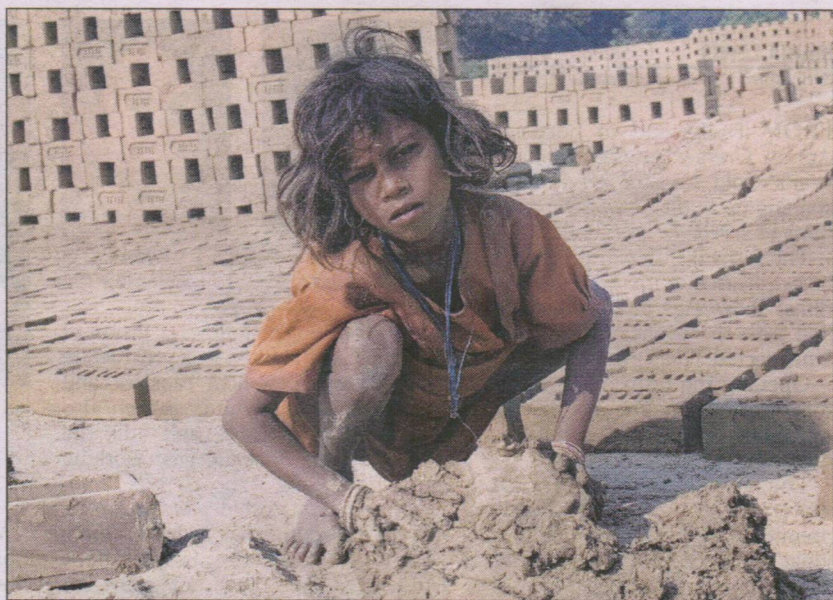


Freedom fight



A scene from the anti-slavery documentary Call + Response

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A FREE screening of the documentary film *Call + Response* plays Palm Beach Parklands tomorrow.

Directed by Northern Californian activist, musician and filmmaker Justin Dillon, the film reveals that there are more slaves today – an estimated 27 million – than ever before in human history.

Dillon and his team went undercover where slavery is thriving, from the child brothels of Cambodia to the slave brick kilns of rural India, to reveal that in 2007, slave traders made more money than multinationals Google, Nike and Starbucks combined.

The documentary, part of a burgeoning grassroots activist movement, features political figures including Madeleine Albright, actors Daryl Hannah, Julia Ormond and Ashley Judd and New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof. It also features live music performances by acclaimed artists including Moby, Natasha Bedingfield, Cold War Kids, Matisyahu, Imogen Heap and Talib Kweli.

“The reality is that slavery is in most supply chains and it’s rampant in most technology, cell phones and computers,” says Dillon.

“What I want people to recognise is that as consumers we’re complicit – it’s not just the producers’ fault – but we’re also very empowered.”

The groundbreaking film was funded entirely through donations and all profits go directly to global field projects.

Parklands event organiser Naomi Young-Pickrell says the film helps promote community awareness – the first step towards abolishing slavery.

“Human trafficking and slavery is just as big a crisis, if not bigger, as global warming yet it receives only a fraction of the publicity,” she says.

“The more that this subject is brought into the spotlight and discussed openly, the more chance we have of shaming the offenders who fuel the problem and create the demand.”

Young-Pickrell says an SMS petition will take place after the movie to put pressure on the Australian Government to take more action to help prevent human trafficking and slavery around the world.

The Dune Cafe will serve food and refreshments and the event is BYO picnic blankets and chairs.

Call + Response (M) screens at the Palm Beach Parklands, Gold Coast Highway, tomorrow at 6.30pm. Entry is free.