

OXDOX:MK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SCREENS IN MILTON KEYNES, OXFORD, AND LONDON

Oscar winning productions, UK premieres and first ever simultaneous round-world screening put OXDOX:MK at the forefront of Film Festivals Worldwide

OXDOX:MK, the UK's largest international documentary film festival, will be screening over 120 films from around the world on 10th – 25th March 2007. The festival will be held in a number of venues in Milton Keynes and Oxford, moving on to the Barbican in London in April, before embarking on an international tour to Paris, New York, Sydney and China. Among the films are UK premieres, Oscar winning productions, as well as the first ever simultaneous round world screening of the environmental film, *The Planet*. Themes range from the environment, human rights, China, the mafia, women in Islamic countries, art, music politics and city life. Up to 70 prominent film directors will also be attending to provide question and answer sessions with local audiences.

The environment strand of the festival puts OXDOX:MK at the forefront of the climate change debate: the festival launches on 10th March in Milton Keynes, and 11th March in Oxford with the premiere of 'The Gulf Stream', an environmental film revealing that the temperature in the North Sea has already risen by 0.8 per cent, the largest percentage rise since records began. The film's director, leading scientists and the EU Deputy Head of Cabinet for the Environment will attend a post-screening discussion. The simultaneous round-world digital screening of *The Planet* on 21st March, live from the Open University, will turn Milton Keynes into a global hub, linking cinemas in major cities across the globe to create a platform for live international discussion on environmental issues. This global premiere is set to attract worldwide attention from motion picture professionals and the media.

Two forums on 'OurSpace': Cities and 'OurSpace':Wilderness will take place at The Open University and Oxford. Who plans our cities and how and using what criteria?

Panelists for 'Cities' include the Chief Planner for Tian Jin (pop. 12 million), the original town planners for Milton Keynes, and the planners creating the new eco-city in China, Dongtan.

As the world's wilderness is fast disappearing, the second forum will explore these areas through the eyes of three policemen from Tibet, who police the Tibetan Plateau 16,000 feet; the director of the film 'Invisible' on the Arctic and the Chinese director of 'Chiru' about the Tibetan Antelope.

Among a host of cutting-edge documentary films being screened at OXDOX:MK, some have even been shortlisted for and won Academy Awards. Oscar Winning *The Blood of Yingzhou District* documents a young AIDS orphan's ferocious resolve to live while his extended family weighs up whether to keep him or not. Oscar nominated *Can Mr Smith get to Washington?* tells a David and Goliath story about a young part-time political science lecturer at Washington University who decides to enter the Democratic congressional primary race for the U.S. Congress.

A major highlight of the festival will be a particularly topical strand of premiere films focusing specifically on women and Islam. *Behind Walls*, made by young female Turkish directors, focuses on the women in Islamic countries including Pakistan, Malaysia, Oman, Indonesia, Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Palestine, Turkey and Yemen, showing the diversity of experience of women under Islam. The female producers and directors of these films will be attending the festival for post-screening discussions and interviews.



For a full program and for more information on individual productions, please visit www.oxdoxmk.com

The main sponsors of OXDOX:MK are Invest Milton Keynes and Bartercard with support from Screen South, The Film Council and South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

Opportunities for interviews and reviews

Many of the directors of the films will attend the festival between 10th and 25th March and will be available for interview. For review copies of the films or to arrange interviews, please email hannah@oxdox.com