



Film Screenings

Our Island's Treasure

Thursday, 2:00 PM

Director/Producer: Kalya Yonamine

My name is Kaiya, and I am a 17-year old Okinawan American high school student from Portland, Oregon. I recently went back to Henoko because I was frustrated with the silence of the media around this crisis. I wanted to make a documentary to show the world what's happening. This is my documentary, "Our Island's Treasure," that focuses on the current destruction of the beautiful Okinawan ocean in Henoko and the fight by native Uchinanchu people to protect it. This is an emergency.

Boy Soldiers: The Secret War in Okinawa

Thursday, 3:00 PM

Director/Producer: Hanayo Oya / Chie Mikami (Japan)

Okinawa, the chain of islands at the southernmost tip of Japan, became the bulwark to protect the Japanese mainland toward the end of World War II. After the U.S. troops landed and a violent battle ensued, over 200,000 lives were lost, including many civilians. While the bloody war depicted in films such as "Hacksaw Ridge" ensued on the surface, there was another secret war developing in its shadow that not even Japanese people are aware of. For over 70 years after the war, survivors have been afraid to share the tragic details. Guerrilla units composed of boy soldiers, malaria epidemics, allied troops and civilians killing other civilians...and a conspiracy plotted by young elite generals who had just graduated from the Japanese Army's enigmatic "Nakano school." This documentary uncovers Japan's greatest taboos concerning the Battle of Okinawa, and also sounds alarms concerning modern Japan's recent steps toward remilitarization. The film has been shown at theaters in Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, and Germany, having received eight awards including the Award for Best Documentary Film from the Kinema Junpo, the most prestigious film award in Japan. The screening at the VFP convention will be the U.S. premiere.

TRAILER: Meatgrinder

Thursday, 9:30 PM

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were meatgrinders, destroying bodies, minds, and lives. This destruction - paid for with our tax dollars - is not glorious, and is not right, despite what our leaders told us and what they told the American public. Service members and their families, and the civilians

The Isis Trial

Thursday, 9:45 PM

Director: Ellie Bernstein

The Isis Trial takes a look at the sensational trial of 3 young Somali boys in Minneapolis-accused and convicted of terrorism in 2016. It includes the history of the police and FBI in Minneapolis, the use of an informant and the general targeting of Muslims-specifically Somali-Muslims in the twin cities. The film correlates the million-dollar investment from the Countering Violent Extremism program (CVE) in Minneapolis with the investigation of 10 Somali boys and the ultimate trial of 3 of them, sentenced to a combined 95 years-who had no history of violence.

The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons**Friday, 10:00 PM**

Director: Álvaro Orús

This documentary film tells the story of how the United Nations came to approve a new treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, despite the fact that the majority of the world's population neither know about the treaty nor understand the threat that nuclear weapons pose to the world today. It takes the viewer through a brief history of nuclear bombs and the anti-nuclear activism that has pushed to eliminate them ever since their invention, including moving testimony from Hiroshima bomb survivor, Setsuko Thurlow. It moves into a consideration of the humanitarian initiative that successfully challenged the dominant security discourse and the historic steps taken since 2010 to turn the treaty from a dream into a reality. The key roles of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, who won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts, and the International Committee of the Red Cross are highlighted. The story is told through interviews with 14 experts in their fields. Finally, the film shows what can be done by anyone to help bring the treaty into force and to stigmatize nuclear weapons until they are finally eradicated.

TRAILER: The Boys Who Said No! Draft Resistance and the Viet Nam War**Saturday, 10:00 PM**

Director: Judith Ehrlich

Documentary film profiling the young men and women who actively opposed conscription in order to end the draft and the Vietnam War.

SHORT: Rhizophora**Saturday, 10:10 PM**

Director/Producer: Julia Metzger-Traber / Davide DeLillis

A surreal dance video based on a day in the life of 11 residents at the Friendship Village in Vietnam. The Friendship Village is a residential facility for young people living with various physical and mental challenges coming from the genetically inherited effects of Agent Orange. Agent Orange was a powerful defoliant sprayed by the US during the Vietnam War.

Road to Reconcile**Saturday, 10:30 PM**

Director: Joel Woodman

Road To Reconcile is the story of a small group of unlikely heroes who have returned to Vietnam and partnered with the country and the people they once fought against. Filmed throughout the former demilitarized zone (DMZ) along what the Vietnamese call the "The Road of No Joy," this film explores the intimate and often complicated process of healing that has taken place between former enemies (US- Vietnam) and how that history offers a hopeful example for future conflicts in a post-war era.