

Movies that Matter

The Good Works Film Festival, a first-time event in Oregon, is at once a reach into the past and an appeal to the present, with a stake in the future.

During times of social stress, comedies and disasters proliferate, and true to form, we're seeing movies getting brighter and sometimes even gaining a dimension, but they simply thrill us, and at worst they are forgettable and aggressively irrelevant. Yet popular art also can lead to greater social awareness and even change — think *Grapes of Wrath* — or *An Inconvenient Truth*.

By curating a diverse array of films with compelling stories, Good Works Film Festival celebrates cinematic artistry with a social consciousness. These true stories can be stranger than fiction. A filmmaker's passion for justice and the people of Guatemala leads her on an epic journey through cans of outtakes; a regular guy discovers what happens to plastic bags; two irrepressible, yodeling, lesbian twins charm a nation and the world; an American Jewish couple explores contemporary American Jewish identity and values; and various Nobel Prize winners are trying to save us from ourselves ...

The GWFF selections have all been lauded at international festivals as well as during theatrical engagements. *Granito* is having a great theatrical run in NYC at the IFC Center. *The Topps Twins* wins Audience Awards at festivals worldwide, including

Portland, and the film's comic, political New Zealand subjects are living national treasures. Germany's *The 4th Revolution: Energy Autonomy* is relatively new to the United States. *Even the Rain* was Spain's Oscar submission, and features Mexican star Gael Garcia Bernal.

Kicking off Oct. 6 in Portland, and running Oct. 7-10 in Eugene, the festival aims to encourage civic dialogue through post-screening discussions, and support community action by inviting local organizations to participate. Good Works is a model of art, hope and engagement that's becoming a new trend in film festivals nationally.

"The best festivals create a context for the audience to have a transformative experience," co-director Linda Blackaby, veteran festival organizer and UO grad told *Eugene Weekly*. "Our context assumes open-minded, engaged audiences and continues after the lights come up as audience members enjoy the good company of filmmakers, and organizational reps with resources and continue talking and socializing."

Co-director Cynthia Wooten, founder of the Oregon Country Fair, Eugene Celebration and former state representative, says, "In addition to being inspiring and important, the festival itself and some of its films are just downright fun."

For more information, visit www.goodworksfilmfestival.org

CENTERPIECE FILM & DISCUSSION

Not in Our Town: Light in the Darkness is the third film in the *Not In Our Town* series, a project from The Working Group, whose mission is to highlight stories of communities taking positive action to fight intolerance. It will be followed by a roundtable community discussion.



The film:

NOT IN OUR TOWN: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

USA, 2011, 60 min. A film by Patrice O'Neill and The Working Group

Not in Our Town: Light in the Darkness documents the story of a town coming together to take action after anti-immigrant violence devastates the community. In 2008, a series of attacks against Latino residents of Patchogue, NY culminate with the murder of Marcelo Lucero, an Ecuadorian immigrant who had lived in the Long Island village for 13 years. Over a two-year period, the film follows Mayor Paul Pontieri, the victim's brother, Joselo Lucero, and Patchogue residents as they openly address the underlying causes of the violence, work to heal divisions, and begin taking steps to ensure everyone in their village will be safe and respected.

The discussion:

LIGHT IN EUGENE?

A lively roundtable responding to the film and considering how welcoming Eugene/Springfield are to newcomers.

Moderator Dan Tichenor is the Philip H. Knight Professor of Political Science at the University of Oregon and a Senior Fellow at Wayne Morse Center for Law & Politics.

Rhian Miller is Senior Producer and Co-Founder of The Working Group.

City of Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy has served two terms as Eugene's chief political officer.

Ranfis Villatoro is currently an organizer with CAUSA, Oregon's Immigration Rights Coalition.

Juan Carlos Valle is the Board President at Centro LatinoAmericano.

Please join us after the program for an informal reception in the Jacobs Gallery and the Plaza/Studiocade. This program is free and open to the public. Donations accepted.

The Centerpiece Co-presenters >

The Migration Project, Wayne Morse Center for Law & Politics, University of Oregon

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
3:00 P.M. @ HULT CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS**

PORTLAND

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Northwest Film Center

EUGENE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 - MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

Bijou Art Cinemas

Hult Center for the Performing Arts

Eugene Public Library

SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS

There will be two special viewings of *Not in Our School* programs for middle and high school students on Monday, October 10th, at the Eugene Public Library. Learn more: NotInOurSchool.org Program sponsor: IRIS Educational

These viewings are intended for groups of students and need reservations.

The first viewing is at 10:00 a.m.; the second viewing is at 1:00 p.m.

To make reservations, contact Cynthia M. Olsen, Youth Services Manager at 541-682-8315 or cynthia.m.olsen@ci.eugene.or.us Limited seating available.