


Spring 2011

Greetings from the deep freeze! Wherever this finds you, let's hope that the New Year is off to a good start for you. With the winter/spring festivals and markets underway, I hope to see you at History Makers in NY, One World/Documentary Campus in Prague and Tribeca or HotDocs in late spring. After that, there is the June launch of Sheffield to look forward to!

As a new addition to our portfolio, we are proud to be working with Nancy Buirski, known to many of you as the founder and former director of the Full Frame Film Festival. Nancy is in post-production on her debut feature doc *The Loving Story* (w.t.) on the couple whose interracial marriage ultimately resulted in one of the landmark achievements of the Civil Rights era. At a time when marriage equality is in question, this story has a powerful resonance for all audiences to consider. Also spanning this period of history is *Joe Frazier: When the Smoke Clears* the life story of champion boxer Joe Frazier. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the bout known as "The Fight of the Century" between Frazier and Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden. Frazier won, but the rest of his career - and life - was lived in Ali's shadow.

The end of 2010 brought outstanding news for many of our projects - ITVS finance for *The Brothers Hypnotic*, the selection of *A Small Act* for the first Sundance Film Forward Program, enthusiastic reception for *Summer Pasture* at the Camden and IDFA festivals, major funding progress for *The Biosphere Experiment* (details tba in February) and completion of *Crazy Wisdom*, having its world premiere at next month's Santa Barbara Film Festival. Also just finished is Oscar nominees Jeanne Jordan and Steve Ascher's *Raising Renee*.

See you soon!



Louise Rosen, Managing Director

THE LOVING STORY (w.t.)

IN POST PRODUCTION (1 x 90/60 min.)

An Augusta Films production in association with HBO

A heart-rending love story and a racially-charged criminal trial converge in this documentary about Richard and Mildred Loving. Mildred, part black and part Native American and her white husband Richard had been married for 6 weeks when the county sheriff and two deputies burst into their bedroom and shined flashlights into their eyes. When a threatening voice demanded, "Who is this woman you're sleeping with?" Mrs. Loving answered, "I'm his wife." Mr. Loving pointed to the couple's marriage certificate hanging on the bedroom wall. The sheriff responded, "That's no good here." The Lovings' painful story proved to be the beginning of the marriage equality movement and one of the major untold stories of the Civil Rights era. This compelling saga plays out in rural towns and grimy jail cells and comes to a momentous climax in the halls of the US Supreme Court. With rare and surprisingly intimate archive, the film builds a complex portrait of the couple at the heart of modern notions of marriage equality. Lawyers of the groundbreaking case expertly place it in context for contemporary viewers, understanding that the Lovings' story goes to the heart of all human rights and to the pursuit of happiness regardless of color, creed or sexuality. www.lovingfilm.com **ROUGH CUT AVAILABLE**



JOE FRAZIER: When the Smoke Clears

NOW AVAILABLE (1 x 90/60 min)

A Riverhorse production, from Mike Todd and Geseth Garcia

2011 marks the 40th anniversary of "The Fight of the Century"; Smokin' Joe Frazier vs. Muhammad Ali

They say Philadelphia is the capital of boxing and Joe Frazier's gym is the White House. Joe Frazier, one of the most famous athletes of the 20th century, is lost in the legend of one of the greatest rivalries in the history of sport. His outspoken opponent Muhammad Ali is a household name, yet few know Joe Frazier the human being. Told through the voice of son Marvis, this film reveals the story of the real Joe Frazier - an athlete who battled prejudice, struggled mightily for his many

achievements and still believes the power of boxing can transform people's lives. www.joefrazierfilm.com **SCREENERS AVAILABLE**

SUMMER PASTURE

NOW AVAILABLE (1 x 85/60 min.)

A True Walker Production in association with Kham Film Project and Rabsal

Gotham Award nominee for "Best Film Not Playing at a Theater Near You", and Independent Spirit Award nominee in the "Truer Than Fiction" category!

In recent years, growing pressures from the outside world have posed unprecedented challenges for Tibetan nomads. Government policies, rangeland degradation, and the allure of modern life have prompted many to leave the pastures for permanent settlement in towns and cities. Amidst this period of great uncertainty ***Summer Pasture*** chronicles a young family in eastern Tibet's grasslands, an area known as *Wu-Zui* or "5-Most," the highest, coldest, poorest, largest, and most remote county in Sichuan Province, China. A story of a people at a crossroads, ***Summer Pasture*** examines one family's struggle to balance their traditional existence with the rapid modernization of their culture and lifestyle. www.summerpasturefilm.com **SCREENERS AVAILABLE**



CITIZEN ARCHITECT

NOW AVAILABLE (1 x 60/53 min.)

A Big Beard Films production in association with PBS

Official selection of SXSW and Hot Docs 2010!

In 1993 the late architect and MacArthur Genius Samuel Mockbee started the Rural Studio, a design/build education program, in which students create striking architecture for impoverished communities in rural Alabama. Guided by frank, passionate interviews with Mockbee, ***Citizen Architect: Samuel Mockbee and the Spirit of the Rural Studio*** shows how a group of students use their creativity, ingenuity and compassion to craft a home for their charismatic client, Jimmie Lee Matthews, known to locals as Music Man because

of his zeal for old R&B and Soul records. The film reveals that the Rural Studio is about more than architecture and building. Mockbee's program provides students with an experience that forever inspires them to consider how they can use their skills to better their communities. Interviews with Mockbee's peers and scenes with those he's influenced infuse the film with a larger discussion of architecture's role in issues of poverty, class, race, education, social change and citizenship. www.citizenarchitectfilm.com **SCREENERS AVAILABLE**

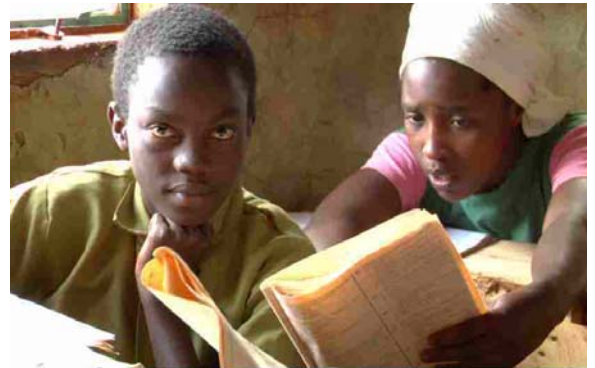
A SMALL ACT

NOW AVAILABLE (1 x 86/54 min.)

A Harambee Media Inc. production in association with HBO and ABC/Australia

Named as a "Top Ten Documentary of 2010" by legendary film critic, Roger Ebert!

When Hilde Back in Sweden sponsored a young, impoverished Kenyan student, she thought nothing of it. She paid roughly \$15 dollars per term to keep him in primary school. She certainly never expected to hear from him, but many years later, he appears in her life. Chris Mburu had thought of his "angel" Hilde since he was a boy. The small contribution she made paid off – Chris went all the way to Harvard University. Now, he's a respected UN human rights lawyer, dedicated to battling genocide and crimes against humanity. Chris wants to replicate Hilde's generosity by starting a scholarship fund, naming it after her. The funds will educate the brightest kids in his village so they can also succeed and give back. But Chris is stunned when Kenya's public schools begin to fail, only two students qualify for sponsorship and Kenya is plunged into ethnic violence. Chris knows well that ignorance fuels ethnic hatred and that education has never been more important to Kenya. The fund created to honor his sponsor now plays an even more critical role in Kenya's future. www.asmallact.com **SCREENERS AVAILABLE**



THE GAME MUST GO ON

NOW AVAILABLE (1 x 78/52/22, 5 x 26 min.)

An Anemon production in association with Skai TV/Greece

Official selection of IDFA 2010!

In a crowded part of a small city, each day after school, Alexandra, Vlad, Chrysa and the rest of their crew gather in front of Christos' house to play soccer until bedtime. But as soon as they begin the neighbors assault them with curses, threats and sometimes violence. The kids' reaction is fiercely defiant. There's nowhere else to go. Alexandra decides to confront the Mayor and insist that he see the situation for himself. Thus begins a yearlong campaign to get the city to build them a play area. Over this time the kids' lives and perceptions are revealed



while their determination and friendship fuels their coping skills and sharpens their resolve. Intimate access to a remarkable cast of characters makes for an engaging film and series. www.anemon.gr **SCREENERS AVAILABLE**

THE BROTHERS HYPNOTIC

IN PRODUCTION (1 x 90/60 min.)

A Reuben Atlas production in association with the PBS National Black Programming Consortium and New York State Council on the Arts

The Brothers have headlined at Glastonbury twice, toured Europe and appeared on Saturday Night Live!

Shot over four years, this film follows the Hypnotic Brass Ensemble, an energetic, hip-hop jazz street band of eight brothers, as they struggle to manage their growing careers and the conflicts of young adulthood. Interwoven with this is the narrative of their extraordinary upbringing as the youngest sons of jazz legend Phil Cohran's 25 children. *Hypnotic* moves from the family's home base on Chicago's South Side to New York City where the bands' rising popularity results in international touring, a major label record deal and collaboration with artists such as Mos Def, Damon Albarn and Erykah Badu. Raised by deeply committed 60s activists, the brothers' grassroots ideals are challenged and their integrity tested. The film's intimate style reveals the characters' daily lives and incorporates a wealth of family archive. www.hypnoticbrassfilm.com **SELECT SCENES AVAILABLE**



\$H*T!

IN PRODUCTION (1 x 90/52min.)

A Bedouin Viking Production with funding by the Sundance Documentary Film Institute and the Skoll Foundation, The Canada Council for the Arts, and Le Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec

An official selection of Good Pitch/Silverdocs 2010!

*\$H*T!* is an international wake-up call for changing our attitudes to how we deal with our own waste. Human waste is a universal reality few want to talk about, but the truth is – it's killing us. Lack of proper sanitation is the single greatest cause of disease, poverty, and child mortality. *\$H*T!* hopes to open up local and global discussions by showing solutions that will not only improve worldwide sanitation and reduce child mortality, poverty, and inequality, but do it by turning this deadly problem into a resource. *\$H*T!* tells you how to save the planet, improve the economy while you do it, and have a laugh or two in the meantime. You'll be sorry you flushed! www.shootingshit.wordpress.com **SELECT MATERIAL AVAILABLE**

DO IT AGAIN

NOW AVAILABLE (1 x 90 min.)

A film by Geoff Edgers

An official selection of London, Boston, Glasgow, Santiago, Rotterdam, Buenos Aires, Taipei, Full Frame, Woods Hole, Warsaw, Palm Beach, Nashville, Camden and Pusan International Film Festivals (among others)!

It is a quest. Geoff Edgers, a newspaper reporter dreading the approach of his 40th birthday, decides to take a most improbable leap. He sets out to find the still-surviving members of the long dormant British rock band, The Kinks ("You Really Got Me," "Lola" and "Come Dancing"), to convince them to reunite. Never mind that he's an American with just one connection to Kinks leader Ray Davies and his younger brother Dave: Edgers grew up loving their music. When his initial mission fails, Edgers turns the film into a meditation on the power of music and his own chance to testify on his love for the Kinks. He also meets with Kinks fans that include Sting, Zoey Deschanel, REM's Peter Buck, Paul Weller, Robyn Hitchcock and Clive Davis. There are other movies about music. But there's nothing quite like "Do It Again," a kind of "Sherman's March" — with guitars. The film follows Edgers from Boston to LA, from Las Vegas to London. www.doitagainthemovie.com **SCREENERS AVAILABLE**



CRAZY WISDOM

NOW AVAILABLE (1 x 90/60 min.)

Prod/Dir: Johanna Demetrakas, Prod: Lisa Leeman in association with BOS/Netherlands

Buddhism's major foothold in the West was incited by Chogyam Trungpa. He was already a renowned scholar by the time he reached the UK as a student in the Swinging Sixties. There, he shattered notions about how an enlightened teacher should behave when he renounced his monk's vows and eloped with a sixteen-year-old aristocrat. Once he reached the US, times were ripe for his influence. Through his unconventional style, his ideas found favor from coast-to-coast, while at the same time his drinking and affairs confounded his followers. Trungpa's admirers flocked to his every manifestation – the western hemisphere's first Buddhist university, "dharma art" happenings, lectures and retreats. Yet twenty years after his death, Trungpa's name still evokes admiration and outrage. What made him tick? And just what is enlightenment, anyway? www.crazywisdomthemovie.com **SCREENERS AVAILABLE**



THE BIOSPHERE EXPERIMENT

IN POST PRODUCTION (1 x 90/60 min.)

A Near Oracle/Northern Light production in association with Channel 4/UK

Selected for the 2011 Meet Market and IDFA Forum!

In 1991 four men and four women are sealed into Biosphere 2, a huge glass and steel structure in the Arizona desert. With them are 4,000 species of plants, animals and microbes with which they will sustain their closed world for two years. The project's ambitions are vast - to use this high-tech Eden as a model for sustaining man-made ecosystems, then to build on this knowledge to establish colonies on Mars and beyond. For a while, things work beautifully. The Biospherians are the darlings of the media, millions around the world watch them set records and presiding harmoniously over their paradise. Then the problems begin. Relying on never-

beforeseen footage shot by the Biospherians themselves, this film takes viewers behind the scenes of this controversial venture, from rising CO2 levels and species extinction to the aftermath and its consequences. Success or failure will be hotly contested and some may even claim the Biospherians gave birth to Reality TV. The Mars 500 project is underway but *The Biosphere Experiment* has already tested the question: "what happens when the wildest variable in the system turns out to be man?"

RAISING RENEE

SOON AVAILABLE (1 x 90/60 min.)

A West City Films production in association with HBO

From acclaimed producer/directors Steven Ascher and Jeanne Jordan of *So Much So Fast* and the Academy Award nominated *Troublesome Creek: A Midwestern*

Raising Renee is about painter Beverly McIver, a unique group of women, the tenacity of family bonds and the power of art to transform experience into something beyond words. Bev's paintings have long involved her identity as an African-American woman and themes from her family life, including her mother Ethel's work as a maid and her sister Renee, who is developmentally disabled. Bev made a promise to her mother that she'd take care of Renee if anything happened to Ethel. In 2004, the McIvers' lives were upended when Ethel died unexpectedly. Suddenly the realities of Bev's promise are put to the test.

www.westcityfilms.com **SCREENERS AVAILABLE**



ELEPHANTS NEVER FORGET

IN DEVELOPMENT (1 x 90/60 min.)

A film by Patricia Sims, in association with Canal D/Quebec

One would logically think elephants are too big to smuggle. Yet they're routinely moved across the normally impenetrable borders of Myanmar and "disappeared" from Bangkok streets. That Asian elephants are under threat is unquestioned. But do best intentions of wildlife defenders suit the circumstances? There was a time when elephants and their skilled handlers logged vast areas of Thai forest. Since the practice was outlawed, hundreds of mahouts and their elephants eke out an existence busking for tourists in the night. In this urban jungle they

share a life of poverty and hardship where all they have is each other - but is this the right place for any elephant to be? Through an investigation into the condition of human-elephant relations in Thailand and beyond, their story leads us into a complex world of intrigue, smuggling and corruption, calling attention to the urgent plight of the endangered Asian elephant that raises questions about a future where elephants and humans can co-exist. www.elephantsneverforget.ca **SELECT MATERIAL AVAILABLE**



PLAY THAT, TEO (1 x 90/60 min.) a film that profiles the life and work of

Teo Macero, the legendary producer of some of the greatest albums ever recorded is nearing production!

www.playthatteo.com

Filmmaker Kimberly Reed has earned a GLAAD Outstanding Documentary nomination for

PRODIGAL SONS (1 x 86 min.); a raw and provocative examination of one family's struggle to come to terms with its past and present.

www.prodigalsonsfilm.com

The offbeat global warming adventure, **GOOLD'S GOLD** (1 x 80/60 min.) follows geophysicist Jonathan Goold as he hunts for gold on land exposed by Alaska's melting glaciers is nearing completion!

www.gooldsgold.com