February 7, 7:00 pm

OCCUPATION: DREAMLAND

Offers a rare and intimate window into the daily life of one group of US soldiers stationed in Iraq to “keep peace” less than one year after President Bush announced mission accomplished.

A first hand view of the moral and operational complexities inherent in American warfare in the 21st century. Follow one squad in the US Army's 82nd Airborne deployed in the doomed Iraqi city of Falluja during the winter of 2004. This series of remarkably candid interviews with the squad's soldiers detailing their sometimes shocking daily life and the creep of disillusionment with their mission.

February 14, 7:00 pm

STATE OF FEAR

How can an open society balance demands for security with democracy? State of Fear dramatizes the human and societal costs a democracy faces when it embarks on a “war” against terror, a “war” potentially without end, all too easily exploited by unscrupulous leaders seeking personal political gain. The film follows events in Peru, yet it serves as a cautionary tale for a nation like the United States. Filmmakers Pamela Yates, Paco de Onís and Peter Kinoy masterfully blend personal testimony, history, and archival footage to tell the story of escalating violence in the Andean nation and how the fear of terror undermined democracy, making Peru a virtual dictatorship where official corruption replaced the rule of law.

February 21, 7:00 pm

THE EDUCATION OF SHELBY KNOX

The National debate over federally funded “abstinence-only” sex education plays out in full force.

Fifteen-year-old Shelby Knox of Lubbock, Texas is a self-described “good Southern Baptist girl,” who herself has pledged abstinence until marriage. When she finds that Lubbock has some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases in the nation and her county's high schools teach abstinence as the only safe sex, she becomes an unlikely advocate for comprehensive sex education, profoundly changing her here is a story for our times, where the combustible mix of politics, family, and faith are not as predictable as the red state/blue state divide would suggest.

February 28, 7:00 pm

MARDI GRAS: MADE IN CHINA

Track the “bead trail” from the factory in China to Bourbon Street during Mardi Gras, poignantly exposing the inequities of globalization. Filmmaker Redmon gained unprecedented access to follow the stories of four young Chinese women working and living in the largest Mardi Gras bead factory in the world, located in Fuzhou, China. Witness their economic realities, self-sacrifice, and dreams of a better life. Brilliantly interweaving factory life with Mardi Gras festivities, the film opens the blind eye of consumerism by visually introducing workers and festival goers to each other. A dialogue results when bead-wearing partiers are shown images of the Chinese workers and asked if they know the origin of their beads while factory women view pictures of Americans exchanging beads, soliciting more beads, and celebrating.

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