



Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

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**Brattleboro Museum & Art Center to Collaborate with PBS
In Presenting Free Advance Screenings of Documentary Films
*First Film and Related Panel Discussion to Take Place September 17***

Brattleboro, Vt.—Beginning in September, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) will join approximately 50 cultural organizations nationwide in presenting *Community Cinema*, a free monthly advance-screening project featuring documentary films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Every month—September through May—BMAC will host a free public screening of a cutting-edge documentary film soon to be aired on PBS. Screenings will be accompanied by community-based discussions and events, organized by BMAC, that will bring together citizens, organizations, and public television stations in dialogue and action around important social issues.

“Although we are known primarily as a contemporary art museum, our mission is to present art *and ideas* in ways that inspire, educate, and engage audiences of all ages,” said BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld. “In terms of presenting ideas, PBS’ *Community Cinema* program is a great fit for our institution and our community.” When the program kicks off on September 17, BMAC will become the only participating organization in Vermont, New Hampshire, or Maine. “Most of the institutions involved in the program—whether museums, libraries, or community centers—are in major

cities,” said Lichtenfeld. “We are confident that our relatively small community, which is so attuned to social and civic issues, will readily take advantage of these offerings.”

The first film in the series, which will be screened at BMAC on Thursday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m., is *D Tour*, which follows indie rock musician Pat Spurgeon, whose kidneys fail just as his career is about to take off. The film tracks Spurgeon’s emotional search for a living organ donor and his efforts to balance his health with a rock ‘n’ roll lifestyle. Following the free screening, BMAC will host a panel discussion featuring Dr. John Silkensen, M.D., Dr. Anthony Barrand, Ph.D., Paula Fielding, and Mark DeFilippis, who will assist interested individuals in registering to be organ donors. The panel discussion and Q&A period will be moderated by Joseph LoMonaco, BMAC trustee and coordinator of the *Community Cinema* screenings.

A member of the United Network for Organ Sharing, Dr. Silkensen is an internist and transplant nephrologist on the medical staff at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Dr. Barrand, who has multiple sclerosis, is a professor at Boston University where he has taught the folklore of dance and song. Barrand and his partner of 40 years, John Roberts, are widely acclaimed interpreters of English ballads and songs, perhaps best known locally for the popular annual Christmas pageant, “Nowell Sing We Clear.” Paula Fielding lives in Marlboro, Vermont. In 2003 she received a liver transplant. When she recovered she became a volunteer with the New England Organ Bank. Paula and her husband Will travel to health fairs and blood drives to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation. Mark DeFillipis is the Manager of the Tissue Operations Center at New England Organ Bank and is responsible for their 24-hour call center. He is a Certified Tissue Bank Specialist.

Other *Community Cinema* screenings currently scheduled at BMAC include *Copyright Criminals*, which explores the musical and legal issues surrounding the practice of sampling (Thursday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m.), and *Between the Folds*, a film about a group of theoretical scientists and fine artists who have abandoned careers and scoffed

at graduate degrees to forge new lives as modern-day paper folders (Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m.). Additional screenings will be scheduled on a monthly basis through May, 2010. All screenings will take place at BMAC and are free and open to the general public.

For updated schedules and more information about the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, visit www.brattleboromuseum.org. To learn more about *Independent Lens* and the *Community Cinema* program, visit www.pbs.org/independentlens.

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Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2009-2010 season is provided by BMAC members and Entergy Vermont Yankee, Foard Panel, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters, and Chittenden Bank. The Museum's exhibits and gift shop are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday and Wednesday. Regular admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for students. Members and children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

Founded in 1972, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center presents art and ideas in ways that inspire, educate, and engage people of all ages. Each season features compelling new exhibits of contemporary artwork by regional and internationally acclaimed artists, complemented by lectures, artist talks, film screenings, and other public programs. Located in historic Union Station in downtown Brattleboro, at the intersection of Main Street (Route 5) and Routes 119 and 142, the Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 802-257-0124 or visit www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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