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NEWS RELEASE

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SFCC Hosts Margaret Mead Film Festival

International Documentary Series runs September through November

Santa Fe, NM, Sept. 4, 2009 — Santa Fe Community College will host the Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival, a premier showcase of international documentaries, Mondays at 7 p.m., Sept. 21 to Nov. 2 in Jemez Rooms 1 and 2, 6401 Richards Ave.

The touring film festival brings innovative non-fiction work to audiences around the world and is part of the New York-based Margaret Mead Film & Video Festival, the longest-running showcase for international documentaries in the U.S. The festival has garnered an international reputation for its selection of titles, which tackle diverse and challenging subjects, representing a range of issues and perspectives. This year's offerings include a broad selection of new and critically acclaimed independent cultural film, with topics ranging from Laotian bomb harvesters and Aboriginal thespians to war-torn primate research laboratories and a search for an endangered species of monk seals. (See below or visit www.sfccnm.edu for a detailed schedule.)

Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and can be purchased at the door. Admission is free to SFCC students, faculty and staff. Proceeds support the Road to Success Scholarship fund, which helps students who qualify for the New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship cover the cost of their first semester of college. The touring festival is hosted by SFCC's School of Liberal Arts and Core Studies.

Screenings are followed by a guided discussion and coincide with Anthropology and Film (ANTH 280/CRN 21096), an eight-week Web-blended class in which students will view the films on campus and discuss them online. Registration for the class lasts until Sept. 14. For more information, call (505) 428-1778 or visit www.sfccnm.edu.

Images are available for each film.

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Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival Schedule

All screenings for the Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival will take place on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the SFCC Planetarium (upper level, west wing). Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors. Santa Fe Community College is located at 6401 Richards Ave. Call (505) 428-1778 for information.

Sept. 21 at 7 p.m.

- ∞ ***Bomb Harvest***: From 1964 to 1973, the United States dropped a payload of cluster bombs (about 100 per sortie) onto Laos every eight minutes, day and night – the equivalent of more than half a ton of bombs for every man, woman, and child. Many of these bombs still litter the Laotian landscape and remain live, rendering the largely poor, rural population vulnerable to explosions 25 years after the CIA-funded secret war has ended. Filmmaker Kim Mordaunt and producer Sylvia Wilczynski follow Australian Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician Laith Stevens as he trains young Laotians to become certified bomb technicians themselves, learning to recognize and neutralize the estimated 30 percent of unexploded ordinance (UXO) still lying in wait. As these young technicians learn their new trade, we meet the villagers haunted by the effects of this illegal war and encounter the new economy that prizes UXO for its scrap metal value.

Sept. 28 at 7 p.m.

- ∞ ***The Lost Colony (De Verloren Kolonie)***: The Sukhum Primate Center in Abkhazia, the oldest primate research laboratory in the world, is crumbling. This once prominent facility has been hailed for its strides in medical research and space exploration. Founded in the 1920s, the institute now strives for relevance amid Abkhazia's struggle for independence from Georgia, dwindling funds, and the loss of a large portion of its animals to a modern lab in neighboring Russia. On the cusp of its 80th anniversary, filmmaker Astrid Bussink visits the lab as it prepares for a conference designed to drum up support in the scientific community. Meanwhile, one guard searches the surrounding forests for any sign of members of the monkey colony thought to have escaped from the lab during the 1992 military conflict. Archival footage of the center's glory days and present-day activities captured at a detached remove are combined with stunning images of the decaying buildings and grounds. Now, with recently renewed fighting between Georgia and Russia over Abkhazian and South Ossetian independence, Bussink's ironic take on this seemingly hopeless situation becomes prescient.

Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.

- ∞ ***Peace with Seals (Mir s Tuleni)***: Monk seal specialist Emanuele Coppola and director Miloslav Novák are on the hunt for any trace of a real, live Mediterranean monk seal. Conversations with marine biologists and philosophers as well as the beachgoers on the Mediterranean shores who have supplanted the seals lead them to believe that the only monk seals left are those preserved in Coppola's extensive collection of archival footage. Presented as a wistful documentary fable, the film might well stand as a warning sign for more ominous things to come.

Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.

- ∞ ***A River of No Return***: Frances Djulibing wants to become a movie star. As a child growing up in the remote community of Nangalala in Australia's Northern Territory, Frances recalls idolizing Marilyn Monroe for her "sweet voice." When she is cast in the film *Ten Canoes*, the 42-year-old takes it as a sign of things to come and begins to cultivate her acting career. Her desire to leave her community and study acting at the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts in Queensland conflicts directly with her desire to stay in Nangalala and help raise her grandchildren the way she was raised, steeped in cultural traditions. *River of No Return* is a story of transformation as Frances learns to navigate two oppositional worlds, the ancient life of her people, the Yolngu, and the modern world of *balanda*, or white culture.

Oct. 19 at 7 p.m.

- ∞ ***Stone Pastures***: Director Donagh Coleman uses the Himalayas as a backdrop to follow a family of goat and yak herders as they spend a year preparing pashmina wool for market. Their livelihood depends on the income from the wool, and every member of the family, from young children to grandparents, helps with the painstaking process of nurturing the baby goats through the harsh winter, sheering their bellies, separating the wool one strand at a time, and finally weaving blankets. The family struggles to send two boys to school. They successfully drop their inquisitive seven-year-old Kunsang at boarding school far from home, but fourteen-year-old Padma finds his way back home to the grueling work and the family he loves.

Oct. 26 at 7 p.m.

- ∞ ***Today the Hawk Takes One Chick:*** The Lubombo region of Swaziland suffers from the world's highest prevalence of HIV and a life expectancy that has dropped to 32 years. In this small, landlocked country in southern Africa, a generation of parents has died, leaving the grandparents in charge of the children as well as responsible for retaining the threads of the fraying traditional life. Presented without an overt narrative structure or narration, the film's drama emerges from the steady accumulation of details that tell a greater story of family in a world dictated by AIDS.

Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.

- ∞ ***Umbrella (Sam):*** An umbrella that is carried across a wheat field in central China or the rainy streets of Shanghai is made in a factory in Guangdong and sold wholesale farther up the coast in Zhejiang Province. Tracking the life of an umbrella from factory to market, filmmaker Du Haibin shows how the lives of farmers in rural China have changed since the economic reforms instituted by Deng Xiaoping in 1978. "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" couched the upturning of the ideals of the Cultural Revolution in nationalist terms to soften the blow dealt to farmers once glorified by the state. Haibin is part of the Sixth Generation of Chinese filmmaking, which has proven unafraid to confront China's dictatorial policies in the wake of Tiananmen Square. With a pace that belies the speed with which these farmers and their families have to adjust to these new changes, he shows us factory workers, soldiers, students, merchants, and hold-out farmers as they scramble for livelihoods and respect in the rush toward modernization and the glorification of wealth over traditional ideals.

About Santa Fe Community College

Santa Fe Community College serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. The 22-year-old college offers academic, career and personal-enrichment programs to meet the needs of the region's diverse population. The college directly addresses regional job shortages through its nursing, teacher education and culinary arts programs. For further information, visit www.sfccnm.edu or call (505) 428-1000.

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