



HARTLEY FILM FOUNDATION

HARTLEY FILM FOUNDATION NEWS

IT IS THE HARTLEY FILM FOUNDATION'S MISSION TO PRODUCE, CULTIVATE, SUPPORT AND DISTRIBUTE THE VERY BEST DOCUMENTARIES AND AUDIO MEDITATIONS ON WORLD RELIGIONS AND SPIRITUALITY.

FILMS SUPPORTED BY HARTLEY GARNER AWARDS; NOW IN THEATERS

Award-winning documentaries supported by Hartley Film Foundation are now on the festival circuit and in theaters, with screenings in the U.S. and abroad garnering rave reviews. Click on "Top New Films" on our Web site for more information on these newly released documentaries: <http://hartleyfoundation.org/top-new-films>.



WANGARI MAATHAI

TAKING ROOT: THE VISION OF WANGARI MAATHAI

This year, the film **Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai** won the **Full Frame Women in Leadership Award**, the **HotDocs Audience Award** and the **Nashville Women in Film and Television Award** as well as an Honorable Mention for the **Best Documentary Feature** at the Nashville Film Festival. Wangari Maathai received the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize as founder of the Greenbelt Movement in Kenya. She stood up to a former oppressive regime in that country and the Greenbelt Movement, a non-governmental organization, has now planted more than 40 million trees across Kenya to prevent soil erosion. Filmmakers Alan Dater and Lisa Merton have launched an intensive grassroots outreach effort to spread the word about the more than 6,000 Green Belt nurseries in operation throughout Kenya that generate income for 150,000 people. Planted trees have deeply altered the physical and social landscape of Kenya and the Green Belt Movement has also started programs teaching women about indigenous foods, income-generating activities, AIDS, and self-empowerment. Click on <http://hartleyfoundation.org/roots-change> for details.



ALAN DATER AND LISA MERTON

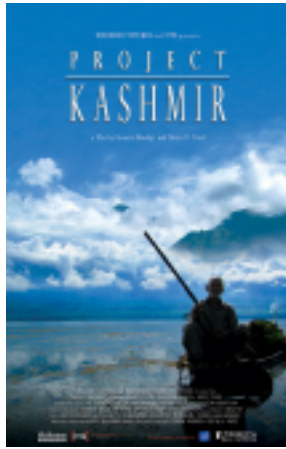


LIOR LIEBLING

PRAYING WITH LIOR

Winner of five **Audience Awards for Best Documentary** at the San Diego, Vancouver, Seattle, Washington and Boston Jewish Film Festivals and playing to sold-out theaters throughout the U.S., **Praying with Lior** has proved to be as inspiring as it is educational. Filmmaker Ilana Trachtman is also involved in outreach efforts "to change the way people with disabilities are perceived and received by faith communities." Her film follows Lior Liebling, a thirteen-year-old Philadelphia boy with Down Syndrome, nicknamed "the little rebbe," during the four months that lead up to his Bar Mitzvah. **Praying With Lior** also received this year's **National Down Syndrome Congress National Media Award** and the **2008 American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Media Award**.

See <http://hartleyfoundation.org/praying-lior> for more information.



PROJECT KASHMIR

From filmmakers Geeta Patel and Senain Khesghi comes **Project Kashmir**, a feature documentary in which the two directors, Americans who are Hindu and Muslim, investigate the war that divides Kashmiris and find their friendship tested over deeply rooted religious biases they never had to face in this country. **Project Kashmir** opened to sold-out theaters this June at the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival at Lincoln Center in New York. Go to <http://hartleyfoundation.org/project-kashmir>.



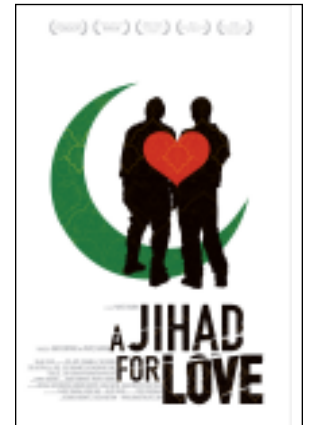
SENAIN KHESHGI AND GEETA PATEL



A JIHAD FOR LOVE

A JIHAD FOR LOVE

Winner of **Best Documentary** at the Brazil, Montreal and the Turin LGBT Festivals and **Best Film** at the Tricontinental Film Festival in India, **A Jihad For Love** has been screened from Amsterdam to Indonesia. The documentary is currently in theaters in this country after premiering in May at the IFC in New York. Filmed by Muslim filmmaker Parvez Sharma in twelve countries and nine languages, **A Jihad for Love** uncovers the hidden lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Muslims in countries such as South Africa, Iran, Egypt and Turkey. Visit our Web site at <http://hartleyfoundation.org/jihad-for-love>.



HARD ROAD HOME

Award-winning filmmaker Macky Alston, a member of Hartley's board of directors, brings to life the story of Julio Medina and the Exodus Transitional Community, the center Medina created to help ex-offenders navigate the transition from prison to life on the outside. Medina did 12 years at Sing Sing Correctional Facility and while imprisoned, he encountered one of the extraordinary educational opportunities available in the U.S. prison system – the New York Theological Seminary Masters program. The program gave Medina “his education, his faith, his vocation and his life back.” Please click on <http://hartleyfoundation.org/hard-road-home> for more on the film.

DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM

Winner of the **Audience Award for Best Documentary** at the Brooklyn Film Festival and **Special Jury Prize** at the Trento Film Festival, Bari Pearlman's **Daughters of Wisdom** will be screened at seventeen film festivals (and counting) in 2008, along with theatrical screenings and community screenings throughout the U.S. Hartley Film Foundation was pleased to host a wine and cheese reception on July 9th at the opening night showing of **Daughters of Wisdom** at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York. In the film, Pearlman creates a vivid, intimate portrait of the lives of a group of Buddhist nuns and women in rural Nangchen, Tibet, and witnesses their culture, a culture on the verge of positive social change through education and religious cultivation. Go to <http://hartleyfoundation.org/daughters-of-wisdom>.



DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM



A SON'S SACRIFICE

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Filmmakers Yoni Brook and Musa Syeed have just returned from Johannesburg, South Africa, where they screened **A Son's Sacrifice** at the International Public Television Screening Conference. The documentary short was selected to represent the USA at the annual showcase of innovative public television. **A Son's Sacrifice** was the winner of an **Audience Award** last year at SilverDocs Festival and a **Best Documentary Short** at Tribeca Film Festival. More on the film at <http://hartleyfoundation.org/sons-sacrifice>.



FOUR SEASONS LODGE

Four Seasons Lodge premiered at SilverDocs AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival in June of this year. This is an uplifting film about Polish, Russian and Hungarian Jews who survived the Holocaust and, in 1979, bought 44 acres of land in the Catskills. They created their own refuge, a bungalow community called Four Seasons Lodge, where they raised children, sang and danced together, and swapped war stories during the long summer months. As one member described their attempts to live life to the fullest: "To live this long, to live this well, is a victory."



FOUR SEASONS LODGE

FOUR FILMS IN DEVELOPMENT ADDED TO HARTLEY'S ROSTER

WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN: A LIFE

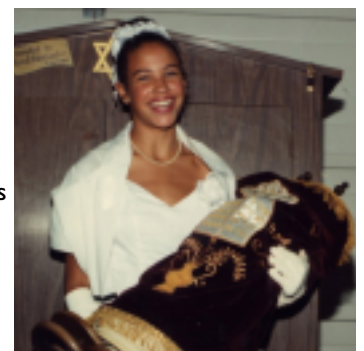


WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN

William Sloane Coffin: A Life will examine in-depth the life and legacy of the brilliant, ebullient and now legendary former chaplain of Yale University and senior minister of Riverside Church in New York. Filmmakers Alex Gibney, director of **Taxi to the Dark Side** and **Gonzo**, both in theaters now, and Susanna Styron, director of **Shadrach** and **Suspended Sentence**, will paint a portrait of the man and the minister, and "track his progress from 'great man' – leader, orator, advocate for change and justice – to 'wonderful man' – who later in life became full of wonder about the world around him." The story at <http://hartleyfoundation.org/william-sloane-coffin-life>.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Dual identity is the theme of **Outside the Box**, the story of Lacey Schwartz. Lacey was brought up in a white, Jewish family and discovered when she turned 18 that her biological father is African American. As Lacey revisits her past and the legacy of her family's secret, she also looks to come to terms with historical links and divisions between African Americans and Jews. Details at <http://hartleyfoundation.org/outside-box>.



LACEY SCHWARTZ



BISHOP GENE ROBINSON

THE ROBINSON PROJECT

Every now and then, history rests the fate of millions on the shoulders of one. This summer, one such person, Bishop Gene Robinson, will be walking into an international firestorm, as he takes a stand for his civil liberties, his livelihood, his faith, his love. Director Macky Alston, with exclusive access, will tell the story of the Bishop of New Hampshire, the first openly gay Bishop in Christendom, as the Bishop travels to London where the Anglican bishops worldwide have gathered for the first time in ten years to discuss whether they will stay together, split, or purge gay leadership from their ranks. For more on the story, click on <http://hartleyfoundation.org/robinson-project>.

BRONX PRINCESS

Bronx Princess follows headstrong daughter Rocky's journey as she leaves behind her mother in New York to reunite with her royal father in Ghana, West Africa. Filmed over the tumultuous summer between high school and college, **Bronx Princess** tells Rocky's coming-of-age story. Filmmakers Yoni Brook and Musa Syeed, who directed **A Son's Sacrifice**, capture Rocky's confrontations with her immigrant parents and their ideas of adulthood and faith, as Rocky reconciles her African heritage and way of life with her dream of independence.



ROCKY WITH HER PARENTS

Go to <http://hartleyfoundation.org/bronx-princess>.



BRIAN NEWMAN

ALSO IN THE NEWS

This past March, Hartley Film Foundation held another in its series of Meet n'Greet luncheons for filmmakers who are supported by the Foundation. Our guest speaker was **Brian Newman**, CEO of Tribeca Film Institute (TFI), the nonprofit arm of the Tribeca Film Festival. Brian was formerly heard of Renew Media, which merged with Tribeca Film Institute. TFI recently announced the launch of "Reframe," which helps filmmakers, distributors, broadcasters and others digitize, market and sell their film and video content on the Internet. Brian had a lot to say about the shifting trends in distribution and what the future holds for documentary filmmakers in a world of rapidly developing technology. Hartley was very grateful that Brian shared his afternoon with us.

To purchase our outstanding video and film documentaries and audio meditations on world religions and spirituality, please visit our Web site at www.hartleyfoundation.org or call us at **(800) 937-1819**.

The Hartley Film Foundation board and staff wish you a peaceful summer.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT OUR EDITOR OR TO UNSUBSCRIBE TO THE HARTLEY FILM FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER, PLEASE E-MAIL: info@hartleyfoundation.org.



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