



A **FREE** week-end of French documentaries
from **Friday evening 9th to Sunday 11th April**

at **The Honest Lawyer.**



*Thanks to the collaboration of the French Embassy and the Film Archive,
the Alliance Française de Nelson presents a selection of
critically acclaimed documentary films hand-picked from festivals in France.
This **FREE screening** is organised according to four themes:*

- French reports which have taken a critical look at recent or still present conflicts or at countries in a precarious stability with **"Tweety Lovely Superstar"**, **"Rafah, chroniques d'une ville dans la bande de Gaza"** and **"Itchkeri Kenti"**;
- Daring artistic approaches which have brought a revolutionary perspective in their respective sphere with **"Cène"**, **"Yves Klein, la révolution bleue"** and **"Accentus-Laurence Equilbey"**;
- Ideas and ideologies which have had a crucial impact in the recent French history with **"Je veux tout de la vie-La liberté selon Simone de Beauvoir"** and **"Les lip, l'imagination au pouvoir"**;
- Sociological observations which question our contemporaneous world with **"Barcelone ou la mort"** and **"La Digue"**.

All documentaries have English subtitles and most of them are in French which could help you better understand the French language.

As there is no booking system it will be on the basis of "first come first served".

***Tweety lovely superstar* – Friday at 5.30pm**

Director Emmanuel Gras – 18', 2006 – No speaking

Four men and a child on the roof of a building. Their work: to destroy it. Their tools: their hands. Their labour today is their labour every day. They beat out the heavy sound of their progress in limbo. Slowly, the movements become musical, the music transforms into beats and the beats into vertigo, our own, in the face of vacillating history and the suffering of men.

***Itchkeri Kenti, Les fils de l'Itchkerie* – Friday at 6pm**

Director Florent Marcie – 145', 2007 - French, Russian, Chechen and English languages with English subtitles

Chechnya, winter 1996. Florent Marcie, a young French director, travels through and secretly films a country at war and a people resolute in their resistance. In the rebble of Grozny, under tight Russian army control, a huge separatist demonstration defies the occupying forces... Put together ten years later to serve as a testimony to a forgotten story, Itchkeri Kenti has become a symbolic film for the Chechens. A universal film about humanity at war and resistance.

***Rafah, chroniques d'une ville dans la bande de Gaza* – Saturday at 2pm**

Directors Stéphane Marchetti and Alexis Monchovet – 52', 2007 – French and English languages with English subtitles

A portrait at close quarters of a Palestinian town, filmed in action over a turbulent year from September 2005 to September 2006. Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, is a town cut in two by a security corridor that marks the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Rafah is a centre for arms smuggling between Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Ever since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip on 12 September 2005, these arms have fuelled bloody wars between families. The Hamas election victory left the town floundering in economic recession. On 25 June 2006, Israeli Corporal Gilad Shalit was kidnapped by means of a tunnel dug from Rafah. Tsalhal retaliated by bombing the arms smugglers' houses along the Philadelphia Road. On 12 September 2006, one year after the military withdrawal, the hopes for a brighter future lie in tatters.

***Yves Klein la révolution bleue* – Saturday at 3.30pm**

Director François Levy Kuentz - 52', 2007 - French language with English subtitles

This film about Yves Klein, a leading light of modern art, is a documented fiction film made up of library footage, artwork and re-enactments. It follows the artist's life in chronological order, showing the progress of his career and unraveling the mysterious correlations running through his work. The film is narrated by the artist himself, who tells his tale like a jigsaw puzzle, bringing to life the man, the artist, the work and the era.

Accentus, Laurence Equilbey, Transcriptions – Saturday at 5pm

Director Andy Sommer - 90', 2007 - French language with English subtitles

This film combines the most beautiful pages of music, the Accentus choir and Laurence Equilbey within three visual worlds. From the intimacy of Laurence Equilbey's apartment, where she prepares her work and rests, to the Salle Pleyel, site of a spectacular concert, we transit through an imaginary place where suggestions and stage directions of the choir animate the film without interfering with the vocal works of Mahler or Prokofiev.

Cène – Saturday at 7pm

Director Andy Guérif – 30', 2007 - French language with English subtitles

What is a painting? What is a picture? Such are the questions staged by the characters in this short film. Initially constructing their own set, working in motion towards their impending immobility, the characters transform ... into apostles; work, sharing, metamorphosis, representation of a work of art and, finally, recognition, all in a sequence shot focusing on Duccio's seminal work.

Je veux tout de la vie - La liberté selon Simone de Beauvoir – Sunday at 1pm

Directors Pascale Fautrier and Pierre Seguin - 52', 2008 - French language with English subtitles

"I want everything from life, I want to be a woman and to be a man, to have many friends and to have loneliness, to work much and write good books, and to travel and enjoy myself, to be selfish and unselfish" Simone de Beauvoir to Nelson Algren. With "Le deuxième sexe" (The Second Sex) in 1949, a seminal work of Western feminist thought, Simone de Beauvoir gained an international following from the 1960s, notably in the US. This documentary endeavours to show the historical, political and social importance of this book, by looking at what the development of women's rights and current feminist politics owe to Simone de Beauvoir.

Les Lip, l'imagination au pouvoir – Sunday at 2.30pm

Director Christian Rouaud - 120', 2007 - French language with English subtitles

This film sets out to meet the men who led the most emblematic workers strike of the post-1968 period, at the LIP works in Besançon. An incredible struggle that lasted several years, mobilized whole crowds in France and Europe and launched numerous illegal actions without ever resorting to violence, taking the imagination and desire for democracy to levels never attained before that time. Portraits, intercutting tales and collective story help us understand why this strike carried the hope and dreams of a whole generation.

La Digue – Sunday at 5pm

Director Frédéric Touchard - 52', 2006 - French language with English subtitles

According to an industrial program, a huge petrochemical and steel-manufacturing complex was set up in the port of Dunkerque, fifty years ago. A 7km seawall, the seawall of Braek, was built for the tankers delivering several metals and oil to get supply as close as possible to the factories. It was built along a very beautiful beach where a lot of people still go to sunbathe in the summer time, in spite of the danger it represents for them. The seawall is a kind of border between what is natural: the beach, the sea and its tides, and what is the man's work: the industrial monster represented by the factories, supplied by cargo liners, waiting along the quays.

Barcelone ou la mort – Sunday at 6.30pm

Director Idrissa Guiro - 49', 2007 - French, English and Senegalese languages with English subtitles

From a Dakar suburb, flimsy boats set sail for Europe, the symbol of a struggle and a people: fishermen deprived of their livelihood by globalization and who are forced to smuggle illegal aliens into Spain. The country has no future to offer its youth. In each family, someone dreams of leaving, at any price, and reaching "Barcelona", a word that has come to symbolize the European dream.