



## **Brattleboro Museum & Art Center**

10 Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

[www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org)

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**Free Indie Film-Screening at BMAC  
Explores Hip-Hop, Sampling, Copyright Issues;  
Asks "Who Can Own a Sound?"**

Brattleboro, Vt.—On Thursday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m., the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC), in partnership with Vermont Public Television and Brattleboro Community Television, will present a free screening of "Copyright Criminals" (2009), a documentary about the head-on collision between digital sampling and copyright law. The screening will take place at BMAC and will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Marlboro College philosophy professor William Edelglass and music industry veterans Louis Erlanger, Jack Freudenheim, and Billy Straus.

The film is being shown as part of BMAC's new *Community Cinema* program, 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.

As hip-hop rose from the streets of New York to become a multibillion-dollar industry, artists such as Public Enemy and De La Soul began reusing parts of previously recorded music for their songs. But when record company lawyers got involved everything changed. Years before people started downloading and remixing music, hip-hop sampling sparked a debate about copyright, creativity, and technological change that still rages today. Benjamin Franzen and Kembrew McLeod's "Copyright Criminals" delves into these issues and asks the question: "Can you own a sound?"

Panelist William Edelglass is Professor of Philosophy at Marlboro College. He earned his Ph. D. at Emory University. Previously, he taught philosophy at the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, Dharamsala, India. Edelglass' areas of specialization include continental philosophy, environmental philosophy, and Indo-Tibetan Buddhist philosophy. He is Co-Editor of *Environmental Philosophy*, the journal of the International Association of Environmental Philosophy, and serves on the editorial board of several other professional journals.

Louis Erlanger has been a recording musician, record producer, and music publishing executive. As guitarist with the group *Mink DeVille* he appeared on the seminal punk rock recording "Live At CBGBs." He has toured extensively, sharing stages with Elvis Costello, Nick Lowe, Tom Petty, Blondie, Talking Heads, and others, and has contributed guitar to recordings by other major artists. For 13 years Erlanger was an executive at EMI Music Publishing, where he spearheaded new technology initiatives that resulted in EMI becoming the first major music publisher to provide music licensing services over the Web. He currently runs Glowing Pigs International, a consulting service for music and entertainment companies.

Jack Freudenheim studied drums with the legendary Kenny Clarke and Dante Agostini. He majored in ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University, then played in several bands in New York City before turning to computers to become a programmer and electronic drummer. He co-founded the electronic pop band 46bliss in the mid-1990s. The band's

music has been heard on television shows such as “CSI: NY” and the teen hit “Veronica Mars.” As a software developer, Freudenheim created Sounder, a visual ambient-music generation program that *Rolling Stone* magazine called “a true original in the music-creation space.”

Billy Straus is a musician and producer whose songs have appeared in films, including Steve Martin’s “Leap Of Faith,” and many children’s television shows, including Disney’s “Little Einsteins” and the PBS series “Where In The World Is Carmen San Diego?” for which he won an Emmy Award. He produced “The Full Monty” original Broadway Cast recording for which he received a Grammy nomination. His other recording credits include work with artists as diverse Bruce Springsteen, Tito Puente, Joni Mitchell, and Miles Davis. Straus also founded Rock River Music, a leading producer of recorded music and CD compilations for distribution through retail brands and the internet. He has given testimony on copyright legislation to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee at the request of Senator Leahy.

Other *Community Cinema* screenings currently scheduled at BMAC include *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.) and *Young@Heart*, the story of the nationally renowned senior citizen’s choir from Northampton, Mass. (Sunday, December 13 at 12 noon). 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](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org). To learn more about *Independent Lens* and the *Community Cinema* program, visit [www.pbs.org/independentlens](http://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](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).

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