



Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

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Audience Sensation YOUNG@HEART to be shown at Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

"A crowd-pleaser in the best sense, this alternately hilarious and heartbreaking movie will send you out of the theatre with a new lease on life." —David Ansen, Newsweek

Brattleboro, Vermont – Prepare to be surprised, delighted and entertained by the inspiring members of the Young@Heart Chorus, a senior citizen's chorus from Northampton, Massachusetts that has delighted audiences worldwide with their renditions of songs by everyone from The Clash to Coldplay. As Stephen Walker's critically acclaimed documentary begins, the retirees, led by their demanding musical director, are rehearsing their new show, struggling with Sonic Youth's dissonant rock anthem "Schizophrenia" and giving new meaning to James Brown's "I Feel Good." What ultimately emerges is a funny and unexpectedly moving testament to friendship, creative inspiration and expectations defied.

Presented by the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC), in partnership with Vermont Public Television and Brattleboro Community Television, a free screening of YOUNG@HEART will take place at BMAC on Sunday, December 13 at 1 p.m. Beginning an hour earlier, at 12 noon, the public is invited to a complimentary light

brunch reception, which will be attended by the director and members of the Young@Heart Chorus. The screening will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

YOUNG@HEART is being shown as part of BMAC's new *Community Cinema* program, which features documentary films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Every month—September through May—BMAC hosts a free public screening of a cutting-edge documentary film soon to be aired on PBS. Organized in collaboration with Vermont Public Television and Brattleboro Community Television, screenings are accompanied by community-based discussions and events that bring together citizens, organizations, and public television stations in dialogue and action around important social issues.

YOUNG@HEART chronicles seven unforgettable weeks in the lives of the members of the Young@Heart Chorus as they prepare for a one-night-only concert in their hometown of Northampton, Massachusetts. Guided by longtime director Bob Cilman, the group is made up of two dozen spirited seniors—former schoolteachers, executives, doctors and food service workers—who specialize in reinterpreting rock, punk and R&B classics from their unique perspective.

With less than two months to go until the concert, the performers struggle with the new lyrics and unfamiliar melodies of seven new songs. During their thrice-weekly rehearsals, they gradually take possession of music ranging from R&B classics like Allen Toussaint's "Yes We Can Can" to Coldplay's emotionally powerful ballad "Fix You," upending assumptions about old age, love, sex, and death.

Starting out as a lighthearted look at a quirky musical group, the film gains unexpected gravitas when two members of the chorus die within days of each other and the lyrics of the group's repertoire take on powerful new significance. From 92-year-old war bride Eileen Hall's rousing rendition of The Clash's "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" to Pat Linderme's moving interpretation of Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U," each

performance responds to the ravages of age with startling emotional depth. And after almost two months of shooting, the Young@Heart Chorus delivers a triumphant performance that celebrates the joy of music and the lives of their lost friends. The end result is an inspirational journey with a singular group of people who may be old in body, but refuse to grow old in spirit.

Other *Community Cinema* screenings currently scheduled at BMAC include GARBAGE DREAMS, which follows three teenage boys growing up in the world's largest garbage village, on the outskirts of Cairo (Thursday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m.) and THE EYES OF ME, which chronicles the lives of four teenagers at the Texas School for the Blind. 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.

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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