

Film festival puts a focus on the positive

festival from 18

failing about our cities," he says. "Why not try something new?"

The Global Peace Film Festival, which last year drew about 3,000 filmgoers, launches its fifth year in Orlando with seminars, workshops and about 70 films being shown at five venues in Orlando and at Rollins College in Winter Park.

Some highlights:

'Taxi to the Dark Side'

★★★★★

An innocent Afghan cabdriver is tortured to death while in the custody of American military prison guards. The film explores how that happened, the policies established that led to it and the ways these practices led to Abu Ghraib. Chilling and damning in the extreme. (Sept. 28, 8:30 p.m., Tiedtke Hall at Rollins College)

'Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America'

★★★★

Brower was an avid outdoorsman, and when he became executive director of the Sierra Club in the 1950s, he made darned sure America's wild places were protected. A forgotten hero of the modern environmental movement, this lovely film is built

around Brower's own gorgeous wilderness home movies. (Sept. 28, 6 p.m., Orlando Science Center)

'New Urban Cowboy: The Labors of Michael E. Arth'

★★★★

The creation of DeLand's "Garden District" out of an area once known as "Cracktown" is captured in this upbeat documentary about smart urban planning. (Sept. 29, 7 p.m., CityArts Factory, Orlando)

'Tovarisch, I Am Not Dead'

★★★★

British filmmaker Stuart Urban's documentary is about uncovering the truth about who exactly his dapper, swaggering, colorful Holocaust- and gulag-surviving father was. A past full of contradictions (Urban interviewed his dad extensively and didn't get straight answers), startling revelations and lingering mysteries fill this fascinating family portrait of a life lived in struggle and strife. (Sept. 30, 4 p.m., CityArts Factory, Orlando)

'The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez'

★★★★

Tommie Lee Jones narrates this real-life ver-



DARREN McCOLLESTER/THINKFILM /GETTY IMAGES

Afghan detainees faces dark uncertainties in the disturbing 'Taxi to the Dark Side.'



COURTESY OF BROWER FAMILY ESTATE

David Brower was an avid outdoorsman and today is a forgotten hero of the environmental movement in 'Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America.'



CYCLOPS VISION

Stuart Urban's documentary tries to uncover the truth about who exactly his father (above) really was.

sion of the tale he fictionalized in *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*. U.S. Marines on patrol guarding the border with Mexico in Texas shot and killed an American teenager. The film sadly recounts the shooting, the funerals, the investigation and attitudes toward the military. (Sept. 26, 7 p.m., SunTrust Auditorium, Rollins College)

'Strange Culture'

★★★★

This disquieting blend of documentary and actors re-creating the events it portrays is about an artist who runs afoul of the FBI after the un-

timely death of his wife. The Feds find biotech gear in his house, which he is to use for an art installation, assume he's a terrorist, haul him to court and take him down the rabbit hole. (Sept. 26, 8 p.m., Tiedtke Hall, Rollins)

'The Great Match'

★★★

A multicultural comedy about the extremes Nigerians crossing a desert, native tribesmen in Brazil and Mongolians on the steppes will go to in order to watch the World Cup finals between Germany and Brazil. (Sept. 28, 9 p.m., CityArts Factory, Orlando)