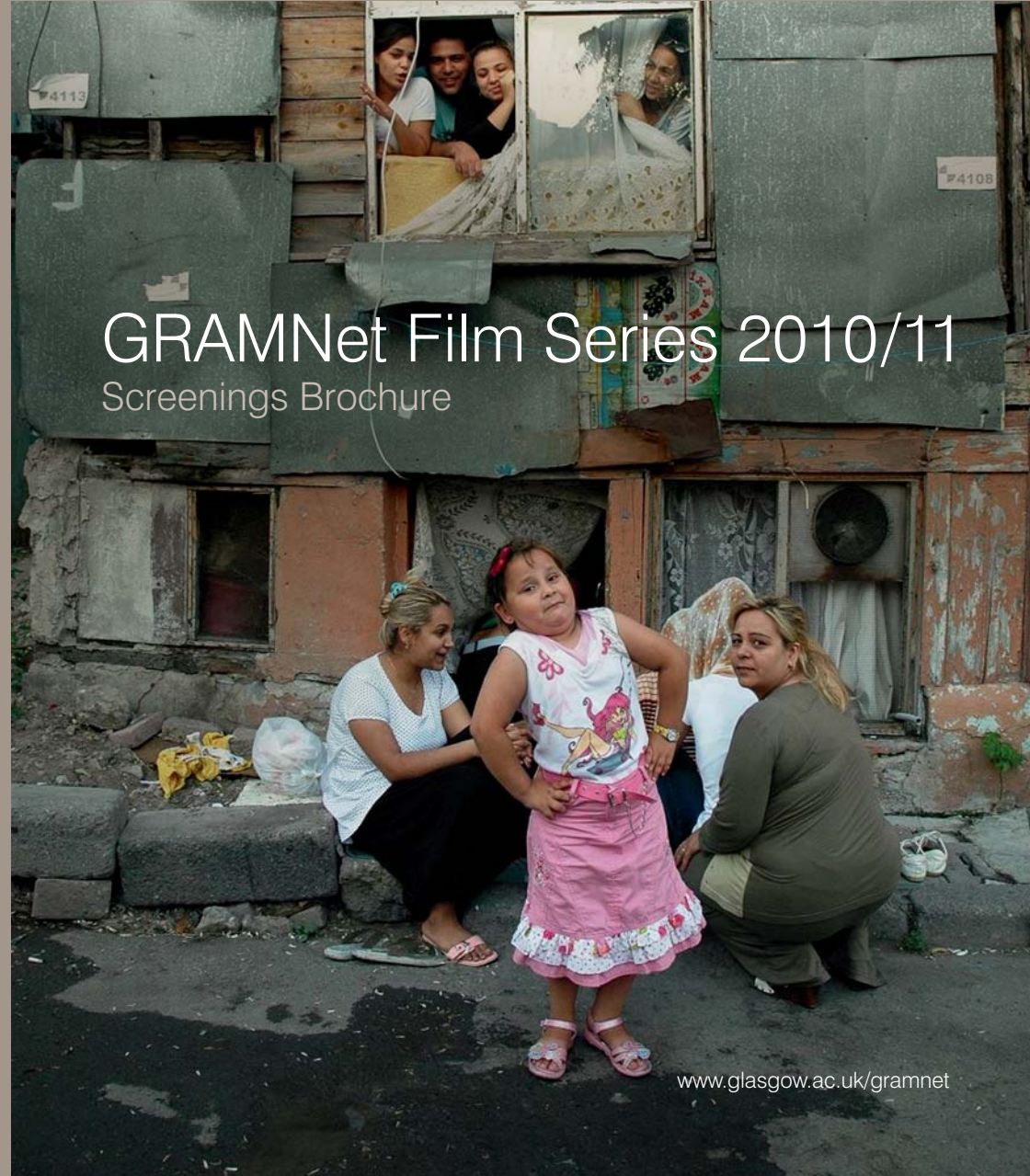




University of Glasgow



# GRAMNet Film Series 2010/11

Screenings Brochure

Sponsored by: GRAMNet, BEMIS & University of Glasgow Equality Unit.



[www.glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet)

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# Welcome to the GRAMNet Film Series 2010/11

In partnership with **BEMIS** (Black and Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland), **GRAMNet** (Glasgow Refugee, Asylum & Migration Network) brings to the heart of Glasgow a selection of screenings to mark international celebrations throughout the year\*. Hosted by the Glasgow Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA), these events invite everyone to take interest in and engage with issues pertaining to

migration and more broadly to human rights and social justice.

The Series includes films and documentaries addressing a whole range of wider social and international issues such as human trafficking, women's struggles, child poverty, migration challenges, cultural conflicts and diversity, children soldiers, refugee communities, and Holocaust survivors'

stories. Screenings are accompanied by forums, discussions and Q&A for everyone to share views and thoughts in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

**Events are free of charge and open to everyone.**

**Screenings start at 5.30pm.**



# GRAMNet Film Series 2010/11 Schedule

Date	Screening	Observance
06 Oct 2010	Visible Human Beings (2010) Those Left Behind (2007)	GRAMNet Films 2010/11 Launch
29 Nov 2010	Arthur Balfour and me (2007) Arna's Children (2003)	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
08 Dec 2010	My Beloved Sulukule (2010) The Romany King (2009)	Human Rights Day
18 Jan 2011	As Seen Through These Eyes (2009)	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
09 Feb 2011	Turtles Can Fly (2004) Cert 15	World Day of Social Justice
30 Mar 2011	Lilya-4-Ever (2002) Cert 18	International Women's Day
18 May 2011	The Edge of Heaven (2007) Cert 15	World Day for Cultural Dialogue and Development
22 Jun 2011	In This World (2002) Cert 15	Refugee Week/World Refugee Day

\*Unfortunately for logistical reasons it was not always possible to organise all films to coincide precisely with commemorative dates, nonetheless the films are screened in the spirit of the indicated observances.

# GRAMNet Film Series 2010/11

## Film Synopses

NOTE: All screenings start at 5.30pm

Wednesday  
6 October

### Film series launch

The Film Series launch event will feature members of GRAMNet, BEMIS and special guests. The opening screening features two documentaries, including the premier of *Visible Human Beings* by Glasgow based director Fatima Helow, who will be present at the event.

The audience is warmly invited to a reception in the CCA Café following the screenings and discussion session.

#### Visible Human Beings (2010)

Documentary: Scotland  
Director: Fatima Helow  
Running time: 19 min

*Visible Human Beings* is a film documentary about two asylum seekers living in Glasgow. Rashida, a Pakistani single mother with four children, and Hamlai, from Algeria, who has not seen his children in ten years. Both Rashida and Hamlai have been waiting for a final decision from the Home Office on their asylum cases for years. This film tells the powerful story of the two characters, of the difficulties they face in their daily life, of their disrupted existence.

#### Those Left Behind (2007)

Documentary: Scotland  
Director: Camcorder Guerillas  
Running time: 11 min

What is it like to teach in a school where pupils simply vanish without trace? What happens when your neighbour of many years disappears over night? *Those Left Behind* speaks to some who live in Glasgow's communities where people disappear - without warning.

Monday  
29 November

#### Arthur Balfour and Me (2007)

Documentary: Scotland  
Director: Charlotte Cornic  
Running time: 11 min

What links Arthur J Balfour, the British Politician, born in 1848 on a sumptuous family estate in East Lothian and Fatima, a young Palestinian woman, born in 1971 in a refugee camp in Lebanon and now seeking asylum in Glasgow? From the beautiful farming landscape of East Lothian to the narrow alley ways of a refugee camp in Lebanon, Arthur Balfour and Me is a visual and emotional journey through history and present time; a hidden story about how one politician's

actions continue to affect the life of a young woman from the Middle East.

Director Charlotte Cornic will be present for a discussion.

#### Arna's Children (2003)

Documentary: Palestine/Israel/Netherlands  
Director: Dannie Daniel and Juliano Per  
Running time: 85 min

*Arna's Children* is indeed a very powerful film. It conveys a message which transcends ethnicity, religion, and class. The film is about an old Israeli Jew who marries a Palestinian Arab and builds a Children's

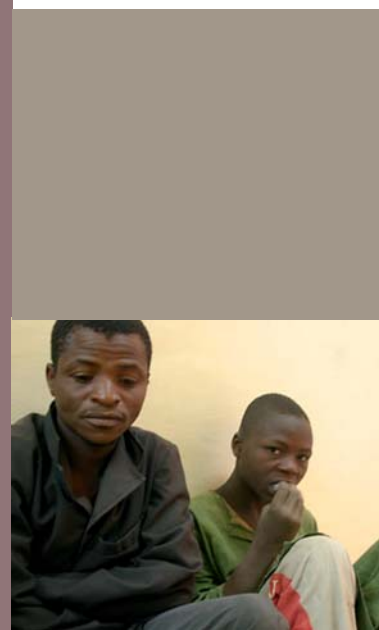
Theatre in the Jenin Refugee Camp. The story follows the children of Arna through their early years in this wonderful theatre until the Israel Defence Forces attack the camp in 2002. The violence breaks as the children, who had once aspired to become great classical actors, set to defend the camp.

#### Awards:

**Best Film** (Human Rights Film Festival – Prague)

**FIPRESCI Prize** (Canadian International Documentary Festival)

**Best Documentary** (Tribeca Film Festival)



Wednesday  
8 December

### My Beloved Sulukule (2010)

Documentary: Turkey  
Director: Nejla Osseiran  
Running time: 10 min

This photo-reportage witnesses the last 2 and a half years of Sulukule, a gypsy neighbourhood in Istanbul now completely demolished as part of an urban transformation project carried out by the Fatih municipality, during the years 2005-2010. The people of Sulukule themselves wanted to have their pictures taken and they posed for the camera desiring to have one last memento of their homeland.

In the background is the voice of Gulsum Abila, whose house

in Sulukule was under the threat of demolition at the time, but now also demolished. She tells us her feelings about being a gypsy, living in poverty and discrimination. She talks about the old happy days of her childhood in her beloved Sulukule. Her song at the end sums it up: 'I'm All Alone'.

### The Romany King (2009)

Documentary: Czech Republic  
Director: Viliam Poltikovi  
Running time: 60 min

A documentary film about the transformations of a Romany settlement within the village of Žehra in the Spiš region of Slovakia. Teaming up with Film

& Sociology producers, director Viliam Poltikovič took his crew here in 1991 to shoot the film The Resettlement (Stěhování osady), about the resettlement of Romanies from the slums they inhabited to newly-constructed three-storey prefabricated housing blocks. In 2002 we went to Žehra to take a look and decided to start filming again.

*These films were screened at Document 8, 26th-31st Oct 2010.*  
[www.documentfilmfestival.org](http://www.documentfilmfestival.org)

**document** International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

My Beloved Sulukule (2010)



The Romany King (2009)



Tuesday  
18 January

### As Seen Through These Eyes (2009)

Documentary: US  
Director: Hilary Helstein  
Running time: 70 min

Director Hilary Helstein has travelled the world over the past decade, compiling interviews with survivors who have given us something that history couldn't; a journal of the Holocaust as seen through the eyes of the artist, through the eyes of people who by the very act of creating, rebelled and risked their lives by doing what they were forbidden to do. As Maya Angelou narrates this powerful documentary, she reveals the story of a brave group of people who fought Hitler with the only weapons

they had: charcoal, pencil stubs, shreds of paper and memories etched in their minds. These artists took their fate into their own hands to make a compelling statement about the human spirit, enduring against unimaginable odds. Picasso's words resonate, "I have always believed that artists should not remain indifferent to a conflict in which the highest values of humanity and civilization are at stake." The mission of *As Seen Through These Eyes* is to combat prejudice, intolerance and bigotry through a series of moving interviews with these survivor-artists.

Each conversation brings with it the realization that every painting or sketch on a torn scrap of paper is its own Holocaust diary. Their words—and their images—are profoundly moving, communicating horror and hope artistically.

#### Awards:

- Best Foreign Documentary** (Thessaloniki International Film Festival)
- Best Documentary** (Miami International Jewish Film Festival)
- Best Documentary** (Los Angeles International Jewish Film Festival)
- Best Film** (International Jewish Film Festival in Argentina)
- Official Selection** (Palm Springs International Film Festival)
- Best Documentary** (International Jewish Film Festival in Santiago, Chile)

"I have always believed that artists should not remain indifferent to a conflict in which the highest values of humanity and civilization are at stake."

Pablo Picasso

## Wednesday 9 February

### Turtles can fly (2004)

Cert: 15

Film: Iran/France/Iraq

Director Bahman Ghobadi

Running time: 98 min

From acclaimed director Bahman Ghobadi (*A Time for Drunken Horses*) comes the first film shot in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein. Heart-wrenching as well as spirit-raising, *Turtles Can Fly* mixes humour and tragedy to startling effect, resulting in a very timely masterpiece about children struggling to survive in an endless war zone. On the Iraqi-Turkish border, enterprising 13-year-old Kak (Soran Ebrahim) is the de facto leader of a Kurdish village, thanks to his ability to install satellite dishes and translate news of the pending US invasion. Organizing fellow orphans into landmine-collection teams so that they can eke out a living, he is all business until the arrival of a clairvoyant boy and his quiet, beautiful sister.

#### Warning:

This is a film full of disturbing images: violence, rape, maiming and suicide of children, so sensitive viewers beware. It is slow to start off, but is an ultimately rewarding journey of the horrors of war and the fate of the marginalized, orphaned children that war produces.

#### Awards:

**Peace Film Award** (Berlin International Film Festival)

**Best Film & Best Narrative Feature** (Mexico City International Contemporary Film Festival)

## Tuesday 30 March

### Lilja 4-ever (2002)

Cert: 18

Film: Sweden/Denmark

Director: Lukas Moodysson

Running time: 109 min

This Swedish film depicting the struggles of Lilja (Okshana Akinshina), a 16-year-old girl living in an unidentified ex-Soviet republic. Her mother abandons her in the slums of the city to move to the United States, and she is forced to move into a squalid apartment with only her abused 11-year-old friend, Volodya (Artiom Bogucharskij), for care or company. As the two begin to starve, Lilja turns to prostitution as a way to support herself. When Swedish businessman Andrei (Panel Ponomaryov) appears and promises to save Lilja from the slums, her situation appears to be improving, but it is only the beginning of the problems she will face. *Lilja 4-Ever* deals with trafficking of women for prostitution, an issue which has become relevant not only in Europe, but in other parts of the world as well. In Europe women are most often transported from poorer Eastern countries to the more prosperous West, often under false pretences as shown in this film.

#### Awards:

**Best Actress** (Nordic Film Festival; Gijon International Film Festival)  
Chlotrudis Award for  
**Best Director, Best Actress, Best Film**

## Wednesday 18 May

### The Edge of Heaven (2007)

Cert: 15

Film: Germany/Turkey/Italy

Director: Fatih Akin

Running time: 116 min

Fatih Akin, renowned for his energetic movie *'Gegen die Wand' (Against the Wall)*, brings another story about the Turkish-German community. The movie focuses on three families who are all connected in some way. In a beautiful way Akin shows the struggle of a Turkish prostitute, a professor of German literature, a young Turkish rebel, a German student and her mother to find peace and happiness in their lives. The movie also depicts the

impact of globalization and multiculturalism in nowadays Germany and Turkey. It's the most debated topic of our time. To what extent do we want newcomers to adapt to their new surroundings and to what extent do we accept them to cherish their own cultural heritage. In an even broader perspective, it deals with the clash between the Islamic and western world.

#### Awards:

**Best Screenplay** (Cannes Film Festival)

**Best Screenwriter** (European Film Awards)  
as well as numerous prizes and nominations in various international film festivals

*Turtles can fly (2004)*



*Lilja 4-ever (2002)*



Wednesday  
22 June

## In this World (2002)

Cert: 15  
Film: UK  
Director: Michael Winterbottom  
Running time: 89 min

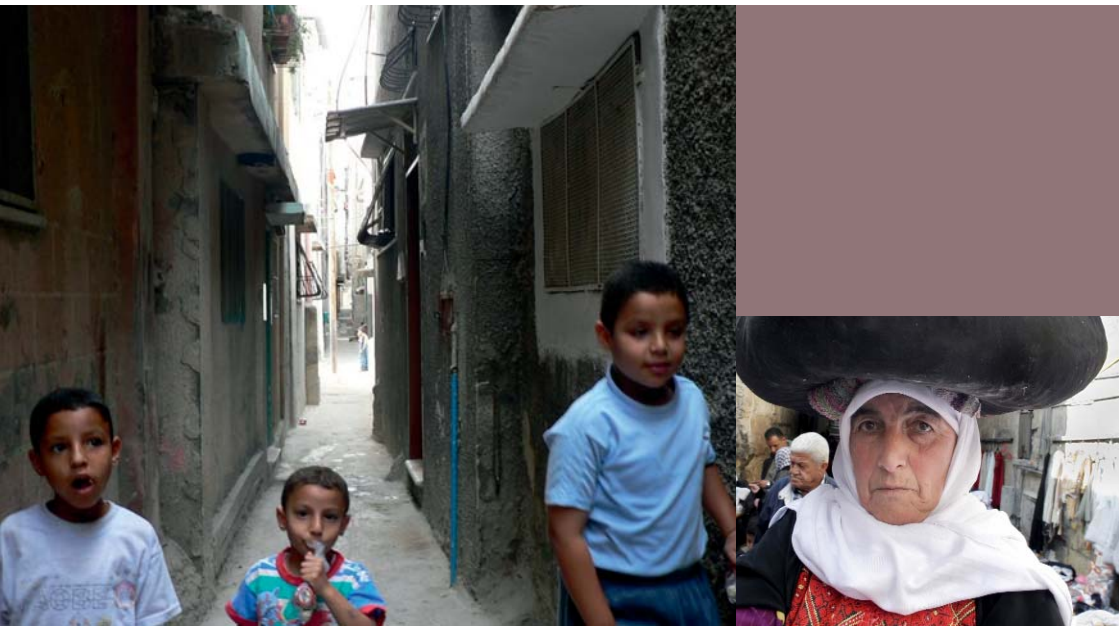
Torn straight from the headlines, Michael Winterbottom's compelling and prescient *In This World* follows young Afghan Jamal and his older cousin Enayat as they embark on a hazardous overland trip from their refugee camp at Peshawar, north-west Pakistan. Entering Turkey on foot through a snowy, Kurdish-controlled pass, the pair again take their lives into their hands and face suffocation when they are locked in a freight container on a ship bound for Italy. From there they plan to travel on to

Paris, the Sangatte refuge centre and ultimately asylum in London. The film depicts the human face of immigration, and one too often hidden from the eyes of the world.

### Awards:

**Golden Berlin Bear;**  
**Peace Film Award**  
(Berlin International Film Festival)  
**BAFTA for Best Film in non-English Language**  
(BAFTA Awards), etc.

*In this World* courtesy of  
*Revolution Films*  
[www.revolution-films.com](http://www.revolution-films.com)



## About us

**GRAMNet**  
(Glasgow Refugee, Asylum & Migration Network):  
A new approach to migration

GRAMNet brings together researchers and practitioners, NGOs (non governmental organisations) and policy makers concerned with immigration issues in Scotland and beyond. The research initiative, currently based at the University of Glasgow, focuses on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. The network provides a forum through which policy makers and academics can work together to connect communities through knowledge exchange, research and development.

The city of Glasgow is host to the largest population of refugees and asylum seekers under the UK Government's dispersal policy and also has a history of attracting large communities of migrants. GRAMNet aims to build a context for the study of migrant communities based on the city's unique position.

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**BEMIS**  
(Black and Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland)

BEMIS is the Ethnic Minorities led national umbrella organisation for the Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector & the communities that this sector represents. As a strategic national infrastructure organisation, BEMIS aims to empower the diverse Ethnic Minority third sector. We are committed to promoting inclusion, democratic active citizenship, recognition of diversity, human rights education, and wider representation. Our vision is of a Scotland that is Equal, Inclusive, and Responsive: A society where people from the diverse communities are valued, treated with dignity and respect, have equal citizenship, opportunities and quality of life, and who actively participate in civic society.

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**CCA**  
(Centre for Contemporary Arts)

The Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) is a unique contemporary arts organisation at the heart of Glasgow's city centre and vibrant cultural community. With an eclectic programme offering visual arts, music, film, talks and performance, there's always something interesting going on.

CCA curates six major exhibitions a year, showing a wide range of Scottish and international contemporary art, as well as being home to Intermedia Gallery for emerging artists. Fast developing a reputation for world class improvised, experimental and electronic music, CCA also screens independent short, foreign and documentary films otherwise unavailable across the city.

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### Access

There is level access to CCA from Sauchiehall Street. All upper levels are fully accessible by lift. There is an induction loop at the Sales and Information desk and CCA4.