



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



AFI PROJECT: 20/20 2008

AFI PROJECT: 20/20 is an American Film Institute (AFI) international initiative designed to enhance cultural exchange, understanding, and collaboration through filmmakers and their films from the U.S. and abroad. It is an unprecedented cultural diplomacy effort that is supported by the U.S.'s cultural agencies—National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)—the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the Department of State, and it is a component of the Global Cultural Initiative, announced by Mrs. Laura Bush in September 2006.

Participation in AFI PROJECT: 20/20 is by invitation based on an artist's filmmaking excellence and their potential for positively interrelating with film professionals, filmmaking peers, cultural officials and audiences, particularly in foreign countries. AFI FEST and the other venues and countries participating in AFI PROJECT: 20/20 provide an arena for American and International cultural voices to be heard and seen, creating learning opportunities for audiences and artists alike. Through workshops, seminars and appearances at film festivals, cultural centers, museums and other community, educational and cultural venues in the US and abroad, AFI PROJECT: 20/20 filmmakers will promote mutual understanding, while nurturing filmmaking excellence.

The second year of the program begins at AFI FEST in Los Angeles, November 1-11, and will include seven American and International filmmakers and four alumni from the first year. Representing twelve countries, 2008 AFI PROJECT: 20/20 introduces a multicultural roster of films signifying a universal perspective that challenges us to examine, reflect and celebrate diversity.

AFI PROJECT: 20/20 Participants

Afghan Muscle

Denmark, 2007, 58 min, VIDEO

In English / Farsi with English subtitles

North American Premiere

DIR: Andreas Mol Dalsgaard

SCR: Andreas Mol Dalsgaard,

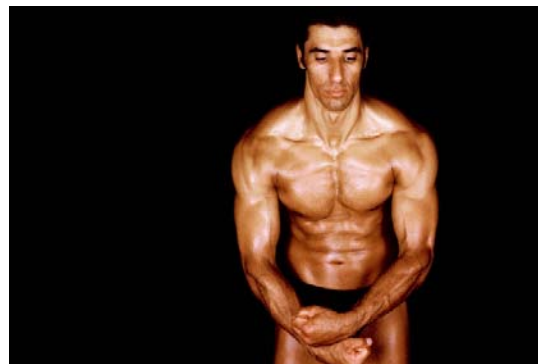
Oliver Winding

PROD: Jesper Morthorst, Michael Haslund-Christensen

DP: Frederik Jacobi, Andreas Møl Dalsgaard

ED: My Thordal

MUS: Fridolin Tai Nordsø Schjoldan



Afghan Muscle is a sports documentary in a country ravished by war that follows Noor and Hamid, two Afghanistan young men who have discovered the art of bodybuilding. With little support and equipment both men find success and pride in this sport, but they are challenged by the sport and circumstances to hold on to their dreams of honor and fame in a world of chaos.

AMERICAN FORK

USA, 2007, 94 min, 35 MM

DIR: Chris Bowman

SCR: Hubbel Palmer

PROD: Derek Beumer, Maya Browne, Jeremy Coon, Shannon Gardner

EXEC PROD: Derek Ferguson

DP: Doug Chamberlain

ED: Cary Gries

PROD DES: Anne K. Black

MUS: Bobby Johnston

CAST: Hubbel Palmer, William Baldwin, Mary Lynn Rajs kub, Kathleen Quinlan



At nearly 400 pounds, Tracy (Hubbel Palmer) is a wide target. When he sets out to pursue his dream of acting, the grocery clerk finds an assortment of people to dash his dreams: his acting coach (William Baldwin), who has designs on his sister Peggy (24's Mary Lynn Rajs kub); his juvenile-delinquent friends who suck him into their petty crimes; and his God-fearing, self-loathing mother (Academy Award nominee Kathleen Quinlan). Through it all, Tracy remains irrepressibly upbeat, convinced he's destined for something big.

Charming and full of humanity, *AMERICAN FORK* is full of delightfully colorful characters. Fueled by the performances of the whole quirky cast and newcomer, writer Hubbel Palmer, *AMERICAN FORK* moves beyond the familiar, into the memorable.

BIG RIG

USA, 2007, 95 min, VIDEO

DIR: Doug Pray
SCR: Doug Pray,
Brad Blondheim
PROD: Brad Blondheim
EXEC PROD: Kirt Eftekhari, Randy Wooten
DP: Doug Pray
MUS: Buck 65



Sleek steel monsters roll through the night on a cross-country odyssey that keeps the wheels of the American machine turning. Meet the working-class heroes who deliver your food and all the goods you can't live without.

Doug Pray (*SCRATCH*, *HYPE!*, *SURFWISE*), travels 21,000 miles—spanning 45 states and dozens of truck stops—riding with truck drivers and interviewing a community that faces mounting challenges including rising fuel costs, an unsympathetic public and government interference. With hauls becoming less and less profitable, the truckers soldier on, knowing the importance of their role in the American economy and bolstered by a quiet pride. As we look inward as a country to address the challenges our excessive consumption has created, *BIG RIG* is especially relevant.

Featuring a soundtrack by Buck 65, *BIG RIG*'s gorgeous American vistas and a unique cast of trucking characters, take you along on a much-cherished road trip that will make you think twice the next time you speed past an 18-wheeler...roger that good buddy.

- Natalie McMenemy

CYRANO FERNANDEZ

Spain, Venezuela, 2007, 100 min, 35 MM

In Spanish with English subtitles

World Premiere

DIR: Alberto Arvelo
SCR: Alberto Arvelo
PROD: Maria Eugenia Jacome
EXEC PROD: Pedro Mezquita, Carlos Lizarralde, Miguel Perello, Emilio Oviedo, Edgar Ramírez.
DP: Cezary Jaworski
PROD DES: Matias Tikas
MUS: Mario De Benito, Nascuy Linares
CAST: Edgar Ramirez, Pastor Oviedo, Jessika Grau, Ximo Solano, Rafael Uribe



Can a woman see past a man's scarred face and find true romantic happiness? Loosely based on the classic masterpiece *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostan, *Cyrano Fernandez* is a modern day story of a love triangle between Cyrano Fernandez, Roxana Padilla and Cristian Santana set in a tough Venezuelan inner-city neighborhood. Following the narrative outline of the novel,

Fernandez is a romantic warrior and protector of innocents in a corrupt and violent neighborhood, who is secretly in love with a beautiful dancer and teacher Roxana.

FARO - GODDESS OF THE WATERS

FARO - LA REINE DES EAUX

France , Canada , Mali , Burkina Faso , Germany, 2007, 96 min, 35 MM
In Bambara with English subtitles

DIR: Salif Traore

SCR: Salif Traore,
Olivier Lorelle

PROD: Philippe Quinsac, Daniel Morin, Bärbel Mauch, Salif Traoré,
Ismaël Oueadrogo

DP: Jean-Pierre Gauthier

ED: Laure Budin

MUS: Bassékou Kouyaté

CAST: Sotigui Kouyate, Fili Traore, Michel Mpambara, Habib Dembele,
Helene M. Diarra



In this assured debut from Salif Traoré, a former assistant to Souleymane Cissé and Abderrahmane Sissako, we follow the story of an engineer who returns to his rural village in Mali many years after having been cast out for being born out of wedlock.

Zanga (Fili Traoré) returns to the village of his birth to uncover the identity of his father and initiate a waterworks project. However, the fact that his arrival coincides with the drowning of a young villager alerts the village elders, who confer and determine that Faro, the spirit who rules the waters has been angered by Zanga's return and the only way to appease her anger is with sacrifice.

The African landscape is photographed beautifully and the script, co-written by Salif Traoré and Olivier Lorelle deftly navigates the maelstrom of modern Africa while giving voice to the power of one individual to affect change.

- *Jacqueline Lyanga*

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME

Intl Documentary Competition

China, 2007, 58 min, VIDEO
In Mandarin with English subtitles

DIR: Weijun Chen

PROD: Don Edkins

DP: Weijun Chen, Hua Zhao

ED: Jean Tsien

Winner of the Sterling Audience Award at the AFI Silverdocs Film Festival, PLEASE VOTE FOR ME is one of the most insightful and enjoyable documentaries of the year.



In a school of Wuhan, China, its class monitor election time. Three eight—year old contenders are

chosen to square off: an incumbent known for his harsh dictatorship, the smart yet shy girl with a penchant for gossip, and the much—loved class clown. While their parents coach and strategize as the free election approaches, the children face their fears and their challengers in a no—holds—barred series of classroom debates. They illicit betrayals, tears and laughter, and reveal the hardships of the campaign and coming to terms with defeat.

In this immensely entertaining snapshot of a culture going through change and the growing pains of their children, Weijun Chen's (TO LIVE IS BETTER THAN TO DIE) expertly crafted film will have you on the edge of your seat as the winner is announced.

- *Natalie McMenemy*

SPINE TINGLER! THE WILLIAM CASTLE STORY

USA, 2007, 80 min, VIDEO

World Premiere

DIR: Jeffrey Schwarz

PROD: Jeffrey Schwarz

SUP PROD: Sonja Nelson

ASSOC PROD: Taryn Teigue, Jack Mulligan

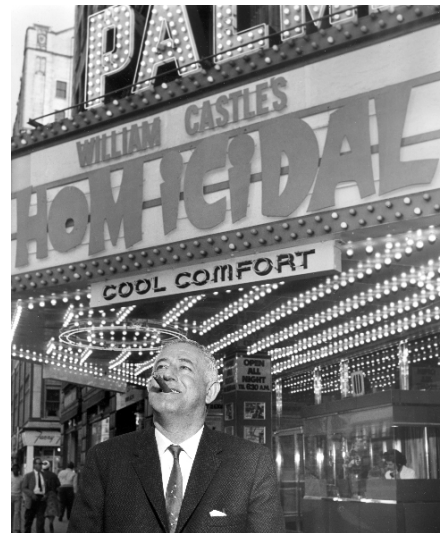
ED: Philip Harrison, Jeffrey Schwarz

GRAPHIC DES: Grant Nellessen

MUS: Michael "The Millionaire" Cudahy

FEATURING: Terry Castle, John Waters, Joe Dante, Leonard Maltin, Roger Corman, John Badham, Diane Baker, Marcel Marceau

This fantastic and little-known Hollywood story reveals William Castle—largely remembered for installing electrical shocking devices in seats for added scares at his horror films—as a fascinating, multi-dimensional man.



A master of ballyhoo and a brand name in movie horror, Castle in the 50s and 60s treated delighted moviegoers to buzzing seats, flying skeletons, luminescent ghosts and life insurance policies. But his career began as assistant to director Orson Welles, where he did much of the second unit location work for THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI. Driven by a fear of failure and longing for respect from his peers, Castle's life was a rags-to-riches tale of a larger-than-life showman who reinvented himself as a modern P.T. Barnum. And his influential role in producing and nearly directing one of the most revered horror films of all times, ROSEMARY'S BABY alone is worth the price of admission.

Director Jeffrey Schwarz tells the tale, lining up interviews with Joe Dante, Leonard Maltin, Stuart Gordon, John Landis, and the provocative John Waters.

- *Lane Kneedler*

AFI PROJECT: 20/20 2007 Alumni

BACK HOME

Rwanda, USA, 2006, 73 min, Color, Digibeta
In English, Kinyarwanda with English subtitles
World Premiere
DIR: J.B. Rutagarama
PROD: Linda Vester
DP: J.B. Rutagarama, Daniel Elliott, Noelle Ingabire
ED: Todd Zelin, Gregory Bertrand
MUS: Rod Clemmons



Imagine surviving genocide, being rescued, and starting a new life in a new land without knowing what happened to the family you left behind. This is the true inspiring story of J.B. Rutagarama. Escaping Rwanda alive was a miracle. After years of forced separation, J.B. takes the journey back to the place that changed his course and searches for his lost family. With devastating footage interspersed with his remembrances, a unique and intimate perspective of this world tragedy unfolds. As Rutagarama sets foot again in the land of his birth, a visit to old family friends in Rwanda leads him on an unexpected journey with dramatic twists and turns that will send your emotions soaring.

Shot with an eye for capturing the beauty of what was once a cherished homeland, Rutagarama's film is personal, but becomes the story of all Rwandans. It is about healing, hope, renewal, family, forgiveness and finding your own peace. - *Natalie McMenemy*

DISAPPEARANCES

USA, 2006, 103 min, Color, 35 MM

DIR/SCR: Jay Craven
PROD: Jay Craven, Hathalee Higgs
DP: Wolfgang Held
ED: Beatrice Sisul
MUS: Judy Hyman
Cast: Kris Kristofferson, Genevieve Bujold, Gary Farmer, William Sanderson, Lothaire Bluteau, Luis Guzman, Charlie McDermott



Based on the award-winning novel by Howard Frank Moshier, DISAPPEARANCES is a powerfully mysterious film. The story is set deep in the rural Northeast and features excellent ensemble performances by legendary actor/songwriter Kris Kristofferson, Genevieve Bujold and newcomer Charlie McDermott.

Kristofferson stars as schemer and dreamer Quebec Bill Bonhomme in a spellbinding tale of

smuggling, a family's mysterious past, and a young boy's rite of passage. Bill, desperate to raise money to preserve his endangered cattle herd through a long winter, resorts to whiskey smuggling, a traditional family occupation. He takes his son, Wild Bill, on an unforgettable trip that will long remain etched in the viewer's mind.

Palpable, intimate and magical with the vivid textures of rural outback life, Craven's delightfully simple narrative operates on powerful metaphorical levels.

- Shaz Bennett

NO SWEAT

USA, 2006, 54 min, Color, BetaSP - NTSC, DigiBeta - NTSC
In Spanish, English with English subtitles
World Premiere

DIR/SCR: Amie Williams

PROD: Amie Williams, Tony Silver

DP: Amie Williams

ED: Libby Horne

MUS: Quetzal Quetzal, Jamie Lawrence

Blasting the screen with sure-footed confidence, director Amie Williams has crafted a powerful documentary that shines a light on the popular American Apparel clothing line and the bigger issues that surround the garment industry in America.



An all-American tale about an all-American garment—the T-shirt—this documentary takes a wild ride into the bowels of the Los Angeles garment industry. Mostly undocumented workers at American Apparel and SweatX are offered better wages, benefits, even a shot at worker-ownership. But what's really behind the label?

Amie Williams follows her subjects with a seamless flow of kinetic energy—weaving together day-in-the-life verité footage with interviews, from workers, owners and buyers—creating a vibrant, informative documentary. NO SWEAT is an evocative and riveting mosaic of the big picture that makes up the garment industry.

- Shaz Bennett

SHAME

Pakistan, USA, 2006, 110 min, Digi Beta
In Urdu/Sairiki with English subtitles
US Premiere

DIR: Mohammed Naqvi
PROD: Mohammed Naqvi, Jill Schneider
DP: Ahmed Bashir
ED: Niharika Desai
MUS: Janek Duszynski
Cast: FEATURING Mukhtaran Mai



Every day, horrific world events evade justice. SHAME is the story of a courageous woman who fought back. During the summer of 2002, in a remote village of Pakistan, 33-year-old Mukhtaran Mai's life changed when the village's tribal council sanctioned a punishment against her for a crime allegedly committed by her younger brother. Following the tribal custom of "honor for honor," Mai was gang-raped and then publicly paraded around as an example. Her family covered in shame. The village shunned her. Normally the only recourse for such a woman would be suicide. Instead, Mai set out to seek justice and shook the very core of Pakistan's decaying judicial system. In her quest, she endured public scrutiny and exposure to the alien world outside her village, losing friends, family and her life, as she knew it. Throughout this incredible journey, Mai maintains an astonishing resilience and belief in herself. Journalists may visit less frequently, but her work—and the work of women like her – is not yet over. There is still plenty of shame to be faced and conquered.