

chashama Film Festival 2011

Thursday, November 10 through Sunday, November 13, 2011

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**Chaos Theory:** 

### The Rise and Fall of Societies

In its fourth year, chashama Film Festival invites artists to explore the current state of flux in the world, with a focus on societal change brought on by clashing philosophical and sociological ideals. We highlight the work of filmmakers who are not afraid to explore the outer limits of social stability and ask: What next? How do we respond to social changes that are too vast and too rapid for us to comprehend, let alone control? What can we do, individually and as a society, to avert disaster? What would mass disruption and instability mean for the future of humanity?

Our distinguished panel of jurors select productions that examine how both behavior and ethos contribute to groups that flourish and groups that fail.

The work of our international contributors, which addresses a variety of social situations and dynamics, offers a fascinating analysis of the theme for viewers to consider.

## A NOTE FROM RICK KARIOLIC

As a filmmaker, I've always sought to depict the realities of hardship. When I was growing up on the South Side of Chicago, tragedies were a common occurrence in my neighborhood. Making semi-controversial movies seemed like a dedication to the people going through difficult times, a way of being respectful of what they were coping with.

e're becoming less sensitive to people in hardship these days. More and more, we're wrapped up in topics that are deemed important solely by the media, at the expense of other issues that are more critical. When you turn on a commercial newsfeed, it seems every network regurgitates the same petty political scandals, celebrity gossip, and sound-bite-short news events, all sanitized for our safety. The "expert analysis" they offer is just as canned and insubstantial. If you actually want to learn about what's happening outside your community, you have to take the initiative to seek out a reliable source that's unafraid to tell the truth.

That we've been so limited by our own news organizations may have to do with the fact that experience—and ratings—indicate that the average audience is uncomfortable with anything unfamiliar. But that attitude encourages censorship and bias in the media. The result is that nobody can be adequately educated on any subject.

The good news is that with the ease of communication we're privileged to have today, anyone can learn about even the remotest areas and obscurest events in the world. I believe that we have not only the opportunity, but the obligation, to discover

and understand the issues that concern people around the globe. Developing mutual understanding is the key to establishing peace between cultures that have been at war, or friendship between those that have been unknown to each other.

Chashama Film Festival aims to accomplish that goal through the medium of film. This year, as part of the effort to understand other cultures and communities, we asked filmmakers to look at all nature of chaos in people's personal lives, communities, and social orders, in regions around the world. The artists document the results of that chaos and the reactions of those affected by it.

Watching these films, you can understand what it's like to be a veteran of the Iraq war, trying return to "normal" after all you've witnessed as a soldier; you can follow the struggle of women workers battling for their rights in a factory in Buenos Aires; you can experience what it's like to be disabled; or live with the effects of industrial pollution; or be devastated by the economic crisis.

You'll see hope, despair, inspiration, sorrow, gratitude, rage, and many other rises and falls. But the one characteristic all these people share—and share with you—from Tanzania to Afghanistan to India to the U.S., is their humanity. That's perhaps the most important thing we have to learn from looking into the lives of people we'd otherwise never get to know.

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



### 5 Minutes Each

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 5:30 PM | Runtime: 10 minutes

A metaphorical story about the constant struggle of the artist to reach those five minutes of limelight, this film examines the everyday relationship between art and artist, using hyperbolic characters to portray the vanities and raptures of art creation.



### **Afghanistan: Between Light and Darkness**

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 1:30 PM | Runtime: 22 minutes

Though Afghanistan is a hot topic throughout the world, there is very little media coverage of the young leaders who want to create peace. This documentary aims to give these leaders a way to channel their voices to be heard by the international community.



### Baby in the Sky

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 7:00 PM | Runtime: 90 minutes

The head of a rival fertility clinic conspires with Liu Shauanbao's lover to steal his new son, Xiao Bao. After a mishap, the child ends up in the custody of an infertile couple who are being targeted by extortionists.



### The Bottom Line: Privatizing the World

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 7:45 PM | Runtime: 65 minutes

God created the world in seven days. Today, the All-Powerful Businessman is intending to sell it in as many days. Using an effective voice-of-God documentary style, this film presents a revealing snapshot of a global community at the crossroads.



### **Break the Spell**

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 12:00 PM | Runtime: 5 minutes

Break the Spell is a music video from the latest album "Transcontinental Hustle," by the international gypsy punk band known as Gogol Bordello, founded in 1999 by Eugene Hutz in New York. This video presents the living conditions of Roma in today's Europe: poverty, discrimination and police brutality.



### Colorless

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 6:30 PM | Runtime: 15 minutes

It was said that you never see an old albino in Tanzania—and freelance print journalist Erick Kabendera is determined to find out why. He journeys to the Mwanza region of Tanzania, where he discovers a chilling and ancient practice.

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



### Crossing the American Crisis: From Collapse to Action

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 12:00 PM | Runtime: 88 minutes

From the makers of Beyond Elections, this new feature-length documentary takes us across the country amidst the economic collapse, to the grassroots solutions in the hands of the people.



### De Dorpo E Alma

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 4:30 PM | Runtime: 57 minutes

The film tells the stories of Victoria, Mariana and Vasco, three young Mozambicans with physical disabilities, living in the townships of Maputo.



### **Death by Medicine**

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 3:30 PM | Runtime: 93 minutes

Death by Medicine takes a hard look at the dominant medical paradigm contributing to America's health crisis. Based on Gary Null's groundbreaking book, this movie reveals a medical system that is broken and corrupted by money and politics.



### December 6

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 5:30 PM | Runtime: 10 minutes

This short poetry dance film commemorates the 20th anniversary of the 14 women who died on December 6, 1989, in what is commonly referred to as the Montreal Massacre. Performances from 14 female dancers showcase a variety of world dance traditions while symbolizing that violence against women can happen anytime, anywhere.



### El Sueno del Chaman

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 1:30 PM | Runtime: 16 minutes

Two views of the world: Prehistoric man's (a shaman) and contemporary man's (representing scientific thought). They have a different relationship with nature, yet they have a lot in common.



### **Face to Face**

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 6:15 PM | Runtime: 85 minutes

Adapted from a play by Australian playwright, David Williamson, Face to Face is a compelling human drama directed by Michael Rymer. In a setting that bypasses the traditional courtroom, the film explores the concepts of guilt and responsibility.

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



### Here's What I Like: Fashion and Flowers. And Now I'll Tell You Why

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 5:30 PM | Runtime: 7 minutes

Helen Pellet introduces the new episode of her show 'Here's What I Like. And Now I'll Tell You Why'. This episode is about fashion and flowers, and how nature can help us make fashion choices.



### **Huma: Bird of Fortune**

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 6:30 PM | Runtime: 4 minutes

Legend has it that the symbol of ancient Persia flew invisibly in the sky, casting its auspicious shadow on the land beneath.



### The Interviewer

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 5:30 PM | Runtime: 25 minutes

Naoki Mikami is interviewing people at Kyoei Communication, Inc., the biggest advertising company in Japan. It's just another inverview for Makami until Tamiya appears to blackmail him....



### L.E.S. (Lower East Side)

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 12:00 PM | Runtime: 17 minutes

Nonstop headlines and text from the Fall 1975 issue of Time Magazine, cover to cover.



### L'ancre, la croix, la coeur

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 1:30 PM | Runtime: 5 minutes

The vessel was last seen entering the shore of Spitsenbergen in August. Despite many investigative efforts, no one seems to know its fate.



### Latzuf

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 2:00 PM | Runtime: 30 minutes

Frustrated with her raging outbursts and weight gain, 16-year-old Reut's parents send her to a children's therapy ward. There she meets Lilach, who seems to be her polar opposite. Together these two girls work toward understanding the diseases they must overcome—before it is too late.

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|  | 2:15 PM   | Short Block:   |  |
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|  | 4:15 PM   | Death by Medicine (1hr, 33min, New York)   |  |
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|  | 5:45 PM   | 5 Minutes Each (9m, 50s, Canada, Serbia/Montenegro) The Interviewer (25m, Japan)                                   |  |
|  | C-00 DM   | December 6 (10m, Canada)   |  |
|  | 6:00 PM   | Here's What I Like: Fashion and Flowers. And Now I'll Tell You   |  |
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| Ma !   |   |  | Short Block:   |
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|  | November 10, 2011  | 113, 2011 |
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| Saturday, November 12, 2011  | Sunday, November 13, 2011  |           |
| ne American Crisis: From Collapse to Action<br>(1hr, 28m, Brazil)    | Intermission Short Block: El Sueno del Chaman (16m, Spain)   |           |
| Intermission   | L'ancre, la croix, la couer (5m, 15s, France)  Afghanistan: Between Light and Darkness (22m)       |           |
|  | Obama Likes Spending (6m, 24s, USA) Live Free or Die Hard(1m,12s USA) Death and Taxes(2m, 28s USA) |           |
| li: Methods of Manipulation (1hr, 57m, 26s,                          | Intermission   |           |
| World)   | Living River (59m, India)  |           |
| Q&A  | Q&A  |           |
|  |  |           |
| mmes de Brukman (1 hr, 30m, Canada)                                  | Body and Soul (De corpo e alma) (56m, 40s, Mozamb  | bique)    |
| Q&A  36s, Tanzania) n, 25s, Greece) , USA) Fortune (4m, Iran) Burma) | Intermission Face to Face (1 hr, 25m, Australia)   |           |
| Q&A  |  |           |
| tom Line: Privatizing the World (1hr, 5m,<br>Canada)                 | Awards Ceremony  |           |
| Q&A  |  |           |
| auwetter (1hr, 27m, 15s, Germany)                                    |  |           |
|  |  |           |
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(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



### **Living City**

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 6:30 PM | Runtime: 19 minutes

The story takes place in a city that is actually a living organism. It co-exists harmoniously—or so it seems—with the people who live inside it.



### **Living River**

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 3:00 PM | Runtime: 59 minutes

Living River is a groundbreaking look at how industrial water pollution has been an ecological scourge on the Ganges River in India, and how the people it affects are taking action.



### Mugs

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 6:30 PM | Runtime: 5 minutes

One hundred of your favorite celebrity mug shots morph from one to the next. The minimalist, trance-like soundtrack adds to the hypnotic effect.



### **Obama Likes Spending (Series)**

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 1:30 PM | Runtime: 7 minutes

Now that we've reached the third month of President Obama's third year in office, this work in progress becomes the third remix video of Project 12.



### On the Bridge

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 12:00 PM | Runtime: 96 minutes

When they left home, their patriotism was fierce, their convictions firm. As these US Soldiers return from Iraq, nothing is clear.



### **Police Tape**

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 12:00 PM | Runtime: 26 minutes

Police Tape is a half-hour documentary chronicling the role that recordings of them have played in holding police officers accountable. Almost 20 years after George Holliday documented the Rodney King beating on his camcorder, several people used their cell phones to capture a transit officer shooting a young man. But now prosecutors have tried making recording police a felony.

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



### SaSa

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 6:30 PM | Runtime: 6 minutes

In the heart of the jungle, by the Indian-Burmese border, a flicker of hope burns bright—for the moment. When a young Burmese boy from the Chin State, "SaSa" (an alias), walked for seven days out of the jungle 14 years ago, there was no way of knowing that he would survive the years ahead of him.



### shakeSPHERE: Romeo and Juliet

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 2:00 PM | Runtime: 38 minutes

SPHERE's mission is to improve the quality of life for adults with developmental disabilities. They have written, produced and released a film of Romeo and Juliet starring developmentally disabled actors.



### Sudd

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 5:30 PM | Runtime: 15 minutes As the world transforms, you are the last one to find out...



### Tauwetter

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 9:00 PM | Runtime: 87 minutes

Samuel and Tom are both trying to escape their criminal backgrounds. Without being aware of it, they are opposite numbers in a tangle of rival gangs.



### To Be King

Friday, November 11, 2011 @ 9:00 PM | Runtime: 10 minutes

To Be King is the story of Tyrone King, the down-and-out son of a professional boxer. He loses his family and is plagued with other setbacks, but finds redemption and the strength to move on.



### What If Cannabis Cured Cancer?

Thursday, November 10, 2011 @ 6:30 PM | Runtime: 60 minutes

Could the chemicals found in marijuana prevent and even heal several deadly cancers? Coul d the tumor-regulating properties of "cannabinoids" someday replace debilitating drugs, chemotherapy and radiation that harm as often as they heal?

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



### What's Up?

Sunday, November 13, 2011 @ 12:00 PM | Runtime: 8 minutes

A small film crew looks up at the night sky and contemplates what is really going on with our environment. This film was created as part of the 2010 International Documentary Challenge, in which a short non-fiction film had to be written, filmed and produced within a five-day period.



### The Women of Brukman

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 4:30 PM | Runtime: 90 minutes

On the 18th of December 2001, the female workers of a men's clothing manufacturing plant in Buenos Aires decide to occupy and self-manage the factory abandoned by its owners.



### **Vox Populi: Methods of Manipulation**

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 2:00 PM | Runtime: 118 minutes

The thesis of this film is that it has become increasingly evident that large portions of the planet's populated areas are descending at an alarming speed into Orwellian police states.

### **SPONSOR:**



chashama's mission is to support creativity in New York City by repurposing vacant properties; recycling them as artist work and show spaces, granting them at free or highly-subsidized rates, and invigorating the surrounding community with an influx of innovative programs, culture, creativity and commerce.

### **About this Space:**



217 East 42nd Street (http://www.chashama.org/location/217\_gallery)

This 1,000 sq ft storefront space on 42nd Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues is available for exhibits and presentations. Conveniently located near Grand Central: 4,5,6,7 and shuttle trains from Times Square; M104 & M42 buses

### **SPONSOR:**



### 2011 Jurors

### **Richard P. Rubinstein**

Richard P. Rubinstein is currently chief cook and bottle washer at New Amsterdam Entertainment. He has been profitably blending art and commerce as a New York City-based producer of Feature Films, Miniseries and Syndicated TV Series since 1973. Along the way he took his prior production company public and at various times was a subsidiary of Spelling Entertainment, Blockbuster and Viacom. He holds an MBA from Columbia University and is known for his willingness to give new directors, writers and actors a chance to prove themselves.



### **Tony Torn**

Tony Torn is an Actor and Director based in New York City and North Carolina. His feature film Lucky Days (Co-Directed by and Starring his sister Angelica) won Best Feature at The Coney Island Film Festival. His experimental web satire Newsdate: Apocalypse (aka The Grand Inquisitor) played at the chashama film festival and was featured by Adobe Software at the SXSW Festival. His short film The Left Handed Way won multiple awards including Best Story at The 48 Hour Film Project: Asheville. Tony was the founding director of Reverend Billy and The Church of Stop Shopping and still maintains close ties with the troupe. As an actor, Tony is known for his extensive work with legendary experimental theater artists Reza Abdoh and Richard Foreman. Most recently, he has appeared regularly at Classic Stage Company, Brooklyn Academy Of Music, PS122, HERE Arts Center, The Ohio Theater, and The Public Theater. He recently launched PRESENCE, a series of innovative workshops for working actors at The Geraldine Page Salon.



### **Linda Brieda**

Linda Brieda is an award-winning short fiction filmmaker. Her directorial credits include FIVE MINUTES WITH ANNE, PIECES OF CAKE, and ONE FOR SORROW. She has traveled throughout Asia for work on documentaries such as QUEST FOR LIGHT, ONLY ONE CHILD: THE FANGS STORY, and SOUTHERN SILK ROAD. She is in post-production for I AM VIVIAN. Her works-in-progress are feature length screenplays. She enjoys teaching inner city high school students about making narrative short films in the CUNY's College Now Video Workshop at Brooklyn College.



### DOCUMENTARY AND FILM RECOMMENDATIONS

### Between the Folds

This award–winning documentary chronicles the stories of ten fine artists and intrepid theoretical scientists who have abandoned careers and scoffed at hard–earned graduate degrees—all to forge unconventional lives as modern–day paperfolders. Together these offbeat and provocative minds demonstrate the innumerable ways that art and science come to bear as we struggle to understand and honor the world around us—as artists, scientists, creators, collaborators, preservers, and simply curious beings.

http://www.greenfusefilms.com/

### **Burzynski The Movie: Cancer Is Serious Business**

This documentary takes the audience through the treacherous, yet victorious, 14-year journey both Dr. Burzynski and his patients have had to endure in order to obtain FDA-approved clinical trials of Antineoplastons—gene-targeted cancer medicines he discovered in the 1970's.

http://www.burzynskimovie.com/

### **The Corporation**

Provoking, witty, stylish and sweepingly informative, THE CORPORATION explores the nature and spectacular rise of the dominant institution of our time. Part film and part movement, The Corporation is transforming audiences and dazzling critics with its insightful and compelling analysis.

http://www.thecorporation.com/

### **Darwin's Nightmare**

Darwin's Nightmare is a tale about humans between the North and the South, about globalization, and about fish. Some time in the 1960's, in the heart of Africa, a new animal was introduced into Lake Victoria as a little scientific experiment. The Nile Perch, a voracious predator, extinguished almost the entire stock of the native fish species. However, the new fish multiplied so fast, that its white fillets are today exported all around the world. Huge hulking ex-Soviet cargo planes come daily to collect the latest catch in exchange for their southbound cargo—Kalashnikovs and ammunitions for the uncounted wars in the dark center of the continent.

http://www.darwinsnightmare.com/

### Eyes on the Prize (1987)

About the American civil rights movement, 1952-1965. Begins with the murder of Emmit Till and the subsequent trial, and ends with the civil rights march to Selma in 1965. Covers all the major figures of the movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, and major events such as the Little Rock school riots and the Montgomery, AL transit boycott.

### Fed Up!

Nominated for an Environmental Media Award, this eyeopening documentary explores the United States' food production system from the organic farming of the Green Movement to the genetically engineered food of the Biotech Revolution. Through fascinating archival footage and interviews with farmers, scientists, government officials and activists, Fed Up! provides a detailed and sometimes disturbing overview of contemporary food production.

http://www.wholesomegoodness.org/

### The Future of Food

Genetic engineering of food crops is as controversial today as ever, as many of the large agro corporations that use this technology position themselves as the answer to the world food crisis and further consolidate the seed supply. This documentary is a key tool used by activists and educators who call for increased attention to this issue.

http://www.thefutureoffood.com/

### Harlan County, USA

This film documents the coal miners' strike against the Brookside Mine of the Eastover Mining Company in Harlan County, Kentucky in June, 1973. Eastovers refusal to sign a contract (when the miners joined with the United Mine Workers of America) led to the strike, which lasted more than a year and included violent battles between gun-toting company thugs/ scabs and the picketing miners and their supportive womenfolk.

### Inside Job

INSIDE JOB is the first film to expose the shocking truth behind the economic crisis of 2008. The global financial meltdown, at a cost of over \$20 trillion, resulted in millions of people losing their homes and jobs. Through extensive research and interviews with major financial insiders, politicians and journalists, INSIDE JOB traces the rise of a rogue industry and unveils the corrosive relationships which have corrupted politics, regulation and academia.

http://www.insidejobfilm.com

### DOCUMENTARY AND FILM RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Manufactured Landscapes**

MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES is the striking new documentary on the world and work of renowned artist Edward Burtynsky. Internationally acclaimed for his large-scale photographs of "manufactured landscapes"—quarries, recycling yards, factories, mines and dams—Burtynsky creates stunningly beautiful art from civilization's materials and debris. The film follows him through China, as he shoots the evidence and effects of that country's massive industrial revolution.

### http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/film.php?directoryname=man ufacturedlandscapes

### The Medicated Child

In recent years, there's been a dramatic increase in the number of children being diagnosed with serious psychiatric disorders and prescribed medications that are just beginning to be tested in children. The drugs can cause serious side effects, and virtually nothing is known about their long-term impact.

### http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/medicatedchild/

### Mondo Cane (1962)

The original "shockumentary", a vastly influential and groundbreaking film. A collection of footage, some real, some fake, depicting humankind at its most depraved and perverse, participating in freakish rituals and cruel, sometimes violent behavior. NY Times describes it in the director's obit (he died this year): "The narration was droll and the images were ironic: A bereaved mother in New Guinea nurses a suckling pig, immediately followed by the wholesale slaughter of pigs for an orgy of feasting in the same region. Mr. Jacopetti called such transitions 'shock cuts.' Another scene shows people mourning in a pet cemetery in Pasadena, Calif. Cut to shots of customers savoring roast dog at a Taiwanese restaurant."

### Night and Fog (Nuit et Brouillard) (1955)

Documents Nazi Germany's death camps both as they appeared at the time of filming and through archival footage of the horrendous practices when they were being used to systematically murder millions of people. For many, this represented their first exposure to what actually went on at the camps. Still valuable today because of so many Holocaust deniers and people who simply dismiss the event's significance for history, since it happened so long ago and few survivors are left to tell about it.

### Street Fight (2005)

Follows Cory Booker, a graduate of Stanford and Yale Law School and a former Rhodes Scholar who grew up in affluence, during his first campaign for mayor of decidedly not-affluent Newark, NJ in 2002. He was up against incumbent Sharpe James, who had held office in the troubled city for 32 years. Booker declares some elections are "won in the streets," so he travels door-to-door in some of the worst neighborhoods. Despite charges of his being "not black enough," he builds the foundation for a new kind of winning campaign.

### **Tapped**

Is access to clean drinking water a basic human right, or a commodity that should be bought and sold like any other article of commerce? Stephanie Soechtig's debut feature is an unflinching examination of the big business of bottled water.

http://www.tappedthemovie.com/

### Trembling Before G-d (2001)

Portrait of gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews who struggle to reconcile their faith and their sexual orientation, since Jewish law forbids practicing homosexuality.

### Why We Fight

Why We Fight, the film by Eugene Jarecki which won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, is an unflinching look at the anatomy of the American war machine, weaving unforgettable personal stories with commentary by a "who's who" of military and beltway insiders. This film launches a bipartisan inquiry into the workings of the military industrial complex and the rise of the American Empire.

http://www.sonyclassics.com/whywefight/

### **SPONSOR:**



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