



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STORIES FROM THE FIELD: The First United Nations Documentary Film Festival
Discover what the United Nations does in the world—from the people who actually do it.

New York, NY, March 21, 2005 -- The Media Communications Association – International, New York Chapter (MCA-I NY) and the United Nations Department of Public Information are pleased to announce the launch of **Stories from the Field, The First United Nations Documentary Film Festival**. The Festival will coincide with the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations and reflect the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, adopted in 2000.

The Festival will take place on Saturday, May 21, and Sunday, May 22, 2005, at Tishman Auditorium, New School University, 66 West 12 Street (bet. Fifth & Sixth Aves.), New York, NY 10011. It will feature film screenings, panel discussions with the filmmakers and others, and award presentations.

An opening night reception will be held on Saturday, May 21, in the Vera List Courtyard, New School University, 66 West 12 Street (bet. Fifth & Sixth Aves.), and will be by invitation or with press credential only.

Film synopses and screening times will be posted on the Festival Web site at www.mcainy.org/unfilm when the judging is over and the finalists have been selected (see Relevant Dates below).

Tickets will go on sale March 31 at www.mcainy.org/unfilm and at the New School Box Office, 66 West 12 Street (bet. Fifth & Sixth Aves.), New York, NY 10011 or by phone (212) 229-5488.

The purpose of the festival is to:

- ◆ Spotlight some of the people and cultures in areas with a United Nations presence throughout the world and discover what these groups are doing to overcome challenges such as poverty, hunger, disease, civil unrest, trafficking, and injustice.
- ◆ Show how United Nations programs and services are helping communities to develop a civil society, participation, and a better quality of life for their people.
- ◆ Afford those in the trenches—United Nations workers, community leaders, and the people they serve—the opportunity to share their stories of adversity and triumph.

Media Communications Association – International, New York Chapter

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MCA-I is a 501(c) (6) non-profit trade association, registered in the State of New Jersey.

Relevant Dates

March 31 Deadline for film entries
March 31 Tickets go on sale
April 16-17..... Film panel judging
May 2 Film finalists announced
May 21 First day of the Festival
May 21 Reception
May 22 Final day of the Festival

Background

The timing of Stories from the Field has special significance since it will coincide with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations www.un.org and reflect the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, adopted by all 191 United Nations Member States, which pledge to:

- ◆ Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- ◆ Achieve universal primary education
- ◆ Promote gender equality and empower women
- ◆ Reduce child mortality
- ◆ Improve maternal health
- ◆ Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- ◆ Ensure environmental sustainability
- ◆ Develop a global partnership for development

Award Categories

Finalists will be selected by a screening committee of United Nations officials, MCA-I representatives, and New School University faculty based on the topical relevance, artistic merit, and production values of their work.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- ◆ Best Stories from the Field Feature (40 min. and longer)
- ◆ Best Stories from the Field Short (under 40 min.)
- ◆ Audience Award (popular ballot)

More Information Online

Festival Web site: www.mcainy.org/unfilm

United Nations: www.un.org

Millennium Development Goals: www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

UN Chronicle Online Edition: www.un.org/chronicle

Media Communications Association International, New York Chapter: www.mcainy.org

New School University: www.newschool.edu