



Come and meet Tim from **MercuryMedia** at [Hot Docs 2010](#).

MercuryMedia is a leading international film distributor of high-quality documentaries.

Here is a selection of our critically acclaimed new titles. Please click on the titles to view the trailer.

Please contact Alice Broughton at alice@mercurymedia.org for a meeting.

We are available at Hot Docs from May 3rd - May 7th. We look forward to meeting with you then.

The Invention of Dr. NakaMats

40 mins and 60 mins from Plus Pictures

Meet Dr. NakaMats, octogenarian, demi-god in his native Japan, and the world's most prolific inventor, holding over 3300 patents. Edison by comparison had only 1,093. Some of his most famous include: the floppy disk, the CD, the DVD, the taxi cab meter, Cinemascope and even Karaoke. Here, in a vivid, often comic tour de force, Danish filmmaker Kaspar Astrup Schröder takes us through the eccentric world of the great man. Some of his inventions are failures and some of his antics frankly bizarre, but Dr. Nakamats is a unique force of nature - a fact Schröder's film captures with great joy.

Official Selection
True/False Film Festival, 2010
Hot Docs, 2010

Nominated - Best Documentary
CPH:DOX Int Film Fest, 2009

Nominated - Best Documentary
IDFA Int Film Fest, 2009

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Bilal

52 mins from Son et Lumière

A huge festival hit, Bilal charts the adventures of a three year old boy whose parents cannot see. Bilal shares a tiny room with his family in the Indian city of Kolkata, where he jumps between the world of the seeing and the world of the blind. The film tells this unusual story by observing Bilal over a year, capturing rare moments of love, fun, cruelty and hope.

Winner - Best Documentary Award
The 12th Zanzibar International Film Festival, 2009

Winner - Best Feature length Documentary
Beirut International Documentary Festival, 2009

Winner - Audience Choice Award
Auburn International Film Festival for Children, 2009

Winner - Golden Trophy
Al Jazeera Film Festival, 2009

Winner - Best Documentary Award
Dok Fest, 2009

Winner - Best Long Documentary Award
The International Documentary



The Silver Fez

87 mins from TOM Pictures

A classic David and Goliath tale that charts the competition between two choirs as they compete for The Silver Fez, a much coveted music prize in Cape Town, South Africa. The singers who comprise these huge ensembles come from poverty-ridden areas. The music they perform, a wonderful creole of Dutch Folk songs and Indonesian slave music, offers them a welcome outlet from the frustrations of unemployment and their otherwise desperate lives. The film pits wealthy, ultra-competitive choirmaster Hadji Bucks against Kaatji Davids, a struggling house painter who is trying to assemble a choir for the first time. Old rivalries come to the fore and Bucks attempts to sabotage the fledgling group. After that it's a riveting, rollercoaster ride to see who will be crowned champion.

Winner - Special Jury Prize
Dubai International Film Festival, 2009

Winner - Best Director in a Documentary Feature
SAFTA's, 2010

Winner - Best South African Documentary
Durban Int. Film Festival, 2009

Winner - Best South African Documentary
Tri Continental Film Festival, 2009

Winner - Best Cinematography
South African Film & Television Awards, 2010

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Hana, dul, sed...

98 mins from RI Filme

While most documentaries about North Korea pinpoint human rights abuses or gloomy privation, this profile of four players from the North Korean women's football team exposes the actual workings of Pyongyang society and the way ideology functions in its citizens' work and personal lives. It's also a record of two years on the pitch, initially a golden period as the team wins the Asian Championship in 2003. The personal can't be more political for them: one player's determination to beat Japan is driven by her need to avenge the mistreatment the Japanese inflicted on her mother, and before a match against the U.S. Kim Jong-il gives advice on improving their "anti-American vigilance." Their status privileges them; they are "players of the people" and entitled to larger rations that insulate them from food shortages. For them, however, the sport is not about fame or fortune, but hope. "What is beautiful about soccer," says one, "is that when you enter the pitch, you feel your heart swell, and the whole world is yours."

Official Selection

Locarno Film Festival, 2009

Vienna International Film Festival, 2009



Oil Spill: The Exxon Valdez Disaster

59 mins from Smoking Dogs Films

On Good Friday, 1989, the giant super tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound. Eleven million gallons of crude killed whales, sea otters, fish and birds, devastating local communities and industries for years to come. This stunningly shot, haunting tale made for the BBC, charts the disaster and its aftermath. It features players on both sides of a 20 year battle for justice, which went all the way to the US Supreme Court.

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Houston, We Have a Problem

82 mins and 54 mins from New Angle Media

An oil doc with a difference, Nicole Torre's potent film offers us unique access to the barons, "wildcatters", CEOs and roughnecks who comprise the world of US Big Oil. Behind the bluster, these executives' deep knowledge and passion for their business reveals genuine concerns about the United States' over-reliance on crude. The men environmentalists love to hate have repeatedly pushed the US government to demand increased conservation and greater efficiency – but to no avail. Torre's counterintuitive doc is a cry for unity in a divided industry that must settle its differences if we are ever to achieve a truly sustainable energy future.

Official Selection

Amsterdam IDFA Int. Film Fest, 2009
AFI Dallas Int Film Fest, 2009
Cambridge Int Film Fest, 2009

Available in HD



American Radical

84 mins from Ridgen Film/Baraka Productions

This is a probing, definitive documentary about American academic Norman Finkelstein, a devoted son of holocaust survivors and ardent critic of US and Israeli Middle-Eastern policy. Finkelstein impresses as a thoughtful and charismatic figure but his polarising views have caused public outrage, landing him at the centre of several controversies and massively damaging his public image. Finkelstein's conviction is matched by his doggedness as he navigates the globe on a speaking tour, encountering fierce support and hysterical derision in equal measure. *American Radical* is a nuanced and deeply compelling portrait of a man who is prepared to go to the brink of ruin simply for the sake of his beliefs.

Official Selection

Hot Docs, 2010

Winner - Audience Choice Award

Chicago Underground Film Festival, 2009

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Plunder: The Crime of Our Time

60 mins from Globalvision

Another gem from Danny Schechter and a caustic J'accuse aimed at the Wall Street community, *Plunder: The Crime of Our Time* is also one of the most accessible primers on the reasons behind the economic disaster that has affected us all, but so few understand. Although *Plunder* opens with the conviction of Ponzi King Bernie Madoff, whose acknowledged criminality drove a \$65 billion dollar pyramid scheme, the film argues that the wrongdoing committed by a few individuals distracts from the real story - the criminal intent of the financial world's most respected institutions in profiting from fraudulent sub-prime lending.

Available in HD



Where the Water Meets the Sky

99 mins from Camfed

Narrated by Academy Award-winner Morgan Freeman and written by Jordan Roberts (*March of the Penguins*), *Where the Water Meets the Sky* tells the inspiring story of a group of Zambian women who are given filmmaking tools and the support to use them for their own ends. Against the advice of their menfolk, the women make a film which highlights the plight of women orphaned by AIDS.

Winner - Best Global Insight
Jackson Hole Film Festival, 2008

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Stalin Thought of You

80 mins and 60 mins from Oblomov Films

Boris Efimov was one of the most influential political cartoonists of the 20th century. He was employed by the Soviet regime as one of its weapons in its ideological war with the Nazis and latterly the capitalist West. This fascinating, poignant film uses Efimov's words, drawings and rarely seen footage to illustrate his complex relationship with the Russian state and with Stalin in particular. For behind his titanic career, was what Efimov called "a wound that does not heal": the execution by Stalin of his older brother, the prominent journalist Mikhail Koltsov. *Stalin Thought of You* is a vivid, whistle-stop tour through some of the darkest moments of 20th century Russian history as seen through the eyes of its greatest propagandist.



Empire State Building Murders

73 mins from Roche Productions

Empire State Building Murders is an ode to American film noir, a feature film dressed like a doc and featuring legends such as Kirk Douglas, Cyd Charisse and Mickey Rooney. The Empire State Building sits centre stage in a mystery where brassy broads and sharp suited hoods power play for high stakes romance. Stealing from classics such as *The Big Sleep* and *Casablanca*, new light is shone on old favourites.

Official Selection

Gothenburg International Film Festival, 2009
IDFA, 2009

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Scientists Under Attack

88 mins from Denkmal-Films

Árpád Pusztai and Ignacio Chapela had two things in common: they are both distinguished scientists and their careers are now in ruins. Both issued warnings against the sale of Genetic Modified food and both are now suffering the fate of those who criticise big business. Director Bertram Verhaag unearths a global conspiracy whereby major multinationals pump millions of dollars per year into silencing the views of dissenting scientists. *Scientists Under Attack* paints a vivid and terrifying picture of a scientific community in danger of losing its objectivity in the face of pressure from the commercial sector.

Official Selection
IDFA International Film Festival, 2009



The Trial

52 and 72 mins from Headland Pictures

Ramush Haradinaj was a prominent commander in the Kosovo Liberation Army, a guerilla group which fought for independence from Milosevic's Serbia. In 2004, he was elected Prime Minister, but only 100 days into his term he was indicted by a war crimes tribunal for an alleged massacre in 1998. The film follows the events of the unfolding trial as seen through the eyes of lawyer Michael O'Reilly, who assembles an international team determined to rebut what they see as an unjust indictment. This is an extremely well crafted documentary, detailing a hugely troubling time in world history.

Official Selection
Galway Film Fleadh, Dokufest, 2009

Available in HD

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The Street Stops Here

83 mins from TeamWorks Media

A stunning portrait of Bob Hurley, America's most successful high school basketball coach. Bob's 35 year goal to inspire disadvantaged youths to achieve is set against the backdrop of a poor inner-city school struggling for funding in order to survive. *"Beautifully made and completely compelling"* - Steve James Director of *Hoop Dreams*.

Official Selection:

New Jersey Film Festival, 2009

Available in HD



Antoine

52 and 82 mins from EyeSteelFilm

A sensitive portrait both real and imaginary of Antoine, a precocious five year-old boy. Antoine is also blind, but completely integrated into the mainstream education system. Laura Bari's debut feature is a magical and playful film about the joys of childhood.

Winner - The Lindalee Tracey Award
Hot Docs Awards, 2009

Winner - Best Experiential Documentary
Docupolis Festival, 2009

Winner - Talent Dove Award
Leipzig DOK, 2009

Winner - Special Jury Mention
RIDM, 2008

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Pig Business

52 mins from Price of Progress Prods

Channel 4's film Pig Business which manufacturer Smithfield Foods tried to ban, is the horrific story of rules, regulations and humanity being put to one side in pursuit of profit at any cost. Eco-activist Tracy Worcester uncovers dangerous farming practices which put us all at risk exposing extreme cruelty behind the factory gates.

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