

FILMS FROM THE UNDERSIDE

30/11 – 8/12
2015



PROGRAMME

A FESTIVAL OF POLITICAL DOCUMENTARY



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WELCOME

Films from the Underside showcases political documentaries coming from, and about, almost every corner of the world. Organised by Goldsmiths' Centre for Postcolonial Studies, the festival reflects the principles guiding the Centre's intellectual activities, including its new MA in *Politics, Development and the Global South*: that politics must be conceived in its broadest sense, as an arena of social contestation, and not merely as electoral politics and the doings of the state; that to grasp contemporary politics, we need to start by 'provincializing Europe' and looking beyond its borders; and that the study of politics and society is inconceivable without a serious engagement with culture. All of these concerns are well represented in the selection of films for this festival, the first of what will become an annual event.

This year's films venture into Africa, Asia, the Americas and Southern Europe. With the resurgence of the Left in parts of the globe, we look back at the insurrections that shocked the world in the recent past- in Cairo, Madrid, Istanbul, New York, Hong Kong. Three films show the possibilities, but also the serious dangers, of rebellion in the Global South. *Madina's Dream* captures suffering of the inhabitants of the Nuba Mountains, harassed by the government of Sudan; *Miners Shot Down* tells the story of the strikes of the Marikana miners in South Africa; Xavier Robles' documentary on the 'disappeared' students of *Ayotzinapa* reconstructs the climate of impunity, corruption and crime that prevails in contemporary Mexico.

We pay close attention to the human drama of the Mexico/US Border by screening a marathon of four films, that together create an impressive fresco of a convulsed part of the world. South East Asia figures in two documentaries that deal with two "gifts" bequeathed by the Global North to Cambodia and Vietnam, namely sweatshops and Agent Orange.

In this first edition of *Films from the Underside*, we also pay tribute to two important artists and filmmakers based in the UK: Isaac Julien and Agnieszka Piotrowska. We celebrate 26 years of *Looking for Langston*, Julien's early masterpiece that helped to craft a new language for the film essay. Piotrowska is our guest director for this year's festival, and she will be discussing her most recent film, *Lovers in Time* or *How We Didn't Get Arrested in Harare*, shown for the first time in London at this Festival.

Centre for Postcolonial Studies

TIMETABLE

	12.00-14.00	14.00 – 16.00
MON 30 NOV		
TUE 01 DEC		
WED 02 DEC		
THUR 03 DEC		
FRI 04 DEC		
SAT 05 DEC	Faces of Time & Hotel de Paso LG02 PROF STUART HALL BLD ----- Revolution and Religion RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 309	The Joe Show LG02 PROF STUART HALL BLD
MON 07 DEC		
TUE 08 DEC		

16.00-17.00	17.00-19.00	19.00-21.00
	Ayotzinapa LG01 PROF STUART HALL BLD ----- Engagement Party in Harare RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 137	Miners Shot Down LG01 PROF STUART HALL BLD ----- Madina's Dream RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 137
	99% The Occupy Wall Street BEN PIMLOTT THEATRE	La Plaza: la Gestación del 15M BEN PIMLOTT THEATRE
	Lessons in Dissent RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 309	Başlangıç RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 309
	Cairo Drive RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 309	Lovers in Time or how we didn't get arrested in Harare! RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 309
	Looking for Langston Julien Retrospective (event with Gavin Butt) LG01 PROF STUART HALL BLD	Rhizophora, Filmmaking for Democracy in Myanmar & A River Changes Course LG01 PROF STUART HALL BLD
Who is Dayani Crystal? LG02 PROF STUART HALL BLD		
	Miners Shot Down LG01 PROF STUART HALL BLD ----- Engagement Party in Harare RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 144	Ayotzinapa LG01 PROF STUART HALL BLD ----- Medina's Dream RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 144
	99% The Occupy Wall Street RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 144	Cairo Drive RICHARD HOGGART BUILDING 144

AYOTZINAPA: RECOUNT OF A STATE CRIME

XAVIER ROBLES, 2015, 101 MIN

17:00 MONDAY
30 NOVEMBER
LG01
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

19:00 MONDAY
6 DECEMBER
LG01
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

On the night of September 26, 2014, in the city of Iguala Mexico, over a hundred young students of the Rural Teachers Training School of Ayotzinapa, left their boarding school to make a public collection in order to travel to Mexico City for a national demonstration. On this night, they were attacked by police forces, resulting in the deaths of three students, more than 20 wounded and 43 kidnapped and still unaccounted for. All of this occurred with the passive complicity of the Mexican army. The voices of those interviewed in this film, including two surviving students of the events in Iguala, reconstruct the climate of impunity, corruption and crime that prevails in Mexico.

UK Premiere Screening



MINERS SHOT DOWN

REHAD DESAI, 2014, 86 MIN



In August 2012, mineworkers in one of South Africa's biggest platinum mines began a wildcat strike for better wages. Six days later the police used live ammunition to brutally suppress the strike, killing 34 and injuring many more. *Miners Shot Down* shows the courageous fight waged by a group of low-paid workers against the combined forces of mining company Lonmin, the ANC government and their allies in the National Union of Mineworkers. What emerges is collusion at the top, spiralling violence and the country's first post-apartheid massacre. *Miners Shot Down* has been nominated for an International Emmy Award.

Before and after the screenings the audience is invited to contribute to the Marikana Miners' Justice Campaign fund or online at: <http://www.minersshotdown.co.za/takeaction-2/>

19:00 MONDAY
30 NOVEMBER
LG01
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

17:00 MONDAY
6 DECEMBER
LG01
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY IN HARARE

AGNIESZKA PIOTROWSKA, 2013, 35 MIN

17:00 MONDAY
30 NOVEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 137

The Engagement Party in Harare looks at post-colonial identities and racial relationships in Zimbabwe through the lens of the Harare International Festival of the Arts, an annual event in Zimbabwe which is considered the most important Arts Festival in sub Saharan Africa.

Agnieszka Piotrowska is an acclaimed filmmaker and a Reader in Film Practice and Theory at the University of Bedfordshire. Her work lies at the intersection of critical theory, postcolonial theory and psychoanalysis. As a filmmaker she is best known for her controversial and award winning documentary *Married to the Eiffel Tower* (2008) which has been screened in 50 countries. She has been nominated for 3 EMMY's and was awarded the Best Film at the Fred Wiseman's Master Class at the Dublin Film Festival for her film *The Bigamists* (2005). Her previous film on Zimbabwe was nominated for the Best Documentary at the International Images Film Festival in 2013 (as the only non-African film). She is also a theatre practitioner and a writer.

Agnieszka Piotrowska is this year's guest director at Goldsmiths' Centre Postcolonial Studies *Films from the Underside: A Festival of Political Documentary*.



MADINA'S DREAM

ANDREW BERENDS, 2015, 80 MIN

An unflinching and poetic glimpse into a forgotten war, *Madina's Dream* tells the story of rebels and refugees fighting to survive in Sudan's Nuba Mountains.

After decades of civil war, South Sudan achieved its independence from Sudan in 2011. But inside Sudan, the conflict continues. Sudan's government employs aerial bombings and starvation warfare against the inhabitants of the Nuba Mountains. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled to refugee camps in South Sudan or remain trapped in the war zone. Eleven-year-old Madina and countless others dream of a brighter future for the Nuban people.

Before and after the screenings the audience is invited to contribute to the Nuba Education Fund or online at: <http://www.madinasdream.com/nuba-education-fund/>



19:00 MONDAY
30 NOVEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 137

99% THE OCCUPY WALL STREET COLLABORATIVE FILM

AUDREY EWELL, AARON AITES, LUCIAN READ,
NINA KRSTIC, 2013, 97 MIN

17:00 TUESDAY
01 DECEMBER
BEN PIMLOTT
LECTURE THEATRE

17:00 TUESDAY
08 DECEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 144



Co-directed by: Katie Teague, Peter Leeman, Aric Gutnick, Abby Martin, Stephen Dotson, Doree Simon

In September 2011, The Occupy Wall Street movement propelled issues of economic inequality into the spotlight. *99% - The Occupy Wall Street Collaborative Film* goes behind the scenes of the movement, definitively revealing what happened, and why. Supporters, participants, experts and critics shed light on why and how this movement took off with such explosive force, and ask what the next phase might encompass.

LA PLAZA: LA GESTACIÓN DEL 15M

ADRIANO MORÁN, 2012, 81 MIN

Over 25 days, between May and June 2011 a group of people rebelled against the Spanish socio-political situation and decided to settle in the Puerta del Sol, Madrid's main square. The 15M movement was born. *La Plaza* is the first documentary which makes a comprehensive analysis of the origins and implications of this movement. This film is of crucial importance in understanding the political and cultural roots of both *Podemos* and *Ciudadanos*, young parties that are disputing the electoral hegemony to mainstream political organizations that have been running Spain since the end of Francisco Franco's dictatorship.



19:00 TUESDAY
01 DECEMBER
BEN PIMLOTT
LECTURE THEATRE

LESSONS IN DISSENT

MATTHEW TORNE, 2014, 97 MIN

17:00 TUESDAY
01 DECEMBER
BEN PIMLOTT
LECTURE THEATRE

17:00 TUESDAY
08 DECEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 144

A vivid portrait of a generation of Hong Kongers committed to creating a new Hong Kong. Schoolboy Joshua Wong dedicates himself to stopping the introduction of National Education, whilst former classmate Ma Ji fights against political oppression on the streets and in the courts. Catapulting the viewer on to the streets of Hong Kong and into the heart of the action. The viewer is confronted with the oppressive heat, the stifling humidity and air thick with dissent.

Filmed over 18 months, this is a kaleidoscopic, visceral experience of their epic struggle.



BASLANGIÇ

SERKAN KOÇ, 2012, 184 MIN



"We wanted to make sure that people leave this film with a sense of hope. Because as Turks we started something, but we left it unfinished."

This film chronicles the Taksim Gezi Park protest that shocked Turkey and the world for several weeks. Director Serkan Koç assembled material from eight different videographers to construct a fresco of a movement that not only questioned Tayyip Recep Erdoğan's rule but announced, as well, new forms of protest for the left in the years to come.

19:00 WEDNESDAY
02 DECEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 309

CAIRO DRIVE

SHERIEF ELKATSHA, 2013, 79 MIN



**17:00 THURSDAY
03 DECEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 309**

**19:00 TUESDAY
08 DECEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 144**

A documentary that explores the life of one of the world's most populated cities from its streets. Shot in 2009-2012 (before and during the Egyptian revolution, and ending with the most recent presidential elections), the film explores the country's collective identity, inherent struggles, and the sentiments that lead through the historic changes taking place in Egypt today. For his third documentary, Egyptian/American filmmaker Sherief Elkatsha rides through the congested streets alongside a diverse cast of characters—from taxi drivers to ambulances, from traffic cops to private citizens—capturing the unspoken codes of conduct, frustrations, humour, fatalism, and life-or-death decisions of driving in a city where the only rule is: there are no rules. This documentary film won Best Film Arab World prize at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival and the Grand Jury Prize at the DOC NYC in New York.

LOVERS IN TIME OR HOW WE DIDN'T GET ARRESTED IN HARARE!

AGNIESZKA PIOTROWSKA, 2015, 63 MIN

The film *Lovers in Time or how we didn't get arrested in Harare* is an experimental drama documentary based on the events of the production and performances of a controversial play (*Lovers in Time*) written by Blessing Hungwe, which was deemed the most controversial play in Harare in 2014. The film is an experimental film essay and a collaboration between Agnieszka Piotrowska, acclaimed UK director/producer/writer and a Reader at University of Bedfordshire, and Joe Njagu, a Zimbabwean filmmaker who has shot, edited and co-produced the film.

This film had its world premiere at Zimbabwe International Film Festival in October 2015.



**19:00 THURSDAY
03 DECEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 309**

**FOLLOWED BY Q&A
WITH THE DIRECTOR
AND WITH PROFESSOR
OF HISTORY
DIANA JEATER,
OF GOLDSMITHS**

ISAAC JULIEN RETROSPECTIVE

LOOKING FOR LANGSTON, 45 MIN
CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF A SEMINAL FILM BY ISAAC JULIEN

17:00 FRIDAY
04 DECEMBER
LG01
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
SPEAKER GAVIN BUTT
(PROFESSOR OF
VISUAL CULTURES,
GOLDSMITHS)

Artistically envisioned and lovingly done, *Looking for Langston* is an exploration of the life and consequences of late African-American poet Langston Hughes. It is impossible to tell Hughes' story without delving into the social atmosphere in which he thrived. The Harlem Renaissance was in full swing when Hughes found his voice. He represented the unabashed energy of the Cotton Club and the emerging tone of beat poetry. Filmmaker Isaac Julien fuses together a multitude of images to create a patchwork of impressions about the changing gay culture.

Archival footage and a jazz soundtrack breathe life into this documentary journey. Looking for Langston has become a favorite within the gay community for its willingness to examine the viewpoint including sexuality and the black experience

~ Caryn James (New York Times)

Screened along with:

This is not an AIDS Advertisement, 1987, 15min



RHIZOPHORA

DAVIDE DE LILLIS AND
JULIA METZGER-TRABER 2015, 16 MIN



It has been 40 years since the Vietnam War. Yet, its toxic remnants are not fading. In a place called The Friendship Village outside Hanoi, live one hundred young people with disabilities they inherited from their parents' and grandparents' exposure to Agent Orange in the 1960's.

This video-poem dances between waking and dreaming; following a day seen through the eyes of eleven young residents of the Friendship Village, we are welcomed ever deeper into their richly symbiotic world.

19:00 FRIDAY
04 DECEMBER
LG01
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

FILMMAKING FOR DEMOCRACY IN MYANMAR

PETER DECHERNEY, 2015, 7 MIN



Filmmaking for Democracy in Myanmar is a 7-minute long documentary about the recent history of film and politics in Myanmar (formerly Burma). It features beautiful images of the country and its film industry, from film sets to DVD duplication houses to popcorn sold on the streets outside movie theaters. It explores the liberalization of censorship in Myanmar following a 2011 reorganization of the government. Filmmakers may now make human rights documentaries, political films, and subversive comedies. Leading filmmakers and others speculate about the impact of Myanmar's recent election, wondering if this has been a brief opening or if things have come too far to turn back? Directed by University of Pennsylvania Professor Peter Decherney, it was shot in Myanmar in March 2015.

19:00 FRIDAY
04 DECEMBER
LG01
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

A RIVER CHANGES COURSE

KALYANEE MAM, 2013, 83 MIN

Cambodian-American director Kalyanee Mam (cinematographer for the Academy Award-winning documentary *Inside Job*), spent two years in her native homeland capturing the stories of three young Cambodians struggling to maintain their traditional way of life while the modern world closes around them. Her intimate bond with the characters shines through her emotionally raw storytelling as they reveal to her their hopes and dreams. This stunningly photographed documentary is a tribute to their struggle and the struggles of all families coping with challenges of a rapidly changing world. This film won among many other prizes the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2013.



19:00 FRIDAY
04 DECEMBER
LG01
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

FACES OF TIME

CHARLES D. THOMPSON JR, 2014, 15 MIN

12:00 SATURDAY
05 DECEMBER
LG02
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

From 1942 until 1964 the United States recruited and gave temporary visas to some 5 million Mexican workers. These men, known as Braceros, harvested American crops during World War II and beyond. Today several hundred ex-Braceros and their families gather every Sunday in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico to demand payment of retirement benefit promised them half a century ago. Charles Thompson visited the ex-Braceros demonstrating in Benito Juarez Park. When Thompson asked if he might photograph their demonstrations, the men and women surprised him by lining up for individual portraits instead. In 2013, Thompson returned with the portraits and worked with Luis Alfonso Herrera, a local academic and activist, and local artists to mount an exhibit entitled "Faces in Time".

UK Premiere Screening



HOTEL DE PASO

PAULINA SÁNCHEZ, 2015, 98 MIN



12:00 SATURDAY
05 DECEMBER
LG02
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

An old transient hotel located in the red light district of Mexicali, on the border between Mexico and the USA, receives hundreds of immigrants in pursuit of the American Dream every day. The majority of the guests are deportees who turn this hotel into a temporary home while they solve their migratory situation. As time passes, the inhabitants will face the devastating reality behind the mirage of their hopes and dreams.

UK Premiere Screening

THE JOE SHOW

RANDY MURRAY, 2014, 105 MIN



14:00 SATURDAY
05 DECEMBER
LG02
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

The Joe Show is a shocking and wildly entertaining documentary on America's most controversial Sheriff, Joe Arpaio, and his ring-master's approach to modern media, politics and law enforcement.

A feature-length documentary that explores how Joe has used fear, crime and his role as Sheriff to make himself the most famous law enforcement officer in the world. Racism, sex crimes, illegal immigration, first amendment rights and multiple deaths at the hands of his employees are all issues Joe faces and spins. He's famous, he's outrageous, he may be dangerous... and it's all just part of The Joe Show, a tragic comedy of historic significance.

WHO IS DAYANI CRISTAL?

MARC SILVER, 2013, 98MIN

Deep in the sun-blistered Sonora desert beneath a cicada tree, Arizona border police discover a decomposing male body. Lifting a tattered t-shirt, they exposed a tattoo that reads "Dayani Cristal". "Who is Dayani Cristal?" tells the story of a migrant who found himself in the deadly stretch of desert known as the "corridor of death" and shows how one life becomes testimony to the tragic results of the U.S. war on immigration. As the real-life drama unfolds we see this John Doe, denied an identity at this point of death, become a living and breathing human being with an important life story.



16:00 SATURDAY
05 DECEMBER
LG02
PROFESSOR STUART
HALL BUILDING

REVOLUTION AND RELIGION THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD CUT

BOB AVAKIAN INSTITUTE, 2015, 150 MIN

12:00 SATURDAY
05 DECEMBER
RICHARD HOGGART
BUILDING 309

This film records the dialogue between renowned public intellectual Cornel West and Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party of the USA.

This Dialogue took place before an audience of 1,900 people in Riverside Church, Harlem on November 15, 2014.



CAMPUS MAP



OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER STUDY



MA IN POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH*

1 YEAR MA
(2 YEARS PART-TIME)
FROM 2016/17

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND FOR ENQUIRIES

See: <http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-politics-development-global-south/>

Email: postcolonial@gold.ac.uk

'Development' has been a long desired goal for societies and peoples, and the pursuit of it has been decisive in shaping the modern world. Many degrees in development treat it as an uncontested term- something the Global North already has, but which the Global South lacks, and which those trained in the 'subject' can help it acquire. By contrast, this degree begins by treating development as the site of contestation. Major changes in recent decades, including the emergence of new geopolitical powers on the international stage, growing challenges to neoliberal dogmas, heightened concern with increasing global inequality, and recognition of the danger of ecological devastation, have meant that 'development' – what it means and how it is to be achieved – has become a site of struggle, one where new forms of politics have emerged.

This Masters surveys these changes and this contestation, and asks, how can (and should) we talk about the challenges and possibilities for development in the 21st century? The MA will trace the murky contours that separate politics from lawlessness, political ideas and ideals from empty rhetorical gestures, international cooperation from imperialism, and political activism from violence; in it you will explore new forms of politics, especially those emerging in the non-Western world, and also have the opportunity to undertake an internship.

*New programme: Subject to validation. Please note: 'subject to validation' means that we will be offering this degree providing it is approved by the Goldsmiths Academic Board.

THANKS!

Films from the Underside
Presented by the Centre for Postcolonial Studies
Goldsmiths, University of London

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For up-to-date information:

centrepostcolonialstudies.org

Book through Eventbrite at:

[centrepostcolonialstudies.org/
film-festival-2015/](http://centrepostcolonialstudies.org/film-festival-2015/)

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