

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***RAPPING AT FEAR* in COLOMBIA and  
*BY-STANDING* in the UNITED STATES**

The Media That Matters Film Festival Showcases New Voices

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NEW YORK, NY (May 7, 2007)—Thirteen-year-old Andrés Tabares courageously speaks out against the gangs that terrorized his family in the countryside and do so now in his community in Bogotá, Colombia. His short film, *Rapping at Fear*, recounts the near-kidnapping of his sister and points out the signs of gang activity that are all around him. He addresses the issue with flair, wit, rap and even gymnastics. His success with the film has led him to a position as a children's television host on City TV Bogotá. Though his path from rural poverty to television host is rare, Andrés' message of peace in his community speaks to many people across the globe. As a new voice in social-issue media, Andrés Tabares will be presented with the Speak the Peace Award, sponsored by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, at the **seventh annual Media That Matters Film Festival on May 31<sup>st</sup> at HBO.**

Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai poses a series of hard-hitting slams on war as part of a larger call to action in the film *By-Standing: The Beginning of an American Lifetime*. In this time of war, why are voices for peace so silent? Where is outrage against the ongoing war in Iraq? In recounting her evolution from ROTC into the activist she is today, Kelly reveals her own early ambivalence about peace activism, juxtaposing with clarity the casual conversations she's heard from soldiers of passed wars and the reality of the violence they've experienced. Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai, along with filmmakers Karen Lin and Karin Chin, will be presented with the War and Peace Award, sponsored by Netflix, at the seventh annual Media That Matters Film Festival on May 31<sup>st</sup> at HBO.

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**Special Press Screening of Media That Matters TONIGHT:**

**WHEN:** 5 pm, Monday, May 7, 2007

**WHERE:** Goldcrest Post New York  
799 Washington Street (Greenwich Village)  
@ Horatio Street

**WHAT:** Special press screening of sixteen Media That Matters shorts

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[Descriptions of all sixteen winners are attached at the end of this release.]

## MORE ##

## ABOUT THE MEDIA THAT MATTERS FILM FESTIVAL

Now moving into its seventh year, the Media That Matters Film Festival is an interactive, yearlong celebration of short, high impact films on immigration, global warming, free trade, gay rights, sustainable agriculture and many other pressing social issues. During its highly successful six-year history, Media That Matters has presented films that have gone on to catalyze national legislation, change corporate hiring practices, spur social action and inspire a new generation of filmmakers.

The sixteen winning Media That Matters films will be celebrated with a **premiere at IFC Center in Greenwich Village on May 30<sup>th</sup> and an awards ceremony at HBO's midtown headquarters on May 31<sup>st</sup>.** Past awards ceremonies have included presentations by **Tim Robbins, Al Franken, Chuck D,** Woody Harrelson, Academy Award winner Barbara Kopple, legendary filmmaker Al Maysles, Arrested Development's David Cross, Reiko Aylesworth of 24 and comedian Sam Seder.

As with each previous year, these new Media That Matters films will stream online at **[www.mediathatmattersfest.org](http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org)** starting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The site provides high quality video feeds, "take action links," and viewer forums on social issues addressed in the films. The collection will then embark on a tour of 100+ locations across the United States and around the world. With nationwide distribution through Netflix, "do-it-yourself" screenings all over the country, and a high impact outreach campaign, Media That Matters is set to inspire hundreds of thousands of students, teachers, filmmakers, social activists and just about anyone to take action.

## ABOUT ARTS ENGINE

Arts Engine supports, produces, and distributes independent media of consequence and promotes the use of independent media by advocates, educators and the general public. By fostering the production and use of independent film, video and new media, Arts Engine connects media makers and active audiences in order to spur critical consideration of pressing social issues. Arts Engine produces the Media That Matters Film Festival and the highly acclaimed MediaRights.org.

[www.artsengine.net](http://www.artsengine.net)

[www.mediathatmattersfest.org](http://www.mediathatmattersfest.org)

[www.mediarights.org](http://www.mediarights.org)

## SPONSORS OF THE FESTIVAL

Adobe Systems

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Foundation

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Netflix

The Small Planet Fund

The Kellogg Foundation

## MORE ##

## SEVENTH ANNUAL MEDIA THAT MATTERS WINNERS

### **GARBAGE DREAMS**

Egypt | 2006 | 8:00 | Documentary | Produced & Directed by Mai Iskander  
*As multinational corporations focus their sights on Cairo's recycling industry, the city's local workers fight for survival.*

### **RAPPING AT FEAR**

Colombia | 2006 | 6:44 | Documentary | Directed by Andres Tabarés, Produced by Listen Up! & Polimorfo  
*In Andrés Tabarés' barrio in Colombia, "social cleansing" groups wage war. When this thirteen-year-old raps against violence, people listen.*

### **STILL STANDING**

USA | 2006 | 7:44 | Documentary | Directed & Produced by EVC Yo-TV  
*Ms. Gertrude returns to what remains of her New Orleans home and fights to rebuild what she can in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.*

### **THE APOLLOS**

USA | 2006 | 6:00 | Documentary | Directed by Nick Parker & Jazmin Jones, Produced by BAVC  
*Meet the trailblazing students who, over twenty years ago, fought to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a national holiday.*

### **SOVEREIGN NATION / SOVEREIGN NEIGHBOR**

USA | 2006 | 7:00 | Documentary | Directed & Produced by Kendall Moore  
*The Narragansett tribe defends its sovereignty only to encounter violent resistance and entrenched misunderstanding from their home state of Rhode Island.*

### **RIGHTS ON THE LINE: VIGILANTES AT THE BORDER**

USA | 2005 | 3:55 | Documentary | Produced by American Friends Service Committee, ACLU and WITNESS  
*What happens when people cross the line? Vigilantes take the law into their own hands on the U.S.-Mexican border.*

### **POWER UP**

Australia | 2006 | 1:39 | Animation | Directed & Produced by Sverre Fredriksen  
*"Bomber Man" strikes again! Who will stop him this time?*

### **MASSACRE AT MURAMBI**

Rwanda & USA | 2007 | 5:00 | Documentary | Directed & Produced by Sam Kauffmann  
*Does the way we respond to the genocide in Rwanda predict our response to Darfur?*

### **HONORABLE MENTION: OUTLAWED: EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION, TORTURE AND DISAPPEARANCES IN THE "WAR ON TERROR"**

USA | 2006 | 8:00 | Documentary | Produced by WITNESS in association with fourteen other human rights groups worldwide  
*Are there any limits to injustice when innocent people are taken into custody in the name of freedom?*

### **BY-STANDING: THE BEGINNING OF AN AMERICAN LIFETIME**

USA | 2006 | 5:00 | Documentary | Directed by Karen Lin, Produced by Karin Chien  
*Kelly Tsai speaks truth to power as she raises her voice against war and complacency.*

### **GRACE**

USA | 2006 | 3:12 | Animation | Directed & Produced by Kathleen Hulka  
*Three women's lives share an unwanted and violent thread.*

### **I'M NOT A BOY**

USA | 2006 | 6:10 | Documentary | Directed by Julie Joyce, Produced by Listen Up! & Frame by Frame Fierce  
*Julie Joyce is not a boy. As a transgendered youth, she just wants what all young people want—to have a positive space to live and grow.*

### **ASHRAY**

USA | 2006 | 6:00 | Documentary | Directed & Produced by Ambika Samarthya  
*Affected or infected, the children of Ashray, Bombay live together as one family, despite their HIV status.*

### **TYTTONEN**

Germany | 2006 | 5:03 | Narrative | Directed by Fabian Giessler, Produced by Mika Pettissalo  
*Trapped by time and age, a woman searches for freedom in her childhood memories.*

### **THE FINAL FRONTIER: EXPLORERS OR WARRIORS?**

USA | 2006 | 8:00 | Documentary | Directed & Produced by Trace Gaynor & Stephen Sotor  
*Two teens from Chicago ask senators, scientists and science fiction fans: Could space be the new battleground where countries will wage war?*

### **SUPERSTAR**

USA | 2006 | 6:15 | Documentary | Directed by Naiquan Greene, Produced by Reel Works Teen Filmmaking  
*With the support and guidance of his family, nothing will stop Naiquan from becoming a superstar.*

### **THE FARM SANCTUARY**

USA | 2006 | 5:31 | Documentary | Directed & Produced by Fly Up Media & the Students of Saint Ignatius  
*Fifth graders from the Bronx go upstate to meet rescued farm animals and try out veganism, at least for the weekend.*

### **SEVENTH ANNUAL MEDIA THAT MATTERS FILM FESTIVAL**

**Premiere**—IFC Center, 7pm on May 30<sup>th</sup>  
**Awards Ceremony**—HBO, 6pm on May 31st

## END ##