



PRESS RELEASE

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## **Movies that Matter Festival opens with Bahman Ghobadi's film about underground music scene in Iran**

International film and debate festival from 25 t/m 31 March 2010 in the Hague with the participation of Minister of Justice Hirsch Ballin, Princess Mabel, Thekla Reuten, colonel Desmond Travers, Ruud Lubbers, Rebiya Kadeer and many others.

The Movies that Matter Festival will take place from 25 to 31 March in Filmhuis Den Haag and Theater aan het Spui in Den Haag, city of peace and justice. The movie *No One Knows About Persian Cats* will open the Movies that Matter Festival on Thursday 25 March. Director Bahman Ghobadi, who will attend the festival, shows two young Iranian musicians who try to form a band in Tehran's banned underground music scene. This year's Movies that Matter Festival presents more than seventy human rights films and documentaries from all over the world. For many films, it is their first and final screening in the Netherlands. Most screenings are preceded by an introduction and followed by debates or talk shows. The audience will have ample opportunity to discuss the films' topics with activists, politicians, filmmakers and journalists. The full programme can be found on [www.moviesthatmatterfestival.nl](http://www.moviesthatmatterfestival.nl).

### **Camera Justitia**

*Camera Justitia* kicks off on Friday 26 March at 7 p.m. with the Dutch premiere of the documentary *War Don Don*. *Camera Justitia* sheds light on the human rights and justice theme using films about international justice and the fight against impunity. This year's edition includes seven documentaries as well as debates. The Camera Justitia Award, also known as the Silver Butterfly, goes to the director of the film that portrays an urgent human rights issue with the highest degree of expressiveness and humanity. The jury for the Camera Justitia Award will be presided by **Minister of Justice Hirsch Ballin (president)**, and is further composed of **Willem van Genugten (professor of European and International Law)** and **Ally Derks (IDFA director)**. On Wednesday 31 March, **Minister of Justice Hirsch Ballin** will present the Camera Justitia Award.

### **The Yes Men Masterclass**

On Saturday 27 March at noon, following the screening of *The Yes Men Fix the World*, **Mike Bonanno** from *The Yes Men* will give a masterclass in Activism. Under his inspirational leadership workshop participants will think up a public action against Shell. Nigerian oil production leads to pollution and human rights violations. Shell is one of the biggest oil companies in the country, but refuses to acknowledge and tackle the problems.

### **A Matter of ACT Night**

On Saturday 27 March at 8 p.m., Movies that Matter Festival stages a festive presentation of the *A Matter of ACT* programme. Sandra Lutchman, director of Amnesty Nederland, will present the first copy of the *A Matter of ACT 2010* book to Princess Mabel of Orange. This year's Movies that Matter Festival puts the spotlight on ten prominent activists, including **Rebiya Kadeer, Somaly Mam, Shadi**

**Sadr and The Yes Men**, in ten documentaries that form part of the main programme *A Matter of ACT*. The work of human rights defenders, who very often put their lives on the line, is of crucial importance for the worldwide protection of human rights. *A Matter of ACT* awards two Amnesty International prizes: a Golden Butterfly for the most imposing and inspiring activist or organization, and a second Golden Butterfly for best documentary. An international jury composed of **Ruud Lubbers (president), Thekla Reuten, Sandra Lutchman, Maciej Nowicki and Sridhar Rangayan** will elect the winner.

### **MOVES THAT MATTER PARTY**

On Saturday 27 March at 10 p.m. the *MOVES THAT MATTER PARTY* breaks loose in Theater aan het Spui with the band **Chef' Special** and DJ Collective **Tabass-co**. **Chef' Special** serves a musical mix of hip-hop, reggae, funk and rock, ranging from relaxed grooves to upbeat guitar solos. The sound is comparable to bands like *Fun Lovin' Criminals, Relax* and *RHCP*. DJ collective **Tabass-co** provides *saucy dance beatz*. The entrance fee is € 5, and entrance is free on presentation of a festival ticket.

### **Israel/Occupied Territories**

On Sunday 28 March at 4 p.m. the film *To Shoot an Elephant* is followed by a dialogue, led by **Lars van Troost** from Amnesty International, between **colonel Desmond Travers**, who sits on the Goldstone Committee, and **director Alberto Arce** about the war in Gaza, and about how to put an end to impunity for war crimes committed during the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Movies that Matter Festival is the backdrop for the Dutch premiere of the documentary *Rachel*, about the life of American peace activist Rachel Corrie, who is run over by an Israeli bulldozer in the Gaza Strip during a military raid and dies from her injuries on 16 March 2003. Also, stage producer will **Laura van Dolron** perform the play *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, that stirred quite some commotion in the United States. The New York Theatre even postponed the play's performance for an indefinite period because of its political content.

### **God Save the Queer, Moving and STOP AID NOW**

Besides the two main programmes *A Matter of ACT* and *Camera Justitia* the festival offers several other programme components, including *God Save the Queer* – five films, interviews and a talk show led by **Jacobine Geel** on Monday 29 March from 8.30 p.m. about the tense relation between religion and gay rights. *Moving* presents five documentaries dealing with immigration, with a special focus on workers and refugees coming to Europe. The *STOP AID NOW* programme builds on Amnesty International's campaign Demand Dignity, and features films and debates on poverty, human dignity and whether or not development aid is advisable and, if so, what form it should take.

### **Award Ceremony**

The Award Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 31 March at 8 p.m., with a welcoming speech by **Jozias van Aartsen**, mayor of the Hague. After the screening of the closing film *Settled*, an intimate and respectful documentary by Chinese filmmaker Shan Zuolong, the two Golden Butterfly's and the Silver Butterfly for the *A Matter of ACT* and *Camera Justitia* main programmes, respectively, will be presented. Furthermore, the winning entries for two youth competition programmes will receive the MovieSquad All Rights Award and the Students' Choice Award. The festival audience, too, will choose its favourite film among those nominated for 'VARAgids Publieksprijs'. The Award Ceremony will be hosted by **Paula Udondek**.

### **SERIOUS GAMING**

Together with the Movies that Matter Festival, the platform for image culture of the Filmhuis presents the programme **SERIOUS GAMING**. *Serious games* are games that deal with real-life matters, such as human rights, refugees and war, using typical game elements, such as violence, a slick environment and taking risks. For instance, players have to prevent the genocide in Rwanda as UN soldiers, or cover the war in southern Sudan as war correspondents. Is it morally responsible, however, to present such complex issues in the form of entertainment?

**Note for the editor – not for publication**

Please contact Yvette Hoogerwerf on +31 (0)6-49423703 for interview requests and/or visuals/footage.

The 'line-up' of Dutch guests includes: Princess Mabel of Orange (CEO of The Elders), Daphne Bunschoek, Ferry Mingelen, Ruud Lubbers, Agnes Jongerius, Hakim Traïdia, Minister of Justice Hirsch Ballin, Thekla Reuten, Jelle Brandt Corstius, Garrie van Pinxteren, Chef' Special, Jacobine Geel, Chris Keulemans, Laura van Dolron, Cyrus Frisch, Stephen Ellis, Harm Ede Botje, Dana Linssen, Thomas von der Dunk, Peter van Lieshout, Radi Suudi, Supercity, Femke and Ilse van Velzen, Dolly Bellefleur, Esther Gould & Sabine Lubbe Bakker, Renate van der Zee, Carel Kuyl, Thijs Berman, Hassnae Bouazza, Christa Meindersma, Simone Weimans, Menno Bentveld, Heikelien Verrijn Stuart, Jeroen Kramer, Paula Udondek, Linda Polman and mayor of the Hague Jozias Van Aartsen.

The 'line-up' of international guests consists of: Bahman Ghobadi, Maina Kiai, Somaly Mam, Guy Jacobson, Mandira Sharma, Julie Bridgham, Gustav Hofer & Luca Ragazzi, Farid Haerinejad, Ngawang Choephel, Alberto Arce, Shadi Sadr, Alberto Bouglieux, Nasser Dutour, Rebecca Richman Cohen, Wayne Jordash, Rob O'Reilly, Sa'ar Nathanel, Rebiya Kadeer, Alim Seytoff, Jeff Daniels, Gry Winther, Lucy Bailey, Anne Aghion, Geoffrey Nice, Christopher Santora, Dagmawi Yimer, Wilbert van de Hövell (UNCHR), Lancelot von Naso, George Ovashvili, Bayan Amasha, Helen O'Neill, Igor Blazevic, Colonel Desmond Travers (Goldstone committee) and many others.