

World premiere screening of *Displaced* to open 10th edition of Jozi Film Festival

Feature documentary movingly reflects on forced displacement

Cape Town, 30 September 2021

Cape Town-based CineSouth Studios announced the world premiere cinema screening of its feature documentary *Displaced*, to take place in Johannesburg on 1 October 2021. The new documentary from director Victor van Aswegen will open this year's edition of the Jozi Film Festival, Johannesburg's longest-running multi-genre film festival, now in its 10th year. Released on 11 December 2020, *Displaced* has garnered acclaim at film festivals in the northern hemisphere, with official selection and finalist status at festivals across Europe and North America, and several positions as winner in the best documentary category.

Victor van Aswegen, CineSouth CEO and director of *Displaced*, explains: "The pandemic has wreaked havoc in the global film festival world, as of course elsewhere in the entertainment industry. Restrictions on indoor gatherings have forced most film festivals worldwide since early 2020 to adopt virtual-only models. As a result, despite the festival success we've had with *Displaced*, from Sweden, France, Italy and Spain to India, Canada and the United States, it has to date only had online festival screenings. We are delighted therefore that the Jozi Film Festival in Johannesburg, this year running their festival in hybrid format, with physical screenings in front of a live audience complementing the online component, has included our film in its official selection – and we are tremendously honoured by the decision by Jozi's Lisa Henry and her team to screen *Displaced* in a cinema as the opening-night film of their festival this year."

Displaced deals with the inner life and traumatic experience of the forcibly displaced. The film is a retrospective of the oeuvre of South African artist Emma Willemse, who has in her work over the years drawn from the personal experience of displacement she has suffered herself to engage deeply with the powerful and universal themes of home, the loss of a home, and the trauma experienced by people who are forcibly displaced.

The many works featured in the film include art installations in Hermanus and at Nirox Sculpture Park in Gauteng, and exhibitions of her work in Dakar, Florence, Johannesburg and Paris. It shows the artist at work in her hometown of Riebeeck Kasteel in the Western Cape and, through a telling of the story of her life and art practice, reveals how her work is rooted in personal circumstances out of which she conceptualises and makes artworks that speak to people worldwide.

The film contextualises the art and connects it with the reality of forced displacement historically and today. According to United Nations refugee agency statistics the number of people who had been forcibly displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order stood at a record 82 million at the end of last year.

Displaced is also a reflection on the nature of artmaking, the uniquely human activity of using materials to make meaning, and highlights how the artworks ultimately transcend the specifics even of the theme of displacement, movingly deepening our understanding of order and disorder, wholeness and brokenness, whether in our personal lives or in human society.

“Art and artist, art and world, art and meaning – structured around explorations of these concepts, gradually unpacked and developed, the film is propelled forward by three parallel progressions,” says director Victor van Aswegen. “*Displaced* resonates in South Africa, with its history of forced removals, and around the world where today the lives of more people than ever before are impacted by displacement – globally it remains a reality of daily life for so many. Our work at CineSouth Studios revolves around engaging the great themes of the age in our films; migration and the large-scale movement of people across borders, with all the attendant suffering and hardship, certainly rank among these important themes. The reception the film is receiving around the world is perhaps indicative of the widespread awareness of the scale of the challenge, and the empathy felt for the displaced.”

“To us it is fitting that *Displaced* has its world premiere in Johannesburg, not only because South Africa is the film’s country of origin, but also because the film features a number of settings in Gauteng not too far, geographically and culturally, from the venue of the premiere. We look forward to the continental and national premieres of *Displaced* to come at film festivals in other territories around the world as pandemic restrictions are lifted gradually and more screening opportunities in cinemas in front of festival audiences open up.”

World premiere: *Displaced*

6pm 1 October 2021

The Bioscope

44 Stanley Avenue

Milpark

Johannesburg

www.thebioscope.co.za

Tickets: www.jozifilmfestival.com

www.displaced-thefilm.com

www.instagram.com/displaced.thefilm

List of film festivals: www.displaced-thefilm.com/#festivals

Press enquiries: reception@cinesouthstudios.com

About CineSouth Studios:

Cape Town-based CineSouth Studios undertakes and delivers feature-length and larger-scale multiyear film projects. The films of the studio's founder-owner and director Victor van Aswegen engage the big-picture topics, at a time when these include some of the most consequential questions ever to confront humanity.
www.cinesouthstudios.com

About Emma Willemse:

Emma Willemse is a conceptual artist and art educator living and working in Riebeeek Kasteel in the Western Cape. Her artmaking practice deals with issues of displacement, place-making and sense of place. Her artworks are technically varied, and include sculptural installations, printmaking, artist's books, painting and drawing.
www.emmawillemse.co.za

About Victor van Aswegen:

Victor van Aswegen is a Cape Town-based filmmaker with a background in, successively, law, economics, development, finance, private equity, consultancy and business analytics. As filmmaker and founder-owner of CineSouth Studios, he now works principally as director and producer, and does the cinematography, post-production and editing on his films himself.
www.cinesouthstudios.com/director