ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY

ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY IS A GROUP OF ARTISTS COMMITTED TO PREVENTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, SAVING LIVES AND PROMOTING A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

MONTHLY BULLETIN

SUMMER 2007

BONNIE'S DEPARTURE

Dear Friends,

It has been my great privilege to have held the position of Director of Artists for Amnesty since its inception in 2001 until the spring of this year. During those past six years, the members of this program have advocated for the release of prisoners of conscience around the world and championed human rights campaigns that focused on ending violence against women, stopping the use of children as armed combatants, abolishing the death penalty, combating sex trafficking, ending genocides and preventing human right atrocities around the globe.

I am unable to fully articulate the overwhelming gratitude I feel for all of you who helped make this program such a success – a success measured in lives saved, individuals protected from harm and communities educated and mobilized. For six years, members of the entertainment community have consistently dedicated their time, their resources and their voices in support of Artists for Amnesty and the human rights movement.

Through our collective efforts, the power of one has become the power of the many. I am grateful to all of you who have signed our petitions, marched with us in rallies, lobbied Congress and the United Nations, held vigils outside of prisons, and challenged the authority of those who rule by fear, brutality, and disregard for the international human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and those rights protected by international law.Without fail, you have reinforced the belief personified by Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Su Kyi - *"Fear is a habit. I am not afraid."*

As a continuation and expansion of my work as an advocate for human rights and social justice within the entertainment community, I have accepted the position of Vice President, Social Action and Advocacy, at Participant Productions, where I look forward to continuing to work with many colleagues and friends on the issues we care about. Alongside my new position, I will continue my commitment to Amnesty International and its crucial work as a volunteer in my role as Chair of the Advisory Board for Artists for Amnesty.

Supporting our joint efforts these many years, the backbone of the Artists for Amnesty program has always been its dedicated program associates - Mario Tafur, Lucia Noyce, Jamie Skaluba and Christina Lindstrom. They remain my colleagues, friends and exceptional human rights revolutionaries, and I want to offer them my thanks for their commitment, compassion and hard work. The program is better for their efforts and I am grateful to them, and to many other colleagues at Amnesty and beyond for their support and numerous contributions.

Lucia Noyce is now taking the helm of Artists for Amnesty, and will continue to expand the role of the Artists for Amnesty program. I look forward to working with her in the months to come.

Finally, a very special thanks to my speech writer, my daughter Larissa, who continues to inspire me.

Mil gracias a todos,

Bonnie Abaunza

A MIGHTY HEART

On Wednesday, June 6, at the Museum of Tolerance, Artists for Amnesty was proud to co-host a special screening of the film "A Mighty Heart," benefiting the Daniel Pearl Foundation. The film, starring Angelina Jolie and directed by Michael Winterbottom, tells the remarkable true story of journalist Daniel Pearl's kidnapping in Pakistan as seen through the eyes of his wife Mariane Pearl. Daniel's parents Judea and Ruth, as well as his sister, were in attendance for this touching tribute to his legacy, and lead actors Angelina Jolie and Dan Futterman moved the audience with a surprise introduction.

Judea Pearl, Angelina Jolie, Ruth Pearl and Dan Futterman. © Paramount Vantage

On June 13, Amnesty International USA and Reporters Without Borders co-hosted the film's premiere at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York City. "All of us remember the extraordinary act of courage and defiance as Daniel spoke his last words," said AIUSA Executive Director Larry Cox. "In that moment that is etched in our collective memory, he inspired us all."

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. © Paramount Vantage

The Daniel Pearl Foundation was formed in memory of Daniel to further the ideals that inspired his life and work. The foundation's mission is to promote cross-cultural understanding through journalism, music, and innovative communications. Learn more about their work at www.danielpearl.org.

Artists for Amnesty would like to thank Paramount Vantage, the Museum of Tolerance, and all those involved with "A Mighty Heart."

INSTANT KARMA

The album *Instant Karma: The Amnesty International Campaign to Save Darfur* was released June 12. Through the combination of music, technology, and a call for change, *Instant Karma* is raising awareness and support for Amnesty's work on Darfur, Sudan. The album debuted at #15 on the Billboard charts and has now gone gold worldwide.

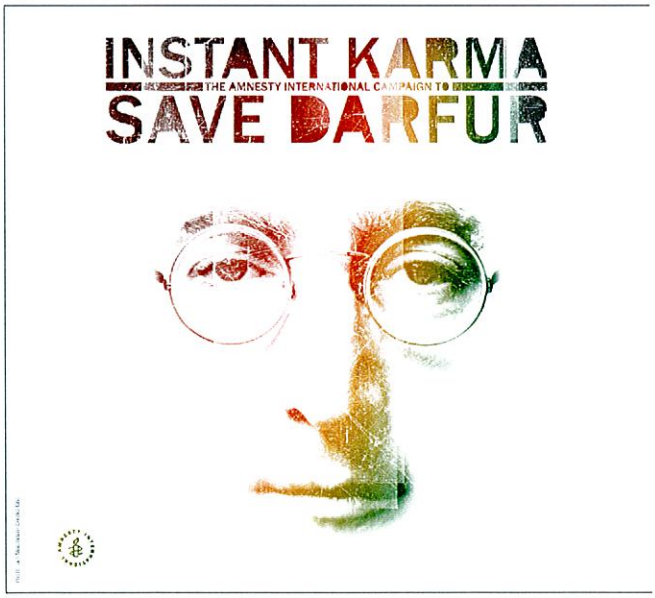
The CD and exclusive downloads are a collaboration of top artists from around the world performing the music of John Lennon. These artists include U2, Green Day, REM, Aerosmith, The Cure, Snow Patrol, Avril Lavigne, Christina Aguilera, and many others.

Yoko Ono generously contributed all the music publishing royalties for *Instant Karma*. "It's wonderful that, through this campaign, music which is so familiar to many people of my era will now be embraced by a whole new generation. John's music set out to inspire change, and in standing up for human rights, we really can make the world a better place," she said.

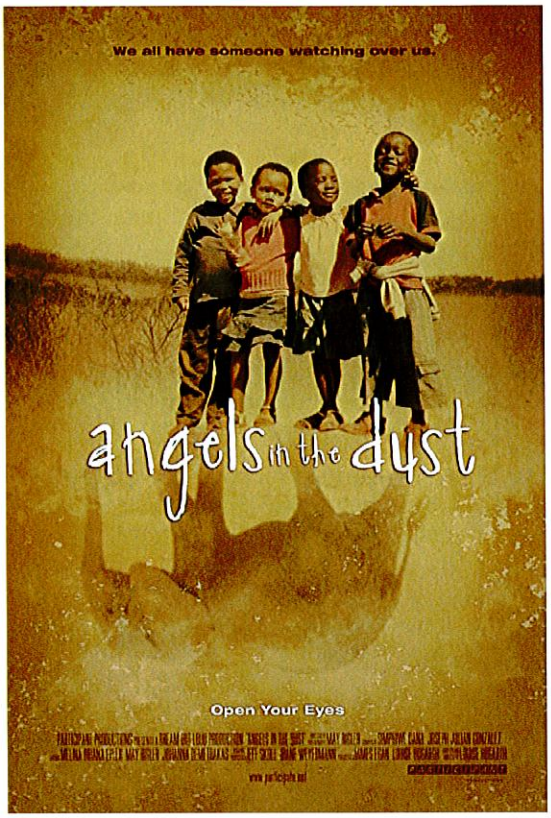
The pre-release buzz kicked off with a performance by Green Day on the May 23rd season finale of "American Idol", which had an estimated 30.6 million viewers in the U.S. and was broadcast in 100 countries around the world. This was followed by the June 1st premiere of the Green Day video for their version of "Working Class Hero"on MTV Network and iTunes. Directed by Samuel Bayer, the video features moving testimonies of Darfuris now living in the U.S.

The release of the CD coincided with a petition calling upon President Bush to use the authority of his office to ensure that UN and African Union peacekeepers are enabled to protect civilians in Darfur and eastern Chad and bring stability to the region.

Artists for Amnesty would like to thank Warner Bros. Records and Jeff Ayeroff and Julie Yannatta of Artists First for all of their support and work on making this album a reality. To sign the petition and learn more about the Instant Karma campaign or to purchase the CD itself, log onto www.instantkarma.org.



ANGELS IN THE DUST



This powerful documentary explores the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa and specifically its impact on the children through an orphanage called Boikarabelo and the extraordinary woman who created it. The film investigates the legacy of Apartheid, the lack of anti-retroviral drugs to treat AIDS, rape, violence and orphans. Primarily, all this is revealed through the story of the fiercely compassionate woman Marion Cloete and her family, who gave up everything to form this orphanage and rescue these orphans. The film opens in New York on September 14, and in Los Angeles on September 28. Artists for Amnesty is proud to support this project.

AFA Bulletin edited by Lucia Noyce.

JOIN ARTISTS FOR AMNESTY

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