

IMPUGNING IMPUNITY

ALBA HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:
Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA)
Yehudit Mam, Program Director
Tel. (212) 674-5398 · info@alba-valb.org
For complete program: alba-valb.org/programs

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA) unveils lineup for 5th edition of human rights documentary film festival

New York (September 29, 2015) – Over the course of three days, a selection of cutting-edge human rights documentaries will challenge, educate, and inspire audiences at IMPUGNING IMPUNITY: ALBA's Human Rights Documentary Film Festival. Now in its fifth year, and featuring films produced during 2014-2015, this annual film festival brings human rights struggles to life through storytelling. The festival will run from October 26 to October 28, 2015 at the Instituto Cervantes NY (211 E. 49th Street, New York, NY 10017).

With 125 films in competition, the Official Selection features twenty one independent documentaries from twelve different countries, including four world premieres and twelve New York premieres. This year's program takes us from incarceration to liberation and from human migration to the worldwide struggle for social change.

The festival will launch on October 26 with two U.S. premieres: the hypnotic short *Then Then Then* by Daniel Schioler and *Bury Them and Keep Quiet* by Anna Luna, which presents harrowing testimony about the organized theft of newborns from Spanish maternity wards between 1960 and 1990. The closing night lineup, on October 28, will include four powerful films hailing from Georgia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The closing film, *Poverty, Inc.*, by filmmaker Gary Null, examines the influence of corporate globalization and exposes the destructive nature of our modern financial system.

ALBA recognizes the best feature film from the Official Selection with the **Harry Randall Award**, named in memory of Harry W. Randall, Jr. (1915-2012), who was the Chief Photographer of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade's Photographic Unit. The members of the 2015 Festival jury are: cinematographer **Rachel Anderson** [*First to Fall*]; actor and director **Gael García Bernal** [*Motorcycle Diaries*, *Babel*]; novelist and journalist **Francisco Goldman**; and documentary filmmakers **Patricio Guzmán** [*Nostalgia for the Light*] and **Sam Sills** [*The Good Fight*].

ALBA is a non-profit dedicated to promoting social activism through educational programs. Upholding the values of the U.S. volunteers who fought fascism in the Spanish Civil War, the festival focuses a wide lens on contemporary modes of injustice and advances ALBA's mission to support social justice.

Tickets are \$5 for the general public and free for students. Festival passes with access to all the screenings, Q&As and closing reception, are available for \$20. Tickets are available online and at the door.

Impugning Impunity: ALBA's Human Rights Film Festival is made possible in part with public funds from the Fund for Creative Communities, supported by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

With the support of the Instituto Cervantes New York, Puffin Foundation, Ambulante and Pragda.

OFFICIAL SELECTION:

Then Then Then (dir. Daniel Schioler) is a hypnotic and unsettling blend of archival footage and music. This meditation on civil disobedience is a timely reminder of the lengths some have gone to in order to have their voices heard.

Named after a Goya painting, **Bury Them and Keep Quiet** (dir. Anna López Luna) presents harrowing testimony about the organized theft of newborns from Spanish maternity wards between 1960 and 1990 and the impunity which persists in contemporary Spain.

100 Second Chances (dir. Drew Dickler & Jacob Hochendoner) explores the difficult transition back into society after prison. Finding employment is key, and one restaurant in Cleveland offers ex-convicts an opportunity to succeed.

In **Keeping the Balance** (dir. Bernhard Wenger), Denise, a 20-year-old woman, visits the Viennese 'Prater' amusement park nearly every day to ride the electronic 'Tagada' carousel. It helps her to get over her difficult past.

Natural Life (dir. Tirtza Even) challenges inequities in the U.S. juvenile justice system by depicting the stories of five teenagers sentenced to Life Without Parole (Natural Life). The five will never be evaluated for change, difference or growth. They will remain in prison until they die.

612 Words on Wire (dir. Cecilia González Rufo) charts the transformation of Salvador Allende's last speech, broadcast by radio minutes before his death on September 11, 1973, into a heartfelt tribute by Chilean Álvaro Silva, using a reel of wire.

Among the Believers (dir. Hemal Trivedi & Mohammed Ali Naqvi) is an unsettling and eye-opening exploration into the spread of the radical Islamic school Red Mosque in Pakistan, which trains legions of children to devote their lives to holy war from a very young age.

Stopover in Pajol (dir. Mahamoud Ibrahim) tells of Yacoub, a young Libyan who flees the war. After the crossing the Mediterranean, he lands in a makeshift camp in the streets of Paris and tries to adjust to a strange new life.

Power and Impotence: A Drama in 3 Acts (dir. Anna Recalde Miranda) is a political thriller about Fernando Lugo, the bishop of the poor, who was elected President of Paraguay. The dream for change has finally come true and his nightmare is about to begin.

Iconic and ubiquitous, thousands of manhole covers dot the streets of New York City. But who makes these objects? **Cast in India** (dir. Natasha Raheja) gives us a glimpse of the working lives of the men behind the manhole covers we step on every day.

Daisy and Max (dir. Jennifer Taylor) work as a team intervening in gang violence and raising a baby. But Max's gang past and the F.B.I come back to haunt him and he disappears into the federal prison system.

In the Image (dir. Judith Montell & Emmy Scharlatt) follows a group of Palestinian women living in the West Bank, who are trained to use video cameras by the Israeli human rights organization B'tselem, as a way to capture daily human rights violations in their villages as well as daily life under occupation.

She's Beautiful When She's Angry (dir. Mary Dore) resurrects the buried history of the outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern feminist movement from 1966 to 1971.

Once Upon a Time There Was a Man (dir. Siavash Jamali) follows a disabled entrepreneur and disability rights activist who owns the biggest baby shampoo factory in Iran, where more than 90% of the employees are disabled.

Black Square (dir. Nikoloz Bezhanishvili) introduces Anna, who missed the collapse of communism and civil war in her native Georgia while imprisoned for drug abuse. Now she dedicates her life to fight for a more humane treatment of other addicts like herself.

Overnight, Muammar Gaddafi's hotel in Central Africa lost its owner. Yet the gardener still waters the garden for the absent guests and the Tunisian manager takes care of a ghost hotel. In the surreal **The Dictator's Hotel** (dir. Florian Hoffman), they wait for a message from the new owners.

Too Small to Swing a Cat (dir. Marie Bakke & Ines Gerber) uses the first person testimonies of working class tenants to document their extreme living conditions in modern day Hong Kong.

1968: Arcadia, Florida. A man is wrongly convicted of the murder of his 7 children. **Time Simply Passes** (Ty Flowers) is the story of his 48-year fight for justice.

After the exhumation of a mass grave in Ciudad Real, Spain, two local anthropologists meet Angelita González Yepes, whose family was torn apart by post-civil war political violence. In **What Remains** (dir. Lee Douglas & Jorge Moreno Andrés), Angelita tries to make sense of a haunting past that, despite more than seven decades of silence, refuses to disappear.

Tell Spring Not To Come This Year (dir. Saeed Taji Farouky & Michael McEvoy) follows two soldiers from the Afghan National Army over the course of their first year fighting the Taliban without NATO support, to finally tell the story of the war through Afghan eyes.

Currently, the US ranks fourth highest in wealth inequality among 140 nations. **Poverty, Inc.** (dir. Gary Null) offers a sobering look into how the predatory economic policies instituted by America's new elite class have contributed to the nation's descent into Third World status.

SCHEDULE:

Monday, October 26		4pm <i>Then, Then, Then</i> Canada [2015] Run time: 30min <i>Bury Them and Keep Quiet</i> Spain [2014] Run time: 72min	6pm <i>100 Second Chances</i> US [2014] Run time: 5min <i>Keeping Balance</i> Austria [2015] Run time: 5min <i>Natural Life</i> US [2014] Run time: 77min Discussion to follow	8pm <i>612 Words in Wire</i> Spain [2015] Run time: 11min <i>Among the Believers</i> US-Pakistan [2015] Run time: 84min Discussion to follow
Tuesday, October 27	2pm <i>Stopover in Pajol</i> France [2015] Run time: 14min <i>Power and Impotence</i> France/Paraguay [2014] Run time: 103min	4pm <i>Cast in India</i> US [2014] Run time: 27min <i>Daisy & Max</i> US [2015] Run time: 53min Discussion to follow	6pm <i>In the Image</i> US [2015] Run time: 102min Discussion to follow	8pm <i>She's Beautiful When She's Angry</i> US [2015] Run time: 92min Discussion to follow
Wednesday, October 28	2pm <i>Once Upon A Time There Was a Man</i> Iran [2015] Run time: 28min	4pm <i>The Dictator's Hotel</i> Germany [2015] Run time: 16min <i>Too Small to Swing a</i>	6pm <i>What Remains</i> US/Spain [2015] Run time: 29min <i>Tell Spring Not to</i>	8pm <i>Poverty, Inc.</i> US [2014] Run time: 111min

	<i>Black Square</i> Georgia [2015] Run time: 52min	<i>Cat</i> US/China [2015] Run time: 17min <i>Time Simply Passes</i> US [2015] Run time: 53 min Discussion to follow	<i>Come This Year</i> UK [2015] Run time: 82min	Award & Reception
--	--	---	---	------------------------------