

MEDIA

DVD UPC 704907980365. \$150–\$300. Public performance, contact info@neeneeproductions.com. Closed-captioned.

INT AFFAIRS

With many Americans focused on national affairs, the refugee crisis in Africa can seem too remote to contemplate. *Sauti* presents an opportunity to change that with this view of life in Uganda's Kyangwali Refugee Settlement via the personal accounts of five young women brought there as children. Born in either the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, or Rwanda and forced into the settlement as orphans or displaced by violence, each finds her path and dreams of what comes next. How they cope with their lost homes and childhood and create possibilities for the future are the focus of this moving and inspiring story. **VERDICT** A gritty yet colorful view of lives led as displaced young women in a temporary and foreign place, trying to understand how to survive and strive toward their future.—**Ellen Druda, formerly with Half Hollow Hills Community Lib., Dix Hills, NY**

The Workers Cup: Inside the Labor Camps of Qatar, a Tournament for Workers.

92 min. In English & Nepali w/English subtitles. Adam Sobel, dist. by Passion River, www.passionriver.com. 2018. DVD UPC 602573752500. \$69.95; public performance \$350. INT AFFAIRS/SPORTS

The 2022 FIFA World Cup soccer (or football) tournament will be hosted by Qatar. The workers building the five stadia for the event are migrants from Asia and Africa employed by foreign construction companies. Once in Qatar, the workers are unable to change jobs, quit, or leave the country without permission. The film follows the team of Gulf Contracting Company (GCC), one of 24 firms affiliated with World Cup projects invited to compete in a Workers Cup football competition. The GCC team, Nepalese and Africans working for GCC at very low wages, wish to be known as footballers, not just workers. As the filmmakers contrast the stark conditions in the labor camps with the opulent architecture in the capital city of Doha, one worker says, "Doha is for the whites, built by the people of color." **VERDICT** This exploration of globalism and multiculturalism gets to the heart of the desperation of poverty, though the workers can still be distracted by sports.—**Cliff Glaviano, formerly with Bowling Green State Univ. Libs., OH**

★**Ask the Sexpert. 83/59 min. In English & Hindi w/English subtitles. Vaishali Sinha, dist. by Good Docs, www.gooddocs.net. 2018. DVD \$129; acad. libs. \$349; public performance + DVD \$249; acad. \$549; streaming + DVD \$559. PSYCH**

In India, home of the *Kama Sutra*, sex education and open discussions of sex are still taboo, even banned. Mahinder Watsa, a Mumbai-based physician, counselor, and writer, has promoted sexual health and education for decades in his professional efforts and controversial newspaper and magazine advice columns. Conservatives have challenged his work as obscene, but Watsa continues to address endless inquiries in his daily column and even counsels those who track him down at home. Director Sinha succeeds by training cameras on Watsa, his supporters, opponents, patients, and everyday citizens, then letting them speak their minds. The film's only flaw is that it isn't longer; the sole extra is a condensed one-hour version of the feature-length film. The frequent frank discussions of sex and related issues are all in context and in no way gratuitous. **VERDICT** This is an edifying, unembellished look at a humble man who has devoted his life to helping people navigate the pleasurable yet oft-bewildering world of human sexuality. Highly recommended for all viewers.—**J. Osicki, Saint John Free P.L., NB**

The Rise and Fall of the Brown Buffalo.

57 min. Phillip Rodriguez, dist. by City Projects LLC, www.brownbuffalofilm.com. 2018. DVD ISBN 9780692988978. \$250. Public performance; streaming on Kanopy.com. SOC SCI/BIOG

Director Rodriguez presents the bittersweet story of a forgotten activist in the Chicano rights movement. Oscar Zeta Acosta (b. 1935) suffered with abusive parents and racial prejudice while growing up in California. He attended law school after serving in the U.S. Air Force, but personal issues led him into the life of a drifter. Acosta met journalist Hunter S. Thompson in Aspen, CO, and the pair entered into a stormy relationship. Acosta moved to Los Angeles and became active in promoting Chicano rights. While proving a powerful provocateur, his volatile personality combined with substance abuse and mental illness created serious professional and personal problems. After falling from public favor in the 1970s, Acosta went to Mexico, where he disappeared—no one knows what happened to him. Rodriguez combines a documentary style with dramatic interludes to relate Acosta's story. Archival images, interviews, and commentary merge with actor portrayals of friends and foes. **VERDICT** A riveting and thought-provoking film; highly recommended to viewers interested in civil rights and creative filmmaking.—**Stephen L. Hupp, West Virginia Univ. Parkersburg Lib.**

Motherland: Bayang ina Mo. 94 min. In Filipino w/English subtitles. Ramona S.

Diaz, dist. by FilmRise c/o MVDvisual, www.mvdb2b.com. 2018. DVD UPC 760137112198. \$19.95. WOMEN'S STUDIES

This film drops viewers into the overwhelming stream of activity in the busiest maternity hospital in a poverty-stricken area of the Philippines. Expectant mothers sit on rows of benches outside as cycle rickshaws race through the streets. The women are called up by number, fill out the requisite questionnaire, and are admitted inside, where they are given a bed (often shared with several other laboring women). The film zeros in on a teenaged mother, a mother of twins, and an older woman who is thought of as the "comedian" of the ward. Viewers follow their stories among countless others (through English subtitles) to capture the heartbreaking and touching experience of birth, which is startlingly different and yet strikes a chord for all mothers with the commonality of parenting. **VERDICT** Surprisingly humorous at times, this video offers a fascinating look at culture, the birthing process worldwide, and the strength of mothers who are trying to create a new life for their children despite setbacks.—**Julia M. Reffner, North Chesterfield, VA**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Plane Truths. 33 min. Mark Dworkin & Melissa Young, dist. by Bullfrog Films, www.bullfrogfilms.com. 2018. DVD ISBN 9781948745031. \$225 (Rental: \$85). Public performance; SDH subtitles. ENVIRONMENT

Many communities host military bases for mutual benefit. However, the townsfolk in Coupeville, WA, and rural residents near the Whidbey Island U.S. Naval Air Station have mixed feelings at best. As this chronicle demonstrates, during the past few years the navy has deployed a new jet aircraft, the Boeing Super Hornet, and its squadrons frequently practice takeoffs and landings. Locals want to support the base, but they say the extreme jet engine noise is affecting them, as well as scaring off tourists and wildlife. Also, use of aviation firefighting foam seems to have contaminated some wells. Other concerns are injuries to whales from weapons testing in Puget Sound and to other species from military exercises in state parks. The station commander responds to some of these complaints in an interview, saying the offending foam is no longer used in training. Clearly there is no easy resolution here. The navy appears to be reacting to some issues and ignoring others rather than actively working to reduce its regional environmental impact. **VERDICT** This focused production should particularly interest viewers living on or near military bases.—**David R. Conn, formerly with Surrey Libs., BC**