestinian-Canadian writer and activist, presents a series of poetic works and writings on the theme of Land & Conflict.

### Tuesday, November 3

#### REVIVAL BAR (Music Event)

**8:00pm** *At Home Around the World –*

*A Musical Mosaic With David Amram and Friends Celebrating the Spirit of Diaspora*

An evening of music from the Middle East, including Arab, Jewish, Iranian, Afghani and Pakistani influences arranged by New York City's legendary **David Amram** in conjunction with Small World Music and local musicians. For over fifty years, Jewish composer and writer **David Amram** has composed orchestral and chamber music works, written many scores for Broadway theatre and film, including the scores for *Splendor in The Grass* and *The Manchurian Candidate*; the groundbreaking Holocaust opera *The Final Ingredient*; and the score for the landmark 1959 documentary *Pull My Daisy*, narrated by novelist Jack Kerouac. He recently collaborated with the late Frank McCourt (*Angela's Ashes*) on *Missa Manhattan* and completed the score for Teri McLuhan's documentary, *Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan*, which opens the International Diaspora Film Festival.

### Thursday November 5

#### INNIS TOWN HALL (Screening)

**7:00pm**

**Z32 (81/Israel-France/2008)**

A former Israeli soldier is burdened by guilt over a revenge operation in which two Palestinian policemen were murdered. Directed by acclaimed documentary and experimental filmmaker Avi Mograbi.

### Sunday, November 8

#### INNIS TOWN HALL (Screening)

**2:00pm**

**Jaffawiye (18/Israel/2008)**

The seaside town of Jaffa is the wellspring of a socially conscious group of rap musicians made up of Arabs, Jews and multiethnic immigrants who reside there.

**On Hold (52/Israel/2007)**

A young Palestinian couple, who are also actors, feel they have no future as citizens residing in the State of Israel and plan their departure in this poignant documentary directed by Rokaya Sabbah, herself at the story's centre.

**8:00pm**

**Jaffa (100/Israel/2009)**

Jaffa, the ancient Mediterranean port city, is the setting for what at first appears to be a contemporary Romeo and Juliet drama. Mali, a young Jewish woman, is in love with Toufik, a young Arab man, who works in her father's garage together with his own father. Keren Yedaya, whose film *Or* won the Caméra d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 2004, directs this moving drama. *Director Keren Yedaya will be in attendance for a post-screening discussion.*