

## THE 2012 HOTDOCS SELECTIONS

2012)



## AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART: RICK SPRINGFIELD

A film by SYLVIA CAMINER - USA | 2012 | 94'

Some may find the rabid devotion of Rick Springfield fans perplexing. But if his power-pop mega-hits like "Jessie's Girl" or his stint as General Hospital's Noah Drake didn't convince you, watching him blast out pure charisma and positivity in his live shows and spontaneous fan drop-ins would convert anyone. Somewhere between the introvert haunted by depression and darkness, and the 60-something extrovert who still rocks it in 100 high-energy performances a year, lies the real Rick Springfield. For most fans, it's much more than a celebrity crush. Many have overcome deep trauma by connecting with his music; all feel a special bond with him. But what makes him unique is that the bond is often quite real and flows both ways. A fascinating look at a singular celebrity culture, An Affair of the Heart is as much about Rick's fans as it is about him.

(INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE)



# ABOUT FACE: The Supermodels, Then and Now A film by TIMOTHY GREENFIELD-SANDERS - USA | 2012 | 72'

**ABOUT FACE** offers a profound and intimate view of women whose images have defined our sense of beauty over the past five decades, revealing uncensored stories behind the magazine covers displaying these multicultural pioneers. The women candidly shares their experiences, ideas on longevity, and philosophy of life in the fashion industry. The divergent attitudes among the women about everything from the business of modeling, to aging and plastic surgery, are fascinating and priceless.



## **BIG BOYS GONE BANANAS!\***

A film by FREDRIK GERTTEN - SWEDEN | 2012 | 88'

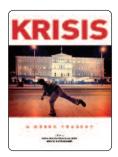
In 2009, Fredrik Gertten's documentary, Bananas!, chronicling a lawsuit against controversial food giant Dole was set to premiere at the Los Angeles Film Festival. Dole responded with an aggressive media and public relations campaign to quash the film's release and discredit the reputation of the filmmakers. The filmmaking team behind Bananas! refused to be bullied, filing a counter-suit and launching their own media strategy. Their point was that no one suing them had even seen the film! A true documentarian, Gertten picks up his camera again to capture his fight for free speech. \*Big Boys Gone Bananas!\*\* is an in-depth case study of an independent filmmaker's David and Goliath battle with a corporate machine whose financial and political influence must be exposed.



## ITALY, LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT

A film by LUCA RAGAZZI and GUSTAV HOFER - Italy/Germany | 2012 | 75'

Tuscan fields, bel canto arias, slow food and movie stars are some of the images synonymous with one of the world's most adored cultures. Yet many of filmmakers Luca Ragazzi and Gustav Hofer's disenchanted friends have recently emigrated from Italy. Before following suit, the Italian couple decides to take a six-month road trip across the country to investigate the extent to which current realities outweigh the icons of la dolce vita. Throughout their exploration they witness multiple examples of staggering corruption, an increasingly lower standard of living, environmental hazards and intransigent fanaticism. Simultaneously, however, they encounter loyal crusaders who feel unequivocally compelled to make their homeland a better place. In an astute manner and with quirky Fellini-esque animation, the film further tantalizes us with Italy's glorious past and future potential. Will the pair decide to leave or stay? Their journey tells it all.



## **KRISIS: A Greek Tragedy**

A film by NIKOS KATSAOUNIS and NINA MARIE PASCHALIDOU - Greece | 2011 | 60'

This very timely documentary is the result of a creative collaboration of 14 photojournalists shooting a collective documentation of a Greece living an ever deepening economic crisis. Starting in an agitated and demonstrating Athens, the journalists went around the country, from the border with Turkey to central Greece and to the inhospitable mountains of southern Crete to collect their stories, exploring how Greece and the Greeks are handling the crisis. **KRISIS** also delves into some of Greece's 20th century history and is not void of self-criticism to explain why Greece is today in the situation it is in.

(NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE)

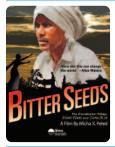


## **SPRING 2012 RELEASES**



## BERT STERN: ORIGINAL MADMAN A film by SHANNAH LAUMEISTER - USA | 2011 | 87'

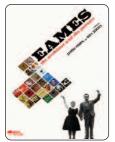
Star photographer and original MADMAN Bert Stern, who photographed the world's most gorgeous and sensual women for the last 50 years (Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn, Sofia Loren, Elizabeth Taylor, Claudia Cardinale, Brigitte Bardot, Twiggy, Stanley Kubrick's Lolita, Kate Moss, Scarlett Johansson, etc) now reveals his untold, wild and spectacular life story including the full story of his infamous Last Sitting with Marilyn Monroe — shot six weeks before her tragic and untimely death.



### **BITTER SEEDS**

A film by MICHA X. PELED - USA | 2011 | 88' & 57'

Every 30 minutes a farmer in India kills himself in despair because he can no longer provide for his family. Cotton farmer Ramkrishna is at the epicenter of the suicide crisis region and he is struggling to keep his land. Will he be the next one? His neighbor's daughter Manjusha, is determined to overcome village traditions and to become a journalist. She decides that Ramkrishna's plight will be her first assignment. Very dramatically, **BITTER SEEDS** raises critical questions about the human cost of genetically modified agriculture and the future of how we grow things. This is the third film in Peled's Globalization Trilogy, following the award-winning STORE WARS and CHINA BLUE.



## **EAMES: The Architect and the Painter**

A film by JASON COHN and BILL JERSEY,
Narrated by JAMES FRANCO. a PBS/AMERICAN MASTERS PRESENTATION USA | 2011 | 83'

Charles and Ray Eames are widely considered America's most important designers. Perhaps best remembered for their plywood and fiberglass furniture, they also created a bewildering variety of other products, from splints for wounded military, to photography, interiors, multi-media exhibits, graphics, games, films and toys. The film draws from a trove of archival material, films and photographs produced in mind-boggling volume by the hyper-creative forty years of their existence.



#### **FOUR HORSEMEN**

A film by ROSS ASHCROFT - UK | 2011 | 97' (also in 3x28')

Very timely film about the financial crisis today. Understanding that we will never return to 'business as usual', 23 international experts who have worked at the highest level, break their silence and explain how Human Beings must shift their priorities and to be prepared to have any chance of survival. Looking at America, UK, Pakistan, Goldman Sachs and the fall of the Western Empire, leading personalities join forces to describe how we arrived at such an amoral mess and why there is still hope in re-establishing a moral, human and just society. **FOUR HORSEMEN** could be seen as the update of the now 10 years old and very successful THE CORPORATION.



### **STEVE JOBS: The Lost Interview**

A film by ROBERT CRINGELY, JOHN GAU and PAUL SEN - USA | 1995 / 2011 | 70'

In 1995, during the making of his TV series about the birth of the PC, Bob Cringely did a memorable long interview with Steve Jobs. At the time Jobs was running Next, the niche computer company he had founded after leaving Apple. During the interview, Jobs was witty, outspoken and visionary — a pioneer at the peak of his powers, already anticipating the digital future that one day he would do so much to make possible. Thought lost, the full interview was recently found in the director's garage. There are surprising few filmed interviews with Steve Jobs, and even fewer good ones. So the producers decided to clean this one up to give today's audiences a chance to see Jobs at his charismatic best looking into the future then. A future which is now!



### THE NEXT LIFE

A film by FAN JIAN - China / Japan | 2011 | 81' & 54'

Moving story about a Chinese couple whose eight year-old daughter was killed in the devastating earthquake of 2008, a catastrophe that killed more than 6000 children. Due to China's one-child policy, most of the grieving families were left childless and many couples are planning to have new babies. The wife, Hongmei, deeply wishes for a daughter. She believes that another girl would mean the return of her gone daughter. But being 40 it leaves her in-vitro fertilization as her only option and pregnancy becomes an ordeal for her. Weakening health and financial strains make her second in-vitro fertilization attempt her last, with considerable risks. Can she make it?





## **VIRGIN TALES**

A film by MIRJAM VON ARX - Switzerland | 2012 | 58'

The Evangelical Christians are the fastest growing movement within the Christian faith. Their followers are responsible for a fundamental shift in how many people think about sex today. Filmmaker Mirjam von Arx followed the nine members of an American Evangelical family over two years only to discover a booming second sexual revolution: Chastity as a countermovement to the attitudes of the 60s.



#### **WAKING THE GREEN TIGER**

A film by GARY MARCUSE - Canada / China | 2011 | 58'

By declaring that nature must be conquered in the name of progress, Mao ushered in an era of environmental degradation for China. In spectacular archival footage (some of it seen outside China for the first time), citizens were mobilized to raze forests and slaughter animals. These rash actions laid waste to ecosystems and triggered a famine that killed tens-of-millions. Now, a new generation of environmentalists composed of activists, journalists, filmmakers and former politicians strives to preserve their natural wonders, educate their compatriots and encourage public debate. Newly emboldened, these once-marginalized citizens become part of a "green hurricane" that's sweeping through China.



## **WORDS OF WITNESS**

A NEW film by MAI ISKANDER ("Garbage Dreams") - USA / Egypt | 2012 | 68'

Every time 22-year-old Heba Afify heads out to cover the historical events shaping her country's future, her mother is compelled to remind her, "I know you are a journalist, but you're still a girl!" Defying cultural norms and family expectations, Heba takes to the streets to report on an Egypt in turmoil, using tweets, texts and Facebook posts. Her coming of age, political awakening and the disillusionment that follows, mirrors that of a nation seeking the freedom to shape its own destiny, dignity and democracy.

## **FALL 2011 RELEASES**

## THE CURSE OF THE GOTHIC SYMPHONY A WILD FURY FILM

Said to be cursed for over 80 years, the immense 'Gothic Symphony', written by obscure British composer Havergal Brian in the early 20th century has remained virtually unperformed in its entirety. At over 2 hours long and requiring 2 orchestras, 4 brass bands and 5 full choirs singing 42 parts, this is perhaps not surprising. Can a small group of brave enthusiasts overcome a century old curse to stage the longest, largest and most complex symphony ever composed?

## **EMPIRE ME**

### A film by **PAUL POET**

Utopia is a dream mankind has long imagined, but the world out there hardly allow alternatives and visions. In spite of all of this hundreds of do-it yourself small nations have build their own little microcosms with real territories and communities. Some of these barely bigger than a sheep farm or a sea platform, thousands of free spirits thus battle since the 90's against the new world order. They create their own laws, languages, stamps and banknotes. The populations range from 1 to 500,000. **EMPIRE ME** encounters some of these counter-worlds which represent the movement at its best.

## **FACEBOOK FOLLIES: The Unexpected Consequences of the Social Media** A film by GEOFF D'EON

A very timely look at the unexpected consequences of people sharing their personal information on social media. Stories about people losing their jobs, their marriages, their dignity, or even ending up in jail - all because of their own or someone else's Facebook posting - are inter-cut with reflections from experts in the areas of social change, internet security and contemporary media.

## THE DARK SIDE OF THE SUN

## A film by CARLO HINTERMANN

This film is the moving account of the lives of a group of children suffering from Xeroderma Pigmentosum, also called XP, at Camp Sundown, a summer camp held in upstate New York children who suffer from XP can gather and play at night, hoping for a normal life. XP is a rare and lethal illness, where the body's ability to repair damage caused by ultraviolet (UV) light is deficient. In extreme cases all exposure to sunlight must be forbidden, no matter how small. Fewer than 40% of individuals with the disease survive beyond age of 20.



## **FALL 2011 RELEASES**

## **G-SPOTTING: A Story of Pleasure and Promise**

A film by SÉGOLÈNE HANOTAUX, GILLES BOVON and HOWARD GOLDBERG

A joyful and surprising film, filled with colorful characters, exploring science, sexual liberation, ideological conflicts, and of course... pleasure. How, in 2011, can myths still exist around female sexuality? How is it the mere mention of this erotic region provokes such argument, doubt, and even salacious laughter? How can this simple erogenous zone, mysteriously identified as the "G spot", be known to all yet... only very few know its location, its physiology or the story of its discovery?

## **GUN FIGHT**

## A NEW film by BARBARA KOPPLE

Two-time Oscar-winner Barbara Kopple takes a fresh look at the impact of guns in America through vivid stories of people who have a personal stake in the issue. With an estimated 250 million privately-owned guns in America, about 30,000 people are killed by guns in the U.S. every year, and another 65,000 wounded. A provocative film looking at an unavoidable part of America's image and reality.

### **INSIDE LARA ROXX**

## A film by MIA DONOVAN

In 2004, 21-year old Lara Roxx left her hometown of Montreal for L.A to try to make money in the porn industry. Within two months she contracted the most virulent form of HIV while performing sex in front of the camera. **INSIDE LARA ROXX** is about the events leading up to that moment and the years after it- it is about the adult movie industry and its impact on a young life.

## **JUSTICE FOR SALE**

## A film by FEMKE AND ILSE VAN VELZEN

Claudine, a young and courageous human rights lawyer in Congo struggles against injustice and widespread impunity in Congo as she investigates the case of a soldier who was convicted of rape and discovers that his trial was unfair and corrupted. He was convicted without any concrete evidence. In her journey to obtain justice, she uncovers a system where the basic principles of law are virtually ignored.

# **MOTHER: Caring for 7 Billion** A film by CHRISTOPHE FAUCHERE

Unique film that breaks a 40-year taboo by bringing to light an issue that silently fuels our most pressing environmental, humanitarian and social crises - population growth. It is a critical time to talk about this subject as in 2011 the world's population will be seven billion. At the same time, talking about population has become politically incorrect because of the sensitivity of the issues surrounding the topic—religion, economics, family planning and gender inequality. Yet it is an issue we cannot afford to ignore as 1 billion people still suffer from chronic hunger.

## **OPEN SECRET**

## A film by STEVE LICKTEIG

What if everything you know about yourself is a lie? And everyone in your life around you always knew the truth except you? Adopted at birth, Steve always wondered who his real parents were. One day two best friends had enough and told him shocking news: His parents were actually his natural grandparents and he was the illegitimate son of his oldest sister, Joanie. Now, two decades later, he takes a camera back to Kansas and starts asking questions, a quest leading him to unexpected places. A universal story about family secrets and lies.

## SPLIT: A DIVIDED AMERICA

## A film by KELLY NYKS

The USA is in the grips of a rancorous Democrats/Republicans partisanship the like of which has not been seen in nearly a century. Every political issue today invariably becomes a partisan battle, irrespective of the issue. How has the United States become so divided? **SPLIT** tries find an answer to that question at a time when it is needed most through candid conversations with citizens from all walks of life and commentary from some of the sharpest minds analyzing government and society today.

#### **URBANIZED**

## A film by GARY HUSTWIT

Who is allowed to shape our cities, and how do they do it? And how does the design of our cities affect our lives? By exploring a diverse range of urban design projects in dozens of cities around the world, from massive infrastructure initiatives to temporary interventions, **URBANIZED** frames a global discussion on the future of cities. In this final documentary of director Hustwit's design trilogy (Helvetica, Objectified) some of the world's foremost architects, planners, policymakers, and thinkers are sharing their thoughts with us.

## **UNRAVELED: A Modern Day Tragedy of Ambition Gone Astray** A film by MARC H. SIMON

Just days before Bernard Madoff captured world headlines, Marc Dreier, a prominent Manhattan attorney, was arrested for orchestrating a massive fraud scheme that netted almost a billon of dollars. **UNRAVELED** is set in the "purgatory" of house arrest where the Court has ordered Dreier confined until his sentencing day. The film weaves Dreier's struggle to prepare for the possibility of life imprisonment with first-person flashbacks that reveal his audacious path of destruction. Destroyed by his own hubris, Dreier attempts to grasp his tragic unraveling.