

HEALTH & MEDICINE



AFFLICTIONS: CULTURE AND MEDICINE IN INDONESIA

by Robert Lemelson
6 films, 182 min, 2010/2011

This six-part series of ethnographic films on severe mental illness in Indonesia is based on material drawn from 12 years of person-centered research by writer and anthropologist Robert Lemelson. The series, which follows six individuals of different ages and backgrounds, explores the relationship between culture, mental illness, and first-person experience.



FANTOME ISLAND

by Sean Gilligan
and Adrian Strong
82 min, 2011

In 1945 seven-year-old Joe Eggmolese was diagnosed with Leprosy and taken to Fantome Island where he was incarcerated for the next ten years. The isolated island became home to a community of indigenous “lepers” whose existence was hidden from white society and had, until recently, remained absent from mainstream historical records. This film exposes how an ideology of racism and eugenics worked to justify horrific treatment of Australia’s indigenous communities.



WHEN MEDICINE GOT IT WRONG

by Katie Cadigan
and Laura Murray
53 min, 2009

In 1974 a small group of parents became the first in the nation to publicly refuse blame for causing their children’s schizophrenia. They formed Parents of Adult Schizophrenics and their activism led to people demanding changes in how the disease is understood and treated. Most communities, however, still wrestle with mental healthcare policies based on debunked theories – pushing many with severe mental illness directly into homelessness or incarceration.



BUNONG'S BIRTH PRACTICES

by Tommi Mendel
and Brigitte Nikles
53 min, 2010

This film documents the birth practices of the Bunong in Mondulkiri province, northeast Cambodia. Social, economic, and political changes are transforming the province and affecting villagers’ beliefs, perceptions, and habits regarding pregnancy, delivery and motherhood. Traditional midwives, pregnant women, mothers and families give personal insight into decision-making strategies, which are at a crossroads between tradition and modernity.



TODAY THE HAWK TAKES ONE CHICK

by Jane Gillooly
72 min, 2008

In Swaziland, a country besieged by AIDS, three grandmothers struggle to meet their community’s modern medical needs, while retaining traditional values. Verité footage presents the dichotomy between the gentle beauty of Swaziland landscapes and traditional life, and the urgency of the grandmothers’ modern lives: families without food, a missing generation of young adults, children without parents. The grandmothers steadfastly persevere, hoping their world will too.



AT HIGHEST RISK

by Rebecca Rivas
42 min, 2006

As one of the most intimate looks at reproductive health care yet filmed in a developing country, this film depicts the grave state of women’s health care in Peru. Through the compelling story of one Andean woman, Judyth Aguero Vega, we see the detrimental effects of a massive sterilization campaign, exorbitant fines for homebirths, and the second highest maternal death rate in South America.

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