



Human Rights Arts and Film Festival

Schools Film Screenings

Who are we?

Human Rights Arts and Film Festival Inc is a volunteer run, non-profit organisation created for the purpose of establishing a human rights film festival in Australia.

The pairing of human rights and film has been recognised globally as an effective and innovative way to raise public awareness for human rights. Human rights film festivals have been held in London, New York, Paris, Johannesburg, Bangkok and Rio de Janeiro.

Now it's Australia's turn. In 2007, we will host our own Human Rights Arts and Film Festival. HRAFF will incorporate film, art, performance, speakers and community initiatives, entertaining and educating people from all walks of life through a diverse array of creative responses to contemporary human rights issues.

What are the schools screenings about?

One of our aims in creating this festival is to encourage education, debate and awareness of human rights across the community. Our screenings for schools are an integral part of this. Two special screenings have been organised for secondary school students. The films chosen are specifically designed to engage young people in human rights issues and stimulate further inquiry and debate.

We would like as many students as possible, from diverse backgrounds, to come together to view these two films and have the opportunity to discuss the important human rights issues.

What are the films?

The first screening will feature ***We Will Be Remembered For This***, a 60-minute documentary made by young Australians in response to the federal government's asylum seeker detention policy. After the film, a forum, hosted by comedian Rod Quantock will take place with the filmmaker, Jessie Taylor and Pamela Curr, Campaign Coordinator at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

The second screening for schools features the documentary, ***Just Punishment***, which recounts the fight to save the life of 24-year-old Australian Van Nguyen, who was executed in Singapore for trafficking drugs. After the film, a forum, hosted by Nicholas Harrington will take place with Julian McMahon, the lawyer on Van's defense team and one of the filmmakers, Kim Beamish.



What else?

We will also be producing education kits, linked closely to the standard school curriculum which will include comprehensive information and resources on the issues dealt with in the film, lesson plans and activities for students.

There will also be an opportunity after the film for students to speak to representatives from human rights organisations, to explore the issues at our interactive media lab, and to learn more about what they can do at our Action Hubs.

When?

1st screening 10:30am – Thurs 29 November 2007 – *We Will be Remembered for This*

2nd screening 1:30pm - Thurs 29 November 2007 – *Just Punishment*

We expect each screening to last around 2 hours including introduction, post film discussion and some time at the Action Hubs.

Where?

RMIT Capitol Theatre,
113 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Cost?

\$5.00 per student is required to cover venue, security and insurance costs.*

Where do I get more information?

For more information on the films see **More About *We Will Be Remembered For This*** and **More About *Just Punishment*** attached.

For bookings please use the **Booking Form** attached.

For more information on the festival in general see www.hraff.org.au

For more information on the schools screening please contact:
Sian Darling
Ph: 0410 901 914
E: schools@hraff.org.au

We hope you can bring your students to be part of this exciting event!



Human Rights Arts and Film Festival Schools Screenings Booking Form

Name of School: _____

Name of contact person: _____

Phone no. of contact person: _____

Email of contact person: _____

I would like to book seats at the HRAFF schools screening for _____ students.

- I would like the 1st screening (*We will be Remembered for This*)
10:30 am 29 November 2007
- I would like the 2nd screening (*Just Punishment*)
1:30 pm 29 November 2007

I enclose \$_____ as payment for students attending (\$5.00 per student).*

Please make all cheques payable to 'Human Rights Arts and Film Festival Inc.'

Or, I enclose my receipt of \$_____ deposited into the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival bank account on _____ 2007.

Bank payments to be made to:

Account Name: Human Rights Arts and Film Festival Inc

Bank: Westpac **Account Number:** 281 330 **BSB Number:** 033 178

HRAFF will contact you at the above details to confirm the booking. HRAFF will endeavour to accommodate as many students as possible. If there are any problems, HRAFF will contact you to discuss.

For any information about booking, please contact Sian Darling at schools@hraft.org.au or on 0410 901 914

*HRAFF aims to make this event as accessible as possible for all students. If there are some students who face economic hardship, please contact us to discuss.



About We Will Be Remembered For This

Written and Produced by: Jessie Taylor

In 2006, a group of young people of different nationalities, backgrounds, attitudes and political views took a trip to the Baxter Detention Centre. The stories of the people they met behind the razor wire surprised, moved and challenged them. *We Will Be Remembered For This* documents their journey.

We Will Be Remembered For This is a clear, rational and non-politicized look at the human issues of Australia's mandatory immigration detention policy.

This film poses the essential questions surrounding Australia's refugee policy. Who are the people behind the fences? How did they come to be there? What are the psychological and legal battles they face? How much do average Australians know about this policy, and if they knew the truth, would they want it to change?

The filmmakers' objective was almost experimental: to rise above social, cultural and political differences, to draw out common threads upon which all the characters could agree. In other words, this film strips back politics and encourages viewers to see the issue for what it really is: profoundly human.

We Will Be Remembered For This was launched on World Refugee Day 2007 in Melbourne.

To find out more, go to www.wewillberemembered.wordpress.com



Special Schools Screening Forum for WWBRT

The screening will be hosted by Rod Quantock, and will be followed by a forum with Pamela Curr from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and the filmmaker Jessie Taylor.

Rod Quantock has more than thirty years experience working in cabaret, theatre, television, radio, advertising and the corporate sector. Rod's live shows are predictably box office hits at the Melbourne Comedy Festival and the Adelaide Fringe Festival and he is an evergreen favorite at corporate events. Also a longtime activist, Rod is regularly involved in community events touching on issues such as climate change and refugees.

Jessie Taylor comes from a background of activism and advocacy, particularly on behalf of refugees in the community and in detention. She has published a number of articles on her experiences with refugees, their stories, and her observations following visits to the Baxter, Maribyrnong and Villawood Immigration Detention Centres over the past 5 years. It is these experiences that inspired her film. Jessie is a regular speaker to school, church, community and academic groups, on various topics relating to human rights and refugee policy.

Pamela Curr is currently the Campaign Coordinator for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre here in Melbourne. The ASRC is the largest Refugee and Asylum Seeker agency in Australia with 96% of funding coming from fundraising, philanthropy and donations. The ASRC has 11 paid staff and over 700 active volunteers providing programs from medical, counseling, foodbank, English classes, employment services, daily lunch, friendship and support. These services are provided alongside a philosophy committed to seeking change to the legislation which underpins the injustice of Australia's refugee policy.



About *Just Punishment*

Written and directed by Kim Beamish and Shannon Owen
Produced by Liz Burke, Shannon Owen and Kim Beamish

In December 2005 Van Nguyen, a 24 year old Australian, was hanged by Singapore for heroin trafficking. *Just Punishment* tells the story behind the fight to save his life.

Filmed over two years *Just Punishment* tells the story behind the media face of Van Nguyen and the remarkable journey to try to keep him alive.

In the weeks preceding Van Nguyen's hanging the Australian public was gripped by media reports detailing the unceasing efforts to save the young drug dealer's life. The media interest was intense, diplomatic tension ensued and public opinion was split. At the moment of his execution thousands of people attended vigils and church services across the country. Van Nguyen's story had captured a nation.

Told through a mixture of exclusive interviews, unseen observational footage and excerpts from Van's prison diaries, 'Just Punishment' tracks the personal stories of Van and his inner circle over the two years from death sentence to execution.

Van Nguyen's story effected every-one who came to know it, from those closest to him to the highest levels of Australian politics.

It is a story that is guaranteed to remain in our conscience for a while yet.

To find out more, go to

<http://www.smileyfilmdistribution.com/filmdetails.php?id=81&type=1>



Special Schools Screening Forum for Just Punishment

The screening will be hosted by Nick Harrington, and will be followed by a forum with one of the lawyers who acted for Van Nguyen, Julian McMahon, and one of the directors of the film, Kim Beamish.

Nicholas Harrington is a respected Barrister within the Melbourne legal community and is the founding President of Reprieve Australia. He has recently stepped down from this position after 6 years. Reprieve is a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing legal representation and humanitarian assistance to those facing the death penalty in the US. They have recently sent their 50th intern to volunteer in the US. Nick is also artistic director of fringe theatre company, Theatre Tarquin.

Julian McMahon joined the Victorian Bar in 1998. Since then his practice has been in criminal matters. He has acted either as sole counsel or junior counsel in numerous complex matters, including police corruption, terrorism, drug, murder, sex, commercial fraud, tax evasion and death penalty cases. He was one of two lawyers to represent Van Tuong Nguyen in his unsuccessful appeal against the death penalty in 2005. He is currently representing two of the Bali nine.

Kim Beamish has been working as a filmmaker since 1999 beginning as a volunteer with SKA Tv and Channel 31, Melbourne, where he produced, directed and shot several short pieces for SKA Tv's 'Access News' programme. Kim's student film 'CommuiKation Guerillas' won a Sony (Australia) script award and was successful in film festivals both in Australia and overseas. He is currently a coordinator and tutor of digital video production and documentary film at OPEN CHANNEL, a screen development and resource centre based in Melbourne.