

In the MEDITERRANEAN CHALLENGES category:

Biùtiful Cauntri
D'un Mur l'Autre
J'ai un Frère
Jerusalem is Proud to Present
Paying for Justice



Biùtiful Cauntri – Esmeralda CALABRIA, Andrea D'AMBROSIO et Peppe RUGGIERO
83 minutes, 2008
Production: Lumiere & Co. (Italy)

In the Campania region near Naples a huge area is used as a dump for industrial waste. 1,200 unauthorised toxic waste dumps have been recorded. Regularly lorries empty horrific loads into the countryside, doing lasting damage to the soil, endangering the health of the people who live

there. Sheep farmers watch their animals die from dioxin poisoning, farmers despair as their land is polluted....the people living there feel abandoned by everyone.

Against this background, an illegal industry runs by the Camorra – a mafia whose weapons include garbage trucks and mechanical diggers.

While a population is being cynically sacrificed, one militant fight to make the voice of the region heard.

Esmeralda CALABRIA was born in Rome in 1964. She worked as editor on many films, including "Lascia perdere Johnny!" (2007), Nanni Moretti's "Il Caïmano" which won the Golden Ciak for the best editing (2006), Michele Placido's "Romanzo criminale" (2005), Massimo Martelli's "Segreto de successo" (2003), Nanni Moretti's "La Stanza del figlio" (2000) and on documentaries like "Che cosa manca" (2006), "Residence Bastoggi" directed by Claudio Canepari (2003).

Andrea D'AMBROSIO teaches history and the language of cinema. With other film-makers she made the collective film "Combattenti Fish" (the street lords of Naples).

Peppe RUGGIERO is a professional journalist. He is head of communications and press for the environmental network Legambiente. Most notably he handled the Chernobyl file (2000) and the White Book "Radiografia illicite de traffici – ten years of dumping waste".



D'un Mur l'Autre – Patric JEAN

90 minutes, 2008

Production : Black Moon Production (Belgium)

This road movie takes us across Europe, from the former Berlin Wall to the new border fence around Ceuta in Morocco. At least four frontiers but one single axis: a racially mixed, multicultural society, rich in its diversity despite being traditionally rejected. Patric Jean takes us from the north to the south with humour and compassion

to show us men and women who have migrated from the four corners of the earth and make up this new society – contributing to it with energy and generosity. After his very dark film “La raison du plus fort”, and contrary to all stereotypes, the director presents an optimistic, celebratory, sometimes sardonic look at Europe and its immigration.

Patric JEAN is a Belgian film-maker born in 1968 in Borinage. His family is working class, his mother an opera singer; he did oral studies at the Brussels Conservatoire Royal graduating in letters. Having become a French teacher he enrolled in the “cinema directors” class at INSAS, where he spent four years. During his studies he founded NEMO, a newspaper sold on the street by the homeless. He concentrates mainly on documentary film. He founded and is the main shareholder of Black Moon Productions, a production company based in Belgium.



J'ai un Frère – Emmanuel VIGUIER

80 minutes, 2008

Production : Promenades Films (France)

Images of war – they hit the headlines when a war begins, then the shooting stops, the film crews pack up and the war is forgotten. Historians interview witnesses and archives. Perhaps in books the truth emerges. Years later, film-makers re-create the battle-fields. And as we begin to understand, so our indifference is criticised.

But what do we know really about those who made the war, about what they then become? The burden they carry with them for better or worse. This film follows the lives of two men, two brothers, Drazan and Dejan whose future was turned upside down by the war in Bosnia. Two men who made different choices, but who now are trying to find each other to put a few pieces of their country's history back together again – a country which no longer exists.

Emmanuel VIGUIER, 28, works for France 3 at Marseille. Director, journalist, cameraman, photographer: specialist in the Mediterranean and more particularly in the Balkans. For over 5 years he has worked on the post-war situation in former Yugoslavia for the programme “Mediterraneo” (France3/RAI3).



Jerusalem is Proud to Present – Nitzan GILADY
82 minutes, 2007
Production: YONA Productions (Israel)

During the summer of 2006, Jerusalem welcomed for the first time "World Pride", which was to culminate in the traditional parade of gay and lesbian celebration. The planned demonstrations raised enormous problems as the town's Jewish, Islamic and Christian leaders began an uncompromising battle against an event which would "defile the holy city". On the other side, activists at the city community centre, Jerusalem Open House (LGBT), resisted. Unmoved by the violence and anti-gay feeling, they had to face threats not only to their right to demonstrate but also to their own convictions.

Nitzan GILADY is a graduate of the Thelma Yelin Art School (Israel) and the New York "Circle in the Square" Theatre School. He is a self-taught director/producer. He has taken part in more than one hundred and twenty international film festivals and his films have already received twelve prestigious international awards.



Paying for Justice – Guy MEROZ and Orly VILNAI-FEDERBUSH
58 minutes, 2007
Productions: Shamayim Productions (Israel)

Shot in Germany, Holland, the U.S. and Israel, this documentary looks at the situation of Holocaust survivors, principally in Israel. After the Nazi horror, the suffering continues for the 270,000 who live in Israel. 25% of them suffer financial hardship and insecurity. In order to end their lives in dignity, some migrate back to Germany where at least they receive real financial support. Yet in 1953 European and German governments donated millions of dollars for their use. What has happened to that money? Who has profited from it, robbing the victims yet again. "Paying for Justice" is not a film about the Holocaust, it's a cry for justice to be given to the camp survivors.

Guy MEROZ was born in Israel at Tel-kibboutz Ishtak in 1961. He works as a journalist, script-writer and editor for several Israeli television companies.

Orly VILNAI-FEDERBUSH was born in Tel Aviv in 1974. A graduate in television studies and communication, she is known in Israel for her hard-hitting investigations and critical attitude towards her society.

