

International Disability Film Festival

20-23 October 2011

International cinema
by, with and about
people with disabilities



Our Donors and Partners

Donors



We are very grateful to the Department of Justice and Equality for their invaluable financial support to celebrate the Abära International Disability Film Festival 2011.

Partners



Supporters



Aidan Leavy, Festival Chairperson

It's a privilege to be able to present Abära to you - Ireland's first ever International Disability Film Festival. The festival celebrates the progress made by people with disabilities throughout the world, while also highlighting the challenges they still face in trying to achieve equality. The films included in Abära show how people with disabilities live lives which are at the same time both ordinary and extraordinary. We hope the films inspire and encourage you to support people with disabilities in Ireland and in the developing world.

The Abära festival would not be possible without the invaluable financial contribution of the Department of Justice and Equality, our main donor. We are very grateful to them and all our other partners and supporters.

Pádraig Naughton, Festival Director

Arts & Disability Ireland (ADI) is delighted to be involved in the 2011 Abära International Disability Film Festival. Being the national resource and development organisation for arts and disability in Ireland, a significant aspect of our yearly programme is the showcasing of new work in a variety of art-forms. As the talent, experiences and stories of people with disabilities know no borders, a partnership between Dóchas and ADI seemed like the ideal opportunity, allowing ADI to present a wide range of international cinema by, with and about people with disabilities.

The selected dramas and documentaries come from countries as diverse as Australia, Brazil, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Senegal, South Africa, Tibet and Zimbabwe. Representing a cross section of what contemporary film makers are saying about disability and development, our aim is not only to present a wide range of high quality international cinema but stimulate a debate around the many issues they raise.

Abära venue and booking information

Cinemas

Irish Film Institute (IFI), 6 Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.
Box office: 01 679 3477, (open daily, 12.30pm – 9.00pm).
Website: www.ifi.ie

axis, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin 9
Box office: 01 883 2100, (open weekdays 9.00am – 5.00pm and for 90 mins before a screening).
Website: www.axis-ballymun.ie

For detailed directions and transport information for **IFI** and **axis**, visit our website www.abara.ie or call the box office.

Booking information



Telephone bookings:

IFI box office: **(01) 679 3477**

axis box office: **(01) 883 2100**



Email Bookings: IFI: info@irishfilm.ie

axis: info@axis-ballymun.ie



In person:

Bookings can be made in person through the **IFI** and **axis** box offices: **IFI**: Daily, 12.30pm – 9.00pm
axis: Weekdays 9.00am – 5.00pm and for 90 mins before a screening.

Tickets

Abära Festival Pass costs €2, and gives free admission to all festival screenings.

Festival Passes are available from **IFI** and **axis** box office. As seating is limited, please reserve in advance. Seating will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.



Culturefox.ie is the definitive online guide to Irish cultural events, giving you complete information about cultural activities both here and abroad.

To find out what's on near you right now, visit **Culturefox.ie** on your computer or mobile phone.



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available now for:

iPhone | Android | Blackberry



Access

The Abära International Disability Film Festival is committed to providing the best available level of accessibility for people with disabilities. Access arrangements are listed on this page. Please advise of any other access requirements and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Guide dogs are welcome in **IFI** and **axis**.



Large
Print

Information in alternative formats: Audio and large print versions of this brochure can be accessed from www.abara.ie or by calling Arts & Disability Ireland (ADI) on (01) 850 9002 or email info@adiarts.ie.



Captioning: A selection of films and talks in Abära will be captioned or subtitled. Please see film listings for details.



Irish Sign Language (ISL): A selection of talks will be ISL interpreted. Please see film listings for details.



Audio description: A selection of films will be audio described. English subtitles will be read out. Please see film listings for details. Please book for this service by calling ADI (01) 8509 002 or email info@adiarts.ie.



Assistive listening: Both **IFI** and **axis** have loop systems that can be used to amplify or enhance sound quality for hearing aid users.



Wheelchair access: Both **IFI** and **axis** are wheelchair accessible.

For more detailed access information visit www.abara.ie, call ADI on (01) 8509 002 or email info@adiarts.ie.

All information correct at time of printing.

What does Abära mean?

Abära means “shine” in Amharic, the main language of Ethiopia. Abära implies positive energy, optimism and forward thinking - like this festival, and the people it is about.

Music by Prudence

Director: Roger Ross Williams.

2010, Zimbabwe, 33 mins.

Language: English.

Winner of the 2010 Academy Award® for Best Documentary Short

Playful, spirited Prudence Mabhena lives in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Her hauntingly beautiful voice was undiscovered for years, until... “Music by Prudence” traces her path, and the resilience that helped her to transcend the hatred and superstition surrounding her disability to bring her into a world of music, love and possibility.

Prudence’s poignant, inspiring and irreverent message of hope has received an amazing response from press and audiences throughout the world.

‘a must-see’ entertainment weekly



Post-screening discussion: Prudence Mabhena (Music by Prudence) in conversation with Sinéad Crowley, Arts & Media Correspondent, RTÉ.



The Exchange

Director: Aideen Barry, Cathal McCarthy
2009, Ireland, 10 mins

Sometimes words get lost in translation, get knotted and tangled and manifest into different forms. This animated film investigates how words can get stuck down phone lines and can run you over. “The Exchange” was made by 15 members of the Words are my Prisoner Collective.



“The Exchange” will be screened in the lobby of IFI from 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Schools Education Programme

(by invitation only)

Friday 21st October 2011

11.00am, IFI, Temple Bar

11.00am, axis, Ballymun

Disability and Development - children’s stories from around the world

Facilitated by Dr Michael Brown and Associates, Development Media Workshop, in partnership with Livability, War on Want NI, Disability Aid Abroad, Christian Blind Mission and Children in Crossfire.

Rudely Interrupted

Directors: Susie and Benjamin Jones
2008, Australia, 56 mins.
Language: English.

“We are here to show people what we can do and just because we have a disability doesn’t mean we can’t ROCK”. For Melbourne indie rock act Rudely Interrupted years of hard work are about to pay off. The six-piece band, five of whom have a disability, have cracked a world first – they’ve been invited to play at the United Nations in New York for International Day of Persons with Disabilities. To make rock and roll history the band needs to raise tens of thousands of dollars...

“Rudely Interrupted” follows the band’s journey from the pub stages of Melbourne to the UN stage in New York and their European tour beyond.

“Their music is some of the most energetic and genuine to emerge from the Australian rock ‘n’ roll underground in recent times”

Time Out Sydney



Presented with support from
the Australian Embassy



Tom & Mary

Directors: Scannán Technology group and Ballina Arts Centre.
2009, Ireland, 17 mins
Language: English

Made by people with intellectual disabilities, “Tom & Mary” is the dark and dramatic tale of a brother and sister whose lives are changed forever after a fatal accident.



The directors and actors will attend the screening.

Difference is Normal

Director: Rania Rafei
2006, Lebanon, 4 mins
Language: Arabic with English subtitles.

A music video from Lebanon about people disabled in the 2006 34-day war.



“Tom & Mary” and “Difference is Normal” will be screened before the main film.



Thurs 20 Oct Dublin

6.30pm – 8.00pm
Gala Opening of the
Festival

- **The Exchange**
- **Music by Prudence**

IFI, Temple Bar

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Promoting Disability Inclusion in Ireland and the World

A one day seminar in
the Dublin Convention
Centre, Thursday
October 20th,
9.30am - 3.30pm

More details and
registration on
www.conference.ie

Fri 21 Oct Dublin

11.00am - 1.00pm
Schools Programme
IFI, Temple Bar
& axis, Ballymun

7.30pm – 9.00pm

- **Tom & Mary**
- **Difference is Normal**
- **Rudely Interrupted**

axis, Ballymun

Fri 21 Oct Galway

11.55am - 1.15pm
Schools Programme
St Paul's Secondary School,
Oughterard, Galway

7.30pm – 8.30pm

- **Music by Prudence**

Eye Cinema, Galway

Sat 22 Oct Dublin

11.30am – 1.00pm

- **Drona & Ik**
- **Avoiding Childhood
Blindness**

IFI, Temple Bar

1.30pm – 3.00pm

- **Happy Birthday
Thalidomide**

IFI, Temple Bar

3.30pm – 5.00pm

- **La Petite Vendeuse
de Soleil**

axis, Ballymun

7.00pm – 8.30 pm

- **Shirley Adams**

axis, Ballymun

Sun 23 Oct Dublin

1.30pm – 3.00pm

- **Black Sun**

IFI, Temple Bar

3.30pm – 5.30pm

- **The Silent Promise**
- **650 Million Voices
Times One**

axis, Ballymun

6.30pm – 8.30pm

- **Blindsight**

axis, Ballymun

**Act Now
on 2015**
Deliver Ireland's Aid Promise

Join us to ensure Ireland keeps its
promise and invests 0.7% of national
income in overseas aid by 2015.
www.actnow2015.ie

Sat Oct 22, 11.30am – 1.00pm
Screen 1, IFI, Temple Bar

Drona & Ik (Drona & Me)

Director: Catherine van Campen
2009, Netherlands, 20 mins
Language: Dutch with English subtitles.



Drona is eight years old and crazy about buses. He knows the entire Amsterdam bus network by heart. The film shows Drona, who has autism, through the eyes of Arjun, his 12 year old brother.



Avoiding Childhood Blindness


Directors: E O'Donoghue, R Stoneman, M Levitina

2009, Venezuela/Vietnam, 23 mins
Language: English, Spanish and Vietnamese with English subtitles.



Children in Venezuela and Vietnam talk eloquently about the reality of living with a preventable eye condition called retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). The film also explores the condition from a medical perspective.



 **Post-screening discussion:**
Ben Gobin, CBM Ireland and Beral Mbaikoudou, Member of Chad Parliament.
Presented with support from CBM Ireland.



Sat Oct 22, 1.30pm – 3.00pm
Screen 1, IFI, Temple Bar

Happy Birthday Thalidomide

Director: Kim Flitcroft
2004, Brazil/UK, 50 mins
Language: English and Portuguese with English subtitles.



2004 marked the 50th year since thalidomide, one of the most notorious drugs in recent history, was first prescribed to pregnant women. Though banned in Ireland and Britain for use by pregnant women during the 1960s, the drug is still available in other countries, including Brazil, where it is still prescribed as a “wonder drug”. UK actor and comedian Mat Fraser, himself a thalidomider, looks at the drug’s controversial history, and travels to Brazil to meet the new generation of thalidomiders.



 **Post-screening discussion: Mat Fraser in conversation with Finola Cassidy, Irish Thalidomide Association.**

“We must address the glaring inequalities experienced by persons with disabilities. We must counter discrimination and prejudice. We must deliver development that is truly for all”

(Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General).

Sat Oct 22, 3.30pm – 5.00pm
axis, Ballymun

La Petite Vendeuse de Soleil (The Little Girl who Sold The Sun)

Director: Djibril Diop Mambety
1999, Senegal, 45 mins
Language: Wolof with English subtitles.




Sili (Lissa Balera), a little girl with polio, lives and begs on the streets of Dakar, the capital of Senegal. Deciding to take destiny into her own hands, Sili takes on the macho world of newspaper hawking. Despite being bullied by older boys, she gets a job selling the government newspaper, Le Soleil (The Sun). Although her rivals try to intimidate her, she battles on, finding success and a few surprising friends along the way.

A multi-award winning film

“A delightful slice of realism... Beautifully shot on the busy streets of the African city by Jacques Besse ... A joy to behold” Variety



 **Post-screening discussion:**
Silje Vold, Plan Norway and John McFarlane,
Post Polio Support Group in conversation with
Dil Wickrenasinghe, NewsTalk.
Presented with support from Plan Ireland.



Sat Oct 22, 7.00 – 8.30pm
axis, Ballymun

Shirley Adams

Director: Oliver Hermanus,
2009, South Africa, 92 mins
Language: English and
Afrikaans with English
subtitles.

In this deeply affecting portrait of everyday courage in present-day South Africa, a single mother, Shirley Adams (Denise Newman), struggles to care for her physically disabled teenage son, Donovan (Kennan Arrison), in a depressed district on the outskirts of Cape Town. Wearied but resolute, she desperately clings to him as he withdraws from the world following a suicide attempt, and is hopeful when his spirits are momentarily lifted by the appearance of Tamsin (Emily Child), a pretty but over-eager social worker. When the relationship between Donovan and Tamsin sours Shirley's faith and perseverance are put to the ultimate test. First-time director Oliver Hermanus's observant camera holds close to its subjects, capturing the claustrophobia, intimacy and hushed anguish surrounding the tender daily routines of a mother and her child.



Screening will be introduced by Pádraig Naughton,
Arts & Disability Ireland.

Sun Oct 23, 1.30pm – 3.00pm
Screen 1, IFI, Temple Bar

Black Sun

Director: Gary Tarn

2005, UK, 75 mins.

Language: English.

In 1978, French artist and filmmaker Hugues de Montalembert was attacked in his New York home.

His assailants took from him something seemingly essential to his life: his sight. “Black Sun”, Gary Tarn’s haunting documentary portrait, is the fascinating story of this unique man and his extraordinary reaction to a life-changing trauma. It follows de Montalembert’s painful months of rehab, the strange erotic visions, and his attempts to reassert his independence and eventually attain a different kind of vision, reclaiming his identity as an artist.



‘A very beautiful, life-enhancing film’

The Observer

Screening will be introduced by Hilary Fennell.

Sun Oct 23, 3.30pm – 5.30pm
axis, Ballymun

The Voice of 650 Million Times One


Director: Marijn Poels

2010, Netherlands/ Kenya/ Cambodia, 36 mins

Language: English and Vietnamese with English subtitles.

People with disabilities from Africa and Asia talk candidly about their exclusion from society in matters such as healthcare, sexuality and, in particular, about their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS. Directed by the award-winning Dutch director, Marijn Poels.



 **Post-screening discussion:**
Malcolm Quigley, VSO Ireland
and James O’Connor, Open Heart House.
Presented with support from VSO Ireland.



The Silent Promise

Director: Marieke Dooper

2009, Namibia, 17 mins

Language: Namibian sign language with English subtitles.

When five friends meet after the funeral of their mutual friend Brooklyn, they are shocked to find that he died of AIDS. In trying to understand why Brooklyn did not tell them about his illness, the friends have to face up to their own feelings about HIV/AIDS. The first HIV awareness film in sign language made in Southern Africa, “The Silent Promise” shows the power of friendship in a Deaf community.

“The Silent Promise” will be screened before the main film.



Sun Oct 23, 6.30pm – 8.30pm
axis, Ballymun

Blindsight

Director: Lucy Walker
2006, Tibet/UK, 104 mins
Language: English, Chinese
and Tibetan with English
subtitles.

Short-listed for an Academy Award® and set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Himalayas, “Blindsight” follows the gripping adventure of six blind Tibetan teenagers who set out to climb the 23,000 foot Lhakpa Ri on the north side of Mount Everest. Believed by many Tibetans to be possessed by demons, the children are shunned by their parents, scorned by their villages and rejected by society. Supported by Sabriye Tenberken, a blind educator and adventurer who established the only school for the blind children in Tibet, the students invite famous blind mountain climber Erik Weihenmayer to visit their school after learning about his conquest of Everest. Erik arrives in Lhasa and inspires Sabriye and her students to let him lead them higher than they have ever been before. The resulting three-week journey is beyond anything any of them could have predicted.



“Astonishing... The power to make you re-examine your entire life”

New York Times



Galway Programme

Fri Oct 21, 7.30pm – 8.30pm
Eye Cinema, Galway.

Music by Prudence

Director: Roger Ross
Williams.
2010, Zimbabwe, 33 mins.
Language: English.

Winner of the 2010
Academy Award® for Best
Documentary Short


Playful, spirited Prudence
Mabhena lives in Bulawayo,
Zimbabwe. Her hauntingly
beautiful voice was
undiscovered for years, until...

“Music by Prudence” traces her path, and the resilience that helped her to transcend the hatred and superstition surrounding her disability to bring her into a world of music, love and possibility.

Prudence’s poignant, inspiring and irreverent message of hope has received an amazing response from press and audiences throughout the world.



‘a must-see’ entertainment weekly

 **Post-screening discussion: Prudence Mabhena (Music by Prudence) in conversation with Rod Stoneman, Director of the Huston School of Film & Digital Media, NUI Galway.**



Schools Education Programme

(Invitation only)

Friday 21st October 2011

11.55am – 1.15pm, St Paul's Secondary School,
Oughterard, Galway.

Disability and Development - children's stories from
around the world

Facilitated by Dr Michael Brown and Associates,
Development Media Workshop in partnership with
Livability, War on Want NI, Disability Aid Abroad,
Christian Blind Mission and Children in Crossfire.

**Galway programme presented with support from Social
Inclusion Week Galway.**

Festival Team

Aidan Leavy, Festival Chair

Pádraig Naughton, Festival Director

Leah Johnston, Festival Manager

Amie Lawless, Festival Administrator

Kate Bowe PR, Press & Publicity Consultant

New Graphic, Design

Special thank you to; Niamh Ní Chonchubhair (**axis**)
Sarah Glennie and Kevin Coyne (**IFI**), Sharon Gill and Enda
Boner (**Telegael**), Audio Describers, Captioners and Sign
Language Interpreters and all our donors, supporters
and volunteers.

Who's behind Abära

The **Dóchas Disability and International Development (DID)** working group is a coalition of national and international NGOs working or interested in the field of disability and international development. The group aims to advance the debate around global disability issues and to promote the inclusion of disability as a key factor in future development planning, funding and service delivery. Member organisations include;

Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), Sightsavers International, Plan Ireland, The Centre for Global Health (TCD), Christian Blind Mission (cbm), Comber Romanian Orphanage Appeal, Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR), Livability Ireland, Disability Aid Abroad, Centre for Disability Law and Policy (NUI Galway), Disabled Peoples International, Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Misean Cara, Self Help Ireland, Power4Good, Children in Crossfire, Camara, Tearfund and Arts & Disability Ireland (ADI).

Arts & Disability Ireland (ADI) is the national development and resource organisation for Arts & Disability. We champion the creativity of artists with disabilities, promote inclusive experiences for audiences with disabilities and work to enhance the disability-related capacity of arts organisations.

Find out more about global disability issues

Did you know that globally....

- There are about 1 billion people with disabilities in the world. That's about 15% of the population on the planet.
 - Four out of every five people with disabilities live in developing countries, where they make up a large proportion of people who live in poverty.
 - Only 45 countries around the world have passed anti-discrimination and other disability-specific laws.
 - In developed countries, about 19% of less-educated people have disabilities, compared with 11% of better-educated people.
 - According to UNICEF, 30% of street children have a disability.
 - About 90% of children with disabilities don't go to school. Studies show that the global literacy rate for adults with disabilities is around 3%. For women with disabilities, it's around 1%.
 - According to the UN, for every child killed in warfare three more are injured and permanently disabled.
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Any queries about Abära? If so, contact:

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