HRFF 2016 Movies Summary

1. A Search for Justice (15’)

Summary:

The murder of four American churchwomen focused attention on the United States’ involvement in El Salvador. Nearly 35 years later, the case continues to take surprising turns.

In 1980, four American churchwomen, working as missionaries, were raped and then murdered in El Salvador. The killings created a storm of protest in the United States, revealing the brutality of the civil war in El Salvador and raising awareness about America's policies in Central America. Now, the families of the slain churchwomen are still hoping to find justice — this time in American immigration courts.

1. Release date: 2014
2. Produced by Kit Roane, Raymond Bonner

2. Where is My Grandchild (15’)

Summary:

Estela de Carlotto has spent nearly four decades searching for her grandson, one of the estimated 500 babies who disappeared after their mothers were taken by the military regime in Argentina in the 1970s.

As many as 30,000 people were tortured and killed during the seven year military regime -- from 1976-1983. They came to be known as the “disappeared.” Over time, it became clear that they were not coming back, but the question remained: what had happened to them and to the estimated 500 babies whose mothers were taken during pregnancy?
In 1977, the Mothers and Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Argentina began silent protests around the famed city square opposite the Presidential Palace. Parallel groups with a single, razor-sharp mission -- finding out what had happened to their children -- and in some cases, grandchildren. They began storing their DNA and tracking down the missing babies, many who had been given to military families to raise. So far, they have identified 117 grandchildren, but perhaps no story is more compelling than that of Grandchild Number 114.

1. Release date: 2015
2. Produced by Barbara Dury

3. The exile from Bassarabia (Prigoana din Bassarabia) (55 ‘)

Summary:
Jews and Roma survivors from Moldova, ex-soviet country, share about their life in 1941. They were exiled to camps and ghettos along the River Dniester in the summer of 1942. Today few people know about the horrors of the Nazis regime in this area. From wagons and cars they were put in freights. When they reached the camps, Roma people realized that only cold and misery awaited them. The film shares the memories of the holocaust survivors, of whom only half safely returned to their homes in 1944, after the Second World War

1. Documentary, 2012
2. Director: Ghilascu Natalia
3. Writer: Ghilascu Natalia
4. Produced by: Radita Nicolae

4. E-Team (Emergencies Team) (89 m’)

Summary:
When atrocities are committed in countries held hostage by ruthless dictators, Human Rights Watch sends in the E-Team (Emergencies Team), a collection of fiercely intelligent individuals hired to document war crimes and report them to the rest of the world. Within this volatile climate, filmmakers Ross Kauffman and Katy Chevigny take us to the frontline in Syria and Libya, where shrapnel, bullet holes, and unmarked graves provide mounting evidence of coordinated attacks conducted by Bashar al-Assad and the now-deceased Muammar Gaddafí. The crimes are rampant, random, and often undocumented, making E-Team's effort to get information out of the country and into the hands of media outlets and criminal courts all the more necessary.

1. Documentary, 2014
5. Voices of local youth (25')

Summary:

During the summer of 2015, Dysart Community Center's Teen Arts and Action Program (TAAP) held a 5-week workshop providing local teens the opportunity to explore issues of violence and the shortage of community resources. This short film documents their experience. As a result of this film local City Government agreed to explore the possibility of working with local organizations to provide more positive development opportunities for local youth.

www.dysartcommunitycenter.org

6. Unmanned: America's drone wars (63')

Summary:

Unmanned: America's Drone Wars, the eighth full-length feature documentary from Brave New Films, director Robert Greenwald investigates the impact of U.S. drone strikes at home and abroad through more than 70 separate interviews, including a former American drone operator who shares what he has witnessed in his own words, Pakistani families mourning loved ones and seeking legal redress, investigative journalists pursuing the truth, and top military officials warning against blowback from the loss of innocent life.

Throughout Unmanned, the film highlights the stories of 16 year old Tariq Aziz, killed by a drone a mere week after he participated in a public conference in Islamabad in 2011, and a school teacher, Rafiq ur Rehman, grappling with the loss of his elderly mother and the hospitalization of his children due to a drone strike last year, showing how delicate life can be in this virtual war where no one is accepting responsibility for the casualties

Initial Release by Robert Greenwald and Brave New Films: 2013
7. Cartel Land (100’)

Summary:
With unprecedented access, CARTEL LAND is a riveting, on-the-ground look at the journeys of two modern-day vigilante groups and their shared enemy - the murderous Mexican drug cartels. In the Mexican state of Michoacán, Dr. Jose Mireles, a small-town physician known as "El Doctor," leads the Autodefensas, a citizen uprising against the violent Knights Templar drug cartel that has wreaked havoc on the region for years. Meanwhile, in Arizona's Altar Valley - a narrow, 52-mile-long desert corridor known as Cocaine Alley - Tim "Nailer" Foley, an American veteran, heads a small paramilitary group called Arizona Border Recon, whose goal is to stop Mexico's drug wars from seeping across our border. Filmmaker Matthew Heineman embeds himself in the heart of darkness as Nailer, El Doctor, and the cartel each vie to bring their own brand of justice to a society where institutions have failed. CARTEL LAND is a chilling, visceral meditation on the breakdown of order and the blurry line between good and evil.

Release date: July 3, 2015 (USA)
Director: Matthew Heineman
Awards: Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directing – Documentaries
Music composed by: H. Scott Salinas, Jackson Greenberg
Nominations: Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature 2016, Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival IDFA Audience Award 2015; Austin Film Critics Association for Best Documentary 2015; Ashland Independent Film Festival Best Documentary 2015