

For a dialogue

DOCUMENTARY

A film festival with a purpose

Breakthrough, an international human rights organisation is hosting The Tri Continental Film Festival-2008 at the India Habitat Centre. The festival, on till this coming Monday, features 20 documentaries related to human rights issues in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Alika Khosla, Associate Director, Breakthrough, says the attempt is to engage the common man in debate and discussion on issues which confront us in our daily lives. "The three continents are facing similar socio-political problems. Whether it's sweatshop workers in a clothes factory of China or a genocide survivor in Rwanda – human rights form the thread of the festival."

On show

Sharing information on the selections, Alika says "Pirinop, The First Contact", captures how the elders in the Ikpeng tribe in

Brazil re-enact the "first contact" with the white men for the younger generation, telling the story themselves without hiding failures or claiming innocence.

It is a film on displacement, violation of a civilisation yet invoking a desire to retain old wisdom. "It's Always Late for Freedom" portrays three youth being held in a correction centre in Teheran and through them exposing the viewer to Iran's social problems of drugs, poverty, and violence among children.

Opening a can of problems without any possible solutions can lead to confusion. Alika agrees, "It does create confusion. But then the alternative is to live in a state where ignorance is bliss. Experience shows when such issues come in the public space, confusion leads to behavioural change. People start thinking about their own prejudices." In its fourth year, the festival will travel to Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore. "After the festival we also take the films to colleges so that we get more than the converted audience."

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