



SILVER DOCS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

JUNE 20-26 2011



At the Edge of Russia



Hell and Back Again



Where Soldiers Come From

Military/War

AT THE EDGE OF RUSSIA

Michal Marczak

POLAND, 2010, 72 MINUTES, RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES/
STERLING WORLD COMPETITION

Aleksey is eager to serve Mother Russia, but this 19-year-old recruit sees little soldiering while stationed at the country's frozen northern border. With invasion unlikely, his burly superior's lessons teach more about isolation, quotidian civil service and drunken paternity than anything else. This hyper-masculine coming-of-age narrative captures these life lessons while evoking a popular Russian social sentiment.

Thursday, June 23, 12:45 p.m.

Sunday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.

DIARY

Tim Hetherington

USA, 2010, 20 MINUTES, ENGLISH

DIARY is the late Tim Hetherington's haunting first-person account of what it is like to be on the front lines of war every day as a daring photojournalist who sought to bring truth to the world through his provocative images.

Dreamlike, piercing and somewhat experimental, DIARY becomes a posthumous tribute to the man behind its camera as well as a testimonial to all war journalists who risk their lives every day.

Friday, June 24, 3:30 p.m.

(with USIP post-screening panel)

HELL AND BACK AGAIN

Danfong Dennis

USA, 2011, 88 MINUTES, ENGLISH, PASHTO WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Following US Marine Corps Sgt. Nathan Harris both on the battlefields of Afghanistan and back at home recovering from his devastating war wounds, HELL AND BACK AGAIN is a powerful portrait of war and its lasting impact on those who survive it. Brilliantly shot using a DSLR camera, the film is remarkably intimate in portraying the chaos of battle as well as the disorientation of Sgt. Harris as he struggles physically and emotionally with coming home.

Wednesday, June 22, 11:45 a.m.

Thursday, June 23, 3:00 p.m.

MUSHROOMS OF CONCRETE

Martijn Dayens

BELGIUM, 2010, 23 MINUTES, ALBANIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
During his 40 years in power, Enver Hoxna built over 250,000 defense bunkers to prepare for a war that never came. With less than 3 million citizens, building the unsightly shelters drained vital resources and crippled Albanian industry. Presently, Albanians struggle to put the abandoned hollows to productive, creative use.

Shorts Preceding Features: Preceding BAKHMARO

SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL

Rachel Libert, Tony Hardmon

USA, 2011, 75 MINUTES

Retired Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger devoted 25 years of service to the US Marines, whose motto, "Semper Fidelis," means "Always Faithful." When his 9-year-old daughter dies from a rare form of leukemia in 1985 while living at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Ensminger wants to know why. His search for answers leads him to a shocking discovery: the very organization that was supposed to protect its own — the Marine Corps — has been covering up one of the worst cases of toxic water contamination in history. With remarkable dedication and perseverance, Ensminger spearheads a lengthy battle to hold the Marine Corps accountable for its actions and make the bombshell information public.

Tuesday, June 21, 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 25, 4:15 p.m.

THE REDEMPTION OF GENERAL BUTT NAKED

Eric Strauss, Daniele Anastasion

USA, 2010, 84 MINUTES

One of the most feared and ruthless warlords of Liberia's First Civil War, Joshua Milton Blahyi was also known as General Butt Naked due to his fondness for fighting in a primal state, wearing nothing but a pair of sturdy boots while wielding his weapons of death. Having stopped fighting in 1996, Blahyi now claims to have turned over a new leaf. Denouncing his past and reinventing himself as a Christian evangelist, Blahyi embarks on a quest to track down and face the people whose lives he destroyed, and ask for forgiveness.

Tuesday, June 21, 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 25, 1:45 p.m.

THE RESCUERS

Michael King

USA, 2011, 91 MINUTES, ENGLISH

Filmmaker Michael King follows Rwandan anti-genocide activist Stephanie Nyombayire as she teams with noted Holocaust historian Sir Martin Gilbert to trace the little-known story of 12 diplomats who put themselves at great risk to help save tens of thousands of Jews from Nazi concentration camps. In a journey that covers 15 countries, Nyombayire and Gilbert unravel the remarkable true story of a dozen heroes of World War II.

Wednesday, June 22, 10:45 a.m.

Thursday, June 23, 5:15 p.m.

(with USIP post-screening panel)

THE TEAM

Patrick Reed

CANADA, 2010, 80 MINUTES, ENGLISH, SWAHILI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Can a soap opera help to heal a country? Producers in Kenya were willing to give it a try after the relatively prosperous African nation suffered spasms of violence following a disputed 2007 election. THE TEAM provides an emotional behind-the-scenes look at the making of a show about a multiethnic, coed soccer club in a country where distrust runs deep. For the actors, in particular, far more than culture is at stake.

Saturday, June 25, 3:00 p.m.

(with USIP post-screening panel)

WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM

Heather Courtney

USA, 2011, 91 MINUTES, ENGLISH

From rural America to Afghanistan and back again, WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM tells the story of three childhood friends who join the National Guard and find themselves risking life and limb to detonate roadside bombs. Filmmaker Heather Courtney follows the friends over the course of a four-year journey, from teenagers stuck in their sleepy northern Michigan town to 23-year-old combat veterans trying to start their lives again. This is a poignant portrait of the young men who fight our wars and the families and communities they leave behind.

Thursday, June 23, 12:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 25, 2:45 p.m.

Advance purchase recommended. BUY NOW at SILVERDOCS.com

Box Office Hours: 11:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

AFI Silver Theatre & Cultural Center | 8633 Colesville Road | Silver Spring, MD | 301.495.6776