2016 SCREENING SERIES

JANUARY 21

India’s Daughter
Leslee Udwin | UK/India | 2015 | 62 minutes
Discussion by Leslee Udwin, Director, with Roopashree Jeevaji, actor and International Envoy for Stop Acid Attacks

India’s Daughter is the powerful story of the 2012, brutal gang rape on a Delhi bus of a 23-year-old medical student, who later died from her injuries. In 2012, the incident made international headlines and ignited protests by women in India and around the world. India’s government banned the film while the BBC moved their planned broadcast up by days and ignited a new controversy. An impassioned plea for change, India’s Daughter pays tribute to a remarkable and inspiring young woman and explores the compelling human stories behind the incident and the political ramifications throughout India. But beyond India, the film lays bare the way in which societies and their patriarchal values have spawned such acts of violence globally.

MARCH 24

Focus on Iran
Discussion by artist Amfis Molevari, and Iranian human rights activist Roxana Ganji

It is Written
Mostafa Heravi | Netherlands | 2006 | 5:10
In Iran women are not allowed to dance in public. It is Written is an experimental film that explores dance as social expression with an emphasis on the fate of womankind in modern Iran.

Feminin Masculin
Sadaf Forough | Iran | 1:34
In the male-dominated society of Iran, Farahnaz Shiri, the first female bus driver in Tehran, has made her own little society in her bus. Normally in Iran there are different sections for men and women on public buses. Women should enter in Tehran, has made her own little society in her bus. Normally in Iran there are different sections for men and women on public buses. Women should enter buses from the back door and stay at the end of the bus, separate from men. But in Mrs. Shiri’s bus everything is switched. She is the governor of her bus. Mrs. Shiri struggles in the sex of her society against injustice.

Final Moments
Shadi Amin | UK | 2013 | 25:05
Final Moments is a groundbreaking documentary featuring exploring the rape of virgin girls prior to their execution and sexual torture at the hands of Islamic Republic prison authorities since 1979. Final Moments calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran, a member of the UN Human Rights Council, to live up to its state responsibilities by protecting the rights of Iranians who have been subjected to torture.

FEBRUARY 25

Women without Men
Discussion by Heidi Basch-Harod, Executive Director, Women’s Voices Now

Behind the Wheel
Elise Laker
Tajistan | 2013 | 19:40
Every year, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers leave Tajistan in search of employment. The money sent back provides a huge boost to the economy. The vast majority of these migrants are men. So what happens to the women who are left behind?

Branded Girls
Bijoyeta Das and Khaled Hasan
Bangladesh | 2010 | 9:35
In Bangladesh, girls and women earn less than a minimum wage in sweatshops that produce clothing for the world’s top brands. “Branded Girls” explores the lives of those garment workers who have been forced in by dreams of financial independence.

APRIL 21

Healing & Peacemaking: In Her Own Words
Discussion by Marissa Roth, Documentary Photographer and Photojournalist

Voices of Afghanistan
Heather Metcalfe
Afghanistan | 2009 | 13:43
Four Afghan women in Mazar-e Sharif talk about their experiences living through war and oppression, finding independence, and contributing to the rebuilding of their country in June 2009.

Her Words: Storytelling with Saris
Monica Johan Bose and Nandita Ahmed
Bangladesh/USA | 2013 | 30:01
This documentary film highlights the resilience and achievements of 12 Muslim women of Katakhali Village, Bangladesh in the face of gender discrimination, child marriage, lack of access to education, and climate change.

WOMEN’S VOICES NOW
Amplifies the voices of all women by promoting the free expression of women’s struggles for civil, economic, political, and gender rights worldwide. By providing free online platforms for film, art, writing and social-media activism, we connect people and resources striving for global gender equality.

Venice Arts ignites, expands, and transforms the lives of Los Angeles’ low-income youth through photography and film education, and uses its participatory storytelling practices to amplify the voices of underrepresented communities around the world.

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MAY 26 | Striving for a Better Future, Struggling to be a Student
Discussion by Christian Roizler, Lead Filmmaker, Venice Arts

The Path to Follow
Nazifa Xakizadu | Afghanistan | 2010 | 11:26
Young Afghan girls gain confidence through a local tar bean class.

Venice Arts + Tostan | Senegal | 2013 | 6:02
A brief story of transformation in the right to education for young women in rural Senegal. One of three films from the field in the Kolda Region, Senegal.

Voices of the Forest: Myanmar
Venice Arts + RECOFTC: The Center for People and Forests
Myanmar/USA | 2015 | 7:46
Voices of the Forest: Myanmar tells the story of a mother of two, who recently lost her husband. No longer able to gather resources from the forest by herself, she must ask her eldest daughter, only 13 years old, to school to help support the family by selling snacks to tourists.

Ms. Ma and Her Literacy Class
Aide et Action China + China | 2008 | 11:02
Aide et Action operates the “Women Literacy Class and Training of Literacy Teachers” (est. 2006) in the mountainous rural and minority areas of west China. In Ningxia Province, where one fifth of China’s Muslim population lives, we meet Ms. Ma, the backbone of Aide et Action’s literacy project.

JUNE 23 | Syria’s Courageous Women
In conjunction with World Refugee Day
Discussion by Nada Hashem from The Karam Foundation, actor Jay Abdo, and artist and activist Fadia Afashe

The Light In Her Eyes
Huda al-Habash, a conservative Muslim preacher, founded a Qur’an school for girls 30 years ago. Until this civil war was currently wreaking havoc on Syria, her female students immersed themselves in a rigorous study of Islam. At the time of filming a cultural shift was under way wherein women were claiming space within the mosque. Shot right before the uprising in Syria began, The Light In Her Eyes offers and extraordinary portrait of a leader who challenges the women of her community to live according to Islam, without giving up their dreams.

In Search of America, Inshallah
Danish Renzu | Kashmir | 2014 | 2:50
Shaheen Ilyas, a young traditional Pakistani woman, arrives in Los Angeles in search of her husband, Ali Ilyas. Little does Shaheen know that the husband she cannot wait to find is married for citizenship to an American woman, Green. It is up to Shaheen to live by her intrinsic values, the traditions she has been raised with to choose to make her own identity.

In Limbo: Kashmir’s Half Widows
NUVA India | India | 2010 | 1:45
A story of trauma, loss and love. A powerfully intimate journey into the lives of two young Kurdish women, facing the horrible reality of self-immolations and honor conflicts in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

AUGUST 25 | Masculine, Feminine: The Role of Men in Women’s Equality
Discussion by Nicholas Gulik (Actor, In Search of America, Inshallah), and Gaya Bihola (Producer, In Search of America, Inshallah: Executive Producer, Half Widow), moderated by Kelsey Chertland, Film Festival Coordinator, Women’s Voices Now

Vomit II
A silent art film using landscapes and the female form to portray what freedom for women might look like.

SEPTMBER 22 | Struggles & Triumphs of Stateless Women
Discussion by Heidi Basch-Harold, Executive Director, Women’s Voices Now

Heart on Fire
Beri Shamsi | Kurdistan | 2013 | 7:19
Darya tries to deal with the wounds of the past. But her badly burned body makes it complicated to just wash things off and move on. This film is based on the horrible reality of self immolations and honor conflicts in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Berex Kulek
Yunus Yildirim | Turkey | 2013 | 12:00
Neco is a Kurdish mom who decides to sell her late brother’s wife to another man, as is his right according traditional Kurdish custom. Faced with the reality that doing so will separate his niece from her mother, Neco must make the decision nevertheless.

Thorns and Silk
Paulina Tervo
West Bank | 2009 | 13:34
Four real stories featuring women from Palestine who work in male-dominated jobs. This film explores how they break traditional rules, but not without challenges.

OCTOBER 27 | The Oppressions of Tradition: Breaking Free
Discussion by Emma Nesper Holm, Acting Associate Director, Southern California, American Jewish World Service

Male and Female
Ahmed Abdel | Egypt | 2010 | 14:50
A student film exploring the crossroads of old traditional modes of thinking versus the progression of traditions and social norms in these changing times.

Jazbaa: A Strong Will
Rama Barhat | India | 2010 | 5:12
Manya Khatri is no ordinary woman. She’s taken on a male-dominated society and broken it. She’s making her own identity.

Voices of the Forest: Thailand
Venice Arts + ROOTSFC: The Center for People and Forests
Thailand/USA | 2015 | 14:16
A female member of a bamboo-shoot processing cooperative tells how they degraded forest and promote its long-term sustainability.

Ms. Ma and Her Literacy Class
Aide et Action China | China | 2008 | 11:02
Aide et Action operates the “Women Literacy Class and Training of Literacy Teachers” (est. 2006) in the mountainous rural and minority areas of west China. In Ningxia Province, where one fifth of China’s Muslim population lives, we meet Ms. Ma, the backbone of Aide et Action’s literacy project.

NOVEMBER 17 | We Are Part of the Landscape: Experimental Films
Discussion by Leila Jarman, Women’s Voices Now Program Director & Filmmaker, with Eszter Zimanyi, PhD candidate, USC School of Cinematic Arts

Get Along
Ugur Ferhat Karmaz | Turkey | 2013 | 8:36
A transgender woman is attacked by local people. She cannot leave her home for fear of her safety and is sheltered from her family. To feel close to them, she tries to reach them in her dreams, but even her dreams turn into nightmares.

The Nonsense
Noha Redwan | Egypt | 2011 | 1:21
Playing with the principal concepts of her interest—ambiguity and paradox—Parya Vatankhah intends to demonstrate and explore experimentally the types of human relations that may begin beautifully but end tragically.

The Reflex
Ali and Hussein Mousavi
Albania | 2013 | 10:27
A silent art film using landscapes and the female form to portray what freedom for women might look like.

In Limbo: Kashmir’s Half Widows
NUVA India | India | 2010 | 1:45
A story of trauma, loss and love. A powerfully intimate journey into the lives of two young Kurdish women, facing the horrible reality of self-immolations and honor conflicts in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

DECEMBER 8 | Global Solidarity Against Gender-Based Violence
In conjunction with International Human Rights Day
Discussion by Patricia Gippens, Executive Director, Peace Over Violence

We Live in the 21st Century!
Hilda Hashempour
Canada | 2011 | 1:42
Women discuss discrimination against women all around the world.

Global Guril Media Morocco
Morocco | 2013 | 31:04
Breaking the Silence: Moroccans Speak Out is a documentary film about sexual harassment in Morocco. The documentary is a candid and powerful exposition of the issue, highlighting personal stories of women’s experiences, and presenting analysis by experts in the field, who offer pathways to creating and implementing solutions.

Avant Propos
Susana Casares | Tunis | 2007 | 16:21
Avant Propos is a dialogue between two territories: dreams and reality, fiction and documentary. Through interviews with Tunisian women of different backgrounds, the film explores identity, representation, tradition, and modernity.

On the Road: Khushi’s Story
American Jewish World Service | India | 2016

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