



**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***  
**Contact:** Mark Elijah Rosenberg  
Artistic Director, Rooftop Films  
[press@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:press@rooftopfilms.com)  
718-417-7362

## ROOFTOP FILMS 2006 SUMMER SERIES - WEEK 9

THU. JULY 27: *WHEN ADNAN COMES HOME* (Feature doc. directed by Andrew Berends)  
**New York Sneak Preview!**

A 16-year old in an Iraqi jail must overcome his family prejudice and his nation's struggles.  
On the roof of the **YMHA** (344 East 14th St.) East Village, Manhattan

FRI. JULY 28: *REBEL GIRLS* (short films by women and girls)

Rock n Roll by girls, films by women, co-presented with The Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls  
On the lawn of **Open Road Park** (12th St btw. 1st Ave / Ave. A), East Village, Manhattan

SAT. JULY 29: *SONGBIRDS* (Hour long doc directed by Brian Hill) Plus short films.

The songs of incarcerated women in Surrey, England.

On the lawn of **Automotive High School** (50 Bedford Ave, @ N13th), Williamsburg, Brooklyn



L-R: *When Adnan Comes Home* (7/27/06); *Heavy Pockets* (7/28/06); *Songbirds* (7/29/06)  
High resolution stills available upon request at [press@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:press@rooftopfilms.com)

**8PM:** LIVE MUSIC

**9PM:** FILMS

**TICKETS:** \$8 available at the door or online at <http://rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html>

**RAIN:** In the event of rain, shows are indoors or under cover at the same location

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS

- PREVIEW TAPES / DVDs & HIGH RESOLUTION STILLS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
- FULL PROGRAM NOTES, FILM DESCRIPTIONS, VENUE INFO, SCHEDULE OF OTHER EVENTS AND MORE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.ROOFTOPFILMS.COM](http://WWW.ROOFTOPFILMS.COM)

\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*

**Contact:** Mark Elijah Rosenberg  
Artistic Director, Rooftop Films  
[press@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:press@rooftopfilms.com)  
718-417-7362

## ROOFTOP FILMS 2006 SUMMER SERIES - WEEK 9



THU. JULY 27: *WHEN ADNAN COMES HOME* (Feature doc. directed by Andrew Berends)

**New York Sneak Preview!**

A 16-year old in an Iraqi jail must overcome his family prejudice and his nation's struggles.

**Venue:** On the roof of the **YMHA** (344 East 14th St.) East Village, Manhattan

**Rain:** In the event of rain the show is indoors at the same location

**8PM:** Live music by **Basya Schecter** | **9PM:** Films

**Tickets:** \$10 available at the door or online at [www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html](http://www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html)

From the Director of **Blood of My Brother** (official selection at Silverdocs, Tribeca Film Festival. Released theatrically nationwide June 30, 2006). [www.storytellerinc.com](http://www.storytellerinc.com)

*When Adnan Comes Home* is a documentary about 16-year-old Adnan whose life was ruined by a tragic turn of events that landed him in Iraq's criminal justice system under foreign occupation. Although the setting of the film is inherently political, the war is less the subject than the context in which a family drama unfolds. This deeply intimate and fiercely insightful film captures the fascinating nuances Adnan's childish desperation, his older brother's stubbornness, his mother's unflinching concern, and his father's moral quandary and emotional distance. Their story is universal, and could take place anywhere, and yet what it reveals about Iraqi culture -- under occupation or not -- is particularly pertinent in America today.

At the end of 2003, Adnan was arrested for stealing two meters of electric cable. This is a crime that is widespread throughout Iraq. Cable is looted and melted down as scrap metal. This practice has greatly hindered efforts toward reconstruction of the country's infrastructure. It is therefore considered a serious crime. When Adnan was arrested, he was taken to the local police station in Bob Al Sham, a rural town just outside Baghdad. There he was beaten and tortured by the local police until he confessed. He was then moved to the Karkh Juvenile Detention facility where almost 200 boys are incarcerated. The inmates range from small time felons to murderers and rapists. After Adnan had been imprisoned for two months, two of the inmates started a fire in an attempt to escape. A number of boys were trapped in the fire. For unknown reasons, it took more than twenty minutes for prison guards to free them from the area on fire. Twenty-one boys were taken to the hospital. Three died from smoke-inhalation. The others had severe burns ranging from thirty to eighty percent of their bodies. Of the survivors, Adnan was one of the most badly burned. He lost his ears and the flesh on his hands and scalp.

In spite of the prison's negligence, no compensation has been made to Adnan or his family, and he remains in prison today. The film documents the first nine months of Adnan's incarceration, and his family's struggle to obtain his release from an inefficient and corrupt justice system. Simultaneously, it intimately documents the simple life of Adnan's family living in relative poverty in a small rural town just outside Baghdad. There, Adnan's suffering is just one of the many problems they face today in Iraq.

*When Adnan Comes Home* will be preceded by a short film:

**La Plaine (The Field)** (Roland Edzard | France | 13:00)

At a housing site under construction on the outskirts of the town, a quarrel breaks out between a father and his youngest son. The eldest son steps in and causes a fight which takes a bad turn. As with Adnan, this haunting and gritty nearly-wordless film tells the story of a son who must gain his father's forgiveness for a crime.

\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*

**Contact:** Mark Elijah Rosenberg  
Artistic Director, Rooftop Films  
[press@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:press@rooftopfilms.com)  
718-417-7362

## ROOFTOP FILMS 2006 SUMMER SERIES - WEEK 9

### FRI. JULY 20: REBEL GIRLS

Rock n roll by girls, films by women. Co-presented with **The Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls.**

**Venue:** The lawn of Open Road Park (12th St btw. 1st Ave. / Ave. A), East. Village, Manhattan

**Rain:** In the event of rain the show is under cover at the same location.

**8PM:** Live music by **The 303s** | 8:30PM: Live music by **Rock Camp Bands** | **9PM:** Films

**Tickets:** \$8 available at the door or online at [www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html](http://www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html)



STILLS (L TO R): SPOOKY DILL KIDS IN "WHAT'S EATING BROWNIE?"; DAIKON ASHI; THE LOVE TRAIN

Two dynamic New York City arts organization, Rooftop Films and Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls, are teaming up to host an outdoor concert and film screening highlighting the work of up and coming women filmmakers and musicians. The music is by **brand new bands, comprising girls ages 8-18, fresh out of Rock Camp. These girls really rock, and their enthusiasm and talent is something to behold.** The films are a fun and diverse blend of films about being a girl who bucks the system. The program was co-curated by Rooftop Films and the girls of the Willie Mae Rock Camp for girls in an innovative collaboration.

#### FILMS INCLUDE:

**Natasha** (Jen Ashlock | Chapel Hill, NC | 13:00)

Julia, Andrea, and Anne are Natasha, an all-female band in high school. Borrowing instruments from their school, writing their own songs, and distributing their music dubbed over cheap cassette tapes, this DIY band became a hit local act, eventually going on to open for nationally known punk band, the Butchies.

**Heavy Pockets** (Sarah Cox | Bristol, England | 5:00)

A dazzling mix of live action and animation about a girl who is plagued by the ability to fly.

**Zezip's World** (Catherine Asmussen | Copenhagen, Denmark | 35:27)

Zezip is a 15-year-old Danish girl. At her school in Copenhagen, she is the only indigenous Danish student. "In a way you could say that I'm the foreigner in the school." She is inseparable from her Arab friends Tanja and Mia, but when she actually has a date, problems arise between Zezip and her friends.

**Little Spirits** (Cecilia Condit | Milwaukee, WI | 8:30)

Two girls explore beyond Grandmother's limits, coming face to face with their own emerging animal natures.

**The Love Train** (Eva Bennett | Bristol, England | 8:00)

**Daikon Ashi** (Ru Kuwahata | Sunnyside, NY | 1:30)

**Sleep With the Fishes** (Belle Miller | East Sussex, England | 4:27)

**Don't Fuck With Love** (Rachel McIntosh | Brooklyn, NY | 2:40)

**Spooky Doll Kids in: "What's Eating Brownie?"** (Roseline Lau | Perth, Australia | 6:45)

**Suckerfish** (Lisa Jackson | Watertown, MA | 8:00)

**Where Paper will Touch the Skin** (Claire Fowler | Bristol, England | 1:00)

\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*

**Contact:** Mark Elijah Rosenberg  
Artistic Director, Rooftop Films  
[press@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:press@rooftopfilms.com)  
718-417-7362

## ROOFTOP FILMS 2006 SUMMER SERIES - WEEK 9

**SAT. JULY 29:** SONGBIRDS (experimental feature doc, directed by Brian Hill) Plus short films  
The songs of incarcerated women in Surrey, England.

**8:30** - Live music

**9:00** - Films

**Venue:** On the lawn of **Automotive High School** (50 Bedford Ave. @ N13th), Williamsburg, Brooklyn  
In the event of rain the show is indoors at the same location.

**Tickets:** \$8 available at the door or online at [www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html](http://www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html)



**Songbirds** (Brian Hill | Surrey, England | 1:01:00)

In the past ten years, the female prison population in the UK has risen by 173%. Prison is a different experience for women, who are more likely to suffer mental health difficulties and to self-harm than men. Nearly half have children under 16 and far more women prisoners are foreign, many of them drug mules. The stories told by the women of Downview Prison in Surrey have been transformed into a musical by the team that produced *Feltham Sings*. Mixing music and interviews, director Brian Hill, lyricist Simon Armitage and composer Simon Boswell facilitate each prisoner to find a unique musical voice. The result raises questions not only about sentencing, but about the effectiveness of prison itself.

*Songbirds* will be preceded by these short films:

**Toth** (Dylan Drummand & Blair Scott | Glasgow, Scotland | 13:00)

When you're from the Top O' The Hill (TOTH) -- a rough and rugged neighborhood -- the hill will keep pulling you back in. In this gritty documentary, a man who is trying to make amends for past transgressions also declares his willingness to do it all over again, if only he could take the place of his troubled son and make a better life for him.

**Gray Days** (Katharine Leggett | Palo Alto, CA / North Carolina | 14:00)

A graying American population and a record number of people incarcerated present an alarming trend: a dramatic increase of elderly in our state prisons. Built around the compelling stories of two elderly inmates in two North Carolina prisons, this film confronts the lives of an often-ignored population within our criminal justice system.

- PREVIEW TAPES / DVDs & HIGH RESOLUTION STILLS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
- FULL PROGRAM NOTES, FILM DESCRIPTIONS, VENUE INFO, SCHEDULE OF OTHER EVENTS AND MORE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.ROOFTOPFILMS.COM](http://WWW.ROOFTOPFILMS.COM)