

For Immediate Release

‘Youth Producing Change’ at the 2009 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

2nd Edition of Youth-Produced Human Rights Films from Around the World

Founding Presenter: Adobe Youth Voices

“Come see the world through my eyes”

– Alcides Soares, age 16, Mozambique

(New York, May 29, 2009) – The world premiere of the second edition of [Youth Producing Change](#), an innovative program of youth-produced short films from across the globe, will be presented on June 19-20, 2009, by the [Human Rights Watch International Film Festival](#) (June 11-25), in collaboration with the founding presenter, Adobe Youth Voices. Ten films will be shown this year, selected from over 300 international submissions.

Armed with digital cameras and their own boundless creativity, the first-time filmmakers featured in the series bravely expose some of the most pressing human rights challenges of our day, tackling such issues as child labor, immigration, access to clean water, sexual violence, police harassment, HIV/AIDS in Mozambique, and teen homelessness in New York City. All of the films were produced by filmmakers who were under the age of 19 at the time of production.

The **Youth Producing Change** program will be shown at the The Film Society of Lincoln Center’s Walter Reade Theater on Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 20 at 2 p.m. Many of the young filmmakers – from Brooklyn, to Seattle, to Mozambique – will make the trip to the festival to present their films to local audiences, advocating for their issues and sharing their production experiences.

“It is my hope, and that of my crew, that through the exposure of “In My Shoes” at the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, audiences will gain sensitivity and become aware of the growing issue of youth homelessness and be inspired to address the issue in their communities,” said Zanetta King, 17, of New York.

“Enabling young people to comment on the issues that matter to them, to their communities, and ultimately, to our world is a primary goal of the Adobe Youth Voices program, and the reason why we’re proud to support the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival,” said Michelle Mann, director of corporate social responsibility for Adobe Systems Incorporated and executive director of the Adobe Foundation. “The festival provides the ideal stage for youth to express themselves, and to inspire a dialogue for change.”

The festival will hold a youth news conference for the young filmmakers from 4 to 7 p.m. on June 19 in the Furman Gallery of the Walter Reade Theater. The **Youth Producing Change** filmmakers visiting the festival will participate in this youth-centered news conference to share their production experiences with local youth filmmakers. Registration for this exclusive event is free, and is open to members of the press and youth-based organizations.

For a full program of Youth Producing Change films at the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, please visit:

<http://www.hrw.org/en/iff/youth-producing-change-world-premiere>

To watch a trailer for the Youth Producing Change program, please visit:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2Pb3_0d_cc

Filmmakers attending the festival (bios available upon request):

- Alcides Soares, 16 years old, *I Live in Mozambique* (based in Mozambique)
- Sahar Shakeri, 19 years old, *Thoughts in a Hijab* (based in Seattle)
- Noe, 16 years old, *Noè's Story* (based in San Francisco)
- Annalise Littman, 16 years old, *Aquafinito* (based in Boston)
- Clevis Browne, 20 years old; Zanetta King, 17 years old; and Olivia McClendon, 16 years old; *It's Not About Sex* (based in New York City)
- Various teen filmmakers, *In My Shoes* (based in New York City)

For more information, interviews, or preview DVDs of featured films, please contact:

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A special ticket deal has been announced exclusively for the Youth Producing Change screenings: BUY ONE TICKET – GET ONE FREE

Select “YPC Special” when you purchase a ticket at www.filmlinc.org and receive a second complimentary ticket to Youth Producing Change when you arrive at the Walter Reade Theater box office. For group rates, please contact ypc@hrw.org (212) 216-1247.

Tickets: Single-screening tickets for the 2009 **Human Rights Watch International Film Festival** are \$11 for adults, \$7 for Film Society members and students with a valid photo ID, and \$8 for seniors. They are available at both the Walter Reade Theater box office and online at www.filmlinc.com. HRWIFF Series Pass (\$40 public/\$30 Film Society member) admits one person to five titles in the festival. It is available only at the Walter Reade Theater box office.

Additional information is available online at www.filmlinc.com and <http://www.hrw.org/iff/>, or by calling (212) 875-5600.

All films are screened at the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center

165 West 65th Street, upper level (between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.). Subways: to 66th Street Lincoln Center. Buses: M5 M7 M104. More options available at nearby Columbus Circle.

More info on the **Human Rights Watch International Film Festival**, as well as downloadable images, can be found at: <http://www.hrw.org/iff>