



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.

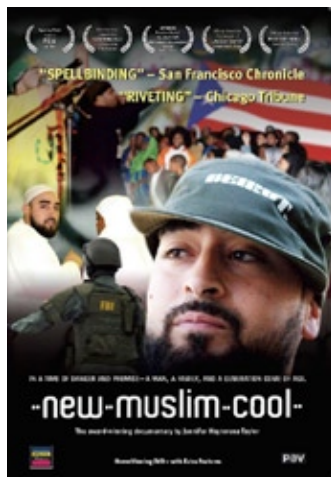


FILMS THAT CHANGE YOUR LIFE MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

You can purchase these newly released films and many other excellent documentaries at www.hartleyfoundation.org

FILMS SUPPORTED BY HARTLEY IMPACT A WIDE AUDIENCE AND GARNER AWARDS:

NEW MUSLIM COOL



Director of **New Muslim Cool** Jennifer Maytorena Taylor is on the road. The film won the **Freedom Award** at the Al Jazeera Film Festival in Doha, Qatar, this year and both the **Youth Jury Faith From Above Prize** and the **Intl' Jury Special Mention** at the Religion Today Film Festival in Italy. **New Muslim Cool** screened last month at the **International Documentary Festival Amsterdam** and was the opening night **P.O.V.** feature on PBS this summer. Ford Foundation provided the seed funding for the **Jail Screening and Youth Outreach Tour** of Jennifer's film. **New Muslim Cool** tells the story of Puerto Rican American rapper Hamza Perez, who quits drugs to become a devout young Muslim and relocates to Pittsburgh's tough North Side to start a new religious community, rebuild his shattered family, and take his message of faith to other young people through his uncompromising music as part of a hip-hop group. Hamza's sensitive and mature response to an FBI raid of his mosque says much about social transformation and empowerment. Details at <http://hartleyfoundation.org/new-muslim-cool>.



JENNIFER MAYTORENA TAYLOR

TAKING ROOT: THE VISION OF WANGARI MAATHAI



ALAN DATER AND LISA MERTON
WANGARI MAATHAI

When rural Kenyan women lacked firewood and clean drinking water, Wangari Maathai suggested they plant trees. This simple act led to the overthrow of a dictator and to the Nobel Peace Prize for Maathai. Filmmakers Alan Dater and Lisa Merton continue to pick up awards for their film **Taking Root**, this year the **Best Documentary and Audience Award** at the Mendocino Film Festival, the **Henry Hampton Award for Excellence in Film and Digital Media** from the Council on Foundations and **Best Documentary** at Zimbabwe's International Images Film Festival for Women. **Taking Root** was one of four finalists

for the **Independent Lens 2009 Audience Award**. Also, the **National Wildlife Federation's Forest Justice program** is partnering with **Taking Root**. Together, they have recruited close to 100 environmental groups, primarily on college campuses, to screen the film and raise awareness about climate change issues. The filmmakers and Forest Justice Program will enlist students to speak out on deforestation legislation in the current climate control bills before Congress. For more information, go to www.hartleyfoundation.org/ and www.takingrootfilm.com.

DEFAMATION



Defamation wins prizes in most of the festivals it enters, among them **Best Feature-length Documentary** at this year's **BFI London International Film Festival** and **Special Jury Prize** at the Tribeca Film Festival. **Defamation** was nominated for the **European Film Award for Best Documentary**. Director Yoav Shamir challenges viewers with courage and wry humor to re-examine their assumptions about anti-Semitism. **Defamation** opened in U.S. theaters this past month and will air next year on the Sundance Channel.

Click on <http://hartleyfoundation.org/en/defamation>.



YOAV SHAMIR

FOUR SEASONS LODGE



ANDREW JACOBS AND ALBERT MAYSLES

Four Seasons Lodge is now in theatrical release and is playing in New York theaters to excellent reviews. Check Hartley's Events page for screening locations at www.hartleyfoundation.org/en/events/calendar. **Four Seasons Lodge** is a counterintuitive and spiritually uplifting film about 100 Polish, Russian and Hungarian Jews who survived the Holocaust and, in 1979, bought 44 acres of land in the Catskills. The survivors created a refuge, a bungalow colony with communal buildings called Four Seasons Lodge,

where every summer they cooked, swam, raised children, prayed together and safely swapped stories about the war years. These survivors' inspirational dedication to living righteous and full lives was, as they saw it, the best revenge. As one member put it: "To live this long, to live this well, is a victory." The team behind **Four Seasons Lodge**,

working in concert with volunteers and educational partners, is creating a set of educational materials and lesson plans that can be used in conjunction with the film and targeted to middle school and high school students. Additionally, the team will create a set of website links intended for more advanced study by college and graduate students.

Go to <http://hartleyfoundation.org/four-seasons-lodge> for more information.

THREE FILMS IN DEVELOPMENT ADDED TO HARTLEY'S ROSTER

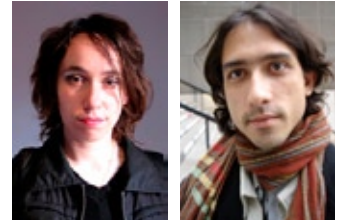
VOICES AND FACES OF THE ADHAN: CAIRO



MUEZZIN MOHAMED ABDEL MINIEH

A muezzin calls Islamic worshippers to prayer from the minaret of a mosque five times a day, in a 1,400-year-old tradition called the adhan. In Cairo, a city of 4,000 mosques, that tradition is about to disappear. The Egyptian government approved a proposal to systematize the call to prayer. Under this plan, set to go into effect in 2010, the adhan will be reduced to a single recording of one muezzin reciting the adhan, which will then be broadcast throughout the city using wireless receivers. Filmmakers Anna Kipervaser and Miguel Silveira plan to document and honor the tradition of the adhan before it ceases to exist.

For more, see <http://hartleyfoundation.org/en/voices-and-faces-of-adhan-cairo>.



ANNA KIPERVASER
AND MIGUEL SILVEIRA

HEAVY METAL ISLAM



JED ROTHSTEIN

"God does not forbid music," a character states in **Heavy Metal Islam**. But, of course, many governments do forbid heavy metal. This documentary takes a look at the surprising story of how a music invented for disaffected youths in the west has taken hold in the Middle East. Director Jed Rothstein and his crew will follow young musicians from across the Muslim world as they travel from the embattled slums of Peshawar to the homes of jailed dissidents in

Cairo to gatherings in Iran, where youth try to balance their need to be good Muslims with their need to rock. In Egypt, security police offer grudging acceptance as they listen for any anti-Islamic lyrics. In Pakistan, musicians skirt Taliban checkpoints to get to practice. In Iran, everything is underground. **Heavy Metal Islam** is not a concert film, but it will use music to help tell stories of young people in the Muslim world who do not fit stereotypes (suicide bombers/burka-clad women) and who share many of the same hopes and dreams as kids in the West. The filmmakers wish to shatter the common belief that angry young Muslims have only one outlet – violence – and show viewers that grace can appear "in the strangest of places."

Check <http://hartleyfoundation.org/en/heavy-metal-islam> for details.



ANAK SELATAE (SONS OF THE SOUTH)



ORLANDO DE GUZMAN

Anak Selatae (Sons of the South), formerly titled **Between the Verse and the King**, follows the journey into manhood of several young Malay-Muslims from a province in southern Thailand. Every year, the young men, who work as low-wage migrants in neighboring Malaysia, return home to their village. Director Orlando de Guzman's camera captures their travels back to their village for the annual military draft. The draft uses a nail-biting lottery and, for these Malay-Muslim recruits, creates a difficult

religious and cultural conflict. They are being asked to sacrifice their lives for a country that has failed to include them as Muslims and ethnic Malays in its vision of a monolithic Buddhist Thai culture.

A fuller description can be found at <http://hartleyfoundation.org/en/between-verse-and-king>.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

HARTLEY'S MEET 'N' GREET LUNCHEON SERIES WITH ALYCE MYATT



Alyce Myatt, Executive Director of **Grantmakers in Film and Electronic Media (GFEM)**, was the guest speaker in early November at a Hartley Meet n' Greet luncheon. Filmmakers Hartley supports have the opportunity during these Meet n' Greet get-togethers to hear from influential persons in the documentary world. Alyce spoke about "Making Your Media Matter" and about GFEM's **Media Database**, which helps grantmakers find media projects useful in highlighting complex issues important to funders. Filmmakers with works in development can enter their projects into the database if the projects have some funding in place. Many projects in the database are ready for immediate implementation via campaign deployment or distribution to grantors' key constituents. Visit www.media.gfem.org to check out the **Media Database**.

ROBINA NIAZ JOINS HARTLEY'S BOARD

Hartley Film Foundation is pleased to welcome new board member Robina Niaz. Robina brings much to the table. She is Founder and Executive Director of **Turning Point**, a community-based, non-profit organization that addresses the needs of Muslim women and children through crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, advocacy, outreach, education and training. **Turning Point** is well known for its work in the area of domestic violence. Robina was recently nominated as a CNN Hero, for advancing the cause of human rights.



HARTLEY COLLABORATES ON FILM SERIES FOR MAJOR INTERNATIONAL GATHERING



MACKY ALSTON



filmmaker, is moderating the Q&A sessions to be held after each film screening. Hartley's Managing Director Sarah Masters is in charge of the Hartley booth, where Hartley's full catalogue of documentaries is on sale to an international group of meeting attendees.

Hartley Film Foundation wears two hats this month at the Conference for a Parliament of the World's Religions (CPWR) gathering in Melbourne, Australia. CPWR hosts the conference every five years and this year a curated documentary film series is an integral part of the program. Hartley Film Foundation organized with Auburn Media the prestigious curatorial group that selected documentaries to be screened at the conference. Macky Alston, a member of Hartley's board, who is also an award-winning

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 and call us at **(800) 937 1819**.

The Hartley Film Foundation board and staff wish you a peaceful holiday season and New Year.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTACT OUR EDITOR OR TO UNSUBSCRIBE TO THE HARTLEY FILM FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER, PLEASE E-MAIL: **INFO@HARTLEYFOUNDATION.ORG**.

