

Welcome to the
Belgian premiere of the
internationally acclaimed documentary film:

The Choir, by Michael Davie



To mark Human rights day 2009, the EU and the UN
are delighted to introduce the first in a series of joint
communication and information projects to mark
certain International days.

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Programme

19:30

Welcome by:

the Bozar Cinema
Veronique Arnault Director RELEX,

Video messages by:

Naventheem Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights
Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner

19:45

Introduction to the film by Leo Kaneman, FIFDH President.
The Choir
(duration 1h22)

21:10

10 minute break before the Question and Answers with the panelists.

21h20

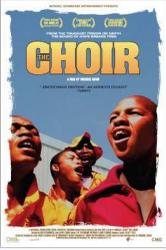
Introduction to the panellists followed by Q+A with the panel.

Moderated by Reed Brody
Special guest: Bianca Jagger

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Synopsis



Shot over six years, *The Choir* is about the music that unites Jabulani Shabangu and a group of fellow inmates who are battling to survive in South Africa's biggest prison. Jabulani is rebellious and angry until he meets a wily bank robber named Coleman, who recruits him for the prison choir. He

risers in the ranks and leads the choir to victory at the National Prison Choir Competition. But there is more going on here. The brotherhood of choristers, along with Coleman's fatherly wisdom transform Jabulani's life and give him the tools he needs to face his victims and to survive behind bars, as well as in the world outside when he is released. Jabulani's story is about the basic, powerful human desire to rise above our circumstances and change our lives for the better.

CHOIR, THE (M)
(Aust, 2007)

CAST:
Documentary with Jabulani Shabangu, Coleman Mvogodlo, Tabea Bohali, Richmond Febana, Thabo Molahli

PRODUCER:
Michael Davie, Chris Hilton

DIRECTOR:
Michael Davie

SCRIPT:
Michael Davie

CINEMATOGRAPHER:
Carlos Carvalho, Michael Davie

EDITOR:
Ben Deacon, David Lourie, Karin Steininger

MUSIC:
Felicity Foxx

RUNNING TIME:
82 minutes

DISTRIBUTOR:
Gil Scrine

LANGUAGES:
English subtitled French

Director's Biography



Zimbabwean-born documentary filmmaker **Michael Davie** started his career as a television journalist in rural Australia. He got hooked to travel and adventure and in 1998 hitch-hiked from Cape Town to Cairo while he also filmed the African youth in the course of this eight-month journey. The outcome was

a critically acclaimed TV series after which he worked with the National Geographic Television in Washington D.C producing several award winning documentaries. *The Choir* was shot over six years following the lives of inmates in the choir at the Johannesburg's Leeuwkop Prison.

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Panellists



Louis Joinet: Former Special Rapporteur and one of the founders of the Special mechanisms of the Human Rights Commission of the UN. He was one of the masterminds behind the Convention against Enforced Disappearances and a long-time UN expert. He participated in the creation of the Working Group Against Arbitrary Detention.

Stephane Hessel: Former French ambassador, he participated in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. He is a former United Nations Ambassador.



Heidi Hautala: Chairwoman of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights, she is an experienced Green politician and a member of the European Parliament.

Karel Kovanda: Deputy Director-General for external relations at DG RELEX in the European Commission. He was a former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and a former Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations.



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Panellists



Louise Arbour (TBC): President of International Crisis Group. She was, until the 30 June 2008, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Moderator: Reed Brody

Global spokesman for Human Rights Watch.



Special Guest — Bianca Jagger



Founder and Chair of the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation, she is a prominent International human rights and climate change advocate.

For over 30 years, Bianca Jagger has campaigned for human rights, social and economic justice and environmental protection throughout the world.

Leo Kaneman: Founder and Director of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH).



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“Discrimination lies at the root of many of the world’s most pressing human rights problems. No country is immune from this scourge. Eliminating discrimination is a duty of the highest order.”

Navi Pillay

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



Human Rights Day 2009 on 10 December will focus on non-discrimination. **“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”**. These first few famous words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established 60 years ago the basic premise of international human rights law. Yet today, the fight against discrimination remains a daily struggle for millions around the globe.

“Our main objective is to help promote discrimination-free societies and a world of equal treatment for all,” says the High Commissioner who this year will mark Human Rights Day in South Africa.

She encourages people everywhere - including the UN family, governments, civil society, national human rights institutions, the media, educators, and individuals - to seize the opportunity of Human Rights Day 2009 to join hands to embrace diversity and end discrimination.

The realisation of all human rights - social, economic and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights - is hampered by discrimination. All too often, when faced with prejudice and discrimination, political leaders, governments and ordinary citizens are silent or complacent.

Yet everyone of us can make a difference. You are encouraged to celebrate Human Rights Day by advocating non-discrimination, organizing activities, raising awareness and reaching out to your local communities on 10 December and throughout 2010.

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The United Nations, embracing diversity, ending discrimination.

More information sources on Human Rights

The United Nations (www.un.org)

United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe
<http://www.unric.org>

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<http://www.ohchr.org>

EU - UN website
<http://www.eu-un.org>

Human Rights Education
<http://www.humanrightseducation.info>

The United Nations in Brussels
<http://www.unbrussels.org>

Contact us

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155 Rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Telephone: +32 27888484
E-mail: info@unric.org

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) - New Brussels Office
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1000 Brussels
Belgium
Telephone: +32 2
E-mail: xxx.yyy@ohchr.org

Human Rights Day 2009

Human Rights Day 2009
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HumanRightsDay2009.aspx>

How to support Human Rights Day 2009 and beyond
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HowMarkHRDay.aspx>

Visual Designs
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/VisualDesigns.aspx>

Stories about discrimination
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/StoriesAboutDiscrimination.aspx>

See also

Human rights chief highlights Offices priorities
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HCHighlightsOfficesPriorities.aspx>

Human rights education and training
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/index.htm>

National Human Rights Institutions
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/NHRI/Pages/NHRIMain.aspx>

Civil Society
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

Human rights instruments
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/>

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