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**“THE SHAPE OF WATER” DOC PROFILES SOCIAL JUSTICE
IN ITS WORLD PREMIERE AT THE
21st SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Screening Monday February 6, 6:30pm at Victoria Hall
and Thursday February 9, 1:00pm at Centerstage Theatre, Paseo Nuevo Mall

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Written and Directed by UC at Santa Barbara Professor Kum-Kum Bhavnani;
Narrated by Academy Award-Winning Actress Susan Sarandon;
With Intro Written by Haitian Writer Edwidge Danticat
and Social Activist John Foran

“There is another globalization at work and that is the globalization of citizens connecting to each other.”

– Vandana Shiva, *The Shape of Water*

“Kum-Kum Bhavnani has made a film about HOPE not despair, about COURAGE not sentimentality...”

- Susan Sarandon, Narrator, *The Shape of Water*

Follow **The Shape of Water** as five powerful women with a passion for change forge new struggles to create a sustainable future for all. Watch as women from around the world respond to such cultural injustices as environmental destruction in Brazil and female genital cutting (FGC) in Senegal. Explore their poignant stories as the women generate alternatives by taking on the root causes of inequality. Director Kum-Kum Bhavnani states, “After many years of teaching, researching and writing on the subject I decided we needed to have the women’s journeys on film.” It is their stories of peace-making, rain-forest re-generation, and social justice that are brought to light in this documentary film.

The Shape of Water is directed by University of California at Santa Barbara Sociology professor Kum-Kum Bhavnani and powerfully narrated by Academy Award-winner Susan Sarandon.

The Shape of Water pays tribute to women who have reshaped their lives and the lives of upcoming generations despite the odds. This documentary shows how women in Senegal, Brazil, India, and Jerusalem are making changes which affect the futures of all.

The Shape of Water takes audiences to Brazil’s Amazonian rainforest where women tap trees for rubber; to Senegal where women are fighting female genital cutting (FGC); to Jerusalem where Women in Black (WIB) have created a peace vigil to end years of Israeli occupation of Palestine; to India where the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) has empowered poor women to rise up from poverty and live with dignity as vegetable sellers and kite makers. The film shows how women insist on making a difference one person at a time, one group at a time. Their focus is sharp, their actions are compelling, their stories are inspiring - we all need to see this beautiful film.

Dedicated to the art of filmmaking, the SBIFF offers a broad array of international and independent films, with a commitment to diversity. It attracts more than 43,000 visitors each year. The SBIFF endeavors to enrich the community both culturally and economically by presenting ten days of films, seminars, symposiums and parties! Films from American Independents to major studio releases, to award-winning foreign films and international documentaries, cinephiles have the opportunity to discover mainstream and alternative films, as well as meet the filmmakers and talk with them after screenings. SBIFF is in its' 21st year.

SBIFF BOX OFFICE INFO

Pre-sale tickets for events are on sale NOW at the official SBIFF Box Office, toll free 888.456.2376 or local 805.963.0761 or visit www.sbfilmfestival.org. Box Office is located at Lobero Theatre, 33 E. Canon Perdido St., in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Box Office hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday Noon to 5 p.m. and two hours prior to all shows. Festival Passes are very close to sold out so call now. There will be only four-packs and 12-packs passes sold this year, (on sale date at the Lobero is 1.16.06) with no individual tickets sold for screenings in an effort to better the system. Individual tickets are available for all special events while they last. Details are on line for complete ticketing information.

Special Addition this year: Tickets to all screenings for the inaugural "3rd Weekend," Feb. 17-19, will be available on a first-come-first-served basis the day of the screening(s) at the Marjorie Luke Theatre, 815 E. Cota Street, on the campus of SB Junior High. More information on this bonus weekend is online. For any questions please call the Festival Office at 805.963.0023 or visit the website www.sbfilmfestival.org.