

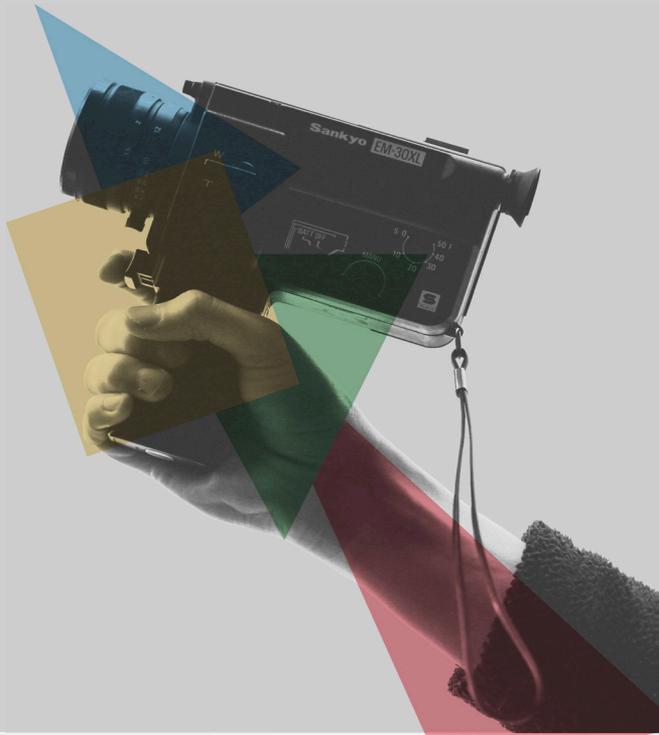
6th Annual

HRFF

HUMAN
RIGHTS
FILM
FESTIVAL

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema
December 8 - 10


JAYU.CA





THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

In Canada, we believe in freedom of speech and in connecting with each other to build stronger communities.

The 6th annual Human Rights Film Festival, presented by JAYU, creates a space where artists can speak up, where they can share human rights stories and empower communities through the arts. The hard work and talent of all those who participated in the production of these films is truly inspiring. Culture, after all, is the soul of a society. It creates social change.

Thank you for being a part of the Human Rights Film Festival. I wish every one of you a memorable event!



Julie Payette

2017



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

December 8–10, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 6th annual Human Rights Film Festival.

This festival offers a wonderful opportunity for participants to experience human rights stories from around the world through the medium of film. I am certain that everyone in attendance will be inspired by the shorts and documentaries presented over the next three days.

I would like to commend the filmmakers for their hard work in bringing their stories to the screen. I would also like to thank JAYU for organizing this event and for their commitment to bringing awareness to human rights issues.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish you a memorable festival.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada





Premier of Ontario

— Premier ministre de l'Ontario

December 8 – 10, 2017

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone taking part in the 6th Annual Human Rights Film Festival, an event hosted by JAYU at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema.

Throughout my life, I have always believed in the transformative power of the arts — to connect communities, challenge us to think in new ways, and help us to better understand the world in which we live.

I applaud the festival organizers for providing filmmakers from Canada and around the world with the opportunity to show their work and tell important stories about the fundamental importance of human rights — rights that are inherent to all of us.

I also want to recognize everyone who has helped to make this year's festival possible, including the filmmakers, sponsors, and JAYU staff and volunteers.

Please accept my sincere best wishes for an inspiring film festival, and for much continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Premier





Message from the Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 6th annual Human Rights Film Festival hosted by JAYU.

Community events promote and encourage residents to participate in their community, connect with each other and contribute to the community's strength. I am delighted that wonderful events like yours are taking place in Toronto.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I wish everyone an enjoyable and memorable event. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,


John Tory
Mayor of Toronto



6th Annual

HRFF

HUMAN
RIGHTS
FILM
FESTIVAL

Festival Team

Staff & Support

Team

Founder & Executive Director
Gilad Cohen

Director of Operations
Alicks Girowski

Head of Creative
Shanik Tanna

Programming Manager
John Debono

Sponsorship Coordinator
Marisol Fornoni

Social Media Assistant
Hiba Traboulsi

Community Outreach Coordinator
Andrea Rodriguez

Volunteer Coordinator
Anita Liu

Board of Directors

Chair of Board
David Vella

Sannah Choi
Jack Kim
Jane Kim
Sergei Petrov
Saskia Rinkoff
Ron Samson
Eui Yong Zong

Programming Team

Lead Programmer
Gilad Cohen

Lead Programmer
John Debono

Anastasia Akulinina
Filomena Calabrese
Celeste Cole
Alicks Girowski
Mark Hutchison
Tanya Mok
Michelle Ragno
Reza Sameni
David Vella
Eui Yong Zong



Gilad Cohen

Founder & Executive Director

In the non-profit world, you often hear that “if you make it past five years, you’re good” and so it is with great honour and humility that I welcome each of you to JAYU’s 6th annual Human Rights Film Festival. Thank you for choosing to celebrate Human Rights Weekend with us as we share some of our world’s most pressing stories here at the beautiful Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema.

This year, our programming team dedicated thousands of hours to reviewing more than 150 films and after great debate, we’re proud to present to you our strongest line-up yet: 15 films focusing on 13 different countries with most premiering here in Canada for the first time. Our programme this year will introduce you to inspiring heroes from across the globe and whether it’s the wrongfully convicted fighting for justice in the US or Jaha, the brave woman who fights to end the practice of female genital mutilation in The Gambia, I’m confident in saying that you’ll leave each screening feeling invigorated and inspired.

Our Festival this year also includes our special presentation of iAM: An Exhibition on Reconciliation. In partnership with the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto and more than 20 photographer mentors, we worked with several Indigenous youth to explore their understanding of reconciliation. I invite everyone to hear the participants’ stories and see their talented work through this powerful exhibition at the Daniels Spectrum in Regent Park until January 8, 2018.

An initiative of this magnitude simply could not happen without the hardest working people I know. To my team including Shanik, Alicks, John, Marisol, Hiba, and Anita: thank you! I owe so much gratitude to you and also to our dedicated Board of Directors led by our wise Chair, David Vella. A big thank you to our volunteer programming team whose vision and openness to have difficult conversations I will always cherish. Lastly, to everyone else who helps keep this organization afloat throughout the year including our photographer mentors, junior youth artists, general volunteers, partners, patrons, sponsors, and funders: thank you!

JAYU started in 2012 when I sat down with my mom to watch a documentary on North Korea. Seeing how much it moved her I thought, “how great could the impact be if we could do this in a room with many more people?” In the six years that have since passed, over 20,000 audience members have interacted with our numerous programmes and I continue to feel confident that there is not a more powerful way to share human rights stories than through the arts.

Thank you for your support and please enjoy the Festival.

Gilad Cohen



David Vella

Chair of the Board

Welcome everyone, and thank you for making JAYU a part of your life. JAYU means "freedom" in Korean, a word we chose to represent what we do - sharing human rights stories through the arts and engaging dialogue.

The Human Rights Film Festival, one of our tentpole programmes, is where we began six years ago. Back then, we focused on sharing stories of North Korea, and since then have curated experiences through film bringing to light incredible stories from all around the world. When was the last time you saw three North Korean defectors on stage talking about their experiences growing up, or sat down to chat with a man who spent 13 years in jail for a crime he did not commit. This year will be no exception. The individuals you will meet on screen are all truly inspiring and will share stories, some in person, that will be with you for days.

But we are more than just a film festival. JAYU's other tentpole is our iAM programme. What started as a photography project with six youth who identified as homeless three years ago, has grown to working with newcomers to Canada and Indigenous youth. These young individuals have the opportunity to work with some of Toronto's most well-known photographers, to explore their creative side in telling their unique stories. We are excited to be expanding this programme next year to being year-round by creating a drop-in centre for youth in the Regent Park area to continue learning and developing their photography and storytelling skills.

JAYU does not exist without the incredible generosity of so many people. We are a not-for-profit, charitable organization that continues to grow thanks to many. To our philanthropic donors, as well as our corporate, foundation and government supporters, thank you. Your trust in us is something we are forever grateful for and strive each day to ensure your trust is something you are proud to say you support.

To our many, many volunteers over the year - from our photography artists and mentors for the iAM programme, the individuals who help at all of our events, and my peers on the Board of Directors - there is no events based organization around that could do what they do without people like you giving so freely of your time.

I also want to thank the many brave individuals who share their stories, along with the artists to document these stories for us, so people like you and me can be better informed about the world beyond our front door. I hope, in turn, you share these stories with many to brighten the spotlight on human rights issues, or even better, inspire you to find a way to help take action to make these issues a thing of the past.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank our incredible team, led by the visionary Gilad Cohen, who make JAYU, in all of its facets, possible. I am amazed at how we have grown in just six short years, all because of your dedication, ideas, excitement and tireless energy.

Thank you everyone. The world is a better place because of JAYU and the people who make it exist; including each of you. Enjoy the Festival.

David Vella



HRFF 17

Schedule & Tickets



December 08 - Opening Night

- 6pm True Conviction (Canadian Premiere)
- 9pm Opening Night Reception including Short Screening Series, live music, and more

December 09

- 3pm The Good Postman (Canadian Premiere)
- Screening with: Mare Nostrum (Canadian Premiere)
- 6pm Armed With Faith (Toronto Premiere)
- Screening with: Light For Freedom (World Premiere)

December 10 - Closing Night + Human Rights Day

- 3pm Muhi: Generally Temporary (Hot Docs Top 10 Award)
- Screening with: Rupture
- 6pm Jaha's Promise (Canadian Premiere)
- Screening with: Waiting For Hassana

December 08 at 6:00pm - Opening Night Film

True Conviction

84 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: USA | CANADIAN PREMIERE | FILMMAKER(S): JAMIE MELTZER



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017 | 6:00PM

CANADIAN PREMIERE

Q&A MODERATED BY ANGEL CORDERO

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT AND JOHNNIE LINDSEY IN ATTENDANCE

*** TICKET GAINS YOU ENTRY TO OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**

After spending three decades combined in prison, three men who were wrongfully convicted are finally exonerated. Their life mission now is to help those who are living through wrongful convictions in Texas. True Conviction takes us through surprising displays of corruption of justice and on the challenging journey of investigating decades-old cases, as Christopher, Steven, and Johnnie offer help to incarcerated men who hope that, one day, they too will be free again.

The passion, dedication, and relentless pursuit of justice shown by these three men drive True Conviction and enable them to take on others' cases while still dealing with challenging situations in their own lives.



December 8 at 9:00PM

Opening Night Reception + Short Screening Series

* Entry only with ticket to True
Conviction

Join us as we celebrate six years of human rights and arts programming in style with food sponsored by Momofuku, live music by Dr. Draw, and the launch of our Short Screening Series!



Short Screening Series schedule:

9:15PM

FREE WORLD PENS

21 MINUTES | 2015 | IN FOCUS: CANADA | FILMMAKER(S): NIKA KHANJANI

Free World Pens is a film about family and solitary confinement. The film takes shape through letters from a man incarcerated in Texas, whose words echo in the mind of his sister as she walks freely through Montreal.

10:00PM

PROTECTING OUR HOMELAND

4 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: CANADA | FILMMAKER(S): ASHTON JANVIER

Protecting our Homeland is to inspire the young generation to start caring about our lands and cultures. It is also to promote awareness on the uranium mining exploration in Patterson lake, SK. Not only does this mining exploration affect the promises of Treaty 10, it will also destroy the natural resources, harm wildlife and ruin the land.

10:35PM

WHERE WE ARE NOW

9 MINUTES | 2016 | FILMMAKER(S): LUCIE RACHEL

Where We Are Now is a personal documentary about the changing relationship between a daughter and her trans parent, who recently made the decision to transition.

9:45PM

SLEEP WELL, MY BABY

7 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: NORTH KOREA, CHINA | FILMMAKER(S):

WINSTON TAO, AARON TAO

A narrative film based on the harrowing reality of human trafficking along the Chinese/North Korean border, Sleep Well, My Baby follows the incredible journey of a refugee who's had everything taken from her and will go to desperate measures to get it back.

10:15PM

NUUCA

12 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: USA | FILMMAKER(S): MICHELLE LATIMER

In this evocative meditation, a disturbing link is made between the resource extraction industries' exploitation of the land and violence inflicted on Indigenous women and girls. Or, as one young woman testifies, "Just as the land is being used, these women are being used."

10:50PM

BAYARD & ME

16 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: USA | FILMMAKERS(S): MATT WOLF

Bayard Rustin was the organizer of the March on Washington and one of the leaders of the civil rights movement. In the 1980s Bayard adopted his younger boyfriend Walter Naegle to obtain the legal protections of marriage. In this intimate love story, Walter remembers Bayard and a time when gay marriage was inconceivable. He reflects on the little known phenomena of intergenerational gay adoption and its connection to the civil rights movement.



December 09 at 3:00pm

The Good Postman

80 MINUTES | 2016 | IN FOCUS: BUGLARIA | CANADIAN PREMIERE | FILMMAKER(S): TONSLAV HRISTOV



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017 | 3:00PM
CANADIAN PREMIERE

A small and nearly deserted Bulgarian village has been gradually falling into decay ever since the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. The influx of refugees crossing the Bulgarian-Turkish border has caused further unrest within the community. A local postman Ivan, however, sees the refugee crisis as an opportunity to revitalize his village. As he runs for mayor, he campaigns to welcome refugees and goes door to door conveying his vision. In the meantime, his opponents advocate for reinforcing communism and closing the borders to the newcomers. While the small-town politics run its course and malaise begins to sink in, more refugees lose their lives as victims of human trafficking and other atrocities. Amidst Europe's worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, *The Good Postman* asks if Ivan's good intentions and heartfelt speeches are enough to make a difference.

Mare Nostrum

13 MINUTES | 2016 | IN FOCUS: SYRIA | CANADIAN PREMIERE | FILMMAKER(S): RANA KAZKAZ



On the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, a Syrian Father makes a decision that puts his daughter's life at risk.



December 09 at 6:00pm

ARMED WITH FAITH

75 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: PAKISTAN | TORONTO PREMIERE | FILMMAKER(S): ASAD FARQUI, GEETA GANDBHIR



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017 | 6:00PM
TORONTO PREMIERE

In the war against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, terrorist organizations have eroded Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, making Northern Pakistan one of the most dangerous regions on Earth to live. An amazing display of bravery, and personal sacrifice, Armed with Faith follows the men of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bomb Disposal Unit as they risk their lives each day to clear mines and IEDs, despite their lack of funding and proper equipment.

LIGHT FOR FREEDOM

9 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: TIBET | WORLD PREMIERE | FILMMAKER(S): GUILLERMO DE LA ROSA MICHELENA



Prominent Tibetan artists, activists and allies from the global diaspora are brought together in Toronto, Canada, to create an immersive theatrical experience that acknowledges the most desperate protests for freedom coming from occupied Tibet today.



December 10 at 3:00pm - Human Rights Day + Closing Night

MUHI: GENERALLY TEMPORARY

87 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: ISRAEL/PALESTINE | FILMMAKER(S): RINA CASTELNOUVO-HOLLANDER, TAMIR ELTERMAN



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017 | 3:00PM
HOT DOCS AUDIENCE TOP 10 AWARD

Muhi, a Palestinian boy born in Gaza, has been living in an Israeli hospital for the past seven years due to a life-threatening immune disorder that couldn't be treated in Gaza. Now, caught in an immigration limbo, Muhi and his caring grandfather are unable to return to their home without proper documents and are trapped within the walls of the hospital. Told through the eyes of an innocent child, Muhi: Generally Temporary follows a family caught between two sides of a political conflict with no end in sight.

RUPTURE

18 MINUTES | 2016 | IN FOCUS: JORDAN, CANADA | FILMMAKER(S): YASSMINA KARAJAH



Rupture follows the journey of four Arab teens on their quest to find a public pool in their new city on a hot summer's day. Introducing a cast of first time actors and war survivors who channel their personal experiences of loss and new beginnings through a fictional narrative.



December 10 at 6:00pm - Human Rights Day + Closing Night

JAHA'S PROMISE

81 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: THE GAMBIA | CANADIAN PREMIERE | FILMMAKER(S): KATE O'CALLAGHAN, PATRICK FARRELLY



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017 | 6:00PM
CANADIAN PREMIERE
KATE O'CALLAGHAN AND PATRICK FARRELLY IN ATTENDANCE

At one week old, Jaha Dukureh was circumcised, a practice common in many countries today; at 15, when she became aware of the procedure, she began the start of her tireless dedication to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in the Gambia, where she was born, and now, worldwide.

Jaha's Promise is an inspiring film following Jaha – an incredible activist who, at 26, was recognized in 2016 as one of Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People" – as she travels around the world acting as a powerful agent of change. Jaha is one of 200 million women currently living with the consequences of FGM, demonstrating that her story is not unique and demands to be told.

WAITING FOR HASSANA

10 MINUTES | 2017 | IN FOCUS: NIGERIA | FILMMAKER(S): IFUNAYA MADUKA



In 2014, 276 teenage girls came together for exams in Chibok, Nigeria -- by dawn, nearly all had disappeared and their school was burnt. Jessica, an escapee, shares her haunting account of a friendship violently interrupted by Boko Haram.



iAM

PRESENTED BY JAYU



What does moving forward from an unjust legacy look like?

The 2017 iAM exhibition explores reconciliation through the personal stories of Indigenous youth. Over the summer, nine participants took part in a two-week photography mentorship program, run by JAYU in partnership with the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

The youth were guided through storytelling workshops to record and reflect on personal experiences with the support of Dave Skene, a mentor from the Métis community. Additionally, twenty outstanding emerging and established photographers provided mentorship and skill-sharing sessions, allowing the youth to express themselves through the medium of photography. iAM 2017 is an opportunity to share their stories and celebrate the culmination of their hard work.

See the exhibition at the Daniels Spectrum until January 8, 2018. Entry is free. 100% of the profits from the photo sales go back to the youth.

Learn more at jayu.ca/iam

JAYU

THANK YOU

Festival Funders & Sponsors



SANDBOX



iAM Program & Gallery Funders



The
Charles H. Ivey
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Festival Community Partners



JohnHoward
SOCIETY OF ONTARIO





Since 2012, JAYU has been committed to building creative spaces for some of our world's bravest and most remarkable people to share their human rights stories through the arts and engaging dialogue.

JAYU has grown from a three-day Festival to a charity offering year-round programming across Ontario. Not only have we expanded our mission, but we have also offered unique platforms and mentorship opportunities for youth to become community leaders.

As a volunteer-run charity, we turn to you to help us sustain and grow our programming so that more young people can share their stories.

To make a one time or monthly tax receiptable donation, please visit:

JAYU.CA/DONATE

To keep in touch with JAYU
follow us on Twitter and Instagram

@JAYUCanada

2012

JAYU is founded originally as NKHRFF, a three day film festival focusing on North Korean human rights awareness. The first annual Film Festival takes place in July 2012 at Innis Town Hall, selling out it's opening night presentation.

2013

NKHRFF rebrands as JAYU, a word meaning freedom in the Korean language. The second annual Film Festival takes place at the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

2014

JAYU expands its mission to sharing human rights stories through the arts and engaging dialogue. It's third annual Film Festival at the TIFF Bell Lightbox presented 19 films focusing on 16 different countries.

2015

JAYU launches iAM, bringing photography and storytelling mentorship to underserved youth in Toronto. Its inaugural exhibition raises over \$3,500 with all of the profits going back to the participants. The fourth annual Festival moves to the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. In addition to the annual Festival, JAYU's film screenings expand to new audiences in Guelph, Waterloo, London, and Hamilton.

2016

JAYU introduces season 1 of The Hum, a human rights podcast. The show is broadcasted on Rabble and is recognized by iTunes as a New and Noteworthy Podcast in Canada. The iAM program grew from six participants to 25 and six arts mentors to 19 while receiving media recognition across the country. The Film Festival celebrates 5 years with record breaking crowds at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. In June, JAYU is officially recognized as a charity.

2017

JAYU partners with the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto to present iAM: An Exhibition on Reconciliation from November to January 2018. In addition to this exhibition, the iAM program expands outside of downtown Toronto with workshops and exhibitions in Scarborough, Mississauga, and London, ON. The 6th annual Film Festival takes place at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema from December 8-10, with a record number of premiere films, bringing even more important stories to Toronto.



We would like to acknowledge that the Human Rights Film Festival is situated upon traditional territories. The territories include the Wendat, Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations, and the Métis Nation.

The treaty that was signed for this particular parcel of land is collectively referred to as the Toronto Purchase and applies to lands east of Brown's Line to Woodbine Avenue and north towards Newmarket. We also recognize the enduring presence of Aboriginal peoples on this land.

Miigwech.

