

Evening Films

Friday 7:30 pm

Maestra 33 min. 2012
Director: Catherine Murphy

In Cuba in 1961, a quarter of a million volunteers taught 700,000 people to read and write in one year. One hundred thousand of those volunteer teachers were under 18 years old. Over half were women.

Maestra explores this story through the personal testimonies of the young women who went out to teach literacy in rural communities across the island--and found themselves deeply transformed in the process. In the midst of the literacy campaign, Cuban exiles launched the CIA-supported Bay of Pigs invasion. Although it was discovered and thwarted by the Cuban armed forces, escaped mercenaries combed the countryside, harassing the peasants and their literacy teachers. *Maestra* is a compelling and beautifully filmed reconstruction of one of the most significant campaigns in Cuban history. Fifty years on, the film clearly demonstrates the impact that it had on the lives of all those who took part and tells the story with power and panache.

"The historical significance of this archive, and its lessons for the present, cannot be overstated." --Howard Zinn

"Catherine Murphy's project rescues the most important literacy experience in the Americas. Her protagonists share their own experiences, each telling a formidable collective adventure."

--Eduardo Galeano

maestrathefilm.org

Friday 8:15 pm

Bidder 70 73 min. 2012
Directors: Beth and George Gage

Bidder 70 tells the story of Tim DeChristopher and his stunning act of civil disobedience in a time of global climate chaos. On December 19, 2008, DeChristopher, as Bidder #70, derailed the Bush administration's last minute, widely disputed federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oil and Gas lease auction, acting to safeguard thousands of acres of Utah land. Bidding \$1.7 million, Tim won 22,000 acres of land with no intention to pay or drill. For his disruption of the auction, DeChristopher was indicted on two federal charges. Tim's civil disobedience has drawn national attention to America's energy policy and criticism to the BLM's management of public lands. Refusing to compromise his principles and rejecting numerous plea offers by the prosecution, Tim is willing to sacrifice his own future to bring this vitally important issue to global attention. *Bidder 70* is Tim's story: his actions, his trial and his possible prison sentence. It is also the story of the scientists, activists, writers, and movements that influence and support his actions. DeChristopher says, "At this point of unimaginable threats on the horizon, this is what hope looks like...With countless lives on the line, this is what love looks like, and it will only grow..." Powerful, intelligent and very entertaining, *Bidder 70* will show you how one person can change the world.

Best American Film - Traverse City Film Festival

bidder70film.com

Saturday 7:00 pm

Heart of Sky, Heart of Earth 98 min. 2012

Directors: Frauke Sandig & Eric Black

The ancient Maya believed this present world would end and a new cycle would arise after 5125 years. What lies behind the myth of the Mayan calendar? How does the story end? Does the water change color? Do the oceans collapse? Does the sky fall as the last tree is cut?

Heart of Sky, Heart of Earth follows six young Maya in Guatemala and Chiapas through their daily and ceremonial life. They put forth a wholly indigenous perspective in their own words, without narration. Their cosmo-vision, in which all life is sacred and interconnected, presents a deeply compelling alternative to the prevailing worldview. As corporations go to the ends of the earth to extract all value, all resources, these Maya reveal their determination to resist the destruction of their culture and environment. They believe they are the guardians of the Earth. Each story touches upon a facet of the current global crisis.

Best International Feature - Planet in Focus Film Festival

heart-of-sky.com