



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 7, 2011

**POLITICS ON FILM**  
**TO OPEN WITH FITZGERALD PREMIERE,**  
**CLOSE WITH RETURN OF AWARD-WINNER YATES**  
*3rd Annual Fest Set for May 4-8, 2011*

**Washington, D.C.** – Two films centered on the impact of the arts will open and close the 2011 Politics on Film Festival. Melissa Fitzgerald, the *West Wing* actress, will premiere “*Staging Hope*” to open the festival. And inaugural PoliFest winner Pamela Yates (“*The Reckoning*”) returns with another powerful story, “*Granito*”, to close the third annual event.

“Part of the story of this festival is the power of film to make a difference,” said Gayle Osterberg, Chief Operating Officer. “Bookending this year’s event are two stories that convey this concept brilliantly, weaving realities of war and its aftermath with the impact of the arts in helping people move forward in different ways. We couldn’t be more excited to bring these powerful films to Washington.”

“*Staging Hope*” follows a group of American actors to the refugee camps of war-torn Northern Uganda as they work together with 14 Ugandan teenagers on a theater program. “*Staging Hope*” documents the program while revealing the war’s impact, the realities of life in the camps, and the extraordinary sense of hope, reconciliation and determination of the children of Northern Uganda. “*Staging Hope*” is written and edited by Paul Freedman, Peabody Award winning and Emmy Award nominated filmmaker, and is produced by Fitzgerald and Katy S. Fox, with appearances by Dule’ Hill, Allison Janney, Janel Moloney and Martin Sheen.

“*Granito*” chronicles Yates’ own extraordinary journey as both a documentarian and a humanitarian. Join her as she sifts for clues buried in archives of mind and place spanning three decades to uncover a narrative that could unlock the past and settle matters of life and death in the present. Each of the five main characters whose destinies collide in “*Granito*” are connected by 1982 Guatemala, engulfed in a war where a scorched earth campaign by the military exterminated nearly 200,000 Mayan people. “*Granito*” is a film by Pamela Yates (Director), Peter Kinoy (Editor) and Paco de Onis (Producer) of Skylight Pictures.

*“Staging Hope”* will screen Wednesday, May 4 and *“Granito”* will screen Saturday, May 7. Additional details and complete line-up of official selections will be announced in the coming days.

**About Politics on Film**

Politics on Film is a project of the Washington Political Film Foundation. It is an annual, bipartisan film festival based in Washington DC dedicated to providing a platform for films that tell stories of America’s politics and policies. The festival celebrates the power of film to educate and motivate, as well as entertain. The Festival also celebrates the historic and ongoing legacy of films about American government and democracy, as well as related stories and themes from an international perspective. [www.politicsonfilm.com](http://www.politicsonfilm.com).

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