

## *Eckova Productions – Selected Films - Descriptions*

### **Special Heroes**

A fundraising documentary for Special Olympics Pakistan on the effect of physical activity and sports on the lives of mentally handicapped children and adults. The film has a very positive and upbeat theme in spite of the stigma in traditional cultures associated with Special Children. The film was used by SOP to change perceptions, raise awareness, raise funds and encourage involvement by the community and families so that these special children can become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition.

### **A World Of Possibilities**

A film on the state of literacy of the children living in the slums of South Asia, attending schools without desks, chairs, blackboards, pencils or even roofs. Designed to show the dedication of the teachers, the enthusiasm of the children, and the slow change in the traditional views of parents on educating their children, especially girls.

### **ACELP**

A short film on a school that has been at the forefront of helping children and adults with mental and physical disabilities to become a real and productive part of their communities and lead normal and near normal lives. ACELP is a school for developmentally challenged children. The film highlights teaching children with special needs and help for the parents.

### **A Will Of Innocence**

A film on the state of literacy of the children living in the slums of South Asia, attending schools without desks, chairs, blackboards, pencils or even roofs. Designed to show the dedication of the teachers, the enthusiasm of the children, and the slow change in the traditional views of parents on educating their children, especially girls.

### **English For Everyone**

Command of the English language is always a plus where career prospects are concerned. This is especially true in the developing world. South Asia is no different in this aspect. Children's Theater Workshop (Sesame Street) is at the forefront of providing the foundation and building blocks to bring the English language to the children of the developing world. SQF (Safi Qureshey Foundation) has been at the forefront of making basic quality education available to the poor through several local programs and projects in Pakistan.

Eckova productions completed 52 episodes of Sesame English, using the CTW building blocks to produce a series with local hosts (children) a local and culturally apt puppet, and language localization.

**Full Stop**

A special breed of people who are educated but unemployed and who sit outside the main post office, reading and writing letters for the illiterate of the city, getting a personal peek into the lives of their customers, and accumulating wisdom and philosophy of life through the unique perspective that their profession gives them.

**A Different World**

A salute to the Volunteers of Orange County California – a short film looking at both sides of a world normally hidden from everyday life. A glimpse at the homeless, the elderly, sick and immobile, orphans, and many others in need of help, and a tribute to the extraordinary people who volunteer their time, energy to give comfort to the old and bring a smile to the young., The film was commissioned by VCOG and was shown at the Annual Awards ceremony in Disneyland,

**The Lost Generation**

The Russian invasion, followed by the Mujahedeen, the Taleban, and the subsequent American invasion has left Afghanistan with generation upon generation of orphans. The latest crop is now coming of age all across Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other parts of South Asia. Disenfranchised, disillusioned, forgotten and angry, they will present the world with yet another dangerous group to deal with as they cross over to manhood.

**When The Mountains Moved**

“When the Mountains Moved” is a film about changing attitudes between Americans and Pakistanis as a results of the 2005 earthquake. The film was made to commemorate the first anniversary of the quake and celebrates the spirit of humanity over traditional and ideological differences and animosities. The film has been broadcast on television in Pakistan and has been shown widely at private showings in the USA, Canada, UK and Pakistan.

**The Desert Awaits**

A film that celebrates Thar and is used worldwide by TRDP to raise awareness and funds from various international donors. Tharparkar district lies in the south-eastern part of Sindh province and is one of the most deprived regions of Pakistan, with a population of about one million. Most are desert dwellers and live a simple but difficult life, sometimes on the edge of survival. Water, or the lack of it, is often the central theme of their everyday lives.

**Widows Of Kashmir**

Women were the unseemly victims not only of the devastating earthquake, but also of tradition, culture and government policy. Those who have lost all male members of their family are the worst affected. Being the most needy, they are the least served, by a system which by design works to their exclusion.

### **Strategic Policy Unit, City of Faisalabad**

The documentary was produced to project changes and lessons learned through the implementation of a 5 year DFID project in the City of Faisalabad aimed at improving city governance. The lessons learned and the methodology are highlighted as a means to show other cities and serve as a development model for strengthening government processes, and making citizens aware of their responsibilities and rights.

### **Karachi Water Crisis**

Today, Karachi is a mega city with immense promise but numerous problems facing many environmental challenges and threats related to water, sanitation, sewerage, pollution and solid wastes, and others. Investment and development projects in isolation cannot set things right. City governments, citizens, the business community and industry are all equally responsible for the problems that the city faces and its state of disrepair. It will require all these groups to work together to address the challenges and resolve the daunting issues. The 10 minute media piece is used to raise awareness to government officials, stakeholders, citizens and media on issues related to water. The Public Service Announcements in 2 languages were used for awareness raising and advocacy among citizens, business and industry in how they manage water, sanitation and solid waste.

### **Coastal Communities**

A delicate balance exists between the mangrove forests that line the Sindh coastline and the fishing communities that inhabit the region. Most of the communities are fishing villages, but a lot of their day to day living also involves the use of wood and other items from the mangroves. The mangroves themselves serve as spawning grounds for the fish on which the villagers depend for their livelihood. The shrinking mangroves have a direct impact on the very survival of the coastal communities. WWF has been working in the region for 5 years to improve the situation, educate the communities, bring back an ecological balance to the region and in the process improve the lives of the coastal communities. Eckova was selected by WWF to document the successes and lessons of this work in progress. The 30 minute documentary is used to promote the lessons learned in this project in its methodologies and project benefits.

### **Election 2007 – Aap Ka Vote**

“AAP KA VOTE” (“Your Vote”) was used as part of a nationwide political awareness program to encourage first time voters to become part of the political process and realize that they have a voice. The film was produced in two cuts, each aimed at different provincial sectors of Pakistan and is based on candid and open youth discussions, celebrity endorsements, sound-bites and a hybrid sequence of animation and re-enactment on the actual voting process. The films were funded under a grant from The Government of Australia and The Asia Foundation.

### **Kidney Disease and Dialysis**

Noor Foundation works in Pakistan providing dialysis treatments to poor patients. The video is a celebration of their 10 years of progress and growth as an organization and a look towards the future. The documentary also is to raise awareness for the needs of people who require dialysis and is being used for fund raising internationally.

### **Saving The Indus**

Anyone who has seen Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth' is by now familiar with what is happening to our climate, our glaciers, and our water sources. The mighty Indus as it was once known is no exception. It is Pakistan's water lifeline, and it is disappearing fast. One can now cross the Indus on foot at times of the year, carefully stepping over the cracked mud. When it does flow, industrial effluents and domestic sewage render its waters unfit for human consumption. Pani Pakistan is a consortium of organizations committed to turning around the water situation in Pakistan. One of the cornerstones of their mission is to save the Indus. Awareness of the problems and what we can do are at the forefront of this campaign. As the media partner for Pani Pakistan, Eckova Productions has produced several media pieces: a music video and a documentary on the walk by the Water Champions from Skardu to the Arabian Sea.

### **Drinkable Water**

The global water shortage of affordable and safe drinking water is manifested in Pakistan with an estimated 75 percent of the population without access to safe drinking water. In rural areas, up to 90 percent of the population may lack such access. As one indication of the magnitude of the problem, it is estimated that 200,000 children in Pakistan die every year due to diarrhoeal diseases alone. This has obvious health and survival implications. Eckova Productions is currently producing a series of videos on basic hygiene and cleanliness habits to prevent the start and spreading of disease. A second series is focused on water conservation, especially for modern consumer oriented lifestyles.

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### **Venice Beat**

Whether they come from Westwood, South Central, or East L.A. -musicians, dancers, and spectators alike come to the Venice Beach Drum Circle to celebrate life in a community of rhythm. This is a day in the life of the Venice Beach Drum Circle as told by those who give their weekends, not to mention their hearts and souls, to the musical oasis. Every Saturday and Sunday in eclectic Venice, familiar faces emerge from the

dizzying boardwalk. These patrons of rhythm transform the beach into a spiritual and harmonious gathering. Although the hills of Malibu and office buildings of Santa Monica are in sight, the drum circle is far removed from such standard emblems of Los Angeles.

**Madrassa-Menace Or Myth (in production)**

To many, madrassahs are seen as the root of terror from which hatred and violence grow. Portrayed this way in the media and by world leaders, madrassahs have received the blame for many a problem in the Muslim world. Looking at life inside these schools of religious learning, however, paints a somewhat different portrait.

**Moving Canvases (in production)**

All across Pakistan, from the Arabian Sea coast to the peaks of the Himalayas, the highways and roads are constantly busy with trucks carrying goods. Although this may be a common sight in any country, the difference here is the curious and unusual practice of creating works of art on trucks, unique to Pakistan and parts of the Indian subcontinent. These canvases on the move are an art-form in themselves and have an inimitable style.

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