



Communiqué for Immediate Release

The Montreal Human Rights Film Festival (MHRFF)  
presents under the auspices of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Human Rights Encounters**  
**The Reckoning, The Struggle of the International Penal Court**  
**directed by Pamela Yates**

**Tuesday 10 November 2009 at 7 pm, NFB Cinema**  
1564 St. Denis St., Montreal --\$7. [Adults], \$5.[Students and Seniors]  
Tickets on sale solely at the box office of the NFB  
<http://www.ffdp.com>

Montreal, 11 October 2009 – In the wake of the success of its first two screenings for a standing-room audience, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Human Rights Encounters presented by the Montreal Human Rights Film Festival (MHRFF)** continue with the presentation of the documentary film **The Reckoning –The Time for Truth, the Struggle of the International Penal Court** by the American filmmaker **Pamela Yates**.

The film will be screened **Tuesday 10 November 2009 at 7 pm, at the NFB Cinema**, and it will be followed by a meeting with a representative from Rights and Democracy.

The Human Rights Encounters were created in 2008, the year of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by the Montreal Human Rights Film Festival. Through a monthly screening of a film followed by discussions, the MHRFF wishes, with this complementary activity to extend the space for dialogue on human realities and rights.

**The Reckoning – The Struggle of the International Penal Court by Pamela Yates**

USA –2009 – 95 min. –Doc –French Version

Director : Pamela Yates ; Producer : Paco de Onis ; Co-Producer : Sally Eberhardt

Internet: <http://www.thereckoningfilm.com/press>

Late in the 20th century, in response to repeated mass atrocities around the world, more than 120 countries united to form the International Criminal Court (ICC)—the first permanent court created to prosecute perpetrators (no matter how powerful) of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. The Reckoning follows dynamic ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo and his team for 3 years across 4 continents as he issues arrest warrants for Lord's Resistance Army leaders in Uganda, puts Congolese warlords on trial, shakes up the Colombian justice system, and charges Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir with genocide in Darfur, challenging the UN Security Council to arrest him. Building cases against genocidal criminals presents huge challenges, and the Prosecutor has a mandate but no police force. At every turn, he must pressure the international community to muster political will for the cause. Like a deft thriller, The Reckoning keeps you on the edge of your seat, in this case with two riveting dramas—the prosecution of unspeakable crimes and the ICC's fight for efficacy in its nascent years. As this tiny court in The Hague struggles to change the world and forge a new paradigm for justice, innocent victims suffer and wait. Will the Prosecutor succeed? Will the world ensure that justice prevails?

### **The Filmmaker –Pamela Yates**

The American, film director and producer Pamela Yates is the co-founder of Skylight Pictures, an outlet which notably produces documentaries on themes related to human rights and justice.

Very committed, Pamela Yates produced, directed and co-wrote *Cause for Murder*, released in 2002 in PBS's international series, "Wide Angle." She was also involved with *Presumed Guilty*, a special program broadcast on PBS that deals with the ethnical and moral dilemmas encountered by the defenders of public interest calling for justice in San Francisco. As well, Pamela Yates produced and directed *Brotherhood of Hate* broadcast for the Showtime network.

She directed and produced *Living Broke in Boom Times* which, a trilogy on the poor in America. These three films –*Takeover* (official selection, Sundance 1991), *Poverty Outlaw* (official selection, Sundance 1997) and *Outsiders* (shown on PBS in 1999)—have contributed to her renown and confirmed her commitment on an international level.

In 2005, she directed the feature-length documentary *State of Fear* (translated in 48 languages and released in 157 countries) which tells the story of twenty years of internal conflict in Peru, according to the findings of the Peruvian Commission on Truth and Reconciliation.

In 2008, Pamela Yates is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. She won the Sundance Award for film direction of *When the Mountains Tremble*; an Emmy Award for the production of *Loss of Innocence*; and she received an Academy Award for film production of *Witness to War*.

*The Reckoning, the Struggle of the International Penal Court* is her most recent film.

### **NEXT SCREENINGS**

#### **NFB CINEMA, MONTREAL**

**Tuesday 8 December, 7 pm** – **Unwanted Witness**, by Juan Jose Lozano, is about the fight of the Colombian journalist Hollman Morris, recipient of the *Human Rights Watch Defender Award*, denouncing the barbarism of the conflict plaguing his country. Followed by a discussion moderated by Dennis Trudeau of Reporters Without Borders, Canada.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Montreal Human Rights Film Festival (MHRFF)** will be held on March 11 to 21, 2010. Registration of films for the 2010 edition is open up to November 22, 2009. Like other major cities (New York, Paris, Prague, London, Geneva...), the MHRFF, a member of the Human Rights Film Network ([www.humanrightsfilmnetwork.org](http://www.humanrightsfilmnetwork.org)), wishes to remind us, through a committed, vital and diversified 7<sup>th</sup> Art, of the importance of respect for human rights and basic freedoms that are constantly threatened, and to denounce assaults against human dignity.

The Montreal Human Rights Film Festival (MHRFF) wishes to thank its partners –Images Interculturelles, the NFB Cinema, the Cultural Center of the Université of Sherbrooke, the Centre International de Documentation et d'Information Haïtienne, Caraïbéenne et Afro-canadienne (CIDIHCA), Amnistie Internationale- Canada Francophone, Rights and Democracy and Reporters Without Borders—Canada.

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**DVD films are available on request from the press attachée.**