



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
THROUGH FILM



[i]NDEPENDENTLENS 



PRESENTED BY



COMMUNITY CINEMA

Community Cinema, presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS), is a free monthly screening series featuring films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*.

CATALYST FOR CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Every month between October and June, Community Cinema presents an upcoming *Independent Lens* program. We work with leading organizations, local communities and public television stations to provide community engagement around the important social issues raised in the films. Each screening event features panel discussions with leading community-based organizations, special guest speakers, information, resources and other programming designed to help people learn more and get involved.



NATIONAL FORUM FOR PRESSING SOCIAL ISSUES

ITVS convenes thousands of community members nationwide for dialogue, education and awareness around hard-to-tackle issues such as the death penalty, homophobia, racism, globalization, and freedom of religion. Participants walk away educated and empowered with resources and action steps. Last season, Community Cinema produced 650 events, worked with more than 1000 partner organizations and welcomed more than 40,000 participants to events around the country.



SHOWCASE FOR ENTERTAINING AND IMPACTFUL DOCUMENTARIES

Community Cinema provides a chance to explore the world of the acclaimed PBS series *Independent Lens* outside your living room. *Independent Lens* takes you on a journey to unexpected places to meet ordinary people living extraordinary lives; stories not told anywhere else on television. The award-winning series features documentaries that bring to light unforgettable stories about a unique individual, underrepresented community or moment in history.



“THE COMMUNITY CINEMA PROGRAM PROVIDES ENGAGING FILMS THAT SPUR HONEST AND IMPORTANT COMMUNITY CONVERSATION. THE HOUR-LONG FORMAT OF SOCIAL TOPICS IS AN EFFECTIVE METHOD TO REACH PEOPLE.”

—KELLY URMAN, PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY- TUCSON , AZ



Highlights of Recent Community Cinema Screenings

Young@Heart



San Pedro, CA
December 2, 2009
Warner Grand Theatre

More than 250 community members attended this screening of *Young@Heart* which featured a senior talent show. One senior, at the age of sixty-three, showed her kickboxing skills. A group calling themselves the Sunshine Club, (the oldest member is ninety) line-danced to everyone's delight. "I think we have raised the bar in our community about the perception of aging--let's keep destroying stereotypes, but let's go through local media and then the state, and eventually the nation," said an audience member. The event was intergenerational with the attendance of audience members from San Pedro High School. The teenagers said they were moved by what transpired this evening. "I was inspired by the seniors, the movie was very touching. I cried during one of the scenes," said one student.

The Eyes of Me



Denver, CO
February 23, 2010
Starz Film Center

Over 150 community members attended this screening of *The Eyes of Me*, which offers an up-close look at four teens at The Texas School For the Blind. The screening was very successful in bringing out the blind and visually-impaired community and engaging the audience in meaningful conversation. The success of the screening and discussion was a direct result of the outreach efforts made to organizations in the community, including a school for blind children, a local chapter of the Lions Club, the Colorado chapter for The American Council for the Blind, and the Denver-based Center for the Blind.

A Village Called Versailles



St. Louis, MO
April 19, 2010
Missouri History Museum

The museum was at capacity as community members gathered to watch *A Village Called Versailles*. The film recounts how the residents of Versailles successfully organized against the opening of a toxic government-imposed landfill after Hurricane Katrina struck. The screening was very timely as news about the Gulf Coast oil spill made daily headlines. One couple, a retired teacher and professor who regularly show up for the events, were Hurricane Katrina victims themselves. Even before the film they spoke about how much they enjoy Community Cinema. "We support Public Television and these events assure us that our money is being put to good use! They are so educational, especially the discussions." The film had great impact, and showed the passion and power of a small group of people can have when united for a common cause.



Meet some of the Regional Outreach Coordinators and Producing Partners who organize and present Community Cinema screenings all over the nation.

"BRINGING PUBLIC TELEVISION INTO A PUBLIC ARENA INCREASES OUR EXPOSURE TO IDEAS, AND ISSUES AND CONNECTS US WITH THE PERSONAL AND THE LOCAL."



MICHON BOSTON *ITVS Regional Outreach Coordinator, Washington, DC*

Community Cinema puts me face to face with interesting people and gives me a sense of what my community thinks and cares about. Our screening events are held at Busboys and Poets, a unique gathering space of minds, ideas and visions over appetizing and affordable food and beverages. Located in the historic U Street corridor of Washington, D.C., it is a tribute to famed Harlem Renaissance poet/writer Langston Hughes who was discovered in Washington, D.C. while working as a busboy.



SYDNEY MEYER *KETC/Channel 9, Producing Partner, St. Louis*

In St. Louis, the Community Cinema Series builds connections among diverse communities of individuals, leading community organizations who work on a wide range of important social issues and KETC/Channel 9. In 2009-10 the screenings brought together more than 2,000 people together to inform, encourage and inspire them to make real contributions on a wide range of social issues. The History Museum is a perfect partner with Channel 9 for the Community Cinema Series because both institutions strive to provide our city with opportunities to participate in informative discussions that make our region a better place to live.



NAOMI WALKER *ITVS Regional Outreach Coordinator, Chicago*

Community Cinema gives me an avenue to connect with amazing organizations throughout Chicago that are doing inspiring work. I love collaborating with these groups on utilizing film as a tool for education, activism and awareness. The post-screening discussions are naturally the most exciting and rewarding part of the events. It's always great to watch the films with others and observe their reactions. The Chicago Cultural Center is our home for Community Cinema. It is a beautiful building that is the Chicago tourism base, full of gallery spaces, performance space, a screening theater and the offices of the Department of Cultural Affairs.



SARA ZIA EBRAHIMI *ITVS Regional Outreach Coordinator, Philadelphia*

Philadelphia is a vibrant city with a long history of communities coming together to propel cultural and political movements. Our Community Cinema program is in tune with the city's pulse. It is an opportunity for community groups to leverage the power of film as an educational tool to help start conversations and inspire action on the issues that they care about. The screenings rotate at a variety of venues throughout the city during the season, allowing us to connect new audiences with our local PBS station, WHYY, and *Independent Lens* programming.

"I REALLY ENJOY SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE WISDOM OF "JOHN & JANE CITIZEN" DURING THE COMMUNITY CINEMA DISCUSSION PANELS."



JERALD WHITE *Charitable Film Network, New Orleans*

I'm constantly amazed by the wealth of knowledgeable and talented individuals we have working in our own backyard! It's really rewarding to highlight the efforts of regular people who are making a difference locally. New Orleans Community Cinema is about connecting, collaborating and community building. Community Cinema screenings provide regular opportunities to introduce old and new residents to engage in meaningful dialogue about local matters, with local activists and leaders who are addressing important community concerns.



PATRICK BAROCH *ITVS Regional Outreach Coordinator, Seattle*

With ITVS Community Cinema the audience gets to talk back to the screen. The panel discussions, live demonstrations, and performances provide a unique "two-way street" for participants. If the viewer is moved by what they see at an event, I can put them in direct and immediate contact with organizations in my area that are working on topics covered by the featured film. Community Cinema has also brought many local organizations together. Many of my event co-sponsors now regularly work together on local community projects as a result of their work together on Community Cinema.



Screening in a city near you! Community Cinema is currently producing monthly screenings in collaboration with partner organizations and local public television stations in over 90 markets nationwide, and growing!



Community Cinema screenings are held at premier venues around the nation including:

- California State University East Bay, Hayward, CA
- KETC Studios, Los Angeles, CA
- Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Oakland, CA
- San Diego Public Library, San Diego, CA
- Rice Cinema, Houston, TX
- Starz Film Center, Denver, CO
- Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA
- Boise State University Student Union, Boise, ID
- Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
- Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- Boston Public Library, Boston, MA

ARIZONA

- Phoenix
- Tucson

ARKANSAS

- Little Rock

CALIFORNIA

- Aliso Viejo
- Culver City
- Eureka
- Hayward
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles
- Oakland
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Pedro
- San Rafael

COLORADO

- Colorado Springs
- Denver
- Durango
- Fruita
- Grand Junction
- Mancos
- Montrose
- Naturita
- Palisade
- Pueblo
- Saguache
- Steamboat Springs
- Telluride

CONNECTICUT

- Norwich
- Sherman

FLORIDA

- Miami

GEORGIA

- Athens
- Atlanta
- Statesboro

IDAHO

- Boise
- Caldwell
- Pocatello

ILLINOIS

- Chicago
- Evanston

INDIANA

- Indianapolis
- Evansville

IOWA

- Des Moines

KANSAS

- Wichita

KENTUCKY

- Lexington
- Louisville

LOUISIANA

- New Orleans

MASSACHUSETTS

- Boston
- Jamaica Plain

MICHIGAN

- Alpena
- Detroit
- Grand Rapids
- Midland
- Petoskey
- Traverse City

MINNESOTA

- Blaine
- Brooklyn Center
- Edina
- Maplewood
- Minneapolis

MISSOURI

- St. Louis
- Kansas City

NEBRASKA

- Lincoln
- Omaha
- Scottsbluff
- Westpoint

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Plymouth

NEW YORK

- Bronx
- Brooklyn
- Ithaca
- Manhattan
- Queens
- Rochester
- Saratoga Springs

NORTH CAROLINA

- Charlotte

OHIO

- Columbus
- Dayton

OREGON

- Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

- Philadelphia
- Pittsburgh

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Charleston

TENNESSEE

- Nashville

TEXAS

- Austin
- Houston

UTAH

- Salt Lake City

VERMONT

- Brattleboro
- St. Johnsbury

WASHINGTON

- Seattle
- Tacoma

WASHINGTON, DC

WISCONSIN

- Milwaukee
- Sheboygan



COMMUNITY CINEMA

ABOUT ITVS COMMUNITY

ITVS Community is the national community engagement program of the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Through our innovative educational product Community Classroom and our flagship community outreach program Community Cinema, ITVS Community works to bring communities together and connect them with information, resources and opportunities for education, engagement and positive change. ITVS Community builds on our 15-year legacy of community engagement activities and makes public broadcasting into a powerful resource for individuals, communities and organizations working on key social issues around the country.

www.pbs.org/independentlens/getinvolved

ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

Independent Lens is an Emmy Award-winning weekly series airing Tuesday nights at 10:00 PM on PBS. Hosted this season by Terrence Howard, the acclaimed anthology series features documentaries and a limited number of fiction films united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement and unflinching visions of their independent producers. *Independent Lens* features unforgettable stories about a unique individual, community or moment in history. Presented by ITVS, the series is supported by interactive companion websites, and national publicity and community engagement campaigns. *Independent Lens* is jointly curated by ITVS and PBS, and is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding provided by PBS and the National Endowment for the Arts. The series producer is Lois Vossen. www.pbs.org/independentlens

ABOUT ITVS

The Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds and presents award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web and the Emmy Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on Tuesday nights at 10:00 PM on PBS. ITVS is a miracle of public policy created by media activists, citizens and politicians seeking to foster plurality and diversity in public television. ITVS was established by a historic mandate of Congress to champion independently produced programs that take creative risks, spark public dialogue and serve underserved audiences. Since its inception in 1991, ITVS programs have revitalized the relationship between the public and public television, bringing TV audiences face-to-face with the lives and concerns of their fellow Americans. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people. www.itvs.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNITY CINEMA, VISIT:
www.communitycinema.org

Upcoming Community Cinema Presentations:



October 2010: *Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian*



January 2011: *For Once in My Life*



May 2011: *Welcome To Shelbyville*

