

Oct 13 -21 2017

Global commffest

community film & arts festival

bringing communities together for social empowerment

www.commffest.com

416 362 5570

film - art - music - screenings - awards - receptions - panel discussions - conferences - seminars - workshops



commffest WORLD MUSIC
presents
festival of choirs
featuring
The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir
Univox Choir
Grant Ame Church Unity Choir
Oct 21 7.30pm 27 Front St. E
Jane Mallett Theatre St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts
tickets \$33.00 includes tax and handling fees
www.stlc.com

commfest locations

Main Screenings
 Lucie Thornton Blackburn
 Conference Centre
 80 Cooperage St/Front, Toronto
 Canary/Distillery District
 Oct 13th -15th
 screenings \$11.00

Other community locations

Malvern Public Library
 30 Sewells Rd Scarborough

Crescent Town club 2 Market
 Place, Crescent Town Toronto

St James Town 545 Sherbourne St
 Toronto



Frid 13th 9. 30am

Jesus (13 mins) USA Director: Brian Patterson

On an ordinary summer day, on an ordinary trip to the park, Jesús, who uses a wheelchair to get around, begins to realize that his life is going to be different from the other kids’.



Frid Oct 13th 9.30am

Govan Young (30 m) UK
 Dir: Sanne Jehoul

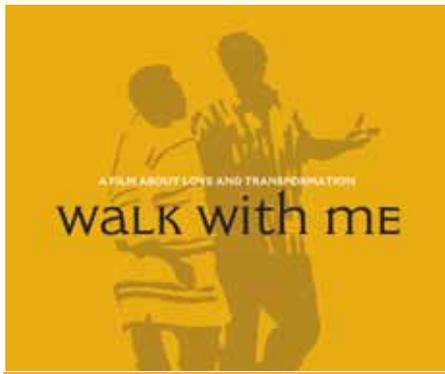
Govan Young follows a group of schoolchildren as they learn the rarely-told story of the Viking invasion of Central Scotland and the subsequent establishment of the medieval kingdom of Strathclyde, which had its spiritual centre in Govan.



Frid Oct13th 9. 30am

Wash 15 mins) USA
 Director: Zhichun Huang

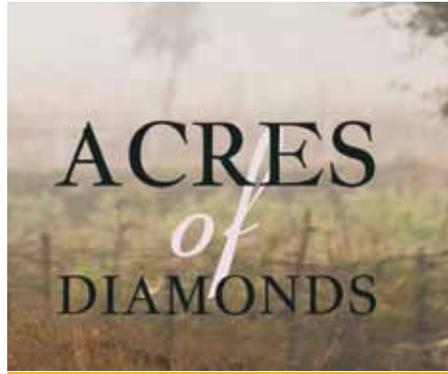
Newly immigrated mother and daughter from China who are living under the condition of water shortage in a shabby household in Los Angeles, are going through the threshold of cultural assimilation and racial displacement



Frid Oct 13th 10am Mediaroom

Walk with Me (28m) USA
 Dir Collective Effort

A minister working at Riker’s Island challenges church hierarchy and overcomes resistance to create a Presbyterian church run by and for prisoners, ex-prisoners and people of faith who want to be in solidarity with them.



Frid Oct 13th 10am Mediaroom

Dir; Shawn Small 20m USA

Acres of Diamonds examines the two possible lives for vulnerable children in rural, poverty stricken India: A life in slavery with no hope of escape or a flourishing life with Good News India, where they received food, clothes, education, and love.



Frid 13th Oct 11am Grandroom

The Baulkham Hills African Ladies
 Troupe (84m) Australia Director: Ros Horin

A group of traumatised former refugees in Sydney take on the risky challenge of creating and performing in a piece of theatre about their lives. In the process they are transformed, empowered and healed; and their play triumphs.

Creative Aging
 presents

Film and workshop for seniors Irene Gabinet will be leading the workshop. Irene is a skilled expressive arts facilitator, adult educator and mixed media artist. She has presented many expressive arts workshops for health and social service practitioners to promote self care and well being and with seniors to build community and reduce isolation.

Frid Oct 13th 1.45pm-4pm

The Art and Mind workshop opens with a brief discussion on how the latest research shows that visual arts enhances brain function as we age. Then Irene leads us in a fun, interactive workshop with easy and accessible art exercise that anyone can do.

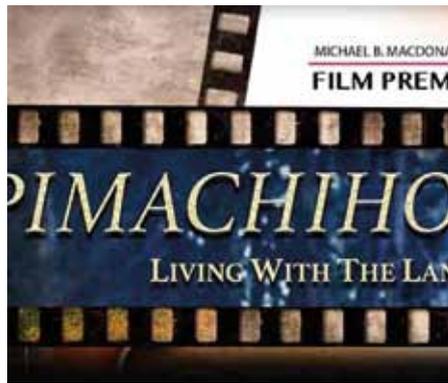
films are :
 Time flies when I am having fun (4m)
 and Pedicab (24m see below)



Fri Oct 13th Mediaroom 11.30 am

Women In The Sand
 20m Dir Steve Jarvis USA

Two feisty elders of the Timbisha Tribe struggle with the US Government and their own tribal council to overcome injustice to save their ancient tribal culture in Death Valley, CA. Through legends and stories, Pauline and Maddy Esteves reveal the rich history of their people.



Fri Oct 13th Mediaroom 1.pm \$11.00

Pimachihowan (33 mins) Canada
 Director: Michael B MacDonald

A University of Calgary business ethics professor with a background of working with indigenous people in Western Canada travels to the Northern Cree community of Little Red River First Nations to understand the Cree concept of Pimachihowan. Learning about Pimachihowan may help set



Fri Oct 13th 1.45.pm Grandroom

Time flies when I am having fun 4m
 5m Dir. Johan Tappert USA

From personal experience Marianne knows that time passes too quickly when she is having fun. She therefore tries to live as boring as possible, which turns out to be harder than she thought.

screens with Pedicab \$6.00 pay at the door



Fri Oct 13th 1.45.pm Grandroom

Pedicab 24m
 Dir: Seamus Boyle US

An Old Man escapes from a nursing home on a mission to fulfill promises to his late wife and becomes fast friends with a ‘down and out’ NYC pedicab driver.



Oct 13th 7.30pm Grandroom \$11.00

Buckout Road 97m Canada
Dir: Matthew Currie Holmes

A college class project on creation and destruction of modern myth, turns terrifying when a trio of young people come to realize the many evil urban legends surrounding New York State's famed Buckout Road may, in fact be real.



Oct 13th 7.30pm Grandroom \$11.00

Mrs. Krantz Bakes Great Cookies (10m)
Canada Director: Maria Sant'Angelo

Mrs. Krantz Bakes Great Cookies is about an abused woman who has suffered in silence for the majority of her married life. She has endured mental, as well as physical abuse from her spouse. .
screen's with Buckout Rd



Oct 13th 7.30pm Mediaroom \$11.00

The Valley 95m USA
Dir: Saila Kariat

It is the story of an immigrant entrepreneur Neal Kumar, his wife Roopa and his daughters Monica and Maya who reside in the high octane, technologically driven culture that is silicon valley.



Oct 13th 7.30pm Mediaroom \$11.00

It's Within, 8m Canada
Dir: Manu

It's Within is a short dramatic film about a young woman who, in the wake of her mother's death, descends into a battle with depression, only to find support from an unlikely companion.



Oct 14th 11.30am Grandroom \$11.00

Quiet Please... 93mins) USA
Director: Jefferey Scott Gould

Imagine everyday sounds consuming and dictating your life... Some of us are annoyed by certain sounds, but when you suffer from Misophonia, a neurological disorder, specific sounds trigger adverse physiological and emotional reactions: adrenalin rush rage.



Oct 14th 12.pm Mediaroom \$11.00

River & Oak (13 m) Canada
Director: James Malekzadeh

As Toronto's Regent Park Housing project is demolished and rebuilt for the second time in its history, two women reflect on the complicated past of their neighbourhood.

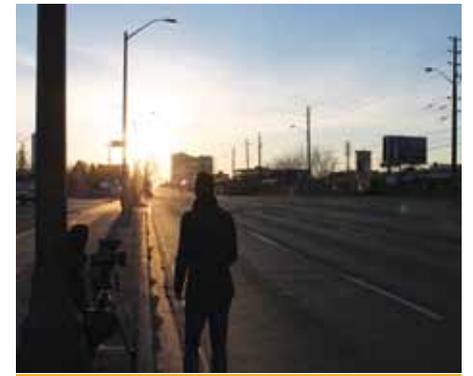
Screens with Neighbourhood Utopia,



Oct 14th 12.pm Mediaroom \$11.00

Neighborhood Utopia (80m) Canada
Director: Rapide Blanc

Affectionately known as La Pointe, Pointe-Saint-Charles is a working-class neighbourhood in southwest Montreal. Once among the biggest industrial districts in Canada, today it is under attack by real estate developers.
screens with River and Oak



Oct 14th 3.pm Grandroom \$11.00

Wexford (8.30 mins) Canada
Director: Michael Barry

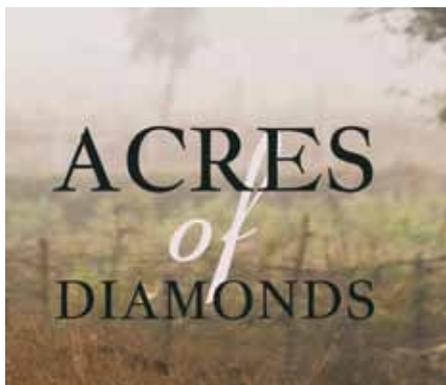
The Wexford Restaurant was established in 1958 by the Kiriakou brothers, Tony and Tommy. Situated in the Wexford Heights Plaza on Lawrence Avenue East in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, the restaurant continues to play a vital role within the local community. This charming short documentary profiles the restaurant, its staff and customers.



Oct 14th 1.30pm Grandroom \$11.00

Anastasia Lin: The Crown (20 mins)
Canada
Director: Kacey Cox

After being crowned Miss World Canada 2015, China-born actress and human rights activist Anastasia Lin discovers that local authorities have threatened her father in an effort to silence her criticisms of the Chinese government. .
Plays with anthems A journey



Oct 14th 1.30pm Grandroom \$11.00

Dir; Shawn Small 20m USA

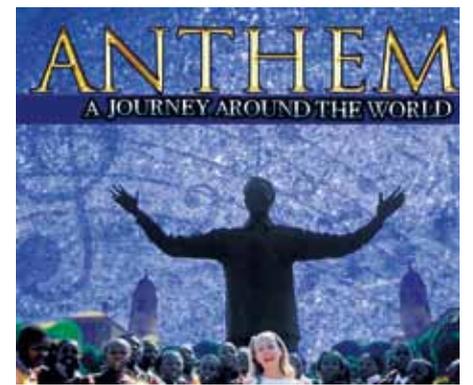
Acres of Diamonds examines the two possible lives for vulnerable children in rural, poverty stricken India: A life in slavery with no hope of escape or a flourishing life with Good News India, where they received food, clothes, education, and love.



Oct 14th 3.00pm Mediaroom \$11.00

Chaos in the Kalahari 54m KATE THOMPSON-GORRY UK

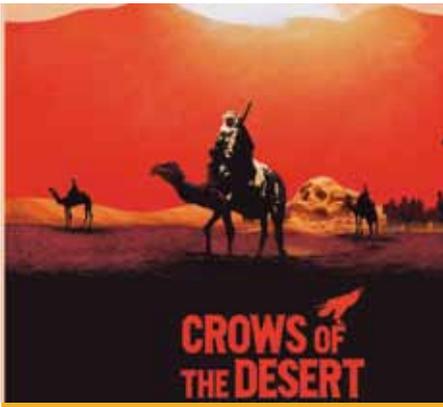
In the heart of the Kalahari Desert, the last sanctuary of the San Bushmen tribe - also known as 'the first people' - is taking place a drama of both irreversible and universal consequences: an ethnic and cultural genocide. Bella, 43, is an enterprising and energetic woman of the San Bushmen.



Oct 14h 3pm Grandroom \$11.00

Anthems: A Journey Around the World (38 m) Canada Director: Stephanie Dieter

10-year old Canadian singer and Guinness World Record-holder Capri Everitt embarks on a unique journey with her family to 80 countries where she sings 80 anthems in their native languages in an effort to raise money and awareness for orphaned and abandoned children around the world.



Oct 14th 5pm Grandroom \$11.00

CROWS OF THE DESERT - A Hero's Journey Through the Armenian Genocide (60m) USA ,Canada Director: Marta Houske

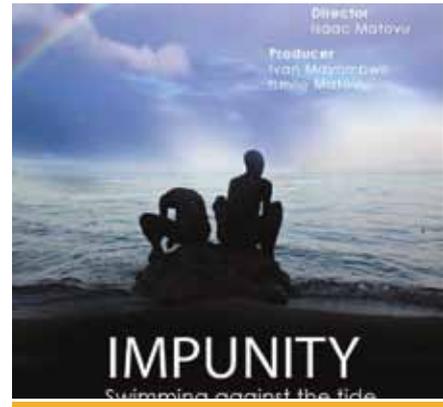
A Documentary based on the memoirs of Levon Yotnakhparian. The film recounts the incredible true story of one man's desperate struggle to not only stay alive but to help save his people from near extinction in the 20th Century's first genocide.



Oct 14th 6.30pm Mediaroom \$11.00

Masquerading: To Hell and Back (14m) South Africa Director: Sofia DE Fay

What was it like to be a drag queen during the discriminatory and brutal regime of Apartheid in South Africa that made being a drag queen illegal? **Plays with Impunity**



Oct 14th 6.30pm Mediaroom \$11.00

Impunity 25m Uganda Isaac Matovu

After the scrape off of the famous anti-gay bill commonly known as kill the gay bill by the court ruling. It gave nous of relief to the advocates and the LGBTI community while reigniting the public wrath.



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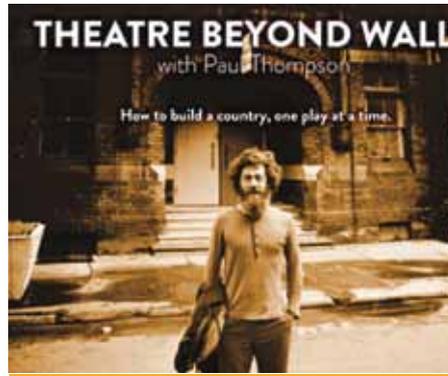
53 Lower Jarvis St.
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1R8
416 366 4353
 Between Gardiner and the Esplanade



Oct 14th 7.30pm \$11.00 Grandroom

The Dark and The Wounded (26 mins) Canada, USA Director: James Picard

To become great, you must have a vision, courage and tenacity. Master Painter James Picard embodies all three in this defining chapter of his illustrious career. After exhibiting worldwide in a career that spans close to four decades, his new series takes us on a disturbing yet eye opening journey.



Oct 14th 7.30pm \$11.00 Grandroom

Theatre Beyond Walls with Paul Thompson (45 m)Canada Dir: Rachel Thompson

This 45-minute documentary examines the radical beginnings of the alternative Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto in the 1960's and then the 'Paul Thompson style' collective theatre movement that shocked Canadians into realizing their own stories served as rightful spot on our national stage.

commffest Crescent Town
 Community Film Festival

Crescent Town Club
 2 Market place Toronto
 Oct 14th 12pm -5pm

screenings:

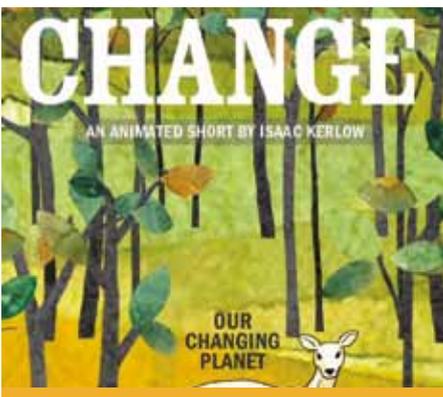
Plastic is forever 12pm
Change 12pm
Mailman 1pm
The Valley 2.30pm



Sat 12pm Oct 14th

Plastic is Forever (19 mins) USA Director: Dylan D'Haeye

What happens when you throw plastic trash away? Dylan, a 13 year old filmmaker from the San Juan Islands, follows plastic trash to where it ends up, and shows how kids can help make a difference in a world that is increasingly dependent on plastic.



Sat 12pm Oct 14th

Change (5m Singapore Dir: Issac Kerlow

Constant change is a natural part of Earth's life, and its interconnected systems can easily adapt to slow change. But the natural balance gets disrupted when changes happen rapidly. Our growth and prosperity are changing Planet Earth, and some of those changes may be forever.



Sat Oct 14th 1.00pm

Mail.man (23pm) USA Director: Bill Aydelott

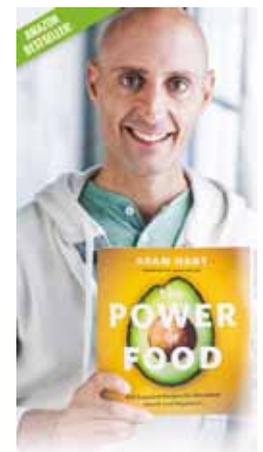
With letters something of an endangered species in this new digital age, "Mail.Man" dramatically illustrates their continued importance in a moving but light-hearted fashion, with modern technology still playing an important role.



Sat Oct 14th 2.00pm

The Valley 95m USA Dir: Saila Kariat

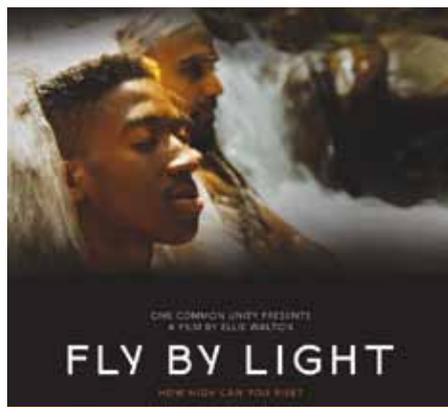
It is the story of an immigrant entrepreneur Neal Kumar, his wife Roopa and his daughters Monica and Maya who reside in the high octane, technologically driven culture that is silicon valley..



amazon
 BARNES & NOBLE

commfest Malvern
Community Film Festival

Malvern Public Library
30 Sewells Rd.
Scarborough Ont
Oct 14th 11.30am - 5pm



Oct 14th 11.30am

Fly By Light (59 mins) USA
Director: Hawah Kasat

A group of teenagers board a bus for West Virginia, leaving the streets of Washington, DC to participate in an ambitious peace education program. For the first time in their lives Mark, Asha, Martha, and Corey play in mountain streams, sing under the stars, and confront the entrenched abuse and violence.



Oct 14th 1.30pm

Arrived (16 mins) Belgium
Director: Dilgesh Rojbeyani

Refugees arriving in Belgium and locked up by their smugglers until all payments are finalised.



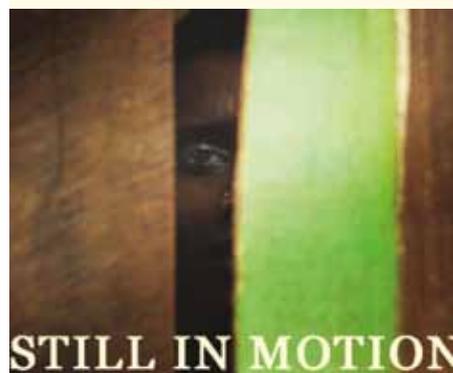
Oct 14th 1.30pm

Growing Up fat & Albanian (31 mins)
USA Director: Elza Zagreda

A whirlwind Albanian American love story set in the 70's, 80's, 90's and present day. Watch Ella, as she grows up FAT and Albanian in America. Follow her zany life of arranged marriages, flying bullets at weddings, and learning the art of becoming a good 'Nuse,' a good Bride.

Screenings:

Fly By Light 11.30am
Arrived
Growing Fat in Albania 1.30pm
Still In motion 2.45pm
Accompanying Dancer



Oct 14th 2.45pm

Still in motion (14:34 mins) Malaysia
Director: Laura Low

It is a story capturing the journey of a Rohingya refugee girl who seeks freedom from her unsafe village. She travels with her brother and together, they entrust their fate with a middleman who suggests taking the less conventional route of travelling.



Oct 14th 2.45pm

Accompanying Dancer
Johel (Karleener) Miteran 24m France

Maryline, an elderly woman, receives a nurse and shows him pictures of a friend who, in her youth, danced to accompany in their last moments people at the end of life. The nurse asks her to tell. Maryline describes her story, in the form of 8 choreographies.

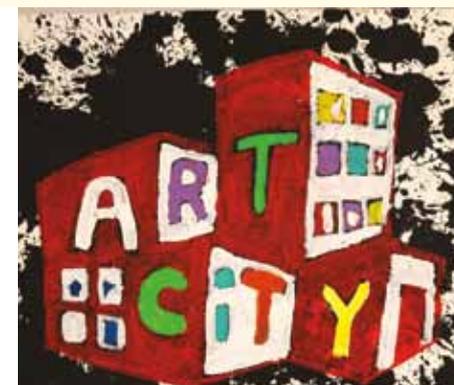
St James Art city Oct 14 & 18th 4pm-6pm 545 Sherbourne Street, Toronto,



KCPL stories

Matt de la Peña Reads Last Stop on Market Street (11:m) USA Director: Eric J. Smith

Watch as Matt de la Peña's award winning book comes alive! This energetic ride through a bustling city highlights the wonderful perspective only grandparent and grandchild can share, and comes to life through Matt de la Peña's vibrant text and Christian Robinson's radiant illustrations.



ArtCity In St. James Town

Director: Commfest 5m Canada

Art City in St. James Town is an after school art studio that has been a vital part of St. James Town community for over 16 years. St. James Town is one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in North America with a clear majority of residents being recent immigrants and a smaller number of refugees.

Also Plastic is forever and Change

Restorative Justice: It's Outcomes Conference

commfest 2017

has chosen the seemingly little known social and civil rights topic of Restorative Justice as focal point of its "bringing communities together" mandate.

commfest is dedicating the entire day of Sunday Oct 15th 12pm -6pm.

(5) impactful films followed by a panel discussion@2pm

This relatively unknown judicial alternative, also known as Victim-Offender Mediation, was implemented by Corrections Canada in 1996 to address offences that would ordinarily hamper the progression of the offender toward a lawful, positive and productive future.

The aim of Restorative Justice is to seek a form of justice that will satisfy the needs of the offended, make culpable the offender and maintain an equitable community status quo.

It is an institutionalized, holistic approach that is based on age-old, time-tested traditions from First Nations and African practices.

The framework for our current justice system is Retributive Justice. In this framework, crime is viewed as a violation against the state, as defined as "the lawbreaker" and "the guilty party", and the justice mechanism determines and assigns blame and metes out punishments pre-determined by systematic procedures.

The corrective methods adopted by the First Nations and African cultures integrate the victim, the offender, and the community to

facilitate restoration and healing for all involved. The core principles of this traditional practice include:

Requiring the lawbreaker to take direct responsibility for their individual victimization and acknowledge the harm done to their community.

Providing a system wherein the victims assist in shaping the wrongdoers' restitution.

Encouragement of the community to become involved in supporting the victims, holding offenders accountable and providing offenders the opportunity to reintegrate back into society.

commfest will be inviting community leaders, politicians, stakeholders and affected family members who have been involved the process

and share their intimate experiences, furthering the notion of restorative justice's community engagement.

In keeping with ancient traditions, the conference, structured to examine the outcomes of Restorative Justice within communities, incarceration centres, schools, families and civil rights implications, aims to bring awareness of holistic measures adapted and revised to heal wounded modern communities.

Dahne Jobson
Moderator

commfest 2017

Restorative Justice: It's Outcomes
Oct 15th 12pm -6.00pm
Lucie Thornton Blackburn 80
Cooperage st Toronto



Inside peace 77m 12pm Grandroom 1

Four years in the making, Inside Peace is a feature documentary that focuses on four men incarcerated at the Dominguez State Jail in San Antonio, Texas, who embark on a journey of self-discovery.

With lives marked by generations of violence, addiction, and poor social conditions, they attend a Peace Class and begin the struggle to discover their humanity and rebuild their lives from the inside out.



Mother's Day: The Forgotten Victims of Death Row (55m) USA Director: Linda Broocks 12pm Grandroom 2

Between 1976 and 2016, the USA executed over 1400 people. The mothers of many of the condemned men and women testified at trial, pleading for the lives of their children.

Each of these mothers receives the message that she has failed in her highest calling and that her child must be destroyed. The intense grief these women feel is unacknowledged by society. Each of these mothers has a story to tell. This film presents just a few.



In The Eyes Of Grieving Mothers 33m - 12pm a Documentary by Tanisha "Kyanna" Palmer

In The Eyes Of Grieving Mothers brings light from a mothers perspective, to the violence and other irresponsible acts of crime that has been a thorn in the side of the City of Chester Pennsylvania for countless years.

screens with Mothers Day; The forgotten Victims of death row



Marvin Booker Was Murdered 12 pm Mediaroom (108m) USA Director: Wade Gardner

Marvin Booker, a homeless street preacher, while being booked into the Denver Detention Center, was beaten to death by five jail guards. The event was caught on tape, and witnessed by more than 20 people.

After they beat him, the deputies carried him into an isolation cell. Then, left him laying on the cement floor. The film covers how the Booker family, along with their two incredible, attorneys, fought to restore Marvin's civil rights.

The family and Lawyer will be at the screening



War crimes Director Gopal Shivakoti 63m Nepal 4.30pm Oct 15th Grandroom (following the panel discussion)

During ten years' conflict in Nepal Maoists recruited children as spies, cooks, porters and even front-line guerrillas. After the signing of comprehensive peace accord (in 2006) between the Maoists and Nepal government, Maoists combatants and weapons were brought into the UN-supervised camps (in 2007) where 4008 combatants were classified as being minors and or new recruits.

But Maoist leadership delayed their release for three years so they could bargain for bigger rehabilitation packages.

commffest WORLD MUSIC

“FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS”

Saturday October 21 2017 7.30pm -10pm

Jane Mallett Theatre

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

27 Front St East Toronto

“eclectic music and diverse voices that will inspire and keep you cheering”

hosted by **Dini Petty**

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Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir



The Grant Church Unity Choir



Univox Choir

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 Sunday, October 29th, 10^{AM}-3:30^{PM}
 Monday, October 30th, 10^{AM}-3:30^{PM}
Intercontinental Toronto Centre
 225 Front Street West (2 Blocks West of Union Station)

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commffest is a film and arts festival that presents a broad range of local and international films representing current affairs and relevant issues that affect our society.

commffest provides opportunities for emerging filmmakers, artists, musicians and global community stakeholders to express themselves freely and to connect with audiences on a more personal level.

This unique blend of film, filmmakers and audiences creates a dynamic atmosphere to provoke thought and stimulate further understanding and exploration of ideas, attitudes, and emotions that can foster change – starting with the communities in which we live.

This years main screenings are held at:
Lucie Thornton Blackburn Conference Centre
 80 Cooperage st/front Canary District Toronto

To volunteer please contact us
 416 362 5570 sandie@commffest.com
 Looking for hosts greeters and presenters

www.commffest.com