



PRESS RELEASE
18 February 2010

Movies that Matter Festival presents *God Save the Queer*, a programme about religion and gay rights

International film and debate festival, 25 – 31 March 2010, the Hague, Amsterdam and Nijmegen

The Movies that Matter Festival presents *God Save the Queer*, a programme including five films, interviews and a talk show about the tension between religion and gay rights. During the festival, *God Save the Queer* comes to Amsterdam, Nijmegen and the Hague. On GAY MONDAY, 29 March, a talk show is scheduled in Filmhuis Den Haag, where Jacobine Geel will explore the subject with four foreign gay activists.

***Eyes Wide Open* by Haim Tabakman**

Aaron, an observant Jewish butcher in Jerusalem, is married to 28-year-old Rivka. Together, they have four children. When he meets 22-year-old student Ezri, Aaron gradually alienates himself from his family and the ultra-Orthodox community he is part of. The pressure exerted by his environment soon bestows a feeling of guilt upon him.

***City of Borders* by Yun Suh**

The Shushan gay bar in the heart of Jerusalem is an unusual symbol of unity that brings together several generations of people who are used to being confronted with violence, segregation and prejudices. The documentary shows the underground scene where different nationalities, religions and sexual orientations create an island of peace in a country at war.

***Milk* by Gus van Sant**

Harvey Milk was the first avowed gay politician to be elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Sean Penn won an Oscar for his interpretation of Harvey Milk.

***Not Quite the Taliban* by Fadi Hindash**

Dubai-based Jordanian filmmaker Fadi Hindash sheds light on one of the biggest taboos in the Arab world: homosexuality. He exposes the hypocritical attitude towards gays by all means, for example by setting up an Internet appointment with a strictly religious man who is willing to go to bed with him for money.

***Suddenly Last Winter* by Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi**

The peaceful existence of lovers Gustav and Luca is turned upside down when the Italian government introduces a bill to reinforce the legal status of gays and unmarried couples. The bill stirs a wave of homophobia. In their ironic documentary *Suddenly, Last Winter* Gustav and Luca register and comment the developments as they unfold.

29 March is GAY MONDAY in Filmhuis Den Haag. In the *God Save the Queer* talk show Jacobine Geel will discuss the subject of gay rights with bar owner, gay activist and Jerusalem town councillor Sa'ar Netanel from *City of Borders*, Italian filmmakers/gay activists Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi from *Suddenly Last Winter*, activists Gulnar Tabassum (Pakistan) and Sridhar Rangaihn (India) and a Dutch politician. With musical accompaniment.

Scheduled *God Save the Queer* screenings

Lux Nijmegen, Friday 26 March:

7.30 p.m. *City of Borders*, followed by a Q&A session with **Sa'ar Netanel**, a gay activist from Jerusalem

10 p.m. *Not Quite the Taliban*

Filmhuis Den Haag, Saturday 27 March:

6.15 p.m. *City of Borders*, followed by a Q&A session with **Sa'ar Netanel**, a gay activist from Jerusalem

8 p.m. *Suddenly, Last Winter*, followed by a Q&A session with filmmakers **Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi**

10 p.m. *Not Quite the Taliban*

Sunday 28 - Wednesday 31 March,

7.30 p.m. *Eyes Wide Open* (every day)

Kriterion Amsterdam, Sunday 28 March:

1 p.m. *Not Quite the Taliban*

3 p.m. *Suddenly, Last Winter*, followed by a Q&A session with filmmakers **Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi**

5 p.m. *City of Borders*, followed by a Q&A session with **Sa'ar Netanel**, a gay activist from Jerusalem

Filmhuis Den Haag, GAY MONDAY, 29 March:

3.30 p.m. *Milk*

7.30 p.m. *Eyes Wide Open*

Theater aan het Spui Den Haag, GAY MONDAY, 29 March:

5 p.m. *Not Quite the Taliban*

7 p.m. *Suddenly, Last Winter*, followed by a Q&A session with filmmakers **Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi**

8.30 p.m. *God Save the Queer* talk show (free entrance)

10 p.m. *City of Borders*, followed by a Q&A session with **Sa'ar Netanel**, a gay activist from Jerusalem

The *God Save the Queer* programme is sponsored by 'Hivos-NCDO Cultuurfonds'.

Movies that Matter Festival

The Movies that Matter Festival, previously known as the Amnesty International Film Festival, is a yearly film and debate festival about human rights and human dignity. This year's festival will take place from Thursday 25 March up to and including Wednesday 31 March in Filmhuis Den Haag and Theater aan het Spui, both in the Hague. The festival's main partners are Amnesty International, Stichting DOEN, Hivos-NCDO Cultuurfonds, the city of the Hague and the Dutch ministry of Justice. VARA and *Trouw* newspaper act as media sponsors.

www.moviesthatmatterfestival.nl

END OF PRESS RELEASE

Filmmakers and activists will be available for interviews. The guests highlighted in bold will attend the Movies that Matter Festival. For more information, requests for interviews and screeners, please contact Amnesty / Yvette Hoogerwerf at y.hoogerwerf@amnesty.nl, or +31 (0)6-49423703.