



**American Film Institute (AFI) Project 20/20**, first launched at the 20th anniversary of AFI's International Film Festival AFI FEST in 2006, is an international initiative designed to enhance cultural exchange, understanding and collaboration through filmmakers and their films from the US and abroad. It is an unprecedented cultural diplomacy effort that is the only international filmmaker exchange supported by all of America's cultural agencies.

Participation in AFI Project 20/20 is by invitation based on an artist's filmmaking excellence, the potential for positively interrelating with film professionals, filmmaking peers, cultural officials and audiences, particularly outside the US. Through workshops, seminars and appearances at film festivals, cultural centers, museums and other community, educational and cultural venues in the US and abroad, AFI Project 20/20 filmmakers promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation of values such as freedom of expression, tolerance and intellectual property rights through film.

The U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Arts Centre, will bring the AFI Project 20/20 to Hong Kong for the second time on March 2-6 & 8, 2009. The one-week festival will showcase eight American and international films. Representing various countries, AFI Project 20/20 2008-2009 introduces a multicultural roster of films signifying a universal perspective that challenges us to examine, reflect and celebrate diversity.

For detailed information on AFI Project 20/20 and a complete listing of films in the project, please visit: <http://www.afi.com/onscreen/afifest/2008/project2020.aspx>

***Hong Kong screening schedule:***

Mar 2 (Mon)	7:30pm	<b>Faro – Goddess of the Waters (IIA)</b>
Mar 3 (Tue)	7:30pm	<b>Amal (IIA) - FULL</b>
Mar 4 (Wed)	7:30pm	<b>Skin* (IIA) - FULL</b>
Mar 5 (Thu)	7:30pm	<b>Throw Down Your Heart (I) - FULL</b>
Mar 6 (Fri)	7:30pm	<b>Of All the Things (IIA) - FULL</b>
Mar 8 (Sun)	2:30pm	<b>Iron Ladies of Liberia* (I) - FULL</b>
	5:30pm	<b>American Fork - FULL</b>
	7:30pm	<b>Kassim the Dream (IIA) - FULL</b>

*\*Post-screening discussion with the director*

Venue: Agnes b. CINEMA!

Hong Kong Arts Centre, 2 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Free Admission (free seating, first-come-first-served)

Program enquiries: 2582-0273

For reservations:

Please e-mail to [hhing@hkac.org.hk](mailto:hhing@hkac.org.hk) (with name, postal address, contact number, e-mail address, film title(s) and number of tickets requested).

Tickets will be delivered by post in due course.

One person per ticket, maximum of 4 tickets per screening per reservation.



## Faro – Goddess of the Waters

Mar 2 (Mon) 7:30pm

Mali · 2007 · 96mins  
In Bambara with English subtitles  
Director: Salif Traoré

### Film note

An engineer returns to the rural village of his birth in Mali many years after having been cast out for being born out of wedlock, to uncover the identity of his father and initiate a waterworks project. However, the fact that his arrival coincides with the drowning of a young villager alerts the village elders, who confer and determine that Faro, the spirit who rules the waters has been angered by Zanga's return and the only way to appease her anger is with sacrifice. The African landscape is photographed beautifully and the script deftly navigates the maelstrom of modern Africa while giving voice to the power of one individual to affect change.

### Biography

**Salif Traoré** studied film and theater art at the Institut Africain du Cinéma of the University of Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, the filmmaking center on the African continent. He has made several short films and documentaries for African television. *Faro-Goddess of the Waters* is Traoré's debut feature film.



## Amal

Mar 3 (Tue) 7:30pm

Canada, India · 2007 · 101mins  
In English, Hindi with English subtitles  
Director: Richie Mehta

Winner of 2008 AFI Dallas International Film Festival Audience Narrative Feature

### Film note

A humble rickshaw driver in Delhi, India who, by nature of his selflessness, influences a dying man to bequeath his fortune to him. Mehta uses a delicate hand to convey old-fashioned yet profound values of goodwill and benevolence. This vividly textured portrait of contemporary India is an extraordinarily ambitious and heartfelt debut from first-time director Richie Mehta. Showing us an unvarnished India rich in flavor, *Amal* is a powerful and touching story of one man's decency. Mehta brings a serene wisdom to *Amal* that captivates and transports us. It also viscerally conveys the feel of working-class Delhi. Nuanced performances from some of India's most revered and beloved performers enhance the film's authenticity and immediacy.

### Biography

**Richie Mehta** was born in Toronto and has studied painting, sculpting and directing. He has directed several short films that have screened internationally, including *System of Units* and *Amal*, which he adapted into his first feature film of the same name.



## Skin

Mar 4 (Wed) 7:30pm

UK · 2008 · 107mins  
In English without subtitles  
Director: Anthony Fabian  
Cast: Sophie Okonedo, Sam Neill, Alice Krige

### Film note

From a white African family but possessing of black African physical features, Sandra Laing defies the classifications that served as the foundation of South Africa's systemic racism. Sandra is loved and nurtured by her parents. It is not until she is thrown out of the same all-white boarding school that her brother attends that reality sets in: Sandra will not have the same opportunities as everyone else in her family. Sandra's parents immediately set out to have her legally classified as "white" in 1960s apartheid-era South Africa, setting in motion a legal battle that marks Sandra with the strength and self-awareness that ultimately enables her to embrace her identity and cultural legacy as an African woman. It is impossible to watch this film, which is based on a true story, without being swept up by the undercurrent of sadness.

### Biography

**Anthony Fabian** was born in San Francisco and studied at the University of California-Los Angeles Film & Television School. He has produced and directed several television documentaries on classical music. *Skin* is his debut feature film.



# Throw Down Your Heart

Mar 5 (Thu) 7:30pm

USA · 2008 · 97mins

In Bambara, English, French, Jola, Swahili with English subtitles

Director: Sascha Paladino

Winner of AFI SILVERDOCS Music Documentary

## Film note

In his trailblazing 30-year career, Béla Fleck has brought the instrument into jazz, pop, classical and world music settings, and won eight Grammys along the way. *Throw down Your Heart* follows American banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck on his journey to Africa to explore the little known African roots of the banjo and record an album. It's a boundary-breaking musical adventure that celebrates the beauty and complexity of Africa. Using his banjo, Fleck's trip transcends barriers of language and culture and provides a glimpse into the incredibly rich and diverse musical traditions of Africa. He encounters a dizzying array of musicians who vary in skill and prestige, from superstars like the Malian diva Oumou Sangare, to the one who has mastered a 12-foot xylophone.

## Biography

**Sascha Paladino** is a filmmaker and writer. His documentary short, *Obstinato: Making Music for Two* (2004), about the musicians Béla Fleck and Edgar Meyer, won the Best Documentary Short Award at the Woodstock Film Festival, the Audience Award at the Newport Film Festival. Sascha is also an Emmy-nominated writer and producer for children's television. He is head writer and producer of *Ni Hao, Kai-lan* on Nick Jr, and has written for programs including *Wonder Pets*, *Blue's Clues*, *ToddWorld*, and many others. He has worked for companies including Nickelodeon, The Discovery Channel, Disney, Noggin, the BBC, and Granada UK. Sascha is also involved in many facets of arts education, and has taught and developed workshops for arts organizations, public schools and prisons.



## Of All the Things

Mar 6 (Fri) 7:30pm

USA · 2008 · 83mins  
In English without subtitles  
Director: Jody Lambert

Winner of the Audience Award at the Sarasota, Nantucket and Palm Beach film festivals

### Film note

Dennis Lambert, a 60-year-old family man selling real estate in Florida, is about to embark on a whirlwind concert tour to the Philippines. His son Jody is taking a camera to document this historic moment in his father's life, through the remote outer islands of the Philippines to a sold-out show at Manila's famous Araneta Coliseum. One of the most successful and diverse songwriter-producers of the 70s and 80s, Lambert's hits include "Ain't No Woman Like the One I've Got", "Rhinstone Cowboy", "Don't Pull Your Love" and "Baby Come Back". He had chart toppers in almost every genre of music, and at one point four of his songs were simultaneously on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, a feat previously accomplished only by the Beatles. *Of All the Things* offers an entertaining, exhilarating, warmly human and inspiring tale of the enduring power of the creative spirit.

### Biography

**Jody Lambert** was a child actor and musician before attending NYU's film program. For the past 15 years he has worked at some of downtown Manhattan's best theatres. He also helped create the New York International Fringe Festival and travelled to the Edinburgh Fringe with several award-winning productions. *Of All the Things* is his directorial debut.



## Iron Ladies of Liberia

Mar 8 (Sun) 2:30pm

USA, Liberia · 2007 · 78mins  
In English with English subtitles  
Director: Daniel Junge, Siatta Scott Johnson

Winner of Target Top Ten Award Best Documentary, AFI Dallas International Film Festival 2008

Winner of Spirit of Freedom Documentary Award, Bahamas International Film Festival 2007

### Film note

The film was broadcast internationally as part of BBC's "Why Democracy?" season of films, BBC inserted a question "are women more democratic than men?" at the opening of the film. After nearly two decades of brutal civil war, Liberia is a nation ready for change. In November 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became Africa's first elected female president. The Sirleaf Cabinet quickly appointed a team of strong women over the course of their turbulent first year in office. They try to rebuild their country and prevent it from slipping back into civil war. With incredible access, the director is able to record these pivotal moments throughout this historic year, in a uniquely redemptive African story with a new paradigm for leadership around the world.

### Biographies

**Daniel Junge** was born in Sheridan, Wyoming and attended film school at New York University. He directed several films and has recently completed *They Killed Sister Dorothy*, which garnered the top prizes for Best Documentary in both the Grand Jury and Audience categories at the 2008 South by Southwest Film Festival. He was named by *Filmmaker* magazine as one of 25 up-and-coming filmmakers in 2003.

**Siatta Scott Johnson** was born in Buchanan, Liberia in 1974. Johnson earned her BA in Mass Communications from the University of Liberia. She has five years of experience as a reporter and producer at DCTV, and is a founding member of Omuahtee Africa Media.



## American Fork

Mar 8 (Sun) 5:30pm

USA · 2007 · 94mins

In English without subtitles

Director: Chris Bowman

Cast: William Baldwin, Mary Lynn Rajs kub, Kathleen Quinlan

### Film note

At nearly 400 pounds, Tracy is a wide target. When he sets out to pursue his dream of acting, the grocery clerk finds an assortment of people to dash his dreams: his acting coach, who has designs on his sister Peggy; his juvenile-delinquent friends who suck him into their petty crimes; and his God-fearing, self-loathing mother. Through it all, Tracy remains irrepressibly upbeat, convinced he's destined for something big. Charming and full of humanity, *American Fork* is full of delightfully colorful characters. Fuelled by the performances of the whole quirky casts, *American Fork* moves beyond the familiar, into the memorable.

### Biography

**Chris Bowman** was born in Tucson, Arizona in 1976. He received a BA in film from Brigham Young University, where he wrote and directed the award-winning short film *The Wrong Brother*. Bowman has written extensively for animated television. He is currently developing an original screenplay for Universal Pictures and Greasy Entertainment. *American Fork* is his feature debut.





## Kassim the Dream

Mar 8 (Sun) 7:30pm

USA · 2008 · 87mins  
In English with English subtitles  
Director: Kief Davidson  
Executive Producer: Forest Whitaker

Winner of AFI FEST 2008 Audience Award and Festival Best Documentary

### Film note

Kassim "The Dream" Ouma is the 2004 IBF Junior Middleweight champion of the world, and a former Ugandan child soldier who was abducted into a rebel army at the age of six. Kassim brings this powerful and painful personal history into the ring with him every time he fights. Despite the fact that Kassim is closer to the "American Dream" than most people will ever be, his wartime experiences in Africa still gnaw at his conscience. Kassim isn't asking for anything more than a safe return to the country he fled, but the government publicly declares that if Kassim returns to Uganda, he will be tried for desertion and, if found guilty, executed. Director Kief Davidson gives us an intimate portrait of a charismatic young athlete who has reached the point in his life when he feels compelled to transform a legacy of sorrow into hope and inspiration.

### Biography

**Kief Davidson's** film *The Devil's Miner* received a DGA Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Documentary Directing and won the coveted FIPRESCI Film Critics Award. Davidson has also directed and produced documentaries for The Discovery Channel, ABC News, PBS, ARTE and A&E. As a narrative filmmaker, Davidson wrote and directed the dark comedy *Minor Details*.