

YOUTHTOWN *Filmworks*

REEL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2008

More Info about Movies with a Message

Movies with a Message

This year a special category has been created with a world flavour. Have you got something to say of global importance? This category covers films or documentaries that deal with themes such as the environment, discrimination or war and peace.

Films entered into this category will be judged by a representative from The Global Education Centre and will be eligible for a prize pack including movie tickets, fair trade chocolate and a year's subscription to New Internationalist Magazine.

So what is a Movie with a Message and what is a global issue?

You don't need to travel overseas to make a film with a global message, the same issues are right here in Aotearoa New Zealand. We live in an interdependent world. What happens in our local community is affected by global factors and vice versa. For example, that t-shirt you're wearing was probably made by a teenager in a sweatshop in China. Or another example: bullying at your school and war in Iraq - they're different but they are both issues of violence.

Stuck trying to think of what a global message is? Basically, what we are talking about is a film with a bit of meat to it - that makes some kind of social commentary. Think: *Fahrenheit 911* (war, politics, corruption and media), *An Inconvenient Truth* (climate change) or *Super Size Me* (multinational corporations and health). There are also fictional films that address important themes: *The Constant Gardener* (drug companies, poverty, and corruption) or *Traffic* (racism). There are also home-grown examples such as *Once Were Warriors* (domestic abuse, sexual abuse and colonisation).

Inspiration and Information

For inspiration from other young people, check out the Media that Matters Film Festival: <http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org/> It is a festival of a whole lot of films made by young people in the USA, covering a whole lot of different issues that, well, *matter*.

For more information about global issues, and young people's perspectives in Aotearoa New Zealand, check out www.justfocus.org.nz

A good global website about issues is www.takingitglobal.org.nz which has information and contributions from young people all over the world.

For more information about entering the Reel Short Film Festival, contact Jewelz at Youthtown: jewelz@youthtown.org.nz or ph 09 379 5430 (ext 806).

