

SOCIETY FOR VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

# 2014 FILM FESTIVAL

WASHINGTON DC

DECEMBER 3RD-7TH 2014  
MARRIOT WARDMAN PARK

FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC



A • M • E • R • I • C • A • N  
A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L  
A S S O C I A T I O N



Welcome to 2014 SVAFF!

The goal of the Society of Visual Anthropology Film Festival (SVAFF) is to provide the anthropological community with films that engage scholars, researchers, educators, and students. The SVAFF program is crafted to showcase the best works in anthropological filmmaking and related documentary film that contribute a deeper understanding of cultural diversity, human experience, and everyday life around the world. We screen films that address a range of concepts, geographical areas, and issues that are of interest both to anthropologists and broad publics. We hope to encourage participation in the ongoing conversation about the means and ends of ethnographic film and the changing shape of visual anthropology. We seek to highlight and encourage the work of students by granting awards to undergraduate and graduate filmmakers, as well as best feature length, short, and ultra short films.

SVAFF began in 1986 as a space to showcase ethnographic film. Over the last 28 years, the festival has grown and evolved. After a short period during which the festival included multimedia work, the festival has returned to an exclusive focus on film, as other venues have emerged to exhibit multimedia and mixed media work at the AAA. As part of its evolution, the SVAFF has transitioned to a digital submissions process to manage the growing number of submissions we receive each year. This year alone, we received 215 film submissions from around the world. Because of limitations in space and time at the AAA annual meeting, our acceptance rate is quite low. As we grow, we are exploring various possibilities to expand our screening capacity. In order to accommodate the increasing scholarship being produced on film, we see the pressing need for additional festivals that could work alongside SVAFF to showcase films and provide crucial funding and support to filmmakers.

With the increase in numbers and diversity of submissions, we have refined our selection process by introducing a pre-screening phase where SVA members volunteer to review and rank a set of films. These recommendations are submitted to the Film Festival Jury. The five-person jury is a diverse group that specializes in different regions of the world and draws on varied influences. The result is a thoughtfully curated program. We strongly encourage directors to attend the festival and to participate in question and answer sessions following the screenings. This engagement provides AAA audiences with the opportunity to debate and dialogue about critical issues. To this end, a large portion of our annual budget is devoted to providing partial travel subsidies for directors, and we hope in future years to increase the amount of support we can offer.

In 2014, the SVAFF is a highlighted event at the AAA annual meeting, signaling the increased attention of the discipline to the importance and value of film. We also worked closely with the annual meeting Executive Program Committee to organize three additional screenings and discussions related to the significance of film to anthropological research, including special events featuring filmmakers Trinh T. Minh-ha and Joshua Oppenheimer. As we expand and grow, we aim to provide a space for people to workshop films.

Sincerely,  
SVAFF Jury & Co-Directors

# Program Overview

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd 2014

(SESSION A) 3:15 PM – 10:35 PM

3:00 PM – Opening Remarks by Harjant Gill & Jenny Chio Marriott Hoover Room

**CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL HERITAGE** Marriott Hoover Room

3:15 PM In the Steppes of Genghis - dir. Mike Majoros (58 min, Mongolia) Q&A

4:30 PM Uyghur Traditional Homespun Fabric - dir. Aynur Kadir (10 min, China) Q&A

4:45 PM Museum Night - dir. Veronica Davidov (55 min, Russia) Q&A

**SEEKING JUSTICE** Marriott Hoover Room

5:50 PM Ghosts' Stories - dir. Sarah Hall (29 min, Tanzania) Q&A

6:30 PM The Go-Between, Afar of Ethiopia - dir. Frode Storaas (46 min, Ethiopia) Q&A

**THE CAMERA AND THE TOURIST** Marriott Hoover Room

7:20 PM The Last Safari - dir. Matt Goldman (1 hr 18 min, Kenya/USA) Q&A

9:00 PM Gringo Trails - dir. Pegi Vail (1 hr 19 min, USA)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd 2014

(SESSION B) 3:15 PM – 10:35 PM

**REVISITING INDIGENEITY** Marriott Coolidge Room

3:15 PM Honour Your Word - dir. Martha Stiegman (59 min, Canada)

4:20 PM La Selva Tranquila - dir. Christian Chapman, Paul Hoffman, Cody Troyer (52 min, Peru) Q&A

5:30 PM La Trocha - dir. Ian Bell (16 min, Panama) Q&A

**LOCAL MEDICINES** Marriott Coolidge Room

6:00 PM Revolutionary Medicine - dir. Beth Gaglia, Jesse Freeston (40 min, Honduras/USA)

6:45 PM Descending with Angels - dir. Christian Suhr (1 hr 15 min, Denmark) Q&A

**GHOSTS OF THE DISCIPLINE** Marriott Coolidge Room

8:15 PM Cerámica de los Ancestros - dir. Doug McMains (6 min, Costa Rica/El Salvador) Q&A

8:25 PM The Human Zoo - dir. Hans Mülchi (1 hr 33 min, USA)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th 2014

10 AM – 9:45 PM

**PERFORMING RITUALS** Marriott Hoover Room

10:00 AM Reverberation I - dir. Ali Colleen Neff (10 min, Senegal)

10:15 AM From the Heart of Brahma - dir. Robert Douglass, Carl Off (27 min, Cambodia/Mexico/USA)

10:45 AM Globe Trot - dir. Mitchell Rose (4 min, USA)

10:50 AM Some Na Ceremonies - dir. Onci Archei, Ruheng Duoji (31 min, China) followed by Q&A

**11:00 AM – 12:45 PM SPECIAL PANEL PRESENTATION** Marriott Coolidge Room

Ethnographic Film Production and Distribution: Current Practices and Possibilities

(Speakers: Cindy Wong, Karen Nakamura, Alice Apley, Harjant Gill)

# Program Overview

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th 2014

10 AM – 9:45 PM (Contd.)

## FROM THE VAULT Marriott Hoover Room

11:30 AM Valle Fértil - dir. Jorge Prelorán (1 hr 28 min, Argentina) Q&A

1:15 PM In the Land of the Head Hunters - dir. Edward Curtis (1 hr 5 min, Canada) Q&A

## ANDEAN STORIES Marriott Hoover Room

2:45 PM Let There Be Light - dir. Anna Wilking (52 min, Ecuador) Q&A

3:55 PM Behind the Mask - dir. Andrea Heckman (25 min, Peru) Q&A

4:30 PM Living Quechua - dir. Christine Mladic Janney (19 min, USA) Q&A

## 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM **FEATURED PROGRAM** Marriott Ballroom Salon 2

THE ACT OF KILLING – Director's Cut (2 hr 39 min, Indonesia) Q&A with dir. Joshua Oppenheimer

## GENDER AND AGENCY Marriott Hoover Room

5:00 PM Virtual Me - dir. Trent Monahan, Sarah Prothero, Jennifer Torson (10 min, USA) Q&A

5:20 PM Queen of the Desert - dir. Alex Kelly (27 min, Australia)

5:50 PM Gulabi Gang - dir. Nishtha Jain (1 hr 36 min, India) Q&A

## MIGRATIONS (PART I) Marriott Hoover Room

7:45 PM Adelante - dir. Noam Osband (50 min, USA) Q&A

8:50 PM Hamou-Beya, Sand Fishers - dir. Andrey Samoute Diarra (55 min, Mali)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th 2014

10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

## MIGRATIONS (PART II) Marriott Hoover Room

10:00 AM Ghosts on the Mountain - dir. Jared Jakins, Carly Jakins (25 min, USA) Q&A

10:40 AM Transnational Fiesta - dir. Wilton Martinez (1 hr 22 min, Peru/USA) Q&A

## TELLING STORIES Marriott Hoover Room

12:45 PM A Correspondence - dir. Leili Sreberny-Mohammadi (16 min, UK/USA/Germany)

1:05 PM Bylo-Nebylo - dir. Zoe Aiano, Maria Gutowska, Zeynep Turhalli (6 min, Czech Republic)

1:15 PM Ghetto Girl - dir. Ambarien Alqadar (35 min, India) Q&A

## EXPERIMENTS IN ETHNOGRAPHIC FILMMAKING Marriott Hoover Room

2:00 PM Frontera! - dir. John Jota Leanos (20 min, USA) Q&A

2:30 PM Tengri - dir. Alisi Telengut (5 min, Canada)

2:40 PM Skin Has Eyes and Ears - dir. Daniela Vavrova (1 hr 23 min, Papua New Guinea)

## HYPERMEDIA PRESENTATION Marriott Hoover Room

4:00 PM Salsa Barrio Cultura - by Alejandro U. Sanmiguel University of Valle, Cali, Colombia (30 min)

## IN EXILE Marriott Hoover Room

6:15 PM Road to Kurdistan - dir. Persheng Vaziri (54 min, Iraq) Q&A

7:30 PM The Village of Peace - dir. Ben Schuder & Niko Philipides (1 hr 8 min, Israel/USA) Q&A

# Program Overview

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th 2014

9:00 AM – 4:45 PM

## AT HOME IN LATIN AMERICA Marriott Hoover Room

9:00 AM Housemaids - dir. Gabriel Mascaro (1 hr 16 min, Brazil)

10:20 AM Los Villanos - dir. Sabrina Skau (30 min, USA) Q&A

11:00 AM La Mamá de los Pollitos - dir. Sydney Silverstein (25 min, Peru) Q&A

## CEREMONIALS Marriott Hoover Room

11:35 AM Lutu Chuktiwa: Cutting the Cord - dir. David Shorter (21 min, Mexico) Q&A

12:05 PM Mystic Mass - dir. Karim B Haroun (1 hr 10 min, Lebanon) Q&A

## 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM FEATURED PROGRAM Marriott Coolidge Room

25th Anniversary screening of SURNAME VIET GIVEN NAME NAM (1 hr 48 min, Vietnam/USA) followed by a conversation with Trinh T. Minh-ha.

## THE CHANGING UNITED STATES Marriott Hoover Room

1:30 PM The New Black - dir. Yoruba Richen (1 hr 14 min, USA)

2:45 PM Mill Stories - dir. William Shewbridge and Michelle Stefano (29 min, USA) Q&A

3:25 PM Life After Steel - dir. Eric Kruszewski (4 min, USA)

## UNDER THE PALACE WALL Marriott Hoover Room

3:40 PM Under the Palace Wall - dir. David MacDougall (53 min, India)

6:30 PM – 8:15 PM SVA MEMBERS' MEETING Marriot Maryland Suite A

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM SVA AND SVAFF AWARDS CEREMONY Marriot Maryland Suite A

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th 2014

9:00 AM – 12:45 PM

## DISPLACED LIVES Marriott Hoover Room

9:00 AM The Camp - dir. Jean-Frédéric de Hasque (1 hr 31 min, Benin)

10:35 AM Xenos - dir. Mahdi Fleifel (12 min, Greece)

10:50 AM Almut - dir. Zoe Aiano, Leyla Hoppe, Côme Ledésert (10 min, Germany)

## LIVING WITH HERDS Marriott Hoover Room

11:00 AM Slaughterhouse Summer - dir. Kara Wentworth (4 min, USA) Q&A

11:15 AM Winter Nomads - dir. Manuel von Sturler (1 hr 25 min, France)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM FEATURED PROGRAM Marriott Thurgood Marshall Ballroom North and East  
Advanced Preview Screening of THE LOOK OF SILENCE (99 min) followed by a panel discussion with Joshua Oppenheimer, Joseph Saunders (Human Rights Watch), and Max White (Amnesty International), facilitated by Eben Kirksey. (AAA Members Only)

## CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL HERITAGE (SESSION A) Marriott Hoover Room

3:15 PM *In the Steppes of Genghis dir.* Mike Majoros (58 min, Mongolia) Q&A

Over half of the people living on the vast central Asian steppe of Mongolia are nomads. Herders live in small felt tents, migrating seasonally to find better grazing land for their flocks. *In the Steppes of Genghis* focuses on a year in the life of Khoroldai, a nine-year old girl who loves horses. This intimate story is filmed over the course of a year as she weathers a brutal winter, tends to her animals, and then travels across the steppe to compete in the oldest horse race in the world. **Winner: Best Feature-Length Film**

4:30 PM *Uyghur Traditional Homespun Fabric dir.* Aynur Kadir (10 min, China) Q&A

This film focuses on the work of a Uyghur master-craftsman in his remote village of Kucha in Xinjiang, northwest China. He is one of the last weavers of homespun fabric in a region where traditional crafts are being increasingly squeezed out by cheap, modern fabrics. A young student traces the production of locally-grown cotton, which ultimately becomes funeral shrouds sold in the local market. An older master-craftsman explains the weaving process and reveals the cultural significance of this dying art.

4:45 PM *Museum Night dir.* Veronica Davidov (55 min, Russia) Q&A

This documentary focuses on the Sheltozero Vepsian Ethnographic Museum in the Republic of Karelia, Russia—an ethnographic museum in the village of Sheltozero, home to the indigenous minority of Northern Veps. The museum is a place for cultural and linguistic survival of Vepsian heritage. The museum is intimately entwined with the village community.

## SEEKING JUSTICE (SESSION A) Marriott Hoover Room

5:50 PM *Ghosts' Stories dir.* Sarah Hall (29 min, Tanzania) Q&A

*Ghosts' Stories* explores the myths about Tanzanian albinos and how these beliefs lead to physical and emotional harm, discrimination, and even murder. These remarkable individuals share their feelings toward their attackers and others who have harmed them and plead for peace and understanding.

6:30 PM *The Go-Between, Afar of Ethiopia dir.* Frode Storaas (46 min, Ethiopia) Q&A

The Islamic pastoral Afars inhabit the northeastern rangelands of Ethiopia. This film follows Hussein Hayie, a Peace and Security officer, who must judge whether an incident should be handled as a criminal case for the police or be left as a case to be solved the traditional way by the elders of the clans.



Museum Night



Ghosts' Stories

## THE CAMERA AND THE TOURIST (SESSION A) Marriott Hoover Room

7:20 PM *The Last Safari* dir. Matt Goldman (1 hr 18 min, Kenya/USA) Q&A

Renowned photojournalist Elizabeth Gilbert sets out on an unforgettable journey through the Great Rift Valley across East Africa to reconnect with the tribes-people she documented a decade earlier. With a crew from Nairobi and a filmmaker from Brooklyn, Gilbert brings cinema slide shows to remote villages and learns some hard lessons not only about a rapidly changing continent, but her perception of reality.

9:00 PM *Gringo Trails* dir. Pegi Vail (1 hr 19 min, USA)

Are tourists destroying the planet-or saving it? How do travelers change the remote places they visit, and how are they changed? From Bolivian jungles to beaches of Thailand, from deserts of Mali to mountains of Bhutan, the film explores the long-term impact of tourism on local cultures and the environment.

## REVISITING INDIGENITY (SESSION B) Marriott Coolidge Room

3:15 PM *Honour Your Word* dir. Martha Stiegman (59 min, Canada)

Marylynn and Norman faced tear gas and police batons when they joined their parents on logging blockades to defend the Barriere Lake Algonquins' traditional territory in the 1980s. Little did they realize that they would still be on the barricades 20 years later with their children at their sides. *Honour Your Word* is an intimate portrait of life behind the barricades for the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, an inspiring First Nation whose dignity and courage contrast sharply with the poverty and political injustice they face.

4:20 PM *La Selva Tranquila* dir. Christian Chapman, Paul J Hoffman, Cody Troyer (52 min, Peru) Q&A

*La Selva Tranquila* interweaves three stories of locals in the Peruvian Amazon who cut, capture, and sell what they can to survive. Katu, a hunter-turned-conservationist, struggles to fund his eco-tourism business in a wilderness. Chepa illegally sells sloths, baby monkeys, and turtles to support her family. After government imposes resource management laws on the Mishana community's land, the village must find a future in conservation or lose its population to migration.

5:30 PM *La Trocha* dir. Ian Bell (16 min, Panama) Q&A

The winter in North America is the dry season in Panama. For Wounaan communities on the Pacific Coast of Panama's Darien, the dry season means a high-stakes conflict with illegal loggers invading their land and stripping their forests. The 2012 logging season was the worst in history for two Wounaan communities, Rio Hondo and Platanares. Hundreds of acres of pristine tropical forest were lost, rivers were destroyed, and violent conflict left the leader of Platanares dead.



## LOCAL MEDICINES (SESSION B) Marriott Coolidge Room

6:00 PM Revolutionary Medicine: A Story of the First Garifuna Hospital dir. Beth Geglia, Jesse Freeston (40 min, Honduras/USA)

Since their expulsion from the island of Saint Vincent 215 years ago, the Garifuna have struggled against exclusion, racism, and dispossession. Today, their very first hospital in Honduras serves as a bastion of self-determination. This film tells the story of how the hospital's alternative health model is transforming communities on Honduras' Northern Coast and standing as an alternative to an increasingly privatized national health system. Can a remote hospital that runs on solar panels, in a community with no paved roads or electricity, provide a new global model for health care?

6:45 PM Descending with Angels dir. Christian Suhr (1 hr 15 min, Denmark) Q&A

A Palestinian refugee living in Aarhus has been committed to psychiatric treatment after a severe case of jinn possession, which caused him to destroy the interior of a mosque, crash several cars, and insult a number of people. However, he sees no point in psychotropic medication since his illness has already been treated with Quranic incantations. In the meantime, a local imam tries to explain to the Muslims of Aarhus that they should stop worrying about jinn, magic, and other mundane affairs since nothing can harm anyone except by the permission of God. The film compares two systems of treatment, which despite vast differences share a view of healing as operating through submission of faith to an external non-human agency—namely God or biomedicine.

## GHOSTS OF THE DISCIPLINE (SESSION B) Marriott Coolidge Room

8:15 PM Cerámica de los Ancestros: Central America's Past Revealed dir. Doug McMains (6 min, Costa Rica/El Salvador) Q&A

For thousands of years, Central America has been home to vibrant civilizations, each with unique, sophisticated ways of life, value systems, and arts. The ceramics these peoples left behind, combined with archaeological discoveries, help tell the stories of these dynamic cultures and their achievements. This film emphasizes a new approach to archeology and cultural heritage preservation in Central America and demonstrates the active roles of Central Americans in preserving and interpreting their own cultural heritage.

8:25 PM The Human Zoo dir. Hans Mülchi (1 hr 33 min, USA)

Toward the end of the 19th century, 25 people from four different Chilean indigenous groups were kidnapped from Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia by a German businessman and taken to Europe to be exhibited as attractions in cities throughout the continent. The Human Zoo uncovers the history of this colonial spectacle, and follows the fallout into the present.



Descending With Angels

Ceramica de los Ancestros



## PERFORMING RITUALS Marriott Hoover Room

**10:00 AM Reverberation I: Women Sufi Singers of Urban Nigeria** dir. Ali Colleen Neff (10 min, Senegal)  
This film is based on Trinh T. Minh-ha's 1983 film *Reassemblage* about women in rural Senegal. The context of this contemporary work differs in many ways, allowing the filmmaker to identify continuities and shifts in the ways ethnographers, musicologists, and documentarians work with women in Africa, how these women speak back to these projects, and the rich conversation between Senegal's rural past and urban landscape that can be found in the world of women's aesthetic work.

**10:15 AM From the Heart of Brahma** dir. Robert Douglass, Carl Off (27 min, Cambodia/Mexico/USA)  
Prumsodun Ok is a Cambodian classical dancer focused on reviving and revitalizing his chosen art form nearly destroyed by genocide. His work at the Khmer Arts Academy centers on reviving a traditional dance form and making it relevant to contemporary society. Using gay semi-nude bodies in traditional dances like *Robam Apsara*, the national dance of Cambodia, the film explores Prum's mission to open dialogue about the role of tradition and gay love in modernity and follows him as he shares his art internationally.

**10:45 AM Globe Trot** dir. Mitchell Rose (4 min, USA)

**Winner: Best Ultra Short Film**

This international crowd-sourced dance-film project draws on 54 filmmakers from all seven continents who each contribute two seconds of dance by renowned choreographer Bebe Miller.

**10:50 AM Some Na Ceremonies** dir. Onci Archei, Ruheng Duoji (31 min, China) Q&A

*Some Na Ceremonies* is an outgrowth of the *Moso Media Project*, a collaborative, participatory media project that involved training Na villagers to create and edit digital media, facilitating community conversations. Created by Na (*Moso*) filmmakers, the film experiments with different styles of translation.

## 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM SPECIAL PANEL PRESENTATION Marriott Coolidge Room

**Ethnographic Film Production and Distribution: Current Practices and Possibilities**  
(Speakers include Cindy Wong, Karen Nakamura, Alice Apley and Harjant Gill)

As the number of submissions to the SVAFF steadily increases every year, it is clear that the production of ethnographic film remains an important practice for many anthropologists. The rapid changes in digital media production and distribution possibilities, however, means that ethnographic filmmakers are afforded greater opportunities and challenges in terms of funding, producing, and distributing their works. This special panel will feature filmmakers, practitioners and scholars engaged in various aspects of media production and distribution.



FROM THE VAULT Marriott Hoover Room

11:30 AM Valle Fértil dir. Jorge Preloran (1 hr 28 min, Argentina) Q&A

Jorge Preloran filmed Valle Fértil in the rural Argentine town for which it is named from 1965 to 1972. It profiles the village and fourteen of its villagers as they struggle against the onslaught of modernization, ranging in form from the radio to street paving and mechanized, large-scale agriculture. Although Preloran called the film one of his 'most important titles,' it has been forgotten among director's oeuvre.

1:15 PM In the Land of the Head Hunters dir. Edward Curtis (1 hr 5 min, Canada) Q&A

In 1914, the American photographer Edward S. Curtis released the first feature-length, silent, fiction film to star an entirely indigenous cast. In the Land of the Head Hunters, an epic melodrama of love, war, sorcery and ritual, was made with the Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) people on location in British Columbia. This newly restored version features the film's original title and inter-title cards, long-missing footage and color tinting, initial publicity graphics, and the original musical score.

ANDEAN STORIES Marriott Hoover Room

2:45 PM Let There Be Light dir. Anna Wilking (52 min, Ecuador) Q&A

Javier must rebuild his life with his three children after tragedy strikes their household in Quito, Ecuador. At a crossroads as he fights the obstacles that accompany living in extreme poverty, Javier must make drastic life changes to guarantee the survival of not only himself, but of his children, and above all, that of his youngest son, who is severely disabled and depends on Javier for all his needs.

**Co-Winner: Best Graduate Student Film**

3:55 PM Behind the Mask dir. Andrea Heckman (25 min, Peru) Q&A

Shot at the annual Pentecoste festival in Ollantaytambo, the film delves into dancers' experience 'behind the mask' as a part of their community responsibilities. Everyday patterns like sleeping, eating, and farming are replaced by time out of time with prayers and hidden meanings known only to the initiated. Calmness becomes frenzy, chaos becomes normal, and the everyday disappears. This is when and where the youth are taught, the old remember, and life is renewed in this reverent time and space with no end.

4:30 PM Living Quechua dir. Christine Mladic Janney (19 min, USA) Q&A

Elva Ambia Rebatta's first language is Quechua, but when she left her town in Peru as a young woman to find work in the United States, speaking Spanish and English became critical for her to survive. While Quechua—a language indigenous to South America—continues to be spoken, UNESCO recognizes it as an endangered language. In her seventies, Elva helps cultivate a Quechua-speaking community in NYC.



4:30 PM – 7:30 PM **FEATURED PROGRAM** Marriott Ballroom Salon 2

**THE ACT OF KILLING – Director’s Cut** (2 hr 39 min, Indonesia) followed by Q&A with Joshua Oppenheimer 2013 Academy Award nominee for “Best Documentary,” the film follows former Indonesian death-squad leaders as they reenact their mass-killings in whichever cinematic genres they wish, including classic Hollywood crime scenarios and lavish musical numbers.

**GENDER AND AGENCY** Marriott Hoover Room

5:00 PM **Virtual Me: Gender and Identity in World of Warcraft** dir. Trent Monahan, Sarah Prothero, Jennifer Torson (10 min, USA) Q&A

This film examines the experiences of players of the online game World of Warcraft. This film consists entirely of in-game footage along with animations of each participant’s character paired with audio interviews in order to focus on the participants’ in-game representations and identities, rather than their actual world identities and bodies. **Winner: Best Undergraduate Student Film**

5:20 PM **Queen of the Desert** dir. Alex Kelly (27 min, Australia)

Not only has she got pink extensions, painted on eyebrows, glitter stockings and superman hotpants, Starlady is a youth worker in some of Australia’s most remote and challenging places. The desert is harsh and traditions stand strong; not everyone lasts long out here. Her tools are unique - scissors, bleach and hair color. Like a real life Priscilla, Starlady takes us on a journey to Areyonga, an indigenous community in Central Australia, where she works with a group of curious and cheeky young people.

5:50 PM **Gulabi Gang** dir. Nishtha Jain (1 hr 36 min, India) Q&A

Enter the badlands of Bundelkhand in central India and you have entered a place of desolation, dust and despair. And yet it is hope that we discover as we follow the pink sari-clad women of Gulabi Gang. These women travel long distances by cart and tractor, bus and train, to wrest justice for women and Dalits, undeterred by sneering policemen and condescending bureaucrats. As the film pulls us into the center of these blazing conflicts, it uncovers a complex story, disturbing yet heartening.

**Honorable Mention: Best Feature-Length Film**

**MIGRATIONS (PART I)** Marriott Hoover Room

7:45 PM **Adelante** dir. Noam Osband (50 min, USA) followed by Q&A

Adelante shows the heart of Mexico beating strongly, just outside of Philadelphia, where Mexican newcomers are revitalizing a dying Irish-Catholic parish in Norristown, PA. Now, the sounds of children giggling have returned to the church, and mariachis join bagpipers in celebrating community events. Focused on an American priest and a young Mexican couple, we learn how this shift has brought new challenges and energy to this old parish located outside of Philadelphia.

8:50 PM **Hamou-Beya, Sand Fishers** dir. Andrey Samoute Diarra (55 min, Mali)

For generations, the Bozo of Mali have lived along the banks of the Niger river, fishing for their livelihood. But climate change and drought have brought lower water levels and fewer fish, driving young Bozo men to leave their villages in search of work. Gala is one of these men who has moved Bamako, and works as a sand fisher, dredging up sand and gravel by hand from the river’s banks to be loaded into trucks and used for bricks, concrete mix and tiling, all to feed the construction boom in the country’s largest city.

## MIGRATIONS (PART II) Marriott Hoover Room

10:00 AM Ghosts on the Mountain dir. Jared Jakins, Carly Jakins (25 min, USA) Q&A

Ghosts On The Mountain examines the isolated lifestyle of H2A guest workers in the American West by subtly exploring the emotions of the occupation. The film's subjects leave family and native lands to work in the United States on H2A work visas, or no visas at all. Surrounded by breathtaking vistas, these workers find themselves in solitude and loneliness. This isolation is heightened by language barriers and the remoteness of the sheep's pasture lands. **Winner: Best Short Film**

10:40 AM Transnational Fiesta: Twenty Years Later dir. Wilton Martinez (1 hr 22 min, Peru/USA) Q&A

This film explores change and continuity in the indigenous Andean community, fiesta, and migrant colony first documented in the award-winning film, Transnational Fiesta: 1992. It follows a migrant family as they travel back and forth between the U.S. and Peru over three years. It captures the remarkable persistence of Andean culture as well as the ruptures imposed by global capitalism and generational differences.

## TELLING STORIES Marriott Hoover Room

12:45 PM A Correspondence dir. Leili Sreberny-Mohammadi (16 min, UK/USA/Germany)

Part historical narrative, part experimental documentary, this film brings to life the year-long correspondence between the filmmaker's grandparents. Margot, a young Jewish woman working in London, had escaped Nazi Germany while David, a Polish doctor working for the British army, was one of the only surviving members of his family. Constructed through photographs, letters, telegrams and archival footage from the era, their story is one of love across distance and the search for a partner during troubled times.

1:05 PM Bylo-Nebylo dir. Zoe Aiano, Maria Gutowska, Zeynep Turhalli (6 min, Czech Republic)

In a small town in the Czech Republic with a history of forced migration, local folklore is in short supply. The local kids can recite Disney and reel off the names of the stories in their DVD collections, but don't associate such things with their home. However, tales are lurking in the forest. They've been put there by a dentist and illustrator who have teamed up to revive and reinvent fairy tales connected to the surrounding environment to bring back a sense of belonging and a cultural heritage for future generations.

1:15 PM Ghetto Girl dir. Ambarien Alqadar (35 min, India) Q&A

In what is also known as India's 'Little Pakistan' in New Delhi, a girl is on a search for a lost home movie. The search takes her into the mapless lanes of the place she calls home. Lanes conceal a history and a past. A love and loss tale about being Muslim in India today. **Co-Winner: Best Graduate Student Film**



Transnational Fiesta



A Correspondence

## EXPERIMENTS IN ETHNOGRAPHIC FILMMAKING Marriott Hoover Room

2:00 PM Frontera! Revolt and Rebellion on the Rio Grande dir. John Jota Leanos (20 min, USA) Q&A  
The Pueblo Revolt had to happen. Life was out of balance. Drought, hunger, colonial violence and religious persecution brought indigenous societies of New Mexico to the brink of collapse. The Pueblo people orchestrated the unthinkable: a pan-Indian uprising successfully expelling the Spanish occupiers from the entire Rio Grande region leading to an indigenous cultural and social renaissance.

2:30 PM Tengri dir. Alisi Telengut (5 min, Canada)  
Wind burial is a traditional Mongolian ritual that consists of carrying the dead on a cart to somewhere far until the cart meets a bump and the corpse falls on the ground naturally. The place where the corpse falls becomes a tomb. The body decomposes or is eaten by animals so the dead can return to nature.

2:40 PM Skin Has Eyes and Ears dir. Daniela Vavrova (1 hr 23 min, Papua New Guinea)  
"Skin has eyes and ears" is a saying of the Ambonwari people living in the Karawari region of East Sepik Province. It tells how a person perceives and communicates with the external world through seeing and hearing. The film is an exploration into sensory experience of place and time among the Ambonwari.

4:00 PM Salsa Barrio Cultura: A Hypermedia Presentation by Alejandro Ulloa Sanmiguel, University of Valle, Cali, Colombia (30 min, Columbia/Cuba/Puerto Rico/USA)  
This online interactive hypermedia is a representation of various aspects of the urban and contemporary musical culture of Salsa, as rooted in the Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latino and Latino sociocultural histories. It represents a cultural memory that links the barrios -working class neighborhoods- of Colombia with those in Cuba, NYC, Puerto Rico and other parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## IN EXILE Marriott Hoover Room

6:15 PM Road to Kurdistan dir. Persheng Vaziri (54 min, Iraq) followed by Q&A  
The film follows the travels of a Kurdish Iranian family across the border to Iraqi Kurdistan. It's the first time they travel to Iraqi Kurdistan, since 2003. During the road trip, we learn the recent history of Southeast Kurdistan, the war and suffering, and the hopes for the future. The spirit of this region is alive and well, as people have used music and poetry during times of struggle, celebration and spirituality.

7:30 PM The Village of Peace dir. Ben Schuder and Niko Philipides (1 hr 8 min, Israel/USA) Q&A  
The Village of Peace explores a community of African-Americans who migrated to Israel during the Civil Rights Movement to establish a communal society. Recollections from the elders reveal early struggles of their journey, while the youth offer a perspective of life in the remote village today.



## AT HOME IN LATIN AMERICA Marriott Hoover Room

9:00 AM Housemaids dir. Gabriel Mascaro (1 hr 16 min, Brazil)

Housemaids are an integral part of the household in Brazil and participate in the day-to-day life of the family. The employment of housemaids is almost obligatory among the middle and upper classes of the country. The vast majority of these housemaids are black women, who face high levels of inequality based on their gender, race and social class. Their role in the household raises important questions about public and private space, endurance and choice, and labor and family life.

10:20 AM Los Villanos dir. Sabrina Skau (30 min, USA) followed by Q&A

Danny, Melvin, and David are 'Los Villanos,' a group of friends who grew up together in an affordable housing development in South Central Los Angeles. Against a backdrop of poverty and violence, this documentary explores the importance of friendship and family in their lives as they enter adulthood.

11:00 AM La Mamá de los Pollitos dir. Sydney Silverstein (25 min, Peru) followed by Q&A

Shot in and around a single household in the Amazonian city of Morales, Peru, *La Mamá de los Pollitos* (The Mother Hen) follows Irene and her extended family of daughters, granddaughters, lovers, cats, and chickens through domestic space and daily practices.

## CEREMONIALS Marriott Hoover Room

11:35 AM Lutu Chuktiwa: Cutting the Cord dir. David Shorter (21 min, Mexico) followed by Q&A

This ethnographic film portrays the *lutu chuktiwa* (cutting the cord) ceremony of the Yoeme (Yaqui) Indians. In 2006, David Shorter joined a Yoeme family for the ritual, which takes place one year after someone's death in order to release the family from mourning. Alongside dancing and Catholic prayers, mourners tie a cord around their neck; then these cords are cut and burned the next morning. Shorter later took the footage to Yoeme communities in Arizona providing viewers handheld recorders. Their responses narrate the film, telling stories elicited by the images of the ceremony.

12:05 PM Mystic Mass dir. Karim B Haroun (1 hr 10 min, Lebanon) followed by Q&A

Every year, thousands of Shia gather in the town of Nabatiyyeh, Lebanon, to commemorate the death of Imam Hussein, killed in battle 1,434 years ago. They take part in very long processions, self-flagellation and self-mutilation, and reenact the martyrdom of Imam Hussein with their own blood and flesh. *Mystic Mass* documents the ceremony, and provides an exhaustive description of how the mass forms, how it reaches the highest levels of mysticism, and how it dissolves—all in twenty-four hours.



La Mama de los Pollitos

Mystic Mass

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM **FEATURED PROGRAM** Marriott Coolidge Room

25th Anniversary screening of **SURNAME VIET GIVEN NAME NAM** (1 hr 48 min, Vietnam/USA) followed by a conversation with Trinh T. Minh-ha (moderated by Jenny Chio)

Vietnamese-born Trinh T. Minh-ha's profoundly personal documentary explores the role of Vietnamese women historically and in contemporary society. Using dance, printed texts, folk poetry and the words and experiences of Vietnamese women in Vietnam—from both North and South—and the United States, Trinh's film challenges official culture with the voices of women.

**THE CHANGING UNITED STATES** Marriott Hoover Room

1:30 PM **The New Black** dir. Yoruba Richen (1 hr 14 min, USA)

This is an award-winning documentary that captures the complex intersection between faith, racial justice and LGBT rights. It tells the story of how an African-American community is grappling with gay rights in light of the recent gay marriage movement and the fight over civil rights.

2:45 PM **Mill Stories: Remembering Sparrows Point** dir. W. Shewbridge & M. Stefano (29 min, USA) Q&A Recently closed Sparrows Point Steel Mill in Baltimore, Maryland helped to shape the lives of thousands of steelworkers for over 125 years. This film presents a collection of personal stories based on interviews collected at the time on the mill's final closing. It seeks to amplify the voices of former workers as a means of helping to safeguard and promote the living heritage of the closed mill and its surrounding areas.

3:25 PM **Life After Steel** dir. Eric Kruszewski (4 min, USA)

Sparrows Point, Baltimore, was the hub of Maryland's steel industry since 1889. Bobby Curran, a resident of Dundalk, Maryland, began working at Sparrows Point immediately after finishing high school in 1973. After 39 years of continuous employment, and merely two years shy of retirement, Bobby lost his job after the mill permanently closed its doors in May 2012. He decided to enroll in community college to re-train.

**UNDER THE PALACE WALL** Marriott Hoover Room

3:40 PM **Under the Palace Wall** dir. David MacDougall (53 min, India)

16th century the Indian village of Delwara in Rajasthan was ruled as a principality of the kingdom of Mewar. Its palace, which overlooks the village, is now a luxury hotel—a world remote from the daily life of the villagers. Following on his film *SchoolScapes*, MacDougall employs a series of precisely observed scenes exploring Delwara's primary school as part of village life, a life that continues under the palace wall.



The New Black

Under the Palace Wall

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM **ADVANCED SCREENING & DISCUSSION** Marriott Thurgood Marshall Ballroom

The Look of Silence (99 min) followed by a panel discussion with Joshua Oppenheimer, Joseph Saunders (Human Rights Watch), and Max White (Amnesty International), facilitated by Eben Kirksey. Through Joshua Oppenheimer's work filming perpetrators of the Indonesian genocide, a family of survivors discovers how their son was murdered and the identity of the men who killed him. The youngest brother is determined to break the spell of silence and fear under which the survivors live, and so confronts the men responsible for his brother's murder – something unimaginable in a country where killers remain in power. (AAA members only)

**DISPLACED LIVES** Marriott Hoover Room

9:00 AM *The Camp* dir. Jean-Frédéric de Hasque (1 hr 31 min, Benin)

The refugees modestly refer to their camp in Agame, Benin as 'the site.' Walking along its paths, we make our way between the signs that reveal the true nature of the place, and the daily lives of the men and women who transform it into a village. The refugees divide their time between worrying about being moved on and building homes to try and fill the void, finding reassurance in creating an environment that reminds them of the one they have left behind.

10:35 AM *Xenos* dir. Mahdi Fleifel (12 min, Greece)

In 2010, Abu Eyad and other young Palestinian men from the Ain el-Helweh refugee camp in Lebanon traveled with smugglers through Syria and Turkey into Greece. Like so many other migrants, they came looking for a way into Europe but found themselves trapped in a country undergoing economic, political, and social collapse. *Xenos* tells of their day-to-day struggle for survival and enduring sense of exile in a land of hope that has become a nightmare.

10:50 AM *Almut* dir. Zoe Aiano, Leyla Hoppe, Côme Ledésert (10 min, Germany)

*Almut* is a middle-aged woman who makes her living collecting bottles from the streets of Berlin, earning two or three Euros a day. Over the course of the film, we get a glimpse of her story, her philosophy and her perceptions of the city, shown to us through images she shoots herself.

**LIVING WITH HERDS** Marriott Hoover Room

11:00 AM *Slaughterhouse Summer* dir. Kara Wentworth (4 min, USA) followed by Q&A

This short film centers on the work done by animals and butchers on slaughter day at a small sheep farm. Sheep are killed in pairs to keep them calm. Rather than sensationalizing the practice of slaughter, the film explores the rhythms of daily work that performs boundaries between life and death, clean and dirty, animal and human, inside and outside

11:15 AM *Winter Nomads* dir. Manuel von Sturler (1 hr 25 min, France)

Pascal and Carole are shepherds who embark on long winter transhumance: four months during which they will have to cover 600 km in the Swiss-French region, accompanied by three donkeys, four dogs and a eight hundred sheep. They brave the cold and the bad weather day in day out, with a canvas cover and animal skins as their only shelter at night. This saga reveals a tough and exacting profession requiring constant improvisation and unflinching attention to nature, the animals and the cosmos.





In the Steppes of Genghis



Gulabi Gang



Ghosts on the Mountain



Globe Trot



Ghetto Girl



Let There Be Light



Tansy

Virtual Me

## 2014 SVAFF Awards

### BEST FEATURE LENGTH FILM

In the Steppes of Genghis, dir. Mike Majoros  
(Wed., 12/3, 3:15 PM, filmmaker in attendance)

### HONORABLE MENTION

Gulabi Gang, dir. Nishitha Jain  
(Thurs., 12/4, 5:50 PM, filmmaker in attendance)

### BEST SHORT FILM

Ghosts on the Mountain,  
dir. Jared Jakins & Carly Jakins  
(Fri., 12/5, 10:00 AM, filmmakers in attendance)

### BEST ULTRASHORT FILM

Globe Trot, dir. Mitchell Rose  
(Thurs., 12/4, 10:45 AM)

### BEST GRADUATE STUDENT FILM (Tie)

Ghetto Girl, dir. Ambarien Alqadar  
(Fri., 12/5, 1:15 PM, filmmaker in attendance)

Let There Be Light, dir. Anna Wilking  
(Thurs., 12/4, 2:45 PM, filmmaker in attendance)

### BEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FILM

Virtual Me: Gender and Identity in World of Warcraft,  
dir. Trent Monahan, Sarah Prothero & Jennifer Torson  
(Thurs., 12/4, 5:00 PM, filmmakers in attendance)

All screenings in Marriott Hoover Room

### SVAFF AWARD CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

Saturday December 6th, 8:30 - 10:30 PM

Marriot Maryland Suite A

## About SVA Film Festival



SVAFF Jury met in June to review this year's submissions (L-R)

**Karen Nakamura (Juror)** teaches visual and cultural anthropology at Yale University. Her research focuses on minorities, sexuality, and disabilities. She has published an award-winning ethnography (*Deaf in Japan*) and two ethnographic films (*Bethel* and *A Japanese Funeral*) about contemporary Japan.

**Naomi Schiller (Juror)** teaches cultural and visual anthropology at Brooklyn College. She is a filmmaker and her 2005 film *Girlstory* exhibited at the Bronx Museum of Art and the Nuyorican Poets Café in New York City. Her research focuses on media and the state in Venezuela. Schiller has produced several collaborative films with community television producers in Caracas, which have aired on local and national Venezuelan television.

**Sarah Elder (Juror)** teaches ethnographic and documentary film at SUNY Buffalo. She is an award-winning filmmaker who has worked collaboratively with Alaska Native communities since 1973. Her research focuses on collaborative and participatory film and Alaska Native cultures. Her film *Drums of Winter* was selected into the National Film Registry, and she has won two SVA Awards of Excellence and four first prizes in American Film Festival.

**Jenny Chio (Co-Director & Juror)** teaches cultural and visual anthropology at Emory University. Her research focuses on modernity, ethnicity, and media practices in rural China. Her film, *Peasant Family Happiness*, is the winner of the 2013 David Plath Media Prize, awarded by the Society for East Asian Anthropology. Her ethnographic monograph, *A Landscape of Travel: The Work of Tourism in Rural Ethnic China*, was published in early 2014.

**Harjant Gill (Co-Director & Juror)** teaches cultural and visual anthropology at Towson University. His research focuses on gender and migration in South Asia. Gill is also an award-winning filmmaker. His upcoming film *Mardistan (Macholand)* explores masculinity in India. His films have been screened at film festivals and on television networks worldwide including BBC, Doordarshan (Indian National TV) and on PBS channels nationwide.

Total Submissions: 215 entries (286 hours approx.)

Total Acceptances: 53 entries (38 hours approx.)

We would like to thank our 2014 pre screeners: Heather Horst, Red Bradley, Peter Biella, Natalie Underberg-Goode, Peter S. Allen, Mary L. Gray, Jill Reese, Joanna Luz Siegel, K. Eva Weiss, Chrisanna Gustafson, Roberto Reyes Ang, Scott Alves Barton, Sue Sudbury, Elizabeth Cartwright, Meg Stalcup, Sharon Gmelch, Elizabeth Anne Eames, Sharmin Sadequee, Laura Kissel, Milton Ricardo Antonio Machuca-Gálvez, Allison Jablonko, Rowena Potts, Kristin L. Dowell, Evelyn Newman Phillips, and Leighton C. Peterson.

Special Thanks to: Faye Ginsburg & NYU's Department of Anthropology, Matthew Durlington & Towson University's Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Criminal Justice, and our volunteers and interns Bridget Klein, Ingrid Carolina Ramón Parra, Mike Ross, Barton Girdwood, and Raul Ceballos.

Program design: Harjant Gill

Festival Manager: Patricia Alvarez Astacio

2014 SVAFF is directed by: Harjant Gill & Jenny Chio