

WPSU to air discussion on AIDS, Africa

By Karina Yücel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Patty Satalia started her interview with Stephen Lewis by mentioning that more than 5,000 people die of AIDS each day.

Satalia and Lewis's discussion of the ongoing struggle in Africa with AIDS, poverty and mistreatment of women was recorded for "Conversations From Penn State," a show produced by WPSU-TV set to air today.

WPSU producer Lindsey Whissel said Lewis, co-founder and co-director of AIDS-Free World, has worked for many years in developing countries, as well as with the United Nations.

Lewis has been visiting and working in Africa since the late

If you watch

What: "Conversations From Penn State: AIDS-Free World"

When: 9 tonight

Where: WPSU-TV

1950s. Back then, he said, the continent was filled with optimism, music and hope — as many countries were earning independence.

Lewis described Africa today as a place where people are still musical, but are now decimated by disease.

HIV and AIDS has taken a "terrible toll" on the psyche of Africa's people and economy, among other

areas of life, Lewis said.

Lewis's major concern is not just the AIDS epidemic in Africa, but also the Group of Eight's (G8) goals for the millennium.

The G8 countries — including the United States, United Kingdom and China — set millennium goals that were supposed to be achieved by 2015, Whissel said.

These goals were to cut global poverty and hunger in half and to help with HIV and AIDS treatment, said Satalia, the host of "Conversations from Penn State."

It's unlikely these goals will be met in time, Satalia said, as few countries are contributing to the goals' successes.

"In essence [Lewis will talk about] who is making progress and why such low progress has

been made," Whissel said. "[Lewis talks about] industrialized countries and what role they play in the developing world."

Another issue Lewis and Satalia focus on during their conversation is women in Africa. Nearly 60 percent of those infected with HIV in Africa are women, and of those women, 70 to 80 percent are between 15 and 24, Lewis said.

"It drives you crazy that the world will not respond adequately to this particular dilemma," Lewis said.

Some students said spreading the word in the United States is important because HIV doesn't just affect Africa.

Aida Mekonnen, president of student organization Bringing Awareness and Recovery to the

Emergency, said people are so used to hearing about HIV that they have grown numb to it.

In 2002, about 50,000 people were receiving medicine to fight HIV/AIDS and now about three million people are getting access to the drugs they need, she added.

"Change is always possible. To make it happen, HIV/AIDS needs more people behind the cause," Mekonnen (sophomore-economics) said. "People need to know that they can do things [to help]."

"Conversations From Penn State: AIDS-Free World," premieres on WPSU at 9 tonight. It is also available online and will premiere on the Big Ten Network at noon Monday, Oct. 25.

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Notable author falls short among finalists

By Hillel Italie
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK — It's the Great American Snub.

Jonathan Franzen's "Freedom," the year's most highly praised and talked about literary novel, was not among the fiction finalists announced Wednesday for the National Book Awards.

Nine years ago, Franzen won for "The Corrections" and his latest book was a sensation even before its release, the subject of a Time magazine cover story and rave reviews and so in demand that President Obama obtained an early copy. Oprah Winfrey picked "Freedom" for her book club, even though Franzen's ambivalence in 2001 over her choosing "The Corrections" had led her to cancel his appearance on her show.

Nominees on Wednesday included Peter Carey, whose "Parrot and Olivier in America" was a runner-up for the Man Booker Prize, and such well-regarded authors as Nicole Krauss ("Great House") and Lionel Shriver ("So Much for

That"). The book awards also welcomed a rock star, Patti Smith, a nonfiction contender for "Just Kids," a memoir about her friendship with photographer Robert Mapplethorpe; and an attorney, poetry finalist Monica Youn ("Ignatz"), whose day job is with the Brennan Center for Justice in New York.

Two Beijing-based journalists for the Los Angeles Times, Barbara Demick ("Nothing to Envy") and Megan K. Stack ("Every Man in This Village"), were nonfiction contenders, while previous nominees Rita Williams-Garcia ("One Crazy Summer") and Walter Dean Myers ("Lockdown") were finalists for young people's literature.

Winners, each of whom receive \$10,000, will be announced at a ceremony Nov. 17, hosted by humorist Andy Borowitz.

Franzen's publicist, Jeff Seroy at Farrar, Straus & Giroux, declined comment.

His book wasn't the only notable work not selected. Among the non-nominees were such novels as Karl Marlantes' "Matterhorn" and Tom Rachman's "The



Novelist Jonathan Franzen was not a National Book Award finalist despite the popularity of his highly-praised book "Freedom."

Impertectionists." Ron Chernow's 800-page biography of George Washington and Edmund Morris' third and final book on Theodore Roosevelt.

"Obviously, 'Freedom' is the big book of the year but the question is what the National Book Awards are supposed to honor," said Harold Augenbraum, executive director of the National Book Foundation, a nonprofit organization that presents the awards. "We tell the judges just to look at the books and that outside chatter is not important."

Keira Knightley due at film festival opener

By Jill Lawless
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON — The London Film Festival opens Wednesday with the European premiere of "Never Let Me Go," a movie with a hauntingly off-kilter setting and a universal emotional punch.

Stars Keira Knightley, Carey Mulligan and Andrew Garfield were due to walk the red carpet in Leicester Square before the gala evening screening that kicks off the two-week extravaganza of 300 movies from 67 countries.

Several of the big titles have already made a splash at other festivals. They include Darren Aronofsky's ballet thriller "Black Swan," starring Natalie Portman, and "The King's Speech," with Colin Firth playing Britain's King George VI as he struggles to overcome a severe stutter. Naomie Harris, Helena Bonham Carter and Julianne Moore were among the stars expected to make appearances at the festival.

"Never Let Me Go" is an adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker Prize-nominated novel about three boarding school friends who discover complicated feelings

for one another — and the dark fate that awaits them beyond the school grounds.

It's set in a gentle English dystopia, beautifully rendered by director Mark Romanek ("One Hour Photo"). The actors said they were struck by the emotional force of the tale. Mulligan called it "a love story about people who want very simple things from life and can't get them."

"It's very rare that you find a script that is so full of what it is to be alive — to be human and the struggles that we collectively go through," Garfield told reporters before the premiere. "There are terrible scripts, there are good scripts, and then there are scripts and stories like this one."

Ishiguro said the story is about mortality and "how people cope with their fate," but isn't meant to be bleak.

"I think this story was trying to put a positive light on human nature," he said. "To try and say as convincingly as possible that when people feel they are trapped and their time is running out, the things that become important are things like friendship and love."

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