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FOR IMMEDIATE

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## **2nd edition of the ACT Human Rights Film Festival: April 14-21**

### ***5 Colorado premiers, 10+ guests from around the world, and student film shorts among week's highlights***

Fort Collins, CO, March 2, 2017 - The second edition of the ACT Human Rights Film Festival opens Friday, April 14, at Colorado State University's Lory Student Center Theater. The weeklong festival features the most critically-acclaimed and recently released international documentary films that explore a range of human rights themes, including art as resistance, women's rights, war and genocide, immigration and exile, LGBTQ rights, and race and class in America. The festival closes Friday, April 21, with the Oscar-nominated documentary *I Am Not Your Negro*. The evening ends in with a community reception in the Lory Student Center's West Ballroom.

Films will screen throughout opening weekend and the following weekdays at either the Lory Student Center Theater or the Lincoln Center's Magnolia Theatre. Venue assignments will be listed on the festival schedule, available on the festival's website, [www.actfilmfest.org](http://www.actfilmfest.org), beginning March 16, when tickets go on sale. Several film titles, synopses, and trailers are already posted online.

The curated festival's lineup represents the most relevant, recent, and acclaimed films to be produced within the last two years. None of the films is yet available in wide release. Five of the selected films are Colorado premiers, including a special advanced screening of *The Apology*, which follows the personal journeys of three former "comfort women" who were among the 200,000 girls and young women kidnapped and forced into military sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II.

Directors and film subjects from around the world will appear in person for the majority of post-screening talk-back sessions, including: Razia Jan, founder of one of the first Afghanistan school for girls; Rory O'Neill, whose alter ego Panti Bliss became the spokesperson for marriage equality in Ireland; director Johanna Schwartz, whose film *They Will Have to Kill Us First* following musicians in Mali in the wake of a jihadist takeover and subsequent banning of music; and, many more.

New in 2017:

- Odell Brewing Co. hosts a festival kickoff party at its taproom on Tuesday, March 28, from 7 to 9 p.m., to celebrate the release of Screening Session IPA, giveaway festival tickets and T-shirts, and raise awareness about this year's Call to ACT nonprofit partners. Free food, live music, and a VR demo round out the evening.
- Non-student festival patron tickets are \$10 each or \$30 for four. Student tickets are \$5 each, or \$15 for four. Group discounts are also available.
- On Saturday, April 15, the film *What Tomorrow Brings*, sponsored by RamEvents, is free to CSU students with a valid ID.
- Winners from the first-ever student short film competition will be screened throughout the week.

ACT is produced by the Department of Communication Studies at Colorado State University and is the intermountain west's only film festival dedicated to human rights. ACT curates the most relevant, recent, and acclaimed documentary and narrative fiction human rights cinema produced around the world. Learn more at [www.actfilmfest.org](http://www.actfilmfest.org).

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