



2008 Margaret Mead Traveling Festival
Programs from the 2007 Festival



The Margaret Mead Traveling Film & Video Festival

American Museum of Natural History

Department of Education/Public Programs
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024

www.amnh.org/mead

The Margaret Mead Traveling Festival is now available for booking! This year, program themes include:

- Rethinking Gender in Iran
- Beyond Borders
- Confronting Terrorism
- Lucha Libre Activista
- On Reincarnation
- Politics of Water

The Margaret Mead Film & Video Festival is the longest-running, premiere showcase for international non-fiction media in the United States. The Festival features a broad spectrum of cultural documentary, both in form and subject matter. Each year the Mead Traveling Festival brings highlights from the Mead Festival to sites throughout the United States and abroad (museums, community and film centers, universities and colleges, festivals, public libraries, and more), providing access to innovative work from around world.

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- Past Venues Include:
- Alfred State College • American Association of University Women • Antioch College • Arizona Science Center • Australian Film Institute • Bard College • Bennington College • The Berkshire Museum • Boston Museum of Fine Arts • Boulder Public Libraries • Bruce Museum • California State University, Fresno • California State University, Fullerton • Central Washington University • Columbia College • Cornell Cinema • Cranbrook Science Institute • Duluth Downtown City Council • Estrella Mountain Community College • Field Museum of Natural History • Fort Wayne Cinema Center • George Mason University • Gettysburg College • Harvard Film Archive • Houston Community College • Kent State University • Lewis & Clark College • Indiana University • Mathers Museum of World Cultures • Memorial Museum • Metropolitan State College • Montana State University • Mount Holyoke College • Muhlenberg College • National Museum of Natural History • New Mexico State University • Nickelodeon Theater • North Carolina State University • Northern Arizona University • Northwest Film Center • Northwest Folklife Festival • Pacific Film Archive • Patagonia Library • Peabody Museum • Pitzer College • Port Washington Public Library • Portland State University • Reed College • Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • Rice University Media Center • Ridgewood Public Library • Ritual Films/ Brigham Young University • Ross School • Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History • Santa Cruz City Museum of Natural History • Santa Fe Community College • Smith College • Sonoma State University • Southwest Research Station • Syracuse University • Temple University • University of Alaska, Fairbanks • University of Buffalo (SUNY) • University of California, Santa Cruz • University of Colorado, Boulder • University of Florida at Gainesville • University of Illinois • University of Minnesota • University of Montana - UC Programming Films & Lectures • University of Oregon • University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology • University of Southern California • University of Toledo • University of Washington • University of Wisconsin • Webster University • Wexner Center for the Arts • William Patterson University • Yale University

If you are interested in hosting the Mead Traveling Festival, or have any questions, please contact Natalie Tschechaniuk at ntschechaniuk@amnh.org, or 212-313-7341, or visit www.amnh.org/mead.

2008 Margaret Mead Traveling Festival

Program 1: Rethinking Gender in Iran

The Birthday

Negin Kianfar and Daisy Mohr. 2006. 63 min. Iran/The Netherlands

Sexuality remains bound to tradition in modern Iran, and yet within this rigid structure, transsexuals find a government supportive of their desire to be reborn through surgery. This sensitive portrait offers a window into the complex issues of gender and sexuality in an Islamic society.



Program 5: On Reincarnation

The Thread of Karma

Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam. 2007. 52 min. India.

In 1991, filmmakers Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam made *The Reincarnation of Khensur Rinpoche* (Mead Festival 1992), which followed the search and discovery of a 4-year-old reincarnated lama, Phara Khenchen Rinpoche. Sixteen years later, the directors revisit the reincarnation at Drepung Monastery in South India. The film offers an intimate look at the life of a young lama as he aspires to live up to the reputation of his former incarnation. It also explores his moving relationship with the two people closest to him, his attendant and his spiritual master, both of whom were connected to him in his previous life.



Program 2: Beyond Borders

Grito de Piedra (Scream of the Stone)

Ton van Zantvoort. 2006. 59 min. Bolivia/The Netherlands.

Once the source of legendary wealth in colonial days, Potosí's now economically destitute silver mines have been opened as a tourist destination for visitors to Bolivia. *Grito de Piedra* follows a Potosí miner, Gavino, and his son, Pedro, a tour guide to the mines. Depicting their lives in the mines and as participants in a burgeoning cultural tourism industry, this film reveals the enduring power of colonial enterprise to shape life in South America.



Program 6: Politics of Water

The Water Front

Elizabeth Miller. 2007. 50 min. US.

In Highland Park, Michigan, local activists dealing with economic justice and welfare rights fight to keep their community's water from being privatized. Their battle engages the debate of how water, a valuable and essential public resource, should be managed in the midst of an economic crisis that silences claims to human rights. The story is an unnerving indication of what may be in store for residents around the world facing their own water struggles.



Stranger Comes to Town

Jacqueline Goss. 2007. 28 min. US.

This video re-purposes animations from the Department of Homeland Security, combining them with stories from the border, images from the online game *World of Warcraft*, and journeys via Google Earth, to tell a tale of bodies moving through lands familiar and strange. Goss focuses on the questions and examinations used to establish identity at the border, and how these processes in turn affect one's own sense of self and view of the world.



Gimme Green

Isaac Brown and Eric Flagg. 2006. 27 min. US.

Gimme Green is a super-real look at the American obsession with lawns, and their impact on our environment, our wallets, and our outlook on life. From subdivisions in Florida to sod farms in the arid Southwest, *Gimme Green* peers behind the curtain of the \$40 billion industry that fuels our nation's most irrigated crop—the lawn.



Program 3: Confronting Terrorism

Promised Paradise

Leonard Retel Helmrich. 2006. 52 min. Indonesia/The Netherlands.

Jakarta-based puppeteer Agus Nur Amal travels to Bali to call to account the individuals responsible for the terrorist bombing of a Balinese nightclub in October 2002. As in his theatrical performances, Agus uses humor to explore the complexities of these acts of hate. The results are both revealing and sobering.



Village of Dust, City of Water

Sanjay Barnela. 2006. 28 min. India.

A lyrical and chilling ciné poem about social exploitation over access to water in India, where rural water supplies are redistributed to serve booming cities and whole communities are displaced to create dams.



Program 4: Lucha Libre Activista

Super Amigos

Arturo Perez Torres. 2007. 82 min. Mexico/Canada.

Outfitted in the regalia of the Lucha Libre, five former professional wrestlers in Mexico City don the personas of superheroes to fight injustice and inspire others within their local communities. Combining live action and comic book-style animation, the film follows the caped crusaders—Super Barrio, Super Animal, Super Ecologista, Super Gay, and Fray Tormenta—on their mission to protect the underdog.



- Full package (six programs, \$1,800)
- Half package (three programs, \$900)

Packages include:

- Background and promotional information on titles
- Still images
- Preview videos for publicity purposes
- A guide for conducting film festivals and screenings
- DVDs or VHS tapes for up to six weeks

For a full description of this season's outstanding line-up please visit the Mead website at www.amnh.org/mead or contact Natalie Tschechaniuk (ntschechaniuk@amnh.org) for more information.