

Rotary International The Rotary Foundation

Re: Staff Benda Bilili US Tour and Film



The US release of the film, [BENDA BILILI!](#), will coincide with the first ever US tour of the band *Staff Benda Bilili*. Watch the film at the Walker Arts Center on Thursday, September 22nd and then hear the band live at The Cedar Cultural Center on Tuesday, September 27. This combination of film and performance is a rare treat. And, it's sponsored by Rotary International as part of the polio awareness campaign, "**This Close**".

The City of Lakes Rotary Club is planning a gather at the Walker before the film and a reception at The Cedar before the performance. Come and experience up-close-and-personal the power of Rotary to literally change lives the world over. Be a part of the fabric of service you have so generously contributed to.

The Film

The documentary film, [BENDA BILILI!](#), showcasing a band of Congolese polio survivors will be presented at the Walker on Thursday, September 22nd.

(<http://www.thecedar.org/events/2011/09/22/benda-bilili-film-walker-art-center>).

Written and directed by Renaud Barret and Florent de la Tullaye, the film premiered at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival Directors Fortnight and was nominated for Best Documentary at the 2011 César Awards, the national film award of France.

Watch the film for *free* as part of "Target Free Thursday Night at the Walker Art Center".

The Performance

The band, *Staff Benda Bilili*, will perform live in Minneapolis at The Cedar Cultural Center on Tuesday, September 27 (<http://www.thecedar.org/events/2011/09/27/staff-benda-bilili>).

This performance is part of, and supported by, Rotary International's "This Close" public service announcement campaign to raise awareness for polio eradication.

Read more about the band and Rotary's polio commitment at the following links:

- Acclaimed Congolese band Staff Benda Bilili joins Rotary's fight against polio in Africa.
<http://www.pitchengine.com/rotaryinternational/acclaimed-african-musicians-lend-their-voice-to-kick-polio-out-of-africa/56370/>
- Acclaimed African Musicians lend their voice to kick polio out of Africa
http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/PressCenter/PressReleases/Pages/100408_pr_kickpoliooutofafrica.aspx
- Documentary at Cannes showcases band of Congolese polio survivors
http://www.rotary.org/en/mediaandnews/news/pages/100602_news_bendabilili.aspx