



**WORLD PREMIERE OF
AMERICAN FUGITIVE: THE TRUTH ABOUT HASSAN
AT HOT DOCS 2006**

Montreal, March 28, 2006 – InformAction Films is proud to announce the World Premiere of **AMERICAN FUGITIVE: The Truth About Hassan**, by Jean-Daniel Lafond, at the 2006 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival. Mr. Lafond is one of Canada's most esteemed documentary filmmakers.

AMERICAN FUGITIVE: The Truth About Hassan will screen at Hot Docs in the Canadian Spectrum programme on Saturday, April 29 at 9.15 p.m. and on Tuesday, May 2nd at 1.15 p.m. Mr. Lafond will attend the premiere screening only and will introduce the film.

In Washington D.C. in the summer of 1980, David Belfield assassinated Ali Akbar Tabatabai, the former press attaché of the Shah at the Imperial Iranian embassy, who was suspected of involvement in a coup against the Islamic revolution and its leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini. The film follows the story of the young African-American's fiery awakening to racial politics and Islam in the United States which consequently brought him to a long-running confrontation with Uncle Sam, starting with the Black Power movement of the 1970s and leading to the rise of Islam in the United States. Exiled in Iran for the last 25 years, Belfield remains to this day on the FBI's most wanted list.

In **AMERICAN FUGITIVE: The Truth About Hassan**, we meet Americans who question their country's domestic and foreign policies and their impact on the conflict between the Western world and Islamic countries. Featuring interviews with Joseph Trento, an investigative journalist specializing in espionage, Gary Sick, who served on the National Security Council staff of President Carter, and the assassinated man's twin brother, the film raises grave questions about the convergence between Iran's conservative clerical rulers and their neo-conservative counterparts in Washington. Exploring several themes—from the troubled web of state-sponsored violence, to the possibility of manipulating terrorism, to the portrait of an unrepentant assassin turned accuser with nothing left to lose—**AMERICAN FUGITIVE: The Truth About Hassan** provides rare insight into one of the most critical issues of our time.

Born in France, Jean-Daniel Lafond is a former philosophy professor, an active documentary filmmaker and a writer. A guest professor at Université de Montréal in 1974, he chose to stay in Quebec and became a Canadian citizen in 1981. He has written and directed over a dozen films, including **Tropic North**, **Salam Iran: A Persian Letter** and **The Cabinet of Dr. Ferron**. He is also the co-founder and former chair of the Rencontres Internationales du Documentaire in Montreal. Parallel to his involvement in cinema, he has developed an original body of work for radio (France-Culture and Radio-Canada) and has also published several books. His new book, **Conversations in Tehran** (co-authored by Fred Reed, published by Talon Books) is due out in the fall. Jean-Daniel Lafond is married to Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, and is actively involved in the activities of the office.

AMERICAN FUGITIVE: The Truth About Hassan was produced by Nathalie Barton of InformAction Films. Based in Montreal, InformAction is one of Canada's leading documentary production companies, with award-winning documentaries that explore major social and political issues of today or focus on art and culture, as well as personal and point-of-view films by some of the best Canadian documentary filmmakers.

More information on **AMERICAN FUGITIVE: The Truth About Hassan** and on InformAction Films can be found at www.informactionfilms.com.

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Media Inquiries:

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