

Vancouver Film Festival, 2006  
Monday 1 May

Film Festival Lounge Sessions  
12.30 - 1.30 PM

Time: 12.30	Name of the Film: The Prime Minister, The Junkie and the Boys on Death Row
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Film Title: The Prime Minister, The Junkie and the Boys on Death Row  
Director: Kevin Sim  
Producer: Kevin Sim  
Auspice Organisation: Yorkshire Television for IYV  
Country: UK/Malaysia  
Email contact: Centre for Harm Reduction Film Fest (filmfest@burnet.edu.au)  
Note this doco was taped from a TV program & dissemination may not be possible due to copyright issues.

**Abstract:**

Made in 1991 this documentary provides a compelling overview of the drug use situation of Malaysia widely described by the government as a threat to national security. The government response has been to impose draconian measures in which the trafficking of sometimes small amounts of illicit drugs has resulted in the death penalty. The documentary features a probing interview with the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahatier Bin Mohamad, about his views on the death sentence for those convicted of drug related crimes, follows a drug user and explores the difficulties of his drug dependency, highlights the views of a senior law enforcement official during and after a drug raid, and poignantly captures the insights of prisoners that live on death row. Thousands of drug users during the making of this documentary were sent to rehabilitation centres for up to two years, yet the government was resigned to acknowledging little success was achieved by this action. The execution of many people as a result of the Malaysia's 'War on Drugs' had little impact as reflected in the rising number of drug users and drug selling related arrests. The historical significance of this documentary has greater resonance because as of 2006 the Government of Malaysia officially endorsed the harm reduction approach by implementing drug substitution programs, needle syringe programs, and the creation of drop in centres for drug users to name but a few public health interventions to improve the lives of active drug users.

Time: 1.20	Name of the Film: Gear Head
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Film Title: Gearhead  
Director: Joe Magee  
Producer: Knowle West Media Centre/Detached Youth Worker Simon Willis  
Auspice Organisation: Knowle West Media Centre  
Country: England  
Email contact: Simon Willis (Simon\_willis@bristol-city.gov.uk)

**Abstract:**

Between 2002 and 2004 artist-filmmaker Joe Magee worked with young people and Knowle West Media Centre (UK, Bristol) on the Knowle West estate - resulting in this award-winning short film. The film was made with non-actors, with no crew or lighting. Shot on digital video, the imagery has been heavily manipulated and graphically colourised, with Magee creating an experimental soundtrack. 'Gearhead' presents a day in the life of a heroin addict. In 2004 'Gearhead' won the Film Council First Light Best Film Award. Sir Alan Parker, who presented the award, said *"The judges felt that this film was a clear winner due to the incredibly sophisticated use of visual, aural and structural properties of film. This is a haunting film and stays with the viewer perhaps for longer than they would like. Very imaginative, edgy - strongly directed and grimly clear."*

**Film Festival Symposium Sessions**  
**1.30 - 3.00 PM**

Time : 1.30	Presenters: Ray Stephens and Mal Dorien	Name of the Film: Opie
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Film Title: Opie  
Director: Ray Stephens and Mal Dorien  
Producer: Greg Logan  
Auspice Organisation: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre  
Country: Australia  
Email contact: Mal Dorien (maild@turningpoint.org.au)

**Abstract:**

The Adventures of Opie is a 7 minute animation tracking the life of an opiate molecule from the poppy, through processing to heroin, smuggling, administration, exerting its effects then elimination from the body. The purpose of Opie is training. At Turning Point we train a diverse range of clients, from doctors and nurses to people with little to no background knowledge of drug related matters. A base line level of knowledge is an essential building block. Students can be lost at this point. We wanted to make an accessible, user friendly tool for this purpose.

Although The Adventures of Opie is an animation, it is not meant for schools or children. Opie has a deliberate harm reduction focus. It does not seek to glorify the use of heroin, but acknowledge that it takes place. The potential for infection and overdose and their strong link to injection are central themes to the animation. Opie was funded by the Ian Potter Foundation and created using Macromedia Flash. The animations were done by Mal Doreian, and brought to life by Ray Stephens. The Adventures of Opie is available as a free download from <http://www.turningpoint.org.au>

Time : 1.50	Presenter: Greg Scott	Name of the Film: Hitting Home
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Film Title: Hitting Home  
Director: Greg Scott and Victoria Stob  
Producer: Greg Scott  
Auspice Organisation: Sawbuck Productions  
Country: USA  
Email contact: Greg Scott (gscott@depaul.edu)

**Abstract:**

"Hitting Home" is an illustrated guide to hepatitis B and C prevention through safer injection of illicit drugs. Referencing video footage of live injections, the narrator (an active injector) explains common unsafe injection practices, demonstrates safer practices, and comments on brief clips of active drug injectors incorporating safer practices into their injections. This film allows the viewer to witness injection practices in a way few health care providers ever can, by placing them at the scene. This immediacy gives a more comprehensive understanding to, not only injectors' behaviours, but the associated health care issues. This multi-dimensional film is especially relevant to those who provide health-related assistance to injecting drug users, such as public health departments, medical practitioners, clean syringe program staff, community outreach workers, HIV reduction program staff, substance abuse intervention professionals, and infectious disease-orientated researchers.

Time : 2.30	Presenter: Jangkar Representative	Name of the Film: Budi's Story
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Film Title: Budi's Story  
 Director: Arif R Iryawan  
 Producer: Exceed Community - Jakarta Indonesia  
 Auspice Organisation: Exceed Community  
 Country: Indonesia  
 Email contact: Arif R Iryawan (Itseira@yahoo.com)

**Abstract:**

Budi's Story was made during the first Short-film making workshop, a skill-building program for injecting drug users, held by Exceed Community (Depok, Indonesia) in August 2005. Budi, a *made-in-Indonesia junkie*, is on his way to loosen himself from the grip of drug dependency. With a risk taking past that shadows him, Budi has an HIV test in search of clearer paths for his newly planned life - alone. The movie explores Budi's confusion and doubts as he tries to make sense of the new situation. The film is part of a process to a better understanding of the rich and often misunderstood relationship between drug users and HIV/AIDS. The workshop committee, production and post-production team, comprise of active IDUs from a wide variety of backgrounds across Jakarta.

**Film Festival Lounge Sessions  
 3.30 - 5.00 PM**

Time: 3.30	Name of the Film: Plan Columbia: Cashing in on the Drug War Failure.
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Film Title: Plan Columbia: Cashing in on the Drug War Failure.  
 Director: Gerard Ungerman and Audrey Brohy  
 Producer: Gerard Ungerman and Audrey Brohy  
 Auspice Organisation: Free-Will Productions  
 Country: USA  
 Email contact: Gerard Ungerman (freewillprod@freewillprod.com)

**Abstract:**

"Plan Columbia" looks at the so called 'War on Drugs' waged by Washington in Columbia and assesses its efficacy both to fight drug-trafficking and to provide alternative revenues for farmers who grow coca. The documentary discusses the counter-insurgency nature of the so-called "Plan Columbia" that provides dual purpose assistance to the Columbian military fighting leftist rebels in the oil-rich regions of the country.

Time: 4.30	Name of the Film: Damo
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Film Title: Damo  
 Director: Suzi Taylor  
 Producer: Kurt Breitenmoser  
 Auspice Organisation: Nil  
 Country: Australia  
 Email contact: Kurt Breitenmoser (kurt@erwinfilms.com)

**Abstract:**

'Damo' won 'Best Documentary' at the St Kilda Film Festival, Melbourne in 2003 and 'Best Australian Film' in the International Big Issue Film Festival. It is about a man's journey from ten years of homelessness and heroin abuse to a stable life selling the Big Issue on the streets of Melbourne. This is a tribute to our dynamic human capacity for re-invention and a subtle challenge to mainstream representations of heroin and its dependents.

Time: 4.40	Name of the Film: Time Bomb
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Film Title: Time Bomb  
 Director: Rizky Ika Syafitri, Nita Meirina, Eric Wirawan  
 Producer: Dian Herdiany  
 Auspice Organisation: Ford Foundation  
 Country: Indonesia  
 Email contact: Centre for Harm Reduction Film Fest (filmfest@burnet.edu.au)

**Abstract:**

HIV/AIDS transmission among injecting drug users in Indonesia has increased dramatically in recent years. Up to 80% of new HIV/AIDS notifications are to be found among those with a history of injecting drugs. This documentary film provides descriptions about how the injecting process happens, why people share needles, and outlines how much is known about the issue. This is interspersed with interviews with people sharing their fears and regrets while reflecting on what they have done in the past. This documentary was screened at the Jakarta International Film Festival in 2004 and the Drugs: Exploring Myths, Discovering Facts, Reducing Harm, International Documentary Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia in 2005.

Monday 1 May  
 Best of the Festival 2004 - 2006

7.00 - 8.30 PM

Rubber Hammer
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Film Title: Rubber Hammer  
 Director: Warren Tiedgen  
 Producer:  
 Auspice Organisation: Not Available  
 Country: Australia  
 Running time: 5 mins  
 Email contact: Warren Tiedgen (wtiedgen@hotmail.com)

**Abstract**

An engaged couple return to their apartment after travelling overseas. They have been to South America on a trip to collect a special cargo to bring home. After settling in they begin to take laxatives, and the female character leaves for the toilet. On her return from the toilet she seems relieved, almost elated. The male then leaves for the toilet but something goes wrong and the man collapses and it looks as if he will die. What will his fiancé do and what of the special cargo?

Glue Made Me A Ghost
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Film Title: Glue Made Me A Ghost  
 Director: Andrew Pope, Farhad Shadravan (Fit Media) with Children of M'Lop Tapang  
 Producer: Daniel Littlewood, Fit Media  
 Auspice Organisation: M'Lop Tapang  
 Country: Cambodia  
 Running Time: 8 mins  
 Email contact: Andrew Pope & Farhad Shadravan (Maggie@mloptapang.org)

**Abstract**

The film was written and performed by ex-street children: Most of whom were addicted to glue. The story is based on real life experiences of these and other children with long histories of using glue, whilst trying to earn money from scavenging and sleeping on the streets. All of these children are now reintegrated back to education and their families. These children have friends that have been injured by traffic accidents whilst using and they wanted to educate their peers of the risks of drug use, as well as the negative future ahead for a glue sniffer on the streets. The film has simulated glue use and shows what this leads to: vagrancy, poverty, loneliness, crime, attacks from gangs and the huge risk to life and well being. In Khmer culture, ghosts are very much believed in and feared. The message is clear that glue can destroy your life in many ways. The children and M'Lop Tapang have used this film to educate their peers, families and the whole community.

### Chew on This

Film Title: Chew on This  
Director: The Narco News School of Authentic Journalism  
Producer: The Narco News School of Authentic Journalism  
Auspice Organisation: The Narco News School and the Fund of Authentic Journalism  
Country: Bolivia  
Running time: 10 mins  
Email contact: narconews@gmail.com

#### Abstract

While harm reduction strategies admirably focus on problems related to drug consumption, too often the plight of those at the lowest levels in drug producing regions is ignored. *'Chew On This'* provides an important introduction to the realities experienced by coca growers in Bolivia that is both revealing and intimate. With all original footage shot entirely in Bolivia, the film allows coca farmers to tell their own story of the repression they face and how they are organizing to meet those challenges. In rare footage of coca eradication in progress, we see the heavily armed soldiers march past an anguished mother and her traumatized child. Stories of other ordinary coca growers follow. Augmented by the award winning still photography of Jeremy Bigwood, we learn of the decree to close the legal coca markets and the mass resistance that forced the Bolivian government to reverse its decision. We learn something about coca's traditional uses, the distinction in Bolivia between legal and illegal coca and the failures of crop substitution programs. Brief interviews provide context throughout, including with coca eradicator Coronel Jaime Cruz Vera, former Brazilian Secretary of Drug Enforcement Walter Maierovitch, human rights attorney Rose Marie Acha and Bolivian Congressman Evo Morales. *'Chew On This'* was a cooperative project produced entirely by professors and students of the Narco News School of Authentic Journalism in 2004. It was funded solely by The Fund for Authentic Journalism, a non-profit corporation based in the United States.

### Kierin

Film Title: Kierin  
Director: John Fitzgerald  
Producer: John Fitzgerald  
Auspice Organisation: University of Melbourne  
Country: Australia  
Running Time: 8  
Email contact: **John Fitzgerald** <[johnfitz@ariel.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:johnfitz@ariel.unimelb.edu.au)>

#### Abstract

Kierin takes you on his weekly journey from an outer urban suburb to Melbourne's Central Business District to score heroin. He is a 28 year old tradesman and injecting drug user who scores for himself and his friends from the street drug market. Through the course of the journey Kierin talks about the impact of aggressive policing, racism, inequalities emerging from the prohibitive policy environment and the violence that goes with the street drug markets. As Kierin arrives at Melbourne's newest retail environment, we have travelled

through the inner life of an articulate confident injecting drug user, and travelled through an impressionistic visual story of heroin use in Melbourne. Shot from the eye of the narrator, the movie was developed from an in depth interview with Kierin, and visual materials trace Melbourne's street drug markets. The movie provides unique insights into a drug user's perspective on a contemporary social issue.

### Eva Goes To Foreign

Film Title: Eva Goes to Foreign  
Director: Tass Darlington  
Producer: Hibiscus  
Auspice Organisation: FPWP/Hibiscus  
Country: UK  
Running Time: 2 mins  
Email contact: Sebastian Saville (sebastian@release.org.uk)

#### Abstract

The UK's Concerted Inter-agency Drugs Action (CIDA) estimates that some 35 to 45 tonnes of cocaine enter the UK annually. One means of entry, which receives a great deal of tabloid press coverage, is through the use of drug "mules". The majority are women, mostly driven by endemic poverty to risk smuggling cocaine through UK customs. The drugs are smuggled inside the body cavities, with each courier bringing in up to 500 grams. The large numbers of women making the mule run from Jamaica carrying Colombian cocaine sparked a diplomatic row, leading the UK and Jamaican governments to set up "Operation Airbridge" in June 2002. This project, involving the installation of UK-funded ion scanners at Jamaican airports, appears to have greatly reduced the amount of couriers arriving from Kingston; however, the flexible, demand-led market has reacted by opening alternative routes. Hibiscus, a charity working with foreign women couriers in British prisons, made 'Eva Goes to Foreign' to highlight the plight of these women.

### Worth Saving

Film Title: Worth Saving  
Director: Gretchen Hilderan and Leah Wolchok  
Producer: Gretchen Hilderan and Leah Wolchok  
Auspice Organisation: Nil  
Country: USA  
Running Time: 10 mins  
Email contact: Gretchen Hilderan (gretchen.hildebran@gmail.com)

#### Abstract:

Worth Saving is a short documentary about drug users rescuing each other from overdose. Although often preventable with simple interventions, overdose is the leading cause of death for San Francisco's 15,000 injecting drug users. Worth Saving explores a ground breaking public health program that saves lives by prescribing Narcan, an opiate antidote carried by paramedics, directly to drug users. The film follows the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education (DOPE) Project to needle syringe programs, residential hotels and police stations as they reach out to drug users, the often ignored casualties of the "War on Drugs". The DOPE training and access to Narcan transforms the life - savers as well. Kai is a young man who struggles with addiction while living on the streets of San Francisco. Kai has been brought back from an overdose before and attends the training in order to be a better resource to his community. Art is a formally homeless elder who has saved three lives since attending the training. Although living with his own addiction, Art has become the "house medic" in his Tenderloin residential hotel. Worth Saving tracks these two DOPE project participants through the training and beyond, as they save the lives and bring hope to their communities.

**Scaling Up HIV Prevention and Harm Reduction in Iran**

Film Title: Scaling up HIV prevention and harm reduction in Iran  
Director: Neville Powis  
Producer: Neville Powis  
Auspice Organisation: Asian Harm Reduction Network  
Country: Iran  
Running Time: 24 mins  
Email contact: Neville Powis (Neville@ahrn.net)

**Abstract:**

The Islamic Republic of Iran is reported to have more than two million drug dependent individuals. Of these more than 150,000 are injecting drug users. Between 50,000 - 60,000 people are HIV positive and of these at least half are injecting drug users. The Iranian Judiciary has now sanctioned the de-criminalising of drug dependence and the national scaling up of harm reduction. It sees these as the best ways to combat the dual epidemics of HIV infection and injecting drug use. This film looks at the general situation of drug use in Iran, meets people affected by opiate dependence and HIV/AIDS, and hears from officials about the services that are presently being offered to drug users and their families.

**The Shulgin Project**

Film Title: The Shulgin Project  
Director: Etienne Sauret  
Producer: Sebastion Saville  
Auspice Organisation: Turn of the Century Productions  
Country: UK  
Running Time: 17 mins  
Email contact: Sebastian Saville (sebastian@release.org.uk)

**Abstract:**

Alexander Shulgin - chemist extraordinaire and living legend in underground drug culture - features in this new film on the unexplored potential of psychedelic drugs. Having quit his post as a senior research chemist at Dow Chemical Company in 1965, together with his wife Ann he set forth on a personal quest to design new psychoactive drugs. The lifestyle drugs market is now estimated to be worth up to \$25 billion annually, providing legal treatments for conditions ranging from depression to impotence. Why should people be prevented from using other drugs, which alter their mental and physical experiences? Many have been used for centuries and others continue to be applied in therapeutic, creative, religious, exploratory, recreational and military settings. Are these drugs so innately dangerous that people need to be protected from them? Or are there other reasons? Doctors prescribing MDMA for post traumatic stress disorder and terminal cancer, military psychiatrists testing LSD on troops, chemists developing new 'designer drugs,' shamans using psychedelics to heighten spiritual awareness, multiple sclerosis sufferers self-medicating with cannabis, artists using LSD as a creative tool. Such practices are at best restricted and at worst outlawed - but what are the motives behind the regulations?

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Tuesday 2 May

Film Festival Lounge Sessions

12.30 - 1.30 PM

Time: 12.30	Name of the Film: Heroin Wars (Part One - Opium Convoy)
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Film Title: Heroin Wars (Part One - Opium Convoy)  
Director: Adrian Cowell and Chris Menges  
Producer: ?  
Auspice Organisation: Channel 4 Television  
Country: England  
Email contact: Adrian Cowell (adriancowell2@cs.com)

**Abstract:**

The Opium Convoys picks up the story in the early 1960s when the Burmese Army seized power in a coup which abolished democracy for the next three decades. The initial traffic in drugs was a way to finance revolution against the ensuing dictatorship and the film follows various guerrilla armies as they fight for control of the huge mule convoys which exported opium to the outside world. The US joined in on an all out-attack on the convoys and sent an invitation to the first 'King of Opium' to negotiate, only to have him arrested. The directors of this documentary started filming this episode in 1964 and what is uncovered is an extraordinary, fascinating insight of the trade in drugs with a specific focus on the Shan State of Burma. A historical gem that is remarkably eye opening.

Time: 1.20	Name of the Film: Happy Ending
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Film Title: Happy Ending  
Director: Chris Irrizarry  
Producer: HBO Young Filmmakers Lab  
Auspice Organisation: Arts Engine Inc  
Country: USA  
Running Time: 8 mins  
Email contact: Wendy Cohen (wendy@artsendine.net)

**Abstract:**

Drugs have taken Chris's mum out of his life but not out of his heart. In this personal travelogue, he goes to Philadelphia in search of a happy ending. Winner of the Family and Society Award, USA.

**Film Festival Symposium Sessions**  
**1.30 - 3.00 PM**

Time : 1.30	Presenter: TBA	Name of the Film: Hope
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Film Title: Hope  
Director: Liechil Luwang  
Producer: SASO and Shalom  
Auspice Organisation: SASO and Shalom, Imphal, Manipur, India  
Country: India  
Email contact: Dinesh Luwang Meisnam" <leichill@yahoo.com>

**Abstract:**

This film tells the truth about the People Living with HIV/AIDS in Manipur, India. "HOPE" is a space where they freely expressed their feelings and expectations while fighting against HIV/AIDS in the conflict situation of Manipur. Their liberty of being alive is enlightened by the humanitarian touch of the project. The hollow space of their hearts and lives were filled by the unforgettable loves of the Pathway Project, showing the high hope to survive. PCI (Project Concern International) join hands together with SASO (Social Awareness Service Organisation) and Shalom (Society for HIV/AIDS and Lifeline Operation in Manipur) provides the impulse for these very poor people to survive. Manipur continues to experience a severe epidemic of HIV and AIDS, substantially impacting upon the drug injecting community, their non-injecting partners and their children.

Time : 2.05	Presenter: Pascal Tanguay	Name of the Film: Drug Users Perspectives
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Film Title: Drug Users Perspectives  
Director: Neville Powis  
Producer: Neville Powis  
Auspice Organisation: Asian Harm Reduction Network  
Country: Various Asian Countries  
Email contact: Neville Powis (Neville@ahrn.net)

**Abstract:**

In 2003 there were around an estimated 13.2 million injecting drug users (IDUs) worldwide. Around 25% of all injecting drug users live in South and Southeast Asia. Stigma and discrimination remains an enormous barrier to effectively fight the twin epidemics of injecting drug use and HIV/AIDS. This short film gives a voice to drug users and ex-drug users in five Asian countries: Cambodia, Thailand, Iran, Pakistan and Indonesia. They talk frankly about their drug use experiences, their lack of knowledge in avoiding the sharing needles and of the social stigmatisation, discrimination and marginalization they have experienced.

Time : 2.30	Presenter: Stephen Heller-Murphy	Name of the Film: Scottish Prisons Service, Harm Reduction
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Film Title: Scottish Prisons Service Harm Reduction  
Director: Tim Christie  
Producer: Stephen Heller-Murphy  
Auspice Organisation: Scottish Prisons Service  
Country: Scotland  
Email contact: Stephen Heller-Murphy (stephen.heller-murphy@sps.gov.uk)

**Abstract:**

A film produced to show to every prisoner on entry to prison highlighting the help one can expect and the risks associated with heroin use. This film was made in response to the need to reduce drug related death following release from prison. The film format is of interviews

with six prisoners discussing their overdose experience and what interventions have helped them with their drug use whilst in prison.

Film Festival Lounge Sessions  
3.30 - 5.00 PM

Time: 3.30	Name of the Film: Get the Facts: Hepatitis C
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Film Title: Get the Facts: Hepatitis C  
Director: Christopher Mc Neil  
Producer: Diana Sylvestre  
Auspice Organisation: Organisation to Achieve Solution in Substance Use  
Country: USA  
Email contact: Christopher McNeil (oasisclinic@sbcglobal.net)

**Abstract:**

Peer based educational video about hepatitis C. Created in four parts: Part 1; the basics of hepatitis C. Part 2; Its effects on the liver. Part 3; Testing. Part 4; Treatment. Appropriate to be shown in both a clinical and non-clinical setting. This film is designed especially for injecting drug users and to be screened as a single session viewing or modular viewing over the span of four separate screenings. The film is fast paced and contemporary.

Time: 4.00	Name of the Film: La La Land and Tattoo
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Film Title: La La Land and Tattoo  
Director: Liss Gabb  
Producer: Arts and Culture Program, North Richmond Community Health Centre in Partnership with the Vietnamese Community Australia.  
Auspice Organisation: N/A  
Country: Australia  
Email contact: Liss Gabb (roselieh@nrhc.com.au)

**Abstract:**

The two short films were created by and with two groups of Vietnamese young people aged 15-18 years in inner city Melbourne, Australia. The young people worked in collaboration with professional artists, film makers and animators, to create two films which are fast paced and feature live action, animation, and original music. Vastly different in style and content each film offer accessible information to young people about the dangers of Hepatitis C transmission. **Tattoo** has been created by Vietnamese young people living on or associated with the Richmond public housing estate in inner city Melbourne. **LaLa Land** has been created by a group of Vietnamese young women living in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

Time: 4.05	Name of the Film: On the Street Where you Live
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Film Title: On the Street Where you Live  
Director: Ettiene Coutinho  
Producer: Eldred Tellis  
Auspice Organisation: Sanklap Rehabilitation Centre  
Country: India  
Email contact: Eldred Tellis (eldred@vsnl.net)

**Abstract:**

The film depicts the plight of injecting drug users in Mumbai. The financial capital of India, Mumbai attracts migrants from all over the country and many of them end up living on the streets. Many turn towards drug use within a few months, end up as scavengers, and live in abject poverty. In a fast paced city like Mumbai, people are on the move throughout the day and have begun looking at drug users as part of the garbage in which they are found. Even Public hospitals had begun to shun these citizens from the 'margins' of society. In this context, the outreach efforts of Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust and the services provided at their 'low threshold' Drop in Centre have received a 'thumbs up' from the drug users who

access the services in large numbers. Needless to say, the appreciation also translates of transformed human beings because of a 'Sankalp' - 'Resolve'.

Time: 4.10	Name of the Film: Breaking the Cycle
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Film Title: Breaking the Cycle  
Director: Nick Bird  
Producer: Victoria Police  
Auspice Organisation: Victoria Police  
Country: Australia  
Email contact: Steve James (steve.james@police.vic.gov.au)

**Abstract:**

This training film is made in a documentary style aimed at raising awareness of the diversion initiatives in Melbourne, Australia. The diversion initiatives are alternatives to a court appearance. The film articulates the processes required when using the programs and the benefits for doing so. The film contains comments from police and health workers in relation to drug use, drug treatment and an overall support and encouragement for the use of the programs. This film was a part of a communications strategy launched in 2003 which aimed to increase the use of the diversion programs. This communications strategy accompanied with on-going training and awareness raising has significantly increased the use of both the Cannabis Cautioning and the Drug Diversion programs by police.

Time: 4.25	Name of the Film: Rough Edges
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Film Title: Rough Edges  
Director: James Boldiston  
Producer: Francisco Dos Santos  
Auspice Organisation: N/A  
Country: Australia  
Email contact: James Boldiston (production@neteffective.com.au)

**Abstract:**

Francisco Dos Santos is a youth worker in Dandenong, an outer suburb of Melbourne, Australia. The area has a reputation as being a hotbed of drug related crime and low economic standing. This is an inaccurate appraisal as Dandenong is also a cultural melting pot and a lively centre of activity. In an urban and developed first world city, Francisco sees a pattern of drug abuse and health issues that spreads from generation to generation: Alcohol, violence and drug use are often passed on in families where poor education and poverty are evident. 'Rough Edges' dramatically captures Francisco's experiences as we follow a drug dependent person's life from birth. The fundamental message is that if there is blame, it should not be to the individual, but to the society that allowed the cycle of harm to continue.

Time: 4.30	Name of the Film: There's Always Dreams
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Film Title: There's Always Dreams  
Director: Bridget McAloon  
Producer: Hoang Nguyen  
Auspice Organisation: Open Family Australia, Incorporated  
Country: Australia  
Email contact: Mark Young (mark.y@openfamily.com.au)

**Abstract:**

In September of 2005, young people engaged in outreach programs at the Open Family youth service in Footscray, a disadvantaged area of Melbourne known for its street drug scene, were involved in creating a short film as part of the Beanbag Net Centre initiative. The Beanbag Net Centres are sponsored by the Inspire Foundation, and provide learning and social opportunities for young people through free internet and computer access, multimedia

training, and the use of a movie camera and digital editing equipment. In the film, four young people talk candidly about their experiences of being attracted to heroin and why they started using. They also discuss their repeated attempts to detox, with the support of Open Family street outreach workers, and their experiences whilst using heroin. This is foremost a story of hope, however, as the young people tell of their dreams for a "normal" future. A powerful and moving film, these young people tell their own stories, and their dreams for rebuilding their lives.

Time: 4.36	Name of the Film: Out of Crime and Into Treatment- the Drugs Interventions Programme in Hartlepool, UK
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Film Title: Out of Crime and Into Treatment- the Drugs Interventions Programme in Hartlepool, UK  
 Director: Joe Carter  
 Producer: Susan Perryman  
 Auspice Organisation: Hartlepool Drug Intervention Programme  
 Country: England  
 Email contact: Joe Carter ([joe@avanticom.co.uk](mailto:joe@avanticom.co.uk))

**Abstract:**

Hartlepool (in North-Eastern England) has one of the highest rates of Class A drug use in the UK. The film "Out of Crime and Into Treatment" was commissioned by the Hartlepool Drug Interventions Programme to be shown to community groups, schools and other agencies, and shown in the arrest referral suite whenever someone was arrested for a drug related crime. The film aims to dispel some of the myths about drug addiction, presenting a new approach to guide users into specifically tailored treatment programmes. It follows three heroin users who have been prolific offenders as they go through the new Fast-Track treatment being pioneered in Hartlepool. With a special focus on what drugs can do to people, this documentary is both heart breaking and uplifting.

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Tuesday 2 May

**Film Festival Special Screening**

Time 6.30.	FIX: The Story of an Addicted City
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Film Title: FIX: The Story of an Addicted City  
 Director: Nettie Wild  
 Producer: Nettie Wild and Betsy Carson  
 Country: Canada  
 Running time: 92 mins  
 Email contact: Nettie Wild ([nwild@canadawildproductions.com](mailto:nwild@canadawildproductions.com))

**Abstract**

"FIX" is a powerful documentary which chronicles the fight to stop the drug death toll and manage Vancouver's addiction issues. Wild, whose previous works received awards from the Berlin International Film Festival and the International Documentary Association, guides her story through the eyes of Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users activists Ann Livingstone and Dean Wilson, former mayor Philip Owen, businessman Bryce Rositch and Vancouver Police Department Sergeant Doug Lang. Filmed over 18 months, the documentary explores the struggle to open a safe injection centre. According to former mayor Owen, who is often present at film screenings, more than 50,000 Canadians have seen "FIX" in theatres and several hundred thousand more have seen the film on television.

**Note: This will be followed by a Q & A session with Nettie Wild, director of FIX, and another guest linked to this film (to be announced)**

Wednesday 3 May

Film Festival Lounge Sessions

12.30 - 1.30 PM

Time: 12.30	Name of the Film: Heroin Wars: (Part Two-Smack City)
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Film Title: Heroin Wars (Part Two - Smack City)  
Director: Adrian Cowell and Chris Menges  
Producer: ?  
Auspice Organisation: Channel 4 Television  
Country: England  
Email contact: Adrian Cowell (adriancowell2@cs.com)

**Abstract:**

Smack City looks at Hong Kong, the drugs capital of South-East Asia, during the 1960s and early 1970s. It examines the 'War on Drugs' from the viewpoint of the consumer and the dealer, by following the Triad gang which controlled the selling of heroin on one street in Hong Kong. Over the course of 20 years some of the gang evade the police, but others are jailed. One gang member, Ah Sing tries to kick his addiction to heroin, but fails. When his wife leaves him, he becomes so depressed that he dies from an overdose of heroin and tranquillisers. The other side of the battle, the Hong Kong police are featured too, as they raid heroin factories and distribution centres. It appears a futile struggle, since the police seldom reduce the amount of heroin reaching the gangs at street level. Filming of this documentary took place from the early 1960s and throughout the 1970s.

Time: 1.20	Name of the Film: Adequate and Uninterrupted
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Film Title: Adequate and Uninterrupted  
Director: Greg Manning  
Producer: Greg Manning  
Auspice Organisation: n/a  
Country: India  
Email contact: Greg Manning (manning.greg@gmail.com)

**Abstract:**

'*Adequate and Uninterrupted*' is a short training film, located in Nagaland State, India, designed to guide the rapid introduction of needle exchanges which can provide protection from HIV to entire communities of injecting drug users. In the form of a love song for IDUs, it documents the training of an NGO in North-East India to move from a strategy, which concentrated on 'contacting' IDUs to a strategy aiming for coverage for HIV prevention. Scaling up needle syringe distribution demands that many stakeholders adopt new postures. For example, suspicions of drug users and superficial understanding of injecting drug use can lead to a reluctance to deliver enough needles, to eliminate the need to share. Poor planning and remote evaluation leads to a sporadic supply of needles and syringes. Hence, the film evokes the mantra 'adequate and uninterrupted'.

## Film Festival Symposium Sessions

1.30 - 3.00 PM

Time : 1.30	Presenter: Sebastian Saville	Name of the Film: OTT
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Film Title: OTT  
Director: George Scott  
Producer: Celia Blake and Sebastian Saville  
Auspice Organisation: The Red Hot AIDS Charitable Trust  
Country: England  
Email contact: Sebastian Saville (sebastian@release.org.uk)

### Abstract:

OTT's unique aim was to provide prisoners with knowledge of ways to reduce risk-taking behaviour regarding their drug use upon release. It is during this very vulnerable period that tolerance is greatly reduced, and drug users are subject to the highest risk of overdose. OTT is a drama addressing this issue, which has been distributed to prisons throughout England to form part of a pre-release package, with guidance notes on how to run a workshop around the content of the video. It follows the main character Si on his first day of freedom, giving an honest and graphic portrayal of some of the feelings and temptations (and the consequences of these) that arise.

Time : 1.50	Presenter: Gretchen Hilderan	Name of the Film: Worth Saving
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Film Title: Worth Saving  
Director: Gretchen Hilderan and Leah Wolchok  
Producer: Gretchen Hilderan and Leah Wolchok  
Auspice Organisation: Nil  
Country: USA  
Running Time: 10 mins  
Email contact: Gretchen Hilderan (gretchen.hildebran@gmail.com)

### Abstract:

Worth Saving is a short documentary about drug users rescuing each other from overdose. Although often preventable with simple interventions, overdose is the leading cause of death for San Francisco's 15,000 injecting drug users. Worth Saving explores a ground breaking public health program that saves lives by prescribing Narcan, an opiate antidote carried by paramedics, directly to drug users. The film follows the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education (DOPE) Project to needle syringe programs, residential hotels and police stations as they reach out to drug users, the often ignored casualties of the "War on Drugs". The DOPE training and access to Narcan transforms the life - savers as well. Kai is a young man who struggles with addiction while living on the streets of San Francisco. Kai has been brought back from an overdose before and attends the training in order to be a better resource to his community. Art is a formally homeless elder who has saved three lives since attending the training. Although living with his own addiction, Art has become the "house medic" in his Tenderloin residential hotel. Worth Saving tracks these two DOPE project participants through the training and beyond, as they save the lives and bring hope to their communities.

Time : 2.10	Presenter: Pascal Tanguay	Name of the Film: Scaling Up HIV Prevention and Harm Reduction in Iran
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Film Title: Scaling up HIV prevention and harm reduction in Iran  
 Director: Neville Powis  
 Producer: Neville Powis  
 Auspice Organisation: Asian Harm Reduction Network  
 Country: Iran  
 Running Time: 24 mins  
 Email contact: Neville Powis (Neville@ahrn.net)

**Abstract:**

The Islamic Republic of Iran is reported to have more than two million drug dependent individuals. Of these more than 150,000 are injecting drug users. Between 50,000 - 60,000 people are HIV positive and of these at least half are injecting drug users. The Iranian Judiciary has now sanctioned the de-criminalising of drug dependence and the national scaling up of harm reduction. It sees these as the best ways to combat the dual epidemics of HIV infection and injecting drug use. This film looks at the general situation of drug use in Iran, meets people affected by opiate dependence and HIV/AIDS, and hears from officials about the services that are presently being offered to drug users and their families.

Time: 2.45 Please Note: No presenter for this film	Name of the Film: Glue Made Me A Ghost
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Film Title: Glue Made Me A Ghost  
 Director: Andrew Pope, Farhad Shadraven (Fit Media) with Children of M'Lop Tapang  
 Producer: Daniel Littlewood, Fit Media  
 Auspice Organisation: M'Lop Tapang  
 Country: Cambodia  
 Running Time: 8 mins  
 Email contact: Andrew Pope & Farhad Shadravan (Maggie@mloptapang.org)

**Abstract**

The film was written and performed by ex-street children: Most of whom were addicted to glue. The story is based on real life experiences of these and other children with long histories of using glue, whilst trying to earn money from scavenging and sleeping on the streets. All of these children are now reintegrated back to education and their families. These children have friends that have been injured by traffic accidents whilst using and they wanted to educate their peers of the risks of drug use, as well as the negative future ahead for a glue sniffer on the streets. The film has simulated glue use and shows what this leads to: vagrancy, poverty, loneliness, crime, attacks from gangs and the huge risk to life and well being. In Khmer culture, ghosts are very much believed in and feared. The message is clear that glue can destroy your life in many ways. The children and M'Lop Tapang have used this film to educate their peers, families and the whole community.

Film Festival Lounge Sessions

3.30 - 4.30 PM

Time: 3.30	Name of the Film: Sex, Needles and Roubles
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Film Title: Sex, Needles and Roubles  
Director: Chloe Mercier  
Producer: Chloe Mercier  
Auspice Organisation: Laika Pictures Limited  
Country: England  
Email contact: Chloe Mercier (chloe@laikapictures.com)

**Abstract:**

Sex, Needles and Roubles takes us on a journey to the cold winter nights of St Petersburg where we meet with some of its young drug dependent sex workers. Through poignant real-life stories and interviews with leading figures in the fight against AIDS, corrupt policemen - pimps and discriminating doctors, this documentary seeks to understand how HIV/AIDS has reached such alarming proportions over the last decade. This is a crisis which has catapulted Russia into being the country with the fastest spreading epidemic of HIV in the world today. Official selection Prix-Europa Television - Current Affairs 2004, and 1001 Documentary Festival, Istanbul, 2005.

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