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## Children, Childhood, Youth and Anthropology

### Africa



#### **ROOM 11, ETHIOPIA HOTEL**

23 minutes, 2006. Filmmaker and Anthropologist: Itsushi Kawase

This film aims to capture a sense of the life of children living on the street in Gondar, Ethiopia, by witnessing the interaction between two children and the filmmaker. Although it is about the children's life the entire film was shot in the film-maker's room in the Ethiopia Hotel. This limited space allows the film to focus on communication between subjects and filmmaker revealing some ideas that enable them to endure and survive on the streets.



#### **ROUGH AUNTIES**

103 minutes, 2008. Director: Kim Longinotto

This film is about Bobbi Bear, a non-profit organization based in Durban, South Africa. Bobbi Bear counsels sexually abused children by letting them use teddy bears to explain their abuse and the organization works to bring justice to those who have suffered mistreatment. Since 1992, its staff has become a powerful voice for children who would otherwise continue to live in fear, powerless against their oppressors and ignored by the legal system.



#### **IMBALU: RITUAL OF MANHOOD OF THE GISU OF UGANDA**

69 minutes, 1988. Filmmakers/Anthropologists: Richard Hawkins, Suzette Heald

This is an insightful documentary about the male circumcision ritual among the Gisu of Uganda. The narrative follows one male participant through the ritual and contrasts his hopes and anxieties on this important day of his life with the expectations of the rest of the village.



#### **THE DAY I WILL NEVER FORGET**

92 minutes, 2002. Filmmaker: Kim Longinotto, Consultants: Fardhose Ali Mohamed, Eunice Munanie N'Daisi Kwinga

The documentary explores the local dimensions of the female circumcision debate in Kenyan societies. The film begins with Fardhosa, a nurse on a tireless campaign to open people's eyes to the dangers of circumcision, both physical and mental. Next, Simalo, a Maasai runaway girl returns from Nairobi to confront her mother, who was responsible for her mutilation and young marriage. Finally the film shows how a group of Marakwet schoolgirls have successfully challenged their parents and centuries-old tradition in a court of law.

### Asia



### **GANDHI'S CHILDREN**

185 minutes, 2008. Filmmaker and Anthropologist: David MacDougall

A building on the outskirts of Delhi provides food and shelter for boys who are orphans, have been abandoned or have run away from home. About half are held under a court order, having been picked up for petty crimes. Despite the harshness of their lives, many show remarkable strength of character, knowledge and resilience.



### **SCHOOLSCAPES**

77 minutes, 2007. Filmmaker and Anthropologist: David MacDougall

Inspired by the cinema of Lumière and the ideas of the Indian philosopher Krishnamurti, David MacDougall builds upon techniques used in his Doon School series of films about life in a traditional school in Northern India, with this film made about Rishi Valley School. Throughout his life, Krishnamurti taught that one should strive to observe the things around one more calmly and clearly. This was also how cinema began, and what excited its first audiences. SchoolScapes attempts to recapture that freshness of observing the world.



### **DOON SCHOOL PROJECT, NEW: also as DVD**

490 Minutes, 2000-2004. Filmmaker and Anthropologist: David MacDougall

The Doon School, located in Dehra Dun in Uttaranchal, is perhaps the most famous boys' boarding school in India. Although it has sometimes been called the 'Eton of India,' it has developed its own education style and presents a mixture of privilege and egalitarianism. It has become influential in the creation of new Indian elites and has come to epitomise many aspects of Indian postcoloniality.



### **SOME ALIEN CREATURES**

74 minutes, 2005. Filmmaker and Anthropologist: David MacDougall

This film is about a progressive co-educational boarding school in South India, the Rishi Valley School in which boys and girls accuse each other of being like "alien creatures." David MacDougall explores this gender divide through the lives of three boys at the school. The engaging portraits that emerge reveal the thoughts and resourcefulness of the boys as well as their problems, dreams, and daily activities.



### **RAVI AND BHAJAY**

26 minutes, 2002. Filmmaker/anthropologist: Rachel Webster (GCVA Student Film)

Street boys Ravi and Bhajay lead a tough life on the pavements of Mumbai in India. To get away from it all, they visit the nearby holy city of Ujjain accompanied by the filmmaker. But the call of life on the streets is still strong.



### **COMING OF AGE**

**MARGARET MEAD, 1901 - 1978**

*STRANGERS ABROAD*, programme 5 of 6. A Central Independent Television Production

52 minutes, 1986. Director and Anthropologist: André Singer, Writer / Presenter: Bruce Dakowski

This documentary series looks at the first anthropologists to stop 'armchair theorising' and go out to live among the peoples they are interested in.

In America, Bali and New Guinea Margaret Mead examined child development, sex and temperament to see what role society has in making people who they are. Adolescence was a time of emotional stress and personal conflict in America and Europe. Mead claimed that in Samoa, it was in many ways the most enjoyable and happy time of women's lives.

## **Europe**



### **HOLD ME TIGHT, LET ME GO**

99 minutes, 2007. Filmmaker: Kim Longinotto

Mulberry Bush School is an Oxford education facility for emotionally disturbed children, who have been excluded from mainstream schools. The film captures the inner life of Mulberry Bush, focusing on the stories of three boys, struggling at different stages of development, but linked by their tragic experiences



### **PRIDE OF PLACE** - Observations girls' lives at a Public School

59 minutes, 1976. Filmmakers: Dorothea Gazidis, Kimona Landseer (Kim Longinotto)

This film was made as a first project while Longinotto was a student. As a teenager, the filmmaker had been condemned to a girls' boarding school in Buckinghamshire. She ran away at the age of 17, and years later took the opportunity for sweet revenge. Longinotto exposes the repressive school from the students' perspective - as a kind of miniature state with bizarre rules, indigestible food and absurd punishments. One year after the release of the film, the boarding school was closed down.



### **GROWING PAINS**

41 minutes, 2006. Filmmaker/anthropologist: Cecile Øien (GCVA Student Film)

Júlia is a young Angolan woman who lives in a poor neighbourhood of Lisbon, together with her daughter Magui. The film illustrates her trouble to make sense out of her life, Highlighting ambivalences that are common to migrants: feelings of belonging, the importance of intergenerational relations and the relationship between past, present and future.

## **South America**



**BARBARA AND HER FRIENDS IN CANDOMBLELAND**

52 minutes, 1997. Filmmakers: Sylvie Timbert & Carmen Pipari

In the divine Afro Brazilian cult Candomble is an initiation religion centred on possession. The filmmakers concentrate on children who introduce and guide us to this world. Passing from simulation of the representation, the children touch on the possession dance. Many are eager to be possessed. The film explores what Candomble may offer them.

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