

Peace & Justice Film Series

Does U.S. foreign policy undermine national and global security?

Sponsored by Students for Peace & Justice and the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center, with the Multi-cultural Alliance and UM Amnesty International



Thur. Feb. 5 "UNCOVERED: THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR"

This controversial and arresting film takes you behind the walls of government, as CIA, Pentagon and foreign service experts speak out, many for the first time, detailing the lies, misstatements and exaggerations that served as the reasons to fight a "preemptive" war that wasn't necessary. Throughout the fall of 2002, and into the weeks preceding the war in Iraq, the Bush administration systematically distorted intelligence evidence and misled the public in order to turn opinion in favor of "regime change" in Iraq. The film will present interviews with more than 20 experts, all of whom have informed opinions about the reasons we were given for war and the evidence presented to support those reasons. Among those interviewed are former Ambassador Joe Wilson, weapons inspectors Scott Ritter and David Albright, anti-terrorism expert Rand Beers, former CIA analyst Ray McGovern, former CIA operative Robert Baer. 2003 [60 minutes] truthuncovered.com

Thur. Feb. 12 (both films @ 6pm & 7:30pm) "INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN A TIME OF WAR"

Part scathing critique, part call to action, this is a hard-hitting new documentary by the Hudson Mohawk Independent Media Center. Composed of a speech given by Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now and illustrated by clips of mainstream media juxtaposed with rare footage from independent reporters in Iraq, the film argues that dialogue is vital to a healthy democracy. "Independent media has a crucial responsibility to go to where the silence is," says Amy Goodman, "to represent the diverse voices of people engaged in dissent." She makes a compelling argument that the commercial news media have failed to represent the "true face of war." 2003 [30 minutes] <http://www.DemocracyNow.org>



"RICH MEDIA, POOR DEMOCRACY: COMMUNICATION POLITICS IN DUBIOUS TIMES"

If a key indicator of the health of a democracy is the state of its journalism, the United States is in deep trouble. In Rich Media, Poor Democracy, Robert McChesney lays the blame for this state of affairs squarely at the doors of the corporate boardrooms of big media, which far from delivering on their promises of more choice and more diversity, have organized a system characterized by a lack of competition, homogenization of opinion and formulaic programming. Through numerous examples, McChesney, and media scholar, Mark Crispin Miller, demonstrate how journalism has been compromised by the corporate bosses of conglomerates such as Disney, Sony, Viacom, News Corp, and AOL Time Warner to produce a system of news that is high on sensationalism and low on information. They suggest that unless citizen activism can reclaim the commons, this new corporate system will be characterized by a rich media and an ever impoverished, poor democracy. 2003 [30 minutes] <http://www.mediaed.org>



Thur. Feb. 26 "AFGHAN MASSACRE: CONVOY OF DEATH"

During the war on Afghanistan, some 8,000 Taliban fighters surrendered to Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum's Northern Alliance, which functioned as a proxy army for the US. 3,000 of them were crammed into private container trucks commandeered by Dostum's forces. During a 20-hour drive to the Sheberghan prison, most of these prisoners died from suffocation in the airtight containers. US special forces were closely involved and in charge at the time. Doran said that the evidence he has gathered, and which he will use in his upcoming sequel to Afghan Massacre, indicates that the responsibility for the war crimes in Afghanistan goes "as high as [US Defense Secretary Donald] Rumsfeld's office." 2002 [50 minutes] <http://www.actv.com>

Thur. Mar. 4 "THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER"

Featuring previously unseen footage, de-classified documents, and revealing interviews with Kissinger supporters as well as his detractors, The Trials of Henry Kissinger explores how a young boy who fled Nazi Germany grew up to become one of the most powerful and controversial figures in U.S. history. Is Henry Kissinger - Nobel Laureate and the most famous diplomat of his generation - also a war criminal? Provoked by the Christopher Hitchens book, filmmakers Jarecki and Gibney have constructed a movie which is both brilliant legal brief and chilling psychodrama. Some of Kissinger's most ardent supporters (Alexander Haig, Brent Scowcroft, William Safire) vie with his detractors (writers Seymour Hersh, William Shawcross, Hitchens himself). 2002 [80 minutes] <http://www.trialsofhenrykissinger.com>



Thur. Mar. 11 "WE INTERRUPT THIS EMPIRE"

The San Francisco Video Activist Network presents the story you won't see on Fox News: an unflinching look at the Bay Area's radical resistance to an illegal and horrific war. "We Interrupt This Empire..." is a collaborative work by many of the Bay Area's independent video activists which documents the direct actions that shut down the financial district of San Francisco in the weeks following the United States' invasion of Iraq. With the audio backdrop including the live broadcasts of SF Indymedia's Enemy Combatant Radio and the SFPD's tactical communications that were picked up by police scanners, the documentary takes a look at the diverse show of resistance from the streets of San Francisco as well as providing a critique of the corporate media coverage of the war and exploring such issues as the Military Industrial Complex, and attacks on civil liberties. 2003 [52 minutes] <http://www.videoactivism.org>

Thur. Mar. 25 "NOAM CHOMSKY - DISTORTED MORALITY: AMERICA'S WAR ON TERROR?"

The hypocrisy of the U.S. government is powerfully scrutinized in Distorted Morality, a scathing thesis presented by renowned scholar Noam Chomsky. Speaking before an intimate audience at Harvard University on February 6, 2002, Chomsky sets fair and logical parameters to his thesis (namely, we are all hypocrites and, for the purposes of debate, the U.S. government should always be given benefit of the doubt) before outlining, with academic precision, the reasons why America's post-9/11 war on terror is a logical impossibility. This, according to Chomsky's carefully supported analysis, is because the U.S. government has been, and continues to be, a major supporter of state-supported terrorism, favoring retaliatory or preemptive aggression over mediation in the world court, and avoiding accountability by excluding itself from the globally accepted definition of terrorism. Chomsky repeatedly volunteers his sources, inviting scrutiny at every turn. 2003 [55 minutes] sent-films.org



Thur. Apr. 1 "PLAN COLOMBIA: CASHING-IN ON THE DRUG WAR FAILURE"

Could there be alternate purposes to a U.S. plan focused on beefing up the Colombian military and spraying coca fields in rebel-held parts of the country, when coca is grown in many parts of Colombia that are not being sprayed? This video by Gerard Ungerman & Audrey Brohy and narrated by Ed Asner sheds light on the complex issues of drug-trafficking and civil struggle in Colombia and the impact of both the current chemical-spray program carried out by the U.S. Defense contractor Dyncorps and the multi-billion-dollar aid package delivered to the brutal Colombian military. Additional insights are provided on the significant factor oil has become in the Colombian equation, a country with the same oil potential as Venezuela, today the second largest oil supplier to the U.S. 2002 [58 minutes] plancolumbia.org

Thur. Apr. 8 (both films @ 6pm & 7:30pm) "NOT IN MY NAME"

A powerful new documentary film has been launched to tell the story of the US attack on Afghanistan which we DIDN'T see on our television screens. Narrated by Jeremy Hardy, the film presents powerful evidence that the US attack on Afghanistan has not helped defeat terrorism - in fact, the film suggests, the US military actions have resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians and made the world a much more dangerous place. The film explains the background to the war, and the central part the US played in actually creating the power of the Taliban and Osama bin Laden. It also shows the strength of the anti-war movement hardly reported in the British media. It explores the way the control of television coverage has become a central issue in the war, with mainstream broadcasters relaying government propaganda and independent TV stations the targets for US bombs. 2002 [41 minutes] <http://www.cultureshop.org>



"THE NEW PATRIOTS"

Five U.S. military veterans, including a Congressional Medal of Honor winner and a woman West Point graduate, speak out about terrorism, patriotism, and their transformation from warriors to peace activists. 2002 [18 minutes] <http://richtervideos.com>

All screenings at 6 PM and 7:30 PM; free & open to the public
UC Theater @ UM's University Center, 3rd floor - Free parking after 5PM