



# COUNTERCORP

Putting an end to business as usual

## 2006 Anti-Corporate Film Festival Announces Date, Venue

1st annual festival to run Dec. 1–3 at Victoria Theater in SF's Mission District

SAN FRANCISCO (Oct. 24, 2006) — A new film festival focusing on issues of corporate power and influence makes its debut in early December at San Francisco's oldest running theater.

The CounterCorp Film Festival will feature movies, speakers, and panels discussing the role that corporations play in the U.S. and around the world. It is being organized by a new San Francisco-based non-profit organization founded in 2006 to “document, reduce, and ultimately prevent the corrosive political, economic, and social effects that large corporations have in the U.S. and around the world.”

The goal of the festival, says CounterCorp director John Wilner, is to raise public and media awareness about those effects, encourage critical thinking and debate about how large corporations actually operate, and what they really add to — and subtract from — society's bottom line.

“We're interested in movies that examine the true nature of corporations, the role they play in our society, and the effects they have on people and cultures around the world — and on the planet itself,” Wilner said. “That's what we mean by an ‘anti-corporate’ film festival. It's not just about showing movies made outside of the Hollywood studio system, though most of the films certainly fit that description.”

“Corporations are usually seen as making a positive contribution to our lives, but the media and the public rarely consider the hidden costs of those supposed gains,” he added. “We want to shine a bright light on the whole issue, and talk about what corporations really do, and who actually benefits from it.”

To encourage that discussion, several films will be followed by speakers or panels seeking audience questions and comments on the issues they raise. The organizers hope that the audience will carry those conversations out of the theater, into neighborhood bars and restaurants, and beyond the festival itself.

The festival program includes U.S. and foreign-made movies, feature-length and short works, “narrative” (fictional) and documentary films, and even animation, and will be announced in November. Tickets are \$10 each, with discounts for students and activists, and go on sale when the final program is announced. A “Full-Fest” pass covering all of the films, discussions, and other events during the festival is now available online for \$75 (\$50 for students/activists) at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5620](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5620).

The CounterCorp festival is an all-volunteer effort that not surprisingly does not accept corporate funds or advertising. Instead, the organizers are relying on “community-based” support — including donations from the public and local small businesses, pre-festival film screenings, and sales of DVDs and t-shirts, partnerships with other non-profit groups, grants from progressive foundations, and ticket sales.

The 500-seat Victoria Theatre is the oldest such venue currently operating in San Francisco. Built in 1908 as a vaudeville house, it became a movie theater in the 1930s as film replaced stage shows as the dominant entertainment medium. It started showing Spanish-language films in the '50s for the Mission's growing Latino community, and became a burlesque house in the '60s before closing in 1976 for two years. After a year of reconstruction, it was restored to its original grandeur and is now a city landmark.

For more information about CounterCorp and the 2006 Anti-Corporate Film Festival, please visit our website at [www.countercorp.org](http://www.countercorp.org), e-mail us at [filmfest@countercorp.org](mailto:filmfest@countercorp.org), or call (415) 282-2486.