



University
of Glasgow



Sponsored by GRAMNet, and BEMIS



University
of Glasgow



www.glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet
www.bemis.org.uk



CCA:

Copyright University of Glasgow 2012.
The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401

Film stills kindly provided courtesy of distribution
companies/directors:

Film Name	Director/Distributor
Clare's / Graham's story	Gameli Tordzro
The Moon is Jewish	WFDIF
Belarusian Waltz	Kudos Family
Sanctuary	Abigail Hawkins
Beyond Prejudice	Johannes Parkkonen
Nickel City Smiler	Chance Encounter Productions
Vodka Factory	Hysteria Film AB
Our School	Mona Nicoara
Kauwboy	Waterland Film
Mare Chiuso	ZaLab

Design by cactushq.com

GRAMNet Film Series 2012/13 Screenings Brochure

www.glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet

Programme

The 2012/2013 Film Series organised in partnership between GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee and Asylum Network) and BEMIS (Black and Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland). This year we will showcase films and documentaries that feature themes of integration and exclusion, both within communities and a larger political context. With an emphasis on the social and political concerns of contemporary Central and Eastern Europe, and in particular the role of the individual in a hostile and stifling environment, our central ethos this year is **One Voice, Heard Worldwide**. Following each film, invited local organisations and community groups will suggest positive actions that can be undertaken locally to address one or more of the issues raised in each film. Through this format we aim to promote active citizenship and human rights education.

Screenings are accompanied by forums and Q&A for everyone to share their views and thoughts in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The audience is warmly invited to congregate in the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) Cafe following each screening to continue our informal discussions.

Events are free of charge and open to everyone.

Sponsored by GRAMNet and BEMIS with the support of the Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies (CRCEES)



Date	Screening	Observance
17 Oct	Clare's Story (2012) Graham's Story (2012)	Black History Month
22 Nov	The Moon is Jewish (2011)	International Day For Tolerance
05 Dec	Belarusian Waltz (2007)	Human Rights Day
16 Jan	Sanctuary (2009) Beyond Prejudice (2011)	International Migrants Day
06 Feb	Nickel City Smiler (2010)	World Day Of Social Justice
20 Mar	Vodka Factory (2011)	United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
17 April	Our School (2011)	International Romani Day
15 May	Kauwboy (2012)	International Day of Families
19 Jun	Mare Chiuso (2012)	World Refugee Day

NOTE: Doors open at 5.30pm for 6pm start for all screenings

Film Synopsis

NOTE: Doors open at 5.30pm, for 6pm start

Wednesday

17 October 2012 - 2012/13 series launch



Clare's Story/Graham's Story

Documentary: Scotland (2012),
Producer|Director|Music by: Gameli Tordzro
Running Time: 24 mins|30 mins

“ Our vocation is against all unconnectedness. It a call create a way again. Where foundations have been assaulted and destroyed, where restoration has been made impossible, simply to create a way! ”

The majority of the Africans in the Scottish Diaspora come from different backgrounds and contexts: those who have come here as professionals, students, migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers and their dependents. All too often there are negative perceptions which are tied to the discourse of the 'fight for migrant rights' with a focus on the socio-economic implications of the growing demographics of non-EU migrants. This does not take into account the range of skills, expertise, knowledge, talents as well as the cultural wealth they contribute.

There remains a constant need and search for appropriate media for self expression within this growing African Diaspora in Scotland; to increase active involvement of the migrant population. Harnessing the artistic and cultural wealth of the African community in Scotland can contribute to the development of an inclusive Scotland.

The Life Stories series uncovers untold stories of struggles, fears, aspirations, resilience, determination, excellence and successes of immigrants from African communities living in Scotland.

Clare Robertson shares her love for music, family and community as well as her contribution to the Scottish society as a community arts and cultural professional with Glasgow City Council.

Graham reveals his experiences as a poet, musician, issues on immigration to integration, friendship, school days memories of North London and how that has shaped his career experience of in Glasgow.

The production of the two episodes was funded by Awards for All Scotland 2011

PAASFest 2012, is a collaborative project bringing together multiple partners and participants to deliver a highly visible performance arts programme in public spaces. For information on the annual PAASFest, please visit: www.panafricanartsscotland.org.uk



Thursday
22 November 2012

The Moon is Jewish

Documentary: Poland (2011) Director: Michał Tkaczyński
Running Time: 45 mins

A subculture of football fans and Judaism – can anyone imagine a stronger antagonism? Paweł, a former skinhead, used to build his identity on hatred. Yet several years ago he underwent a spiritual transformation and became an Orthodox Jew. This challenging documentary is a thought-provoking study in both conflicted identity and the complexities of self discovery, as Paweł attempts his integration into a new world following the discovery that his family was Jewish.

Abandoning both the friends and lifestyle that had come to define him as a young man, Paweł finds himself isolated from the ties to his past, yet once again cast as the outsider in Warsaw's tiny Jewish community. Directed by Michał Tkaczyński, *The Moon is Jewish* is a fascinating look at the personal reconciliation of two diametrically opposed identities, and the social and religious bonds that shape our sense of self.

Awards

*Selected for the Warsaw Phoenix Award
at the Jewish Motifs International
Film Festival*



Wednesday
05 December 2012

Belarusian Waltz

Documentary: Norway|Poland (2007)
Director: Andrej Fidyk
Running time: 74 mins



[This film contains adult themes]

Belarusian Waltz is the controversial story of Alexander Pushkin, whose audacious, comical exploits have earned him the hostility of the police and the consternation of his family. An offbeat tale in which post-modern street theatre meets 1930s-style authoritarianism, the film offers a surprising window into the soul of the Belarusian people.

Belarus has been called "Europe's last dictatorship." Since 1994, Alexander Lukashenko has ruled the ex-Soviet republic with a despotic hand, jailing the opposition, shutting down the press and refusing to investigate the assassinations of dissidents. He has virtually silenced his critics – except for one lone performance artist who stages public stunts mocking the dictator's pretensions.

As Pushkin uses his stunts to attempt to reawaken political and historical awareness among his compatriots, a secondary narrative emerges of the protagonist himself that is increasingly more complex than that of a moral and political crusader. Driven in part by ego and controversially glorifying as heroes the Nazi collaborators in World War Two, Pushkin's campaign against what he describes as a "totalitarian neo-Stalinist collective fascism" is also a fascinating exploration of the self in a politically and socially hostile environment.

Awards

European Film Academy Award for Best Documentary

Wednesday
16 January 2013

Sanctuary

Documentary: Scotland (2009) Director: Abigail Howkins
Running time: 21 mins

Sanctuary tells the stories of six asylum seekers and refugees living in Glasgow, and aims to address the stigma and discrimination often experienced by asylum seekers and refugees. With Glasgow hosting increasing numbers of asylum seekers and refugees over the last few years, it was considered a priority to ensure the mental health of this social group. With stigma and discrimination often an issue, there is a reluctance for people with mental health issues to seek help within these communities. A high quality film capturing the narratives of asylum seekers and refugees.

Beyond Prejudice

Documentary: Scotland (2011)
Created by 'see me' in partnership with VOX and GAMH
Running time: 13 mins

"See the person, not the problem"... This quote from the film-makers summarises the contribution of 'Beyond Prejudice' to our understanding of mental health issues for black and minority ethnic communities in Scotland. 'Beyond Prejudice' explores the lived experiences of those who suffer from mental illness from ethnic minority groups. In particular, those who have overcome depression are interviewed. Many of those interviewed highlight the value of being active outside of the home, and identify that interaction, socialisation, and regaining an enthusiasm for life that was lost are important factors in recovery. The need for shared support amongst ethnic minority individuals suffering from mental illness is presented in the film, and identifies that those who have recovered have a great deal of knowledge and experience to equip them to support others. 'Beyond Prejudice' addresses medical and non-medical interventions in aiding recovery, and emphasises that finding an individual identity, and a voice, are important for all those who have recovered from mental illness in black and ethnic minority communities.



see me
LET'S STOP THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILL-HEALTH
www.seemescotland.org

VOX
Voices Of eXperience



Wednesday
06 February 2013

Nickel City Smiler

Documentary: USA (2010)
Directors: Scott Murchie, Brett Williams
Running time: 103 mins

Nickel City Smiler chronicles a refugee's fight for survival and hope in the American Rust Belt. In Burma, Smiler Greely fought against the brutal military government, who attacked, tortured, raped and murdered thousands of the country's ethnic minorities. After spending more than 20 years in the confinement of a refugee camp, Smiler and his family were selected for resettlement in the United States and assigned to live in Buffalo, New York.

Nickel City Smiler documents the struggles Smiler's family and the refugee community encounter on the streets of one of America's poorest cities. Forced to fight against poverty, violence and bureaucracy, Smiler battles for the hopes and hearts of his people.

Wednesday
20 March 2013

Vodka Factory

Documentary: Sweden | Poland | France
Director: Jerzy Sladkowski
Running time: 89 mins

"I'm a silly person, but sensitive too," declares Valya, the 22-year-old single mother who works in a local vodka factory and lives with her mother in the backwoods Russian town of Zhigulyovsk. There's no future here: there's nothing to do but drink and all the men are deadbeats. Ambivalent about caring for her son, the comely, heavily mascaraed Valya escapes the brutal banality of her reality by dreaming of becoming an actress in Moscow. But in realizing her dream, she would not only be abandoning her son, she'd be destroying her mother's: Fifty-year-old Tatiana finally has a chance at love when an old flame re-enters her life. Filmed like fiction and imbued with the gorgeous melancholy of crushed dreams, award-winning *Vodka Factory* is a stunningly intimate reflection on the price of dreams.

Awards
Golden Dove for Best Feature Length Documentary
(DOK Leipzig)

Wednesday
17 April 2013

Our School

Documentary: USA | Switzerland | Romania
Director: Mona Nicoara, Miruna Coca-Cozma
Running time: 94 mins

Our School follows three Roma (commonly known as "Gypsy") children in a rural Transylvanian village who are among the pioneer participants in an initiative to integrate the ethnically segregated Romanian schools. When their school is desegregated, Alin, Benjamin, and Dana set out for the city school, optimistic for education and new friendships, even as funds earmarked for integration are questionably used to build a "Roma-only" school in their village. Their innocent optimism quickly sours when the children are met with low expectations and further isolation.

Shot over four years, the filmmakers' tender portrait of rural village life and its rhythms fosters an intimacy in the children's profound reality and admiration for their indomitable spirit, punctuated by shocking instances of prejudice and ignorance. Their story touches on issues ranging from institutionalized racism, public education, and the intractability of poverty, culminating in an outrageous finale that cements the Roma children's struggle in the annals of egregious human rights violations. Our School is an absorbing, infuriating, and ultimately bittersweet story of tradition and progress.

Awards
Grand Jury Prize for Best US Feature (SilverDocs 2011)
Best International Feature
(Human Rights Arts and Film 2012)



Wednesday
15 May 2013

Kauwboy

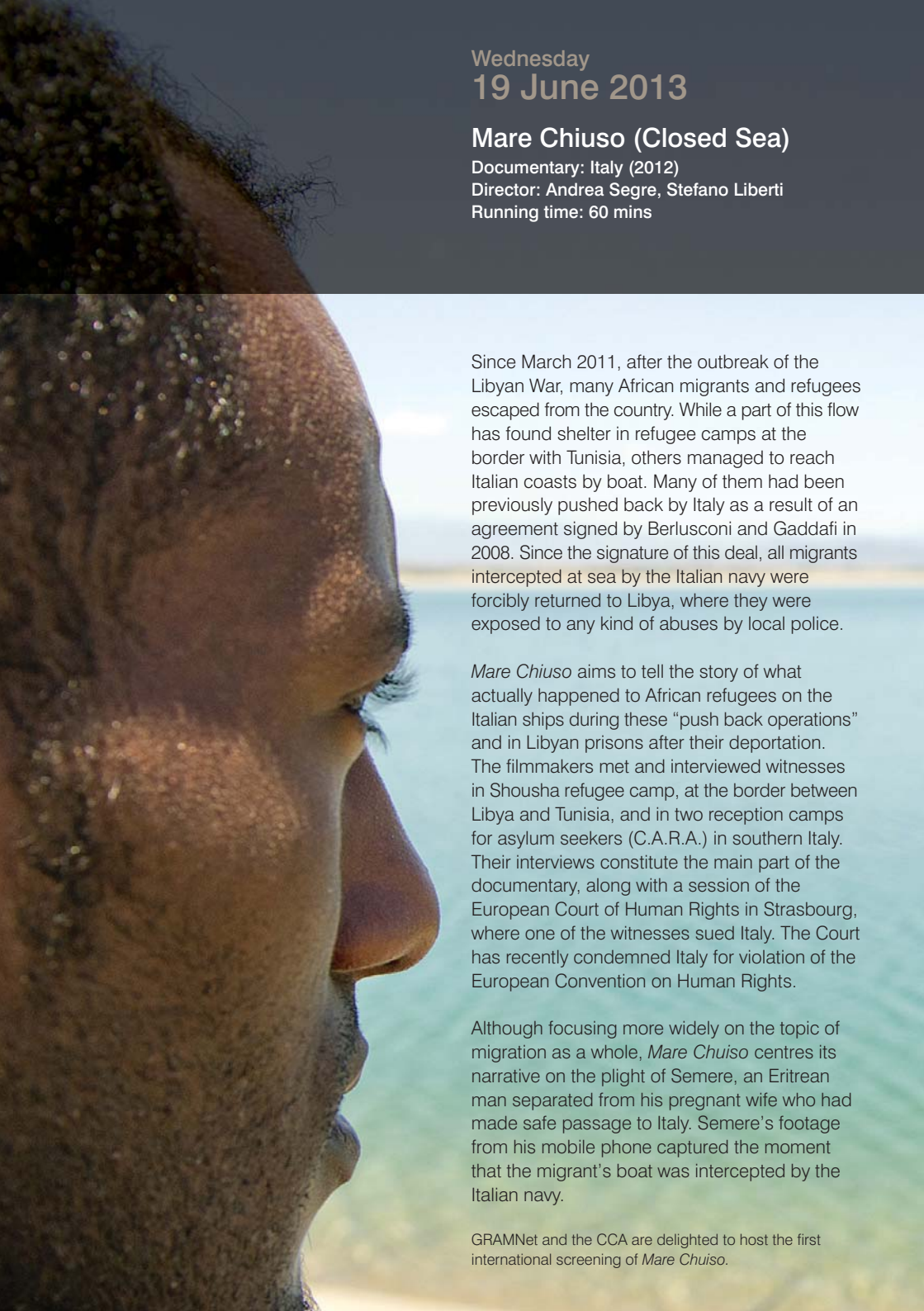
Drama: Netherlands (2012)
Director: Boudewijn Koole
Running time: 81 mins

Ten-year-old Jojo lives alone with his security guard father, a sometimes erratic man of few words. Missing his absent mother, a country singer, Jojo finds solace in an unexpected friendship with an abandoned baby jackdaw. *Kauwboy* offers a tender portrait of a young boy trying to come to terms with a family that's not what it once was, and struggling to find a balance between reality and desire. Unafraid of sadness or conflict, this beautifully cinematic, bittersweet film sensitively explores issues of loss and sorrow, whilst painting a joyfully upbeat picture of acceptance and love.

Directed by Boudewijn Koole, *Kauwboy* premiered at the 2012 Berlin Film Festival, where it won the award for Best First Feature and the Generation Kplus Grand Prix. *Kauwboy* is also the Dutch candidate for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2013 Academy Awards

Awards
Best Feature Film (Berlin Film Festival 2012)





Wednesday
19 June 2013

Mare Chiuso (Closed Sea)

Documentary: Italy (2012)

Director: Andrea Segre, Stefano Liberti

Running time: 60 mins

Since March 2011, after the outbreak of the Libyan War, many African migrants and refugees escaped from the country. While a part of this flow has found shelter in refugee camps at the border with Tunisia, others managed to reach Italian coasts by boat. Many of them had been previously pushed back by Italy as a result of an agreement signed by Berlusconi and Gaddafi in 2008. Since the signature of this deal, all migrants intercepted at sea by the Italian navy were forcibly returned to Libya, where they were exposed to any kind of abuses by local police.

Mare Chiuso aims to tell the story of what actually happened to African refugees on the Italian ships during these "push back operations" and in Libyan prisons after their deportation. The filmmakers met and interviewed witnesses in Shousha refugee camp, at the border between Libya and Tunisia, and in two reception camps for asylum seekers (C.A.R.A.) in southern Italy. Their interviews constitute the main part of the documentary, along with a session of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, where one of the witnesses sued Italy. The Court has recently condemned Italy for violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Although focusing more widely on the topic of migration as a whole, *Mare Chiuso* centres its narrative on the plight of Semere, an Eritrean man separated from his pregnant wife who had made safe passage to Italy. Semere's footage from his mobile phone captured the moment that the migrant's boat was intercepted by the Italian navy.

GRAMNet and the CCA are delighted to host the first international screening of *Mare Chiuso*.

Our History

GRAMNet formally launched in early 2010 following a unique workshop aimed to assess the potential for establishing a network on a cross-cutting research theme addressing migration, asylum and refugees. The event engaged knowledge exchange partners in the public and third sector to identify themes and co-design potential future work for a research network in this field.

Based at, and supported by the University of Glasgow, GRAMNet has now established Glasgow as one of the leading centres for integrated research and knowledge exchange in the field of migration, refugee and asylum studies. Nationally and internationally amongst scholars, NGOs, public bodies and civic organizations GRAMNet's approach and work has found resonance. A raft of new projects are being developed to address public needs and problems identified by partners where working together will enhance understanding and action.

One of the network's major accomplishments is our annual Film Series hosted by the Glasgow CCA, organised in partnership with BEMIS. Our audience is from diverse academic, organisational and societal backgrounds, and continually shifts in response to the context explored in each screening. The Series provides a safe space for people to present their views and perspectives and successfully integrates local and global narratives through the use of film produced both internationally and locally.

About us

GRAMNet

A new approach to migration

GRAMNet brings together researchers and practitioners, NGOs (non governmental organisations) and policy makers concerned with migration issues in Scotland and beyond. The research initiative, currently involving Universities from all over the world, 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.

GRAMNet
11 The Square,
University of Glasgow,
Glasgow G12 8QQ

E-mail: gramadmin@glasgow.ac.uk
www.glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet

BEMIS

(Empowering Ethnic and Cultural Communities)

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, and 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.

Glasgow Office
The Centrum Building, Third Floor,
38 Queen Street
Glasgow G1 3DX

Tel: +44 (0)141 548 8047
Fax: +44 (0)141 548 8284
E-mail: mail@bemis.org.uk
www.bemis.org.uk

CCA

(Centre for Contemporary Arts)

The 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. 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.

CCA
350 Sauchiehall Street
Glasgow G2 3JD

tel: +44 (0)141 352 4900
fax: +44 (0)141 332 3226
www.cca-glasgow.com

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.