

BRITISH DOCUMENTARY Film screenings 2012 – 3rd edition

15 October – „The War You Don't See” (2010, director: John Pilger, 96 min.)

The invisible war reveals the extremely important role of the international press in the way the audience received information about the wars led by the Western powers in the last century – the first and second World Wars, US's wars in Vietnam and the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A film about media manipulation, the control of the press by governments, propaganda, ethics and morality and the pact between the power and the press, "The War You Don't See" is directed by an ex-journalist, John Pilger, himself a war reporter, winner of BAFTA and EMMY awards for the documentaries he directed.

A firm tone, with truths told without embellishments, this film is a wakeup call for its spectators, victims of an illusion of the liberty of the press and of a false access to information.

22 October – „Marathon Boy” (2010, director: Gemma Atwal, 90 min.)

"Marathon Boy" is a true story from that part of the world of India living in a dehumanizing poverty, in which children are a source of gain, being sold or exploited by their own parents and by the local mafia networks. The main character of the film is one of these children, who becomes a real star, as he turns into the youngest marathon boy in India. The person changing his destiny is almost a heroic figure, a man who can bring back hope to these children destined to a downfall.

29 October – „The Joy of Stats” (2010, director: Dan Hillman, 60 min.)

Presented by the Swedish professor Hans Rosling, "The Joy of Stats" tells the history of statistics in a very captivating way, its numerous uses and it also shows in how far today's world is based on statistics and develops according to them.

Statistics is a science that does not represent numbers only; statistics can convey new meanings while also being a fun.

6 November – „My brother the Islamist” (2011, director: Robb Leech, 60 min.)

The world as we know it, or we think we know it, goes sometimes towards unexpected directions: as a reaction to different social issues, some white British teenagers decide to

convert to Islamism and join extremist groups fighting for the transformation of the UK into an Islamic state governed by Sharia – the Muslim law.

The film tries to find answers and explanations for this concerning phenomenon, bringing together the point of view of those involved, together with that of their families, analyzing the facts and situations from different perspectives.

12 November – „Elgar: The Man behind the Mask” (2010, director: John Bridcut, 90 min.)

Directed by John Birdcut, author of numerous documentaries about British composers, this film is dedicated to the famous Edward Elgar, putting in balance the musician’s public image as a perfect gentleman, with other events in his private life, less praiseworthy.

The film received a BAFTA award for its soundtrack in 2011.

26 November – „Guilty Pleasures” (2010, director: Julie Moggan, 86 min.)

More than a guilty pleasure, the world of romance novels constitutes an escape and a surrogate for readers’ dissatisfactions with real life. “Guilty Pleasures” presents the struggles of a romance novels writer, who wishes to be absolutely alone, a model who poses for the romantic covers of these books, but hasn’t had romantic relationship in several years, a reader determined to transform the stories from the novels into reality and another reader who models her expectations according to the stories she reads.

3 December – “Leonard Cohen – Bird on a Wire” (2010, director: Tony Palmer, 106 min.)

British director Tony Palmer filmed most of this documentary during Leonard Cohen’s European tour in 1972.

Considered lost for 38 years and reconstituted in 2010, the film represents a surprising, thoughtful and impressive portrait of an extraordinary artist.

Tony Palmer is the author of an impressive number of films dedicated to VIPs in the music industry. He has won over 40 international prizes, among which BAFTA and EMMYs.

10 December – “Between Life and Death” (2010, director: Nick Holt, 50 min.)

An impressive documentary about the responsibility of choosing between life and death for victims of tragic road accidents, in which the question that prevails is to what extent is it worth living when “to live” is limited to breathing and nothing more.

Showcasing shocking footage, “Between Life and Death” brings the audience face to face with extreme forms of human suffering.

Director Nick Holt received the BAFTA award for this film in 2011, in the “Documentary” section.

17 December – „Body Snatchers of New York” (2010, director: Toby Dye, 61 min.)

Lining the macabre, this documentary follows the trajectory of an illegal million dollars business with international ramifications: the traffic with human tissues from corpses.

The facts are shocking, the reasons and justifications of those involved ranging between medical necessities, progress of science and good intentions, while the police investigations show a string of illegalities done with incredible cynicism.