



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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FILM PAIR FOCUSES ON THE HISTORY OF ETHIOPIA, THE HMONG COMMUNITY *Documentaries are Part of "The Changing Face of San Diego" film festival*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will host screenings of “Ye Wonz Maibel” and “Red White Blue November” during the ongoing film festival—with an upcoming final film presentation at the Central Library—for the Library’s *Changing Face of San Diego* program. The free film screenings will take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16 at the Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center, located at 5148 Market Street.

“Ye Wonz Maibel (Deluge)” frames the multifaceted nature of Ethiopia’s historic struggle for unity and modernity within a personal narrative. The film explores the momentous events that took place in Ethiopia following the overthrow of Haile Selassie, the last emperor of Ethiopia, and the brutal military junta that came to power. Director Salem Mekuria appears as herself to recount the story of Ethiopia’s “Red Terror” through personal interviews with family and close friends to present a compelling meditation on history, conflict, loss, and reconciliation.

“Red White Blue November” revolves around the story of 18-year-old Kong Chi Thao, who was killed in a drive-by shooting in downtown Fresno. Interviews with his family members reveal varying perceptions of how and why Kong Chi’s death took place, in turn, reflecting their differing expectations and experiences of being Hmong immigrants in America. Intimate and immediate, this documentary sifts through the facts and myths that surround Hmong immigrants as they try to sustain the delicate balance between traditional beliefs and American practicalities.

The Changing Face of San Diego program connects immigrants, both new and old, to the larger community with engaging activities involving books, films, theater and oral histories. The International Rescue Committee, Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company and the New Americans Immigration Museum and Learning Center are integral project partners. Funding for the project is provided in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 34 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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