



FRIDAY 28 JANUARY 2011

## FIRST FACTUAL FILMS FESTIVAL (F4)

The **First Factual Films Festival (F4)** is a key event within the annual **Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC)**, and in 2011 is being co-presented with the **BigPond Adelaide Film Festival (BAFF)**.

**F4** is an unrivalled professional development opportunity for emerging Australian documentary makers. It is also an opportunity for those at the start of their careers to have their films shown alongside features made by **F4 Masters**, recognised leaders in the documentary field. And in 2011, to be part of the BAFF screening program.

From 80 entries submitted, four new documentaries have been selected for presentation in 2011. The filmmakers are **SIEH MCHAWALA** (*BAREFOOT IN ETHIOPIA*), **MAYA NEWELL** (*TWO*), **VESSAL SAFAEI** (*STREETS OF MY CHILDHOOD*) and **PETE GLEESON** (*SOMETHING TO TELL YOU*).

The 2011 **F4 MASTERS** are Academy Award nominee **STEVE JAMES**, whose classic *HOOP DREAMS* will screen as well as his new film, *THE INTERRUPTERS* direct from its world premiere at Sundance Film Festival. Also straight from its Sundance debut, Academy Award winner **PAMELA YATES** brings *GRANITO*, and her early film *WHEN THE MOUNTAINS TREMBLE* which inspires the new work. Australian documentary legend and Academy Award nominee **BOB CONNOLLY**, whose film *MRS CAREY'S CONCERT* will open this year's BAFF, also screens his earlier film *FACING THE MUSIC*.

**Joost den Hartog**, Director of AIDC said, "We are delighted that BAFF has chosen Bob Connolly's new documentary Mrs Carey's Concert as the opening night film. Not only is it part of the F4 program, it also recognises the importance and place of documentary storytelling within the wider filmmaking world."

One of the four emerging documentary makers will be selected to win the **F4 Award for Outstanding New Documentary Talent** by a Jury of international documentary professionals, composed of GIL SCRINE (Jury President), Director of Gil Scrine Films, FIONA LAWSON-BAKER, Executive Producer of Ten Alps Asia, ANNA MIRALIS, Editor More4 of Channel 4, JENNY NEIGHBOUR, Programs Manager of Sydney Film Festival and PETER NEWMAN, Executive Producer Factual of SBS Australia. The winner will be announced at the BAFF Closing Night screening on Sunday 6 March.

### F4 NEW TALENT SHOWCASE – Palace Cinemas

5.00pm Wed 2 March & 5.00pm Sat 5 March. Directors: Pete Gleeson, Sieh Mchawala, Maya Newell, Vessal Safaei

### F4 MASTERS CLASSICS – Mercury Cinema

**FACING THE MUSIC** – 9.30pm, Mon 28 Feb

Directors: Bob Connolly, Robin Anderson

**HOOP DREAMS** – 9.00pm, Thu 3 Mar

Director: Steve James

**WHEN THE MOUNTAINS TREMBLE** – 9.00pm Tue 1 Mar

Directors: Pamela Yates, Newton Thomas Sigel

### F4 MASTERS PREMIERE FILMS – Palace Cinemas

**MRS CAREY'S CONCERT** – Opening Night & 12.45pm, Thu 3 Mar

Directors: Bob Connolly, Sophie Raymond

**THE INTERRUPTERS** - 5.15pm, Thu 3 Mar & 1.15pm, Fri 4 Mar

Director: Steve James

**GRANITO** - 9.15pm, Wed 2 Mar & 5.15pm, Sat 5 Mar

Director: Pamela Yates

**Ticketing and full session details:** [www.adelaidefilmfestival.org](http://www.adelaidefilmfestival.org)

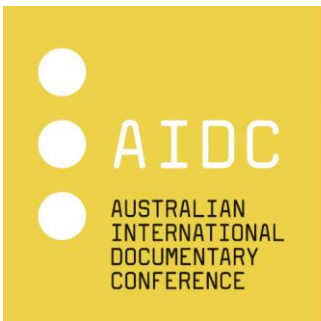
**AIDC** runs 1 – 4 March 2011 at the Hilton, Adelaide. Visit [www.aidc.org.au](http://www.aidc.org.au)

**Further media information:** Amanda Werner on Mob: 0412 007 273 or Email: [wernerpr@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wernerpr@bigpond.net.au)

**F4** is proudly supported by the Government of South Australia through Arts SA



Government of South Australia  
Arts SA



**F4 MASTER - BOB CONNOLLY**

**MRS CAREY'S CONCERT** Australia / 2010 / 95mins

**World Premiere**

**Opening Night Thursday 24 February & Thursday 3 March 12:45pm Palace 1**

Director Bob Connolly, Sophie Raymond

Q&A with Bob Connolly and Sophie Raymond (Thursday 3 March)



Karen Carey has been Director of Music for twenty years at MLC Burwood, an independent Sydney girls school. She oversees the Biennial MLC Opera House Concert that takes 18 months of hard slog from conception to execution. Bob Connolly (*Rats in the Ranks*), one of the great figures of Australian documentary, makes his return to directing after a ten-year absence. He and co-director Sophie Raymond follow Mrs Carey and her team as they coax, inspire, cajole and frog march their young performers to reach the required standard. Carey insists on a challenging classical repertoire, demands a

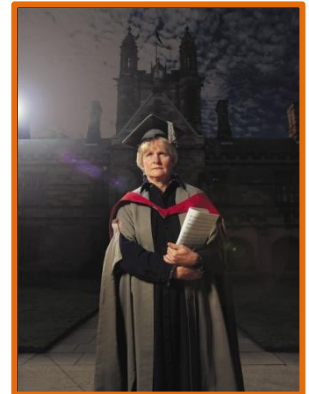
dauntingly high level of performance, and requires the active participation of not only her select group of dedicated student musicians, but also the entire 1200 strong student body. Along the way we can glimpse the great divide between those prepared to open their hearts and minds and those yet to discover the potential within.

**FACING THE MUSIC** Australia / 2001/ 89mins

**Monday 28 February 9.30pm Mercury Cinema**

Director Bob Connolly

Inside the halls of Sydney University's Music Department, sublime music is being made in a setting that's far from serene, as Professor Anne Boyd fights to preserve standards after nearly a decade of funding cuts. A compelling story of one person's choices and an eye-opening look at the perilous state of higher education.



**F4 MASTER - STEVE JAMES**

**THE INTERRUPTERS** USA / 2011 / 166mins

**International Premiere**

**Thursday 3 March 5.15pm Palace 1 & Friday 4 March 1.15pm Palace 1**

Director Steve James - Q&A with Steve James



The Interrupters are a group of former gang leaders who now work for an organisation called CeaseFire that tries to interrupt the tide of violence on Chicago's streets. The Interrupters, whose reputations command respect in their neighbourhoods, intervene in disputes before they turn violent. The film follows their attempts to deal with potentially explosive situations - everything from a stolen watch that threatens to become a shooting, to a funeral where young men in bulletproof vests prepare for retaliation. The Interrupters go about their work with a combination of bravado, humility and humour. They walk a precipitous line, stepping between adversaries (often people they know)

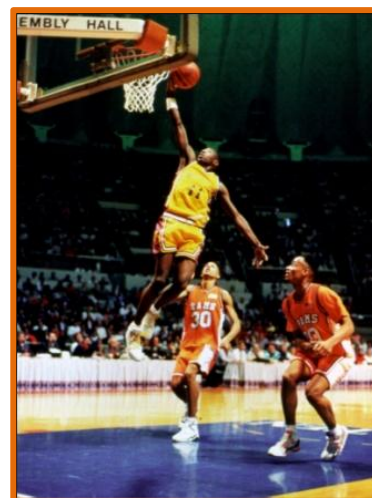
to make peace while keeping the police at arm's length. Director Steve James attempts to grapple with the causes of violence, and more importantly, with questions of how it might best be defused.



**BIGPOND®**  
**ADELAIDE FILM FESTIVAL**  
 IN CINEMAS // 24 FEBRUARY-6 MARCH 2011

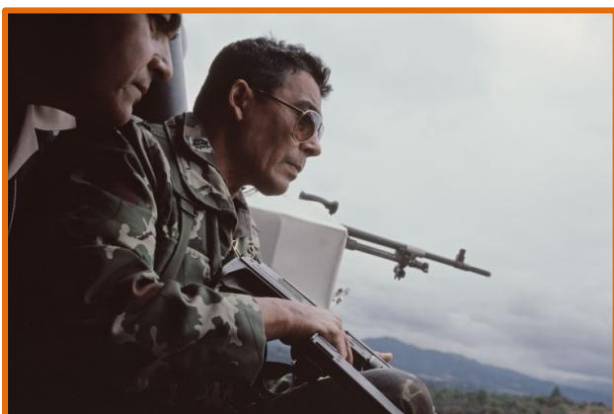
**HOOP DREAMS** USA / 1994/ 176mins  
**Thursday 3 March 9.00pm Mercury Cinema**  
 Director Steve James - Q&A with Steve James

Two ordinary inner-city kids dare to dream of professional basketball glory in this epic chronicle of hope and faith. Filmed over a five-year period, *Hoop Dreams* follows Arthur Agee and William Gates as they navigate the complex, competitive world of scholastic athletics while striving to overcome the intense pressures of family life and the harsh realities of Chicago's streets.



**F4 MASTER - PAMLEA YATES**

**GRANITO** USA / 2011 / 100mins  
**International Premiere**  
**Wednesday 2 March 9.15pm & Saturday 5 March 5.15pm Palace Cinemas**  
 Director Pamela Yates - Q&A with Pamela Yates



In 1982 Pamela Yates went to Guatemala and made *WHEN THE MOUNTAINS TREMBLE*, an indictment of the military genocide of the indigenous population, which propelled peace activist Rigoberta Menchú to international prominence and a Nobel Prize. Three decades later, Yates returns for a campaign to uncover the atrocities and bring the guilty to justice. She reconnects with former guerrillas (including a man who once shot her down), lawyers, archivists and archaeologists, all working to bring the truth to light. Yates believes in making a difference, in contributing her grain of sand (the granito of the title) to the struggle. This is a massive work, born of anger, of

compassion and of a steely determination to show that film can make the world a more just place.

**WHEN THE MOUNTAINS TREMBLE** USA / 1983 / 83mins  
**Tuesday 1 March 9pm Mercury Cinema**  
 Director Pamela Yates - Q&A with Pamela Yates

This remarkable story of the dirty war in Guatemala describes the struggle of the largely Indian peasantry against state and foreign oppression. Centred on the experiences of Rigoberta Menchú, a Quich Indian woman who went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize, Yates documents the birth of a national and political awareness.





## F4 NEW TALENT SHOWCASE

**Wednesday 2 March 5pm Palace 7 & Saturday 5 March 5pm Palace**

Intro and Q&A with filmmakers Maya Newell, Pete Gleeson, Vessal Safaei & Sieh Mchawala

**TWO** Director Maya Newell / 2010 / 18mins (Australian Premiere)

TWO is an exposé of a secret personal world of adult babies, with the focus on an eccentric middle-aged British man who is locked into a continual state of wanting to be two years old. Lodged in an adult nursery outside London, pampered by an adoring nanny, it's a much-misunderstood world of fantasies, role playing, dress-ups and a nostalgia for original love. Freud would've scratched his head. TWO has just received its world premiere at the Slamdance Film Festival in the US.



**STREETS OF MY CHILDHOOD** Director Vessal Safaei / 2009 / 8mins

STREETS OF MY CHILDHOOD tells the story of the 2009 Iranian elections, which resulted in protests and confrontations all over the country. This personal documentary is told through the eyes of the filmmaker and her oldest friend who have both left Iran to build themselves a better life. They are suddenly dragged back to thinking about their homeland when images of violence on the streets of Tehran becomes news all over the world.

**SOMETHING TO TELL YOU** Director Pete Gleeson / 2010 / 9mins (World Premiere)

Gary has struck up a relationship with a woman he likes on an internet dating site. He likes her, she likes him. So what could get in the way? The time approaches when they must meet, but he is yet to tell her he has a severe physical disability. As he reveals the details of his condition to her, we witness the arduous process of simply getting to bed. As the reality of his physical situation becomes clear, so too does his challenge to remain a romantic contender. The patience, grace and dignity the filmmaker displays in his approach to this intimate and difficult subject matter is outstanding.



**BAREFOOT IN ETHIOPIA** Director Sieh Mchawala / 2011 / 57mins (World Premiere)



Sieh Mchawala follows South Australian siblings Kyra and Aidan Glasby on a series of journeys to help the people of an Ethiopian village. During the year they fundraise for projects such as a clinic and a garden. Their sojourns in Ethiopia are amazing tests of resilience and ability to improvise. Student nurse Kyra finds herself treating gunshot wounds for the first time, while Aidan learns to fix anything. But good intentions only get you so far. The locals don't immediately want to adopt the schemes of outsiders, especially when they disturb the status quo. You need to negotiate, to be patient, and perhaps a bit crazy. Generosity lives close to home, even when it is practised so far away.

This observational style work is testament to an impressive 4-year commitment by the filmmaker to his characters and their mission. He skillfully manages to 'be there' to capture key moments in which they reveal themselves and drive the narrative home to its conclusion.