Women's Voices, Struggles and Deeds

Tuesday 27th April

The Horse Hospital
18.30
Anything But Black
Director: Ausra Linkeviciute
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Run Time: 20min

A glimpse into a rural town of Lithuania where a group of good-humoured elderly women share a unique attitude towards life and death.

+ Beautiful Sentence
Director: Suzanne Cohen
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Run Time: 20min

Poet Leah Thorn is writer-in-residence at HMP Bronzefield, a high security women's prison in Middlesex. Through her workshops we meet a variety of women striving to find a voice through creative writing. Personal histories, emotions and inner conflicts are revealed through their poems and interactions. The film explores the liberating and healing effect of creativity.

In association with International Student Ethnographic Film Festival

+ Panel

Tuesday 27th April

Free Word Centre
20.00
Voices Unveiled: Turkish Women Who Dare
Director: Binnur Karaevli
Country: Turkey / U S A, Year: 2009, Run Time: 72min

Voices Unveiled: Turkish Women Who Dare explores the challenges and triumphs of women pursuing careers and life paths of their own choosing in a traditional Muslim nation. The film is an intimate feature documentary about three courageous women - an artist, an activist and a dancer. Belkis, Nur and Banu contradict the familiar stereotypes of 'Muslim women.' Courageous, outspoken, educated and often provocative, they are not afraid to weigh in with opinions about religion, politics and gender roles. The film journeys with these women as they continually push the envelope to pursue authentic lives that encompass both traditional culture and embrace individuality.

+ Panel

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Wednesday 28th April

Free Word Centre
20.00
The Bees
Director: Rana Ayoub
Country: Lebanon, Year: 2009, Run Time: 13min

"The bee defends the hive any way possible. It faces death as if it was a martyr ready to sacrifice itself, no matter what. The most important thing is to protect its home, the hive" says Em Khaldoun. The Bees is the story of a Lebanese Bee Keeper. She is a woman struggling to overcome the wilderness she lives and preserve her home.

Saturday 1st May

British Museum, Stevenson Theatre
15.45
Awra Amber
Director: Paulina Tervo
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Run Time: 28min
Website: http://www.awraamba.com

A young Ethiopian woman has escaped her violent husband and is trying to become a member of a unique, self-help community in Northern Ethiopia. In Awra Amba, women and men are equal, there is no religion and work is equally shared.

+ Forced to Marry
Director: Ruhi Hamid
Country: UK, Year: 2008, Run Time: 60min

Every year, thousands of young women are taken abroad and forced into marriages by their families. This film gains unique access to the work of the British Consulate's unit in Pakistan that rescues girls who call them for help. It is a task fraught with diplomatic pit-falls and personal risk, lending this film a real tension as the team bounce over the roads of rural Pakistan on their way to another "rescue." By calling for help, the girls are in danger of losing everything – including all contacts with their families. "Imagine waking up tomorrow and not having a mother," says one. "A father. A family. Your home. Your community."

+ Panel

Saturday 1st May

Free Word Centre
16.00
MOTHERS & CHILDREN FOCUS:

A Harlem Mother
Director: Ivana Todorovic
Country: USA, Year: 2009, Run Time: 13min

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In 1998, 18 year old Latron Parker made a documentary about the difficulties growing up in Harlem. Eights years later he was shot dead in the street. Today his mother fights youth gun violence through her organization 'Harlem Mothers'. Weaving footage from Latron's own film with scenes from Jean's new life today, A Harlem Mother tells this tragic and inspirational story from the dual perspectives of mother and son.

+ Likhaya
Director: Aaron Kopp
Country: Swaziland / U S A, Year: 2009, Run Time: 15min

An amazing group of people live on a small sustainable farm in Swaziland in southern Africa, the country with the world's worst HIV/AIDS rate. Likhaya paints a serene portrait of the women and children who are, in their own small way, turning the epidemiological tide.

+ Out of Sight Out of Mind
Director: Emily Kate Harris, Yoni Bentovim
Country: UK, Year: 2009, Run Time: 24min

Narrated by Juliet Stevenson, Out of Sight Out of Mind follows three mothers as they struggle to provide a normal life for their children against the shocking reality of how we treat asylum seekers in the UK.

+ Keeping them Safe
Director: Lauren Sandler
Country: Australia, Year: 2009, Run Time: 28min

Sopheak works in one of Cambodia's many 'Karaoke Bars'. From 6pm every night she does whatever she can to earn a few dollars to support her seven year old daughter. A single mother, Sopheak has few other options in a country still reeling from the devastation caused to its people by the barbaric Khmer Rouge regime that ruled only one generation ago. Condemned to a life of poverty, Sopheak must make tough choices to avoid her daughter facing the same future or worse a future in the hands of child traffickers, who prey on the desperation of women like Sopheak.

Saturday 1st May

Free Word Centre
18.30
WOMEN AND JUSTICE FOCUS:

The Children's Empire: An Angry Dakar Woman / L'empire des enfants
Director: Gerard Moreau
Country: France, Year: 2009, Run Time: 22min

Dakar. Forced to beg and victims of violence, children roam the streets in their thousands. They live and sleep on the streets, merely surviving. In the face of this scourge, Anta M'Bow gives way to her anger: "Street children? No, the street doesn't have children! The street has never produced!"

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In 2004, she took up the challenge. And with the support of a handful of artists, created the “Children’s Empire' in an old cinema. What magic allows dazed children to enjoy life again after just a few days? How is the reunion with a lost family achieved? And how can this place run without any aid from the state or international institutions?

+ Shortcut to Justice
Director: Daniel Burkholz, Sybille Fezer
Country: Germany, Year: 2008, Run Time: 41min

Shortcut to Justice tells about the courageous `Women for Justice´ from Vadodara in the nortwest of India. Because the police and the legal system, rarely give any protection to these women against the violence they suffer, they decide to found a court themselves

Wednesday 5th May

The Horse Hospital
20.55 approximately
Part of “An Evening of UK Shorts: Part 2” (starts 20.00)
Manju
Director: Eleanor Church
Country: UK / Dubai, Year: 2009, Run Time: 25min
World Premiere

This is a personal story about Manju, a Sri Lankan domestic worker in Dubai. The film looks at why she left her young son behind to move to Dubai, and also at the growing Sri Lankan community around her where stories of family separation and its effects are everywhere.

Saturday 8th May
The British Museum, Stevenson Theatre
13.00
A Letter Home
Director: Shahrzad M. Davis
Country: United States, Year: 2009, Run Time: 4min

A daughter of the Iranian Revolution recounts her search abroad for her mother's lost stories.

+The Women From Georgia / Qalebi Saqartvelodan
Director: Levan Koguashvili
Country: Georgia, Year: 2008, Run Time: 54min

Georgian illegal female immigrants, slaving their lives away in the USA working as care-takers to support their families in Georgia, get together for their one day off a month in Brooklyn, New York. The only day when they can meet friends, go shopping, visit beauty parlors and then don their best clothes and go to Russian or Georgian restaurants to drink, socialize, dance and come back to the hotel at midnight and gossip till dawn. The day off is the only chance for these women to forget their tough, often humiliating job; to

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forget the fact that they haven't seen their husbands and children for many years, to forget that their family members in Georgia have got so used to the money sent back by these women in America, they don't even ask them to come back home.

Saturday 8th May

British Museum, Stevenson Theatre
17.30
Award Ceremony
In association with the London Review of Books

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