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Column: LAWRENCE TOPPMAN - **THE SKINNY ON MOVIES**

DOCUMENTARY MAY GALVANIZE YOU INTO ACTION

LAWRENCE TOPPMAN, Staff Writer

A ticking time bomb is a familiar device in the escapist movies Americans love. But the time bomb in "Angels in the Dust" is a human one: harder to watch, and one from which there's no escape.

"**Dust**" depicts life in a South African orphanage/school. Director Louise Hogarth tells us in a title card that 26 million African kids are expected to be orphaned because of AIDS by 2010, then offers hope in the example of Botshabelo, where Marion Cloete and her husband and daughters care for abandoned children. Hogarth will come to Charlotte next week for an event organized by Mothering Across Continents. Last year, MAC raised \$44,000 for three projects in South Africa supported by the South Africa Development Fund and Save the Children. This year, MAC hopes to raise \$100,000; proceeds from all events will go to nonprofit projects serving orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS over there.

The anchor event runs Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the 40th-floor Executive Suite of the Wachovia Center. Hogarth will be the keynote speaker and will be joined by Julia Zingu, South Africa's country director for Save the Children. The evening will also feature images from Charlotte-based photographer Catherine Anderson's March trip to South Africa. (Details: 704-607-0098 or lhpromo@infionline.com.)

On May 9, Hogarth will introduce a screening of "Angels" and be available for conversation and Q&A at a reception in Jubilee Hall of Myers Park United Methodist Church. (Details: 704-607-0098 or www.mpumc.org.) She'll reprise "Angels" on May 10 at Unity Fellowship Church (704-567-5007 or www.UFCCharlotteNC.org).

Go, watch, care, then maybe give what you can share of your wallet or your heart.