

Antonia

d. *Tata Amaral, Brazil 2006*

On the outskirts of São Paulo, four girls struggle against poverty, violence and male chauvinism to make their dream of living off their rap music come true. Filled with energy, great tunes, and a life-affirming spirit, the film traces the fortunes of the group Antonia. Just as the band come close to realising their dream, they are thwarted by the daily events which accompany their torrid lives.

Portuguese with English subtitles, 35mm, 90 min

Bamako

d. *Aderrahmane Sissako, France/Mali 2006*

In a Malian courtyard, an unusual trial is taking place. The plaintiff is African civil society; the defendants the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund; and the charge is that these institutions are responsible for Africa's woes. Witnesses lead evidence of the consequences of World Bank and IMF interventions in Africa; of vital resources being spent on repaying never-ending debts rather than on essential services. As the trial proceeds, we see how the fates of the people who go about their lives in the bustling courtyard, are inextricably linked to the trial. An impassioned, intelligent and unforgettable film from the gifted Sissako.

French and Bambara with English subtitles, 35mm, 115 min

Bog of beasts (Baixo das Bestas)

d. *Claudio Assis, Brazil 2007*

Beautifully shot, and absolutely harrowing, *Bog Of Beasts* is about a poor young Brazilian girl growing up in a village where sexual violence is a way of life. Her grandfather forces her to stand naked in front of leering men for money. The rich boys of the village have violent sex with the local prostitutes, or any girl who crosses their path, and the cycle continues unchanged. Not for the sensitive, *Bog Of Beasts* is a powerful piece of unrelenting, angry cinema. Winner of the Tiger Award at Rotterdam. Filmmaker in attendance.

Portuguese with English subtitles, 35mm, 82 min

Damned By Debt Relief

d. *Ceri Dingle, United Kingdom 2006 DOC*

Shot in Ghana, *Damned by Debt Relief* challenges the Live8-G8 debt relief jamboree. Eloquent and angry Ghanaians cut through the spin and explain why they are not impressed by the West's supposed largesse. Fifty years of Ghanaian independence has seen a producing economy slide into dependence with national policy bent by the draconian will of lenders.

English, Video, 28 min

Dreams of dust (Reves de possiere)

d. *Laurent Salgues, France/ Canada/ Burkina Faso 2007*

Mocktar Dicko (Makena Diop, who was so memorable as the title character in *The Hero* – DIFF 2005), is a Nigerian peasant, who goes to look for work in Essakane, a gold mine in northeastern Burkina Faso. The working conditions are deplorable; each descent into the mines could well be the last. In this prison with bars of wind and dust, Mocktar hopes to forget the past that haunts him, a past of which we know little. A relationship, struck up with a young child could hold the key to Mocktar's past and his salvation.

Filmmaker in attendance.

French and Bambara with English subtitles, 35mm, 86 min

El Ejido, The Law Of Profit

d. *Rhalib Jawad, Belgium 2006 DOC*

Almeria, a coastal province of the renowned Andalusia in Spain, has become the largest concentrated area of agricultural greenhouses in the world. The fruits and vegetables grown there supply millions of Europeans all year round. And with its 17, 000 ha, El Ejido represents the Eldorado, the paradise and future dream sought by thousands of immigrants. *El Ejido, The Law Of Profit* is a searing story of the degradation of human rights, the environment, and ethical values.

In Debt We Trust: America Before The Bubble Bursts

d. *Danny Schechter, USA 2007 DOC*

Emmy-winning journalist Danny Schechter investigates America's mounting debt crisis in his latest hard-hitting exposé that shows that no-one is immune from the lure of easy money. The film reveals the predatory practices of the cabal of credit card companies, lobbyists, media conglomerates and the Bush administration itself who have colluded to deregulate the lending industry – ensuring that a culture of credit dependency can flourish. The debt issue is increasing global problem as more people buy into America's false dreams.

Filmmaker in attendance

English, Video, 90 min

On the Wings of Dreams (Swopnodanay)

d. *Golam Rabbany Biplob, Bangladesh 2007*

In his memorable debut feature, Biplob examines how even a small amount of money can wreak havoc in the lives of the very poor. Fazlu leads a hand-to-mouth existence selling herbal medicines. He buys a second-hand pair of trousers for his young son, and Fazlu's wife discovers some foreign currency notes in the pockets. Convinced that the notes will lead to their escape from poverty, the couple are elated. Soon greed and reckless ambition lead to the creeping up of dormant desires.

Filmmaker in attendance.

Bengali with English subtitles, 35mm, 88 min

Sounds of Sand (Si Le Vent Souleve Les Sables)

d. *Marion Hansel, Belgium/France 2006*

The beautiful images in this powerful film are at odds with the great peril schoolteacher Rahne, his wife, three children, and their livestock face on an exodus that could lead to their deaths. The desert is eating away at the land, the interminable dry season has caused the village well to run dry, and the villagers are forced to leave their homes in search of a more habitable and safe location. But the desert, and those they encounter along the way, are merciless. Hansel has made a thought-provoking film about the difficulties of access to essential resources in Africa.

French with English subtitles, 35mm, 96 min

Suely In The Sky

d. *Karim Ainouz, Brazil/ Germany/France 2006*

From the director of the acclaimed *Madame Sata*, comes this

astounding film about a desperate woman taking an extraordinary path to change her life. 21-year-old Hermila returns to her village with her new-born son and awaits the arrival of her husband, Mateus. It becomes clear that Mateus is not returning, and stricken by poverty and a lack of hope, Hermila, taking on the name Suely, decides to enter the lottery business with an unusual prize. She offers, to the eager takers, a night in her company.

Portuguese with English subtitles, 35mm, 90 min

The Struggle For Livelihood In Mining Communities (Ase Tena Pa)

d. *Sebastian Böhm and Vivian Schüller, Ghana 2006 DOC*

This powerful film is a poignant testimony of the people of Ghana who reflect the loss of their age-old cultural means of livelihood through farming, hunting and charcoal-making. Through the collusion of government and chiefs with big business, those who once owned the land have become

trespassers, while gold mining companies encroach freely on forests and land. Skilled hunters and farmers are reduced to dredging gold illegally from sludge to sell.

English and Twi with English subtitles, Video, 43 min

What Would Jesus Buy?

d. *Rob Van Alkemade, USA 2007 DOC*

This funny and thought-provoking film follows "Reverend Billy" and his "Church of Stop Shopping" gospel choir on a provocative crusade across America to rescue people from the "Shopocalypse" the credit consumer extravagance that grips Americans most feverishly around Christmas each year. Subjecting themselves to harassment and arrest, Reverend Billy's team of "creative activists" brings anti-corporate and anti-consumerist messages to large shopping malls through beguiling but satirical, Christmas songs. Humorous adaptations of confession and exorcism, drive home the message that millions of Americans are replacing Christian love with secular materialism.

Filmmaker in attendance
English, Video, 91 min

A World Without Water

d. *Brian Woods, UK/Bolivia/Tanzania/ India/USA 2006 DOC*

Multi-award winning director Woods turns his clear-sighted attention to the problem of water. Beyond its scarcity, problems mount when it's increasingly treated as a privately-owned, globally traded commodity. Woods introduces us to poor citizens from Bolivia, India, Tanzania and the USA who suffer from water privatisation, then goes beyond the individuals to explain the complex forces – political, financial, ideological – that shape this picture. Includes incisive contributions from experts such as Vandana Shiva and others. A dignified, wide-ranging, informative and hopeful film.

Filmmaker in attendance

English, Spanish, Rajistani, Swahili, with English subtitles, Video, 80 min

