Welcome to 2015 SVA Film and Media Festival!

The goal of the Society of Visual Anthropology Film and Media Festival (SVAFMF) is to provide the anthropological community with films that engage scholars, researchers, educators, and students. The 2015 SVAFMF program showcases what the jury evaluates to be 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. The films featured in this year’s program address a range of topics, geographical areas, and issues of interest to both anthropologists and broader publics. We seek to highlight and encourage the work of student filmmakers by granting awards to both best undergraduate and best graduate films, as well as best feature length and short films. This year we are also thrilled to offer the Jean Rouch Award for collaborative filmmaking. We hope that our audiences in Denver will join us in the ongoing conversation about the means and ends of ethnographic film and media and about the changing field of visual anthropology.

SVAFMF began in 1986 as a space to showcase ethnographic film during the Annual AAA Meetings. Over the last 29 years, the festival has grown significantly in size, scope, and diversity of submissions. As part of its development, the SVAFMF has transitioned to a digital submissions process to manage the growing number of submissions we receive each year. This year alone, we received 178 submissions from around the world. Because of limitations in space and time at the AAA annual meeting, our acceptance rate is quite low. We are currently exploring various possibilities to expand our screening capacity for future festivals and our capacity to offer more support to ethnographic filmmakers without institutional affiliation in order to accommodate the growing scholarship produced through the medium of film and video.

SVAFMF has a staged selection process. A few years back, we introduced 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. This 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, which we hope our audiences will enjoy as much as we do. We strongly encourage directors to attend the festival in Denver and to participate in question and answer sessions following the screenings.

In 2015, the SVA Film and Media Festival is a highlighted event at the 114th AAA annual meeting, signaling the increased attention of the discipline to the importance and value of ethnographic film and media. We have worked closely with the AAA Executive Program Committee to ensure the success of this year’s festival. We hope that you will join us in the screening room for a wonderful program of great and important films!

Sincerely,
SVAFMF Jury & Co-Directors
Program Overview

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH 2015 - ROOM 107

DISPUTED LANDS
3:00 PM - 5:30 PM
3:15 PM IN THE IMAGE, dir. Emmy Scharlatt (61 mins, Palestinian Territories, 2014)
Special Event: Post-screening conversation with filmmaker Emmy Scharlatt, Amahl Bishara (Tufts) and Hugh Gusterson (GWU) moderated by Naomi Schiller.

SOUNDSCAPES
5:30 PM RINGTONE, dir. Jennifer Deger and Paul Gurrumuruwuy (30 mins, Australia, 2014)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Sarah Elder.
6:10 PM VOICES OF THE LAND, dir. Paul Wolffram (1 hr 40 mins, Aotearoa/New Zealand, 2014)

U.S. INEQUALITIES (PART I)
8:00 PM IN AN IDEAL WORLD, dir. Noel Schwerin (1 hr 23 mins, USA, 2015)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH 2015 - ROOM 107

GLOBAL HEALTH
9:00 AM - 10:45 AM
9:00 AM CRYING EARTH RISE UP, dir. Suree Towfighnia
(57 mins, Southwest South Dakota and Northwest Nebraska, 2015)
10:00 AM IN THE SHADOW OF EBOLA, dir. Gregg Mitman & Sarita Siegel (27 mins, Liberia, 2015)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Sarah Elder.

RETURN
10:45 AM - 2:15 PM
10:45 AM DAMIANA KRYGGI, dir. Alejandro Fernández Mouján (1 hr 36 mins, Argentina, 2015)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg.
12:35PM VANISHING POINT, dir. Julia Szucs & Stephen Smith (1 hr 23 mins, Canada/Greenland, 2012)

AFTERLIFE OF WAR
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM
2:15 PM RHIZOPHORA, dir. Davide de Lillis and Julia Metzger-Traber (17 mins, Vietnam, 2014)
2:35 PM THE SKIN THAT BURNS, dir. Narges Bajaghli (24 mins, Iran/USA, 2014)
followed by Q&A moderated by John Bishop.

LABOR (PART I)
3:15 PM - 6:15 PM
3:15 PM WORKING IS GROWING, dir. Léa Klaue (30 mins, Bolivia/Norway, 2015)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Naomi Schiller.
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4:45 PM THE HANDS THAT FEED, dir. Rachel Learns and Robin Blotnik (1hr 24 mins, USA, 2014)
## Program Overview

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH 2015 - ROOM 107

**THE PACE OF EVERYDAY LIFE**  
6:30 PM  **BODEGA MARIA**, dir. Sydney Silverstein (38 mins, Peru, 2015)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Patricia Alvarez.  
7:20 PM  **LIGIA**, dir. Giovanni Princigalli (20 mins, Italy/Canada, 2015)  
7:45 PM  **IL MARE**, dir. Guido Nicolas Zingari (36 mins, Togo/Italy, 2014)

**U.S. INEQUALITY (PART II)**  
8:30 PM  **UNFINISHED LEGACY**, dir. Sangsun Choi (18 mins, US, 2014)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH 2015 - ROOM 107**

**THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT**  
9:00 AM  **FIGHTING FOR NOTHING TO HAPPEN**, dir. Nora Judith Wildenauer (48 mins, Indonesia)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg.

**COMMODITY CHAINS**  
11:05 AM  **COTTON ROAD**, dir. Laura Kissel (1 hr 13 mins, China/USA, 2015)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Patricia Alvarez.

**ETHNO-FICtIONS**  
1:30 PM  **NZHU JIMANGEMI (The Gorilla’s Wife)**, dir. Adam Pérou Hermans (41 min, Cameroon, 2014)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Sarah Elder.

**LABOR (PART II)**  
3:00 PM  **A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE**, dir. Cliff Caines (1 hr 18 mins, Canada, 2015)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Jenny Chio.

**GLOBAL SEX WORK**  
4:35 PM  **BECKY’S JOURNEYS**, dir. Sine Plambech (24 mins, Denmark/Nigeria, 2014)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg.

5:10 PM  **GRACE PERIOD**, dir. KyungMook Kim and Caroline Key (62 mins, South Korea, 2015)
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST 2015 - ROOM 107

CULTURE & MATERIALITY

9:00 AM DZONGSAR CLAY, dir. Dawa Drolma (10 mins, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, 2012) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by John Bishop.

9:10 AM IN THE STUDIO, dir. Kaatje Jones (5 mins, United Kingdom, 2015)

9:15 AM A WORK IN PROGRESS, dir. Sasha Klupchak (11 mins, USA, 2015) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by John Bishop.

9:30 AM TRACING ROOTS, dir. Ellen Frankenstein (35 mins, USA/Canada, 2014) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by John Bishop.

AFFECTIVE LANDSCAPES: MEMORY & PLACE

10:15 AM REMEMBERING YAYAYI, dir. Fred Myers (58 mins, Australia, 2014) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Naomi Schiller.

11:30 AM LAST WORDS, dir. Koert Davidse (29 mins, Greece/The Netherlands, 2014)

12:00 PM SOCOTRA: ONCE & TODAY, dir. Felisa Jimenez (36 mins, Yemen/Colombia, 2015)

12:40 PM MOUNTAIN OF SERVANTS, dir. Daniel Lombroso (14 mins, Turkey/USA, 2015)

GENDER AND FAMILY

1:00 PM MARDISTAN/MACHOLAND, dir. Harjant Gill (28 mins, India, 2014) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Naomi Schiller.

1:40 PM THE GOOD DAY, dir. Clara Kleininger (30 mins, Moldova, 2014)

2:15 PM ROOTS, dir. Felice Fornabaio (25 min, Italy, 2015).

2:45 PM BIRTHDAYS, dir. Arba Bektashi (4 mins, Albania, 2015).

YOUTH

3:00 PM EARTH’S CHILDREN, dir. Diego Sarmiento Pagán (15 mins, Peru, 2014).


4:25 PM THE HOMESTRETCH, dir. Anne de Mare and Kirsten Kelly (89 min, USA, 2014)

SVA MEMBER MEETING & AWARD CEREMONY

Friday Nov 20, 6:00 – 9:00 PM - Coldorado Convention Center

SVA RECEPTION

Friday Nov 20, 9:00 – 11:00 PM - Emmanuel Gallery
November 18th

DISPUTED LANDS

3:00 PM – 5:30PM, Room 107

The film vividly depicts the lives of Palestinian women struggling for justice under the Israeli Occupation. Through the “Camera Project,” initiated by the award-winning Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem, Palestinian women use their video cameras to engage in non-violent action, portraying family life and the daily violations they endure.

Special Event: Post-screening conversation with filmmaker Emmy Scharlatt, Amahl Bishara (Tufts), and Hugh Gusterson (GWU), moderated by Naomi Schiller.

SOUNDSCAPES

5:30 PM – 8:00PM, Room 107

5:30 PM RINGTONE, dir. Jennifer Deger and Paul Gurrumuruwuy (30 mins, Australia, 2014) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Sarah Elder. BEST SHORT
The ringtone on your cell phone says a lot about you. In northern Australia ringtones reveal rich insights into the lives, relationships and contemporary perils of a once remote Aboriginal community. Ringtones is a beautiful, moving and surprising film about an indigenous poetics of connection in a digital world.

6:10 PM VOICES OF THE LAND, dir. Paul Wolffram (1 hr 40 mins, Aotearoa/New Zealand, 2014) A cinematic and acoustic journey into a world of sound rarely encountered. Voices of the Land explores the traditional instruments and musical structures of the Maori people of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Guided by ethnographer and musician Richard Nunns, the film seeks to reveal the intimate relationship between traditional Maori music and the landscape.

U.S. INEQUALITIES (PART I)

8:00 PM – 10:00PM, Room 107

8:00 PM IN AN IDEAL WORLD, dir. Noel Schwerin (1 hr 23 mins, USA, 2015) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg.
At an infamous prison in California, inmates and staff confront change brought on by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling and a new mixed race program. In An Ideal World reveals America’s locked down racial order and the hope and hidden risks of transformative change.
November 19th Thursday

GLOBAL HEALTH

9:00 AM CRYING EARTH RISE UP, dir. Suree Towfighnia
(57 mins, Southwest South Dakota and Northwest Nebraska, 2015)
Two Lakota women seek answers to the question, “Why are there contaminants in our water?” Crying Earth Rise Up documents the growing movement of people living on the Great Plains in their battle to stop the expansion of uranium mining.

10:00 AM IN THE SHADOW OF EBOLA, dir. Gregg Mitman and Sarita Siegel
(27 mins, Liberia/USA, 2015) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Sarah Elder.
In the Shadow of Ebola is the gripping story of a Liberian family and a nation torn apart by the Ebola outbreak. Caught in an invisible war that is painfully reminiscent of life during a past fourteen-year civil war, a people find the compassion and resolve to combat the virus’s spread.

RETURN

10:45 AM DAMIANA KRYGGI, dir. Alejandro Fernández Mouján (1 hr 36 mins, Argentina, 2015)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg. BEST FEATURE LENGTH FILM
Paraguay, 1896. A three year-old girl is captured after the massacre of a group of Aché indigenous people in the jungle. A hundred years later her remains are found in Argentina and Germany and returned to the Aché. The film tries to restore a history and a name to the small captive.

12:35PM VANISHING POINT, dir. Julia Szucs & Stephen Smith
(1 hr 23 mins, Canada/Greenland, 2012)
“As the world melts under our feet, we must find the best way for our journey.” Two Inuit communities are linked by an 1860s migration led by an intrepid shaman. Navarana, descendant of the shaman, senses the consequences of rapid social and environmental change and wonders about the future.
2:15 PM  RHIZOPHORA, dir. Davide de Lill and Julia Metzger-Traber
(17 mins, Vietnam, 2014/15) HONORABLE MENTION (BEST SHORT)
Dancing between waking and dreaming, a day seen through the eyes of eleven young residents of the Friendship Village in Vietnam who are living with disabilities caused by Agent Orange. As the film progresses we are welcomed ever deeper into their richly symbiotic world.

2:35 PM  THE SKIN THAT BURNS, dir. Narges Bajoghli (24 mins, Iran/USA, 2014)
followed by Q&A moderated by John Bishop.
The Skin That Burns is the story of Iran’s volunteer soldiers who were exposed to chemical bombs during the Iran-Iraq War. The film follows veteran Ahmad Salimi, who is now legally blind and has scars throughout his body. From the numerous pills that Ahmad has to swallow daily to stay alive, to the inhalers he relies on to breathe, Ahmad’s story reveals the often overlooked affects of chemical bombs.

LABOR (PART I)  3:15 PM – 6:15 PM, Room 107

3:15 PM  WORKING IS GROWING, dir. Léa Klaue (30 mins, Bolivia/Norway, 2015)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Naomi Schiller. BEST GRADUATE STUDENT FILM (TIE)
Gerald, Ruben, Neysa and their friends are children who work at a market and in a cemetery in the region of Cochabamba, Bolivia. Forming their own labor union, the children present their ideas to the Bolivian parliament who decide on new legislation concerning working children.

followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Naomi Schiller.
Akil tells the story of Baburam Chaudhary, who was born as a bonded laborer (Kamaiya) in the remote Kailali district of Western Nepal. In 2000, Baburam was freed after the government’s decision to abolish the Kamaiya system of debt-bondage. Baburam became a local leader of a political movement of Kamaiyas. The film traces Baburam’s life and his story of urban revolt against the state in a country whose political landscape has been marked by revolution and rapid political change.

4:45 PM  THE HANDS THAT FEED, dir. Rachel Lears and Robin Blotnik (1hr 24 mins, USA, 2014)
At a popular bakery café, residents of New York’s Upper East Side get bagels and coffee served with a smile 24 hours a day. But behind the scenes, undocumented immigrant workers face sub-legal wages, dangerous machinery, and abusive managers. Mild-mannered sandwich maker Mahoma López convinces a small group of his co-workers to fight back.
November 19th

THE PACE OF EVERYDAY LIFE

6:30 PM  BODEGA MARIA, dir. Sydney Silverstein
(38 mins, Peru, 2015) followed by Q&A with filmmaker.
Deyvi and his mother Maria share the work tending to the family bodega and caring for young Paolo
German. Deyvi hopes to put his degree in agricultural engineering to use, but both he and Maria face
constraints imposed on them by their collective responsibilities.

7:20 PM  LIGIA, dir. Giovanni Princigalli (20 mins, Italy/Canada, 2015)
Ligia is a portrait of a Romanian Roma woman who reads the letters of her daughter confined to prison.
For 15 years, Ligia has lived in a camp barracks on the outskirts of Bari, in southern Italy. She dreams of
finally having a home.

7:45 PM  IL MARE, dir. Guido Nicolas Zingari (36 mins, Togo/Italy, 2014)
In the heart of one of the poorest countries in the world life takes its course as if suspended by an invis-
able thread that connects everything: the birth of a child, the work in the fields, the chorus of a Catholic
church, spells and little rituals of the voodoo religion. In this laconic harmony, a young girl of twenty-four,
Agboessi Gade, is trying to manage her last exam before high school.

U.S. INEQUALITY (PART II)

8:30 PM  UNFINISHED LEGACY, dir. Sangsun Choi (18mins, US, 2014)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg. HONORABLE MENTION (JEAN ROUCH AWARD)
Brema, a 17-year old African street artist living in Milwaukee asks Sangsun, a 30-year old Korean stranger,
“Who has it worse in the United States, an African or an Asian?” Even though Sangsun, the documentary’s
director, doesn’t know the exact answer, he strikes up an unlikely friendship with Brema.

9:00 PM  COME HELL OR HIGH WATER: THE BATTLE FOR TURKEY CREEK
dir. Leah Mahan (56 mins, USA, 2013)
Come Hell or High Water follows Derrick Evans, a Boston teacher who returns to his native coastal Mis-
sissippi when the graves of his ancestors are bulldozed. Derrick is consumed by the effort to protect the
Turkey Creek community his great grandfather’s grandfather settled as a former slave. He is on the verge
of a breakthrough when Hurricane Katrina strikes. After years of restoration work, the community gains
significant federal support for preservation. Derrick plans to return to Boston, but another disaster—the
explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oilrig—seals his fate as a reluctant activist.

BODEGA MARIA
UNFINISHED LEGACY
THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Room 107

9:00 AM  FIGHTING FOR NOTHING TO HAPPEN, dir. Nora Judith Wildenauer (48 mins, Indonesia)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Ulla D. Berg.  
**BEST GRADUATE STUDENT FILM (TIE)**  
Fighting for Nothing to Happen accompanies the attempts of a Christian NGO to push forward a relocation project in eastern Indonesia. The film provides insights into issues of development, religion, brokerage, regional government structures in decentralized Indonesia, and the local culture of Flores.

10:00 AM  TASHI’S TURBINE, dir. Amitabh Joshi (53 mins, Nepal, 2015)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Fiona McDonald.  
Set in the Himalayan Mountains, Tashi’s Turbine is an uplifting tale of a small village’s attempt to harness renewable energy with the power of the wind. Tashi Bista dreams to harness the wind, but the elements and gusty landscape bring their own set of unforeseen challenges for installing a strong wind turbine.

COMMODITY CHAINS  
11:05 AM – 1:30 PM, Room 107

11:05 AM  COTTON ROAD, dir. Laura Kissel (1 hr 13 mins, China/USA, 2015), followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Patricia Alvarez.  
**HONORABLE MENTION (BEST FEATURE)**  
Americans consume nearly 20 billion new items of clothing each year. Yet few of us know how our clothes are made, much less who produces them. Cotton Road follows the commodity of cotton from South Carolina farms to Chinese factories to illuminate the work and industrial processes in a global supply chain.

ETHNO-FICTIONS  
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, Room 107

1:30 PM  NZHU JIMANGEMI (The Gorilla’s Wife), dir. Adam Pérou Hermans (41 min, Cameroon, 2014)  
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Sarah Elder.  
**JEAN ROUCH AWARD**  
Nzhu Jimangemi retells a folk tale from the Lebialem highlands of South West Cameroon. The story concerns taboos and totems, love and loss. The school drama club; the reformed hunters, the Fon; the traditional herbalist; the local charmer; and the wild man all help tell the story.
November 20th

2:25 PM  TEARS OF INGE, dir. Alisi Telengut (5 mins, Canada, 2013)
A profound human-animal and human-nature relationship is represented by a painted world filled with a camel’s emotion and tears. Tears of Inge is based on a Mongolian nomadic story narrated by the filmmaker’s grandmother.

Karoline is a young woman who wants a more exciting life than her normal routine in a telemarketing center. In the streets of Cidade Tiradentes, the largest low-income housing development in Latin America, Karoline chases her dream of becoming an MC in a place known as the Funk Factory.

LABOR (PART II)  3:00 PM – 4:30 PM, Room 107

3:00 PM  a rock and a hard place, dir. Cliff Caines (1 hr 18 mins, Canada, 2015), followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Jenny Chio.
A Rock and a Hard Place is a portrait of Red Lake, a northern Canadian town that is built atop one of the world’s richest gold mines. Emerging slowly through striking visuals, the film examines the effects of a modern-day gold rush in the filmmaker’s hometown, including the possible development of an open-pit mine. As the film follows the industrial extraction of gold from 7000 feet underground to the surface, community voices reveal a town and lifestyle long dependent on a single resource.

GLOBAL SEX WORK  4:35 PM – 6:15 PM , Room 107

Becky is a 26-year-old Nigerian woman who wants to go to Europe to sell sex. She has already tried to reach Europe twice. The first time she was stopped with fake documents in the airport in Nigeria by immigration authorities. She decides to begin a dangerous journey through the Sahara desert hoping to embark on a migration boat bound for Italy.

5:10 PM  GRACE PERIOD, dir. KyungMook Kim and Caroline Key (62 mins, South Korea, 2015)
Grace Period follows sex worker life and collective resistance in a South Korean brothel district.
November 21st

CULTURE & MATERIALITY     9:00 AM – 10:15 AM, Room 107

9:00 AM  DZONGSAR CLAY, dir. Dawa Drolma (10 mins, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, 2012) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by John Bishop. **BEST UNDERGRADUATE FILM**
Dzongsar Clay is a short documentary film about Tibetan traditional clay craft in Dzongsar, Dege, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, China. This film documents the local Tibetan traditional clay sculpture art that has been passed down over generations. The local clay sculpture craftsmen builds hundreds of Buddha statues with a mixture of black mud while bestowing upon the earth a new life.

9:10 AM  IN THE STUDIO, dir. Kaatje Jones (5 mins, United Kingdom, 2015)
In the Studio provides a brief glimpse into the artistic process of London painter Simon Haddock. His dynamic, sometimes chaotic array of techniques hints at the life each painting develops as it emerges, and the resultant challenge of honoring and honing these new personalities.

9:15 AM  A WORK IN PROGRESS, dir. Sasha Klupchak (11 mins, USA, 2015) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by John Bishop.
A Work in Progress presents a meeting of two extremes: what we usually conceive of as the physical perfection of the dancer and the perceived limitations of people with disabilities. Through an observational approach, A Work in Progress disrupts this binary by focusing on a physically integrated dance company as they collaboratively choreograph a piece.

9:30 AM  TRACING ROOTS, dir. Ellen Frankenstein (35 mins, USA/Canada, 2014) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by John Bishop.
Tracing Roots is a portrait of Haida weaver Delores Churchill and her quest to understand the origins of a spruce root found with Kwäday Dän Ts’ìnchi, “the Long Ago Person Found” in a retreating glacier in Northern Canada. Churchill’s journey generates discussion about the meaning of connection, knowledge and ownership.

AFFECTIVE LANDSCAPES: MEMORY & PLACE     10:15 AM – 1:00PM, Room 107

10:15 AM  REMEMBERING YAYAYI, dir. Fred Myers (58 mins, Australia, 2014) followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Naomi Schiller.
Remembering Yayayi is a film about the early period of self-determination in a remote Australian Aboriginal community in 1974, based on archival footage and contemporary commentary from a woman whose father was the leader of the community. The film speaks to the qualities of life in remote communities that are now much contested in contemporary Australian policy.

11:30 AM  LAST WORDS, dir. Koert Davidse (29 mins, Greece/The Netherlands, 2014)
After finding people who still spoke Cappadocian, a language believed to be extinct, both Professor Mark Janse’s world and that of the speakers changes.

12:00 PM  SOCOTRA: ONCE & TODAY, dir. Felisa Jimenez (36 mins, Yemen/Colombia, 2015)
The ancient island of Socotra is filled with beauty, much of it is natural, but much of it is also in the hidden and widely undocumented talent of its native culture. Accompanied by the verses of celebrated local poet Authman Abdullah Authman Beidhobo, Socotra follows the lives and testimonies of a fisherman and a family of traveling goat herders.
12:40 PM  MOUNTAIN OF SERVANTS, dir. Daniel Lombroso (14 mins, Turkey/USA, 2015)
All across the Middle East, centuries old Christian communities are disappearing. In Southeastern Turkey, the Syriac Orthodox Christians – the indigenous people of Mesopotamia and the direct descendants of the ancient Assyrians – are on the verge of extinction. Living in decaying villages and abandoned by many of their relatives, those few Syriacs who remain in Southeastern Turkey desperately protect what little they have left. Mountain of Servants follows five individuals from this dwindling Christian community: a priest, a jeweler, a politician, and a father and son who together maintain a deserted village.

GENDER AND FAMILY

1:00 PM  MARDISTAN/MACHOLAND, dir. Harjant Gill (28 mins, India, 2014)
followed by Q&A with filmmaker moderated by Naomi Schiller.
Mardistan (Macholand) is an exploration of Indian manhood articulated through the voices of four men from different generations and backgrounds. The film starts an important conversation on critical gender issues including patriarchy, son preference, sexual violence and homophobia in a nation increasingly defined by social inequalities.

1:40 PM  THE GOOD DAY, dir. Clara Kleininger (30 mins, Moldova, 2014)
In Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, a Moldovan woman named Lidia married Masato, a Japanese man, and together they run an untypical wedding agency, the Japan Marriage Centre. The agency connects Moldovan women to Japanese men, an intercultural match the founders consider to be made in heaven. The film follows two women who employ the agency: Nadia and Xenia. Nadia visits potential husbands in Japan and prepares for life in a very different place. At the same time Xenia expects her fiancé Takashi, who will be baptized in the Orthodox religion.

2:15 PM  ROOTS, dir. Felice Fornabaio (25 min, Italy, 2015).
Roots documents a folk holiday in rural Italy, where ancient arboreal and pagan rituals achieve a symbiosis with the Catholic religion.

2:45 PM  BIRTHDATES, dir. Arba Bekteshi (4 mins, Albania, 2015).
Birthdates explores how the subject’s commitment to ritualistic materiality serves, and ultimately challenges, notions of sociality among the elderly.
November 21st

YOUTH

3:00 PM  EARTH’S CHILDREN, dir. Diego Sarmiento Pagán (15 mins, Peru, 2014).
Early every morning, young Jorge harvests bananas with his machete. After breakfast back in his vil-
lage, he wanders with his friends into the lush wilderness around the Amazon headwaters. Childhood
could hardly be more carefree or peaceful.

Two young Afar girls face hard challenges. Fatuma searches for an alternative to mandatory marriage
while Asya faces conflict with the Somali Issa. Fatuma Kee Asaya documents how both girls find solu-
tions.

4:25 PM  THE HOMESTRETCH, dir. Anne de Mare and Kirsten Kelly (89 min, USA, 2014)
The Homestretch follows three homeless teens as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build
a future. Each of these resilient, inspiring teenagers - Roque, Kasey and Anthony - will surprise and
challenge audiences to rethink stereotypes of homelessness as they work to complete their education
while facing the trauma of being alone and abandoned at an early age. Through haunting images,
intimate scenes, and first-person narratives, the film connects us deeply with larger issues of poverty,
race, juvenile justice, immigration, foster care, and LGBTQ rights.
2015 SVAFMF AWARD WINNERS

BEST FEATURE LENGTH FILM
Damiana Kryygi, dir. Alejandro Fernandez Mouján
Thurs 10:45 AM, Filmmaker in attendance

Honorable Mention
Cotton Road, dir. Laura Kissel
Fri 11:05 AM, Filmmaker in attendance

BEST SHORT FILM
Ringtones, dir. Jennifer Deger and
Paul Gurrumuruwuy
Wed 5:30 PM, Filmmaker in attendance

Honorable Mention
Rhizophora, dir. Julia Metzger-Traber
and Davide de Lilis
Thurs 2:15 PM

BEST GRADUATE STUDENT FILM (TIE)
Working is Growing, dir. Léa Klaue
Thurs 3:15 PM, Filmmaker in attendance

Fighting for Nothing to Happen,
dir. Nora Wildenauer
Fri 9:00 AM, Filmmaker in attendance

BEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FILM
Dzongsar Clay, dir. Dawa Drolma
Thurs 9:00 AM, Filmmaker in attendance

JEAN ROUCH AWARD
Nzhu Jimangemi (The Gorilla’s Wife),
dir. by Adam Pérou Hermans
Fri 1:30 PM, Filmmaker in attendance

SVA MEMBER MEETING & AWARD CEREMONY
Friday Nov 20, 7:45 – 9:00 PM
Coldorado Convention Center

SVA RECEPTION
Friday Nov 20, 9:00 – 11:00 PM
Emmanuel Gallery
ULLA D. BERG (Co-Director and Juror) teaches cultural and visual anthropology at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on processes and experiences of migration and mobility within Latin America and between this region and the U.S. She is the author of Mobile Selves: Race, Migration, and Belonging in Peru and the US (2015). Her film, Waiting for Miracles (2003) has screened in a number of venues in Peru and in the NYC-area. She is currently working on a new film about the Peruvian poet Domingo de Ramos.

NAOMI SCHILLER (Co-Director and 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 media at SUNY Buffalo. She is an award-winning filmmaker who has worked collaboratively with Alaska Native communities since 1973. Her research focuses on Alaska Native people, ethical media practices and collaborative/participatory media making. Her feature documentary Drums of Winter was named to the National Film Registry in 2006. Elder has won two SVA Awards of Excellence, and numerous national and international film awards.

JENNY CHIO (Juror) teaches cultural and visual anthropology at Emory University. She is the incoming Co-editor of Visual Anthropology Review, the journal of SVA. Her research focuses on modernity, rural social transformation, ethnicity, and media practices in China. In 2013, her ethnographic film, Peasant Family Happiness, won David Plath Media Prize from the Society for East Asian Anthropology. Her book on tourism, labor, and the politics of appearance, A Landscape of Travel: The Work of Tourism in Rural Ethnic China, was published in 2014.

JOHN MELVILLE BISHOP (Juror) is an independent filmmaker who works at the intersection of anthropology and folklore. He has produced, shot, and edited more than twenty ethnographic films. In addition to producing his own films, Bishop has worked as a free-lance cameraman, editor, archivist, and writer. He has filmed in Africa, the South Pacific, the Caribbean, and most of the United States.

Total Submissions: 178 entries (169 hours approx.), Total Acceptances: 43 entries (30 hours approx.)


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2015 SVAFMF is directed by: Ulla D. Berg and Naomi Schiller

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