

One World 2001

Final Report

One World, 3rd Annual International Human Rights Film Festival Prague, Czech Republic, April 2001

Under the auspices of Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, and Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We exist to expose abuses, encourage dignity, inspire solidarity, and foster mutual understanding.

What is One World?

- The One World film festival was created by the non-profit People in Need - Czech TV Foundation with the aim of using the powerful medium of film and video to foster mutual understanding between cultures, heighten public awareness about human rights, and promote global responsibility.
- In only its third year, One World has quickly emerged as one of the largest and most important human rights film festivals in Europe and is firmly established as one of Prague's premier cultural and media events.
- The festival consists of an international competition of documentary films and videos, workshops, debates, concerts, photo exhibitions, and other events.

I consider the One World documentary film festival to be an extremely effective and important event.

Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic

Film is an excellent medium to convey the reality of human rights in the modern world. We need the creative powers of artists and film-makers to bring home the truth about people who are striving to secure and defend the rights to which all of us are entitled.

Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Our Objectives

- To promote the making of documentary films on human rights by providing a forum for film-makers to reach mass audiences.
- To raise awareness and knowledge about human rights in their broadest dimensions - political, economic and social - and inspire direct involvement in global challenges.
- To contribute to public discussion about the role citizens and civil society can play in the globally interwoven world.
- To develop the festival as a year-round educational forum for presentation and discussion of human rights issues in the Czech Republic.
- To present the Czech Republic as a place where voices supporting open society and democracy worldwide are heard on a permanent basis.
- To support non-governmental organizations in other countries in staging their own human rights film festivals.

In these inconsistent times, we realize more and more the importance of solidarity among people, mutual tolerance and the capacity to listen to one another. In the short span of its existence, the One World film festival has proved its ability to convey these ideas in an impressive and persuasive way and to explain the world to us so that we better understand the source of other people's problems.

Jiří Balvín, Acting Director, Czech Television

One World 2001 in brief

- 89 documentaries from 36 countries
- 9 days, 8 venues, 127 screenings, 12.000 viewers
- 2 international juries, 70 international guests, 120 accredited journalists
- 159 media citations
- 36 audience discussions, 2 photo exhibitions, 3 concerts
- 7.258 people visited the festival website (www.oneworld.cz) with 61.253 hits
- Festival highlights were screened in 9 other of the largest Czech cities
- The festival will be also staged in Bratislava (Slovakia), Warsaw (Poland), Belgrade (Yugoslavia), Pristina (Kosovo) and Nueremberg (Germany)

Three months after I came to shoot the film in Sierra Leone, the rebels attacked Freetown. I took my camera and went outside. I offered the material to several TV stations. They all refused, saying it was too drastic and that they wanted to protect their audience. But the question is – why should we protect the public from the reality?

Sorious Samura from Sierra Leone, the One World jury member

Re-screening of festival highlights in the regions

- 9 cities: Brno, České Budějovice, Liberec, Olomouc, Opava, Ostrava, Pardubice, Ústí nad Labem, and Plzeň
- 77 screenings, 5.000 viewers
- 8 concerts, 11 exhibitions, 2.500 attended these accompanying events
- partnership and co-operation with 8 non-governmental organizations

I have been making films for more than 40 years now and I do not have any illusions about the power of the film to change anything. Film is a fiction and it applies to documentaries as well. But it does have a power to open people's eyes, to show them reality from a different angle and to draw their attention to things they maybe know they exist but are not aware of them.

French film-maker Agnes Varda, winner of the 2001 Best Film Award

One World 2001 Highlights

- **Prominent documentary film figures** Peter Forgacs (Hungary), Rithy Panh (France/ Cambodia), Sorious Samura (Sierra Leone) and Mark Soosaar (Estonia) participated in the main festival jury to select the award-winners for Best Film and Best Director
- One World featured two other **prestigious awards**: the Special Award for the film making the most outstanding contribution to human rights awareness, which was presented by President Vaclav Havel, and the Mayor of Prague Award for the film with the most powerful and moving story.
- One World is proud to have gathered an international jury consisting of victims of violence and repression. "Every documentary film-maker is aware that in his or her work, whatever be their good intentions and however honest and respectful be their approach, there is always a moment of misuse of the people in front of the camera. For that reason we find it appropriate that a human rights film festival allow people who have personally experienced human rights violations to evaluate the work of professional film-makers." (One World director Igor Blazevic, as stated at a press conference.)

Human rights are not for sale. You cannot advertise human rights as they are not a propaganda item. You can present them, you can make people think about them but you cannot sell them. This is the point where your festival can be a great event. It gives an opportunity for the culture, for the arts to open people's mind and eyes.

Péter Forgács from Hungary, the One World jury member

- The **opening and closing ceremonies** took place in the completely packed Archa Theatre. The awards ceremony was attended by Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, Jan Kasl, Mayor of the City of Prague, Zdeňka Pelikánová representing Contactel, general sponsor of the festival, Jiří Balvín, Acting Director of Czech Television, Václav Kasík, Director of Czech Radio, and other prominent personalities and distinguished guests of the Festival.
- This year's One World Film Festival served as the occasion for presenting **the Homo Homini Award** to the recipient for 2000, Min Ko Naing of Burma. Min Ko Naing is Chairman of the All-Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) and was sentenced to 20 years' hard labor in prison for his activities in opposition to the ruling military junta. "In granting the Homo Homini Award to Min Ko Naing, we call upon the military regime of Burma to release Min Ko Naing immediately and unconditionally," said Tomáš Pojar, the director of People in Need. "Min Ko Naing is a prisoner of conscience who has never advocated or used violence and was arrested merely for his democratic beliefs." Bo Kyi, a former student activist who was imprisoned in Burma for seven years, accepted the award on Min Ko Naing's behalf.
- **Culmination of the festival** took place in the Archa Theatre, one of Prague's most prestigious venues, with a four day-long programs of screenings in two halls. Film directors and special guests attended films and led audience discussions after the screenings. Festival goers had also at their disposal a video rental desk (offering 460 films which have been submitted to the festival), 10 computers with 24 hour on-line connection to the Internet, festival cable television, and of course, a festival bar.

- One World hosted **70 international guests**: film-makers and TV producers as well as "heroes" of the human rights films. For a few days, Prague become a place where people from Vietnam, Burma, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Russia, the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Norway, Estonia and 12 other countries could meet each other and discuss issues of the day.
- A total of **36 audience discussions** were organized after film screenings. Topics of discussion included "South-East Asian Nations and Dictators," "Cuba and Czech Foreign Policy," "We Survived Torture," "Woman Shooting War," "The Kurdish Issue," "The role of the International Community in Sierra Leone," "Multinationals and Human Rights" and many others. The discussions were very well received by audiences and festival guests alike.
- The One World festival is designed to be a meeting ground for TV professionals, independent producers and film-makers from EU countries to interact with their counterparts in Central and Southeastern Europe. The festival's two-day **workshop on "European Co-productions: Nightmare or Challenge?"** attracted 90 participants, 25 of whom were international guests of the festival. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the European Documentary Network.

We are living in a world which is abundant with all kinds of communication, especially bad communication. When you turn on the TV you can choose from among 100 channels. There is lots of information but no ideas. Actually we know nothing. A good documentary is able to let people themselves to speak, to say what they think about the world, about others. Sometimes you do not even need testimonies or spoken word, sometimes the silence, look in the face or in the eyes tells enough, and suddenly you understand...

Rithy Panh, One World jury member

- The festival had its own **cable TV** which was operated by students of the Prague Film Academy and broadcast on 5 screens at the Archa Theatre as well as on the Internet and at a large screen that was installed in one of the metro station in the Prague city center.
- Selected films from previous One World festivals were screened at 10 Prague high schools. Students were invited to write essay on human rights topics. Out of the **200 essays submitted**, three were selected for awards including a PC computer as the main prize.
- The Archa Theatre hosted a **large photo exhibition** featuring a representative selection of works by 10 leading Czech and Slovak photographers. The exhibition covered the period from 1987 to 2000 and included photos of wars in Afghanistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Bosnia, Kosovo and Chechnya.
- An exhibition organized by Amnesty International at Prague Castle featured 35 photographs on human rights and political developments **in Burma during the past 20 years**. The exhibition provided a stark reminder of the very serious human rights situation in Burma and the need to maintain international pressure for democratic change. The exhibition was opened by Czech President Václav Havel.

- On the occasion of the One World festival, **three concerts** were staged in Prague featuring the popular Czech groups Mig 21, Vltava, Do konce, Švihadlo, Gothart, and Už jsme doma. Four more concerts were staged in other cities as accompanying events to screenings of festival highlights.
- The One World production team again created **effective, eye-catching graphics** that gave One World a distinctive image. Program brochures, posters, advertisements, TV spots and other promotional materials were produced to very high professional standards.

I personally hate any kind of propaganda films, even those that are created to promote human rights ideas. I can't watch films which are made like posters. The power of cinematography is to open human issues, bringing us together with those who feel, think and suffer.

Mark Soosaar from Estonia, the One World jury member

Audience comments

- It was really great stuff. I have seen six powerful films. I am looking forward to next year. - Filip Singer
- The festival was a surprise for me. Each year it is bigger and better. This time it offered debates, a videoteque, a large number of guests and awards. I am curious what will you bring next time. - Martin Kašpar
- What makes me sincerely excited is not so much the festival itself, but the enthusiasm it provoked in its mainly young audience. It seems that our society is not so ignorant as it often looks like. Good luck in future. - František Koudela

About the Organizer

The People in Need Foundation (PINF) is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization whose mission statement is "to inspire a largeness of spirit in Czech society by helping others in need, and to promote democratic freedoms for all." The core of PINF's thinking is that newly democratic states of Central Europe should assume their share of responsibility in international affairs. Thanks to the support of hundreds of thousands of ordinary Czech citizens and numerous Czech institutions, PINF has consistently mobilized Czech society to play an active role in promoting peace, human rights and democracy worldwide.

Člověk v tísni - Společnost při České televizi o.p.s.

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2001 Award Winners

MAIN COMPETITION

Best Film Award: The Gleaners and I, Agnès Varda, France

Best Director: Et Cetera..., Andrei Osipov, Russia

Special mention by the Jury:

New Times at Crossroad Street, Ivars Seleckis, Latvia

Jung (War) in the Land of the Mudjaheddin, Fabrizio Lazzaretti, Alberto Vendemmiati, Italy

Jury members: Mark Soosaar (Estonia), Rithy Panh (France/Cambodia), Sorious Samura (Sierra Leone) and Peter Forgacs (Hungary).

Special Award for the film making the most outstanding contribution to human rights awareness presented by President Vaclav Havel:

Why Did They Kill Their Neighbours? Kumiko Igarashi, Japan

Mayor of Prague Award for the most powerful and moving story

New World Order: Somewhere in Africa, Phillipe Diaz, France

Jury of victims of racial attacks in the Czech Republic - Jean-Michel Mokielle from Congo, Haji Hassan Abdul Ali Melighni from Yemen, Fernando Quila from Angola, Nvhia Trung-Bui from Vietnam, and Milan Demeter, a Czech Roma.

Rudolf Vrba Award (selected from the Ecce Homo category)

The Diplomat, Tom Zubrycki, Australia

Special mention by the Jury

Death of the Slave Boy, Magnus Bergmar, Sweden

Jury members: Doan Viet Hoat (Vietnam), Kurdo Baksi (Sweden/Kurdistan) and Bo Kyi (Burma)

Special Citation for the film with the most creative use of music and sound

Angelos' Film, Péter Forgács, Hungary

The Audience Award: Jung (War) in the Land of the Mudjaheddin, Fabrizio Lazzaretti, Alberto Vendemmiati, Italy

Media presentation:

Czech TV commercials:	60 screenings * 30 secs.
TV documentaries:	2 * 30 min documentaries about festival
Other TV programs:	Události, Dobré ráno, Tady a teď, Přesčas, Kulturní týdeník, Kinobox, Prology, Obrazovka
Radio commercials:	135 * 30secs. (Czech Radio, Frekvence 1, Evropa 2 a Rádio 1)
Radio interviews:	Czech Radio, Radio Free Europe, Frekvence 1, Rádio 1, Radio Impuls, Radio Proglas
Posters:	200 pcs. - metro, 300 pcs. – trams, 500 pcs. – bus stops, 5000 - other locations
Video-screen (metro):	14.160 screenings * 15 secs
Billboards	20 pcs.
Cinema video spots:	10 cinemas, 222 screenings * 30 secs.
Press advertisements:	Respekt, Lidové noviny, Týden, The Prague Post, Euro, Cinema (total value of the adds was more than 1 mil. CZK)
Cultural overviews:	Kulturní přehled, Kultura v Praze, Fan a Downtown.
Postcards	40.000 (Boomerang)
Leaflets	5000 psc.
Festival newspaper	4 issues * 4 (8) pages
Festival catalogue	3.500 psc
Internet	banner campaign – 30 different webpages

Partners and sponsors:

General sponsor: Contactel

Main media partner: Czech TV

Main partners: Open Society Fund, NRG Energy Inc., City of Prague, Czech Ministry of Culture

Embassies and cultural institutes: Audiovisual department of the French Embassy, The British Council, Embassy of Canada, Embassy of United States of America, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Brasil, Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark, Embassy of the Republic of Finland, Embassy of the Republic of Latvia, Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden, Goethe Institute, Austrian Cultural Institute, Italian Cultural Institute, Pro Helvetia, Hungarian Cultural Center

Cities and municipalities: Olomouc, Pardubice, Ostrava, České Budějovice, Ústí nad Labem, Opava, Brno

Media partners: Czech Radio, Týden, Respekt, Lidové noviny, The Prague Post, Rencar , Pražská informační služba, Euro, Deníky Bohemia, Readers Digest, Boomerang, Generace, Swift, Billboard Outdoor s.r.o., idnes, Labirynt, Cinema, Hogo Logo, Listy Prahy 14

Cinemas and venues: Archa Theatre, Evald and Cinemart, City Library, Ponrepo, Perštýn and Bonton a.s., MAT and Aero

Other partners: TNT International Express, Elvia-Pro, Artcom, Gopas, S-com, Tauer, Hotel Praha