



Brattleboro Museum & Art Center

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Celebrate Earth Day at BMAC with a free screening of *DIRT! The Movie*

Brattleboro, Vt.—On Thursday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m., the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC), in partnership with Vermont Public Television and Brattleboro Community Television, will celebrate Earth Day with a free film-screening and panel discussion about our planet’s most valuable and underappreciated resource—earth itself.

An insightful and timely film that tells the story of the glorious and unappreciated material beneath our feet, *DIRT! The Movie* takes viewers inside the wonders of soil, from its miraculous beginning to its crippling degradation. Just one teaspoon of dirt contains an amazing billion organisms, all working in remarkable balance to maintain and sustain a series of complex, thriving ecosystems that impact our daily lives. Inspired by *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, William Bryant Logan’s acclaimed book, *Dirt! The Movie* deftly combines science and humor, digging into the history and current state of the living organic matter from which we come from, and where we will all one day return. Shot in over 20 locations, including Argentina, Brazil, France, India, Kenya, and several regions of the United States, the documentary features more than 25 renowned global visionaries offering new ideas for repairing this natural resource with practical, viable solutions.

The screening will take place at BMAC and will be followed by a panel discussion featuring several local experts with hands-on experience in the issues addressed in the film. Ross Thurber and Amanda Thurber-Ellis are the proprietors of Brattleboro's Lilac Ridge Farm, 2002 VT Sustainable Farm of the Year. Amanda is also a consultant for the farms-to-schools program. Reed Miller runs Dwight Miller & Son Orchards in Dummerston, Vt., an eighth-generation family farm and one of the oldest certified organic farms in the state. Reed has been an advisor to orchardists in China and elsewhere. Tim Stevenson is the Executive Director of Post Oil Solutions, organizer of Brattleboro's Winter Farmer's Market, and instrumental in the southern Vermont "localvore" movement. The panel will be chaired by Keene State College professor of American Studies and English Michael Antonucci.

DIRT! The Movie is being shown as part of BMAC's new *Community Cinema* program, a monthly screening project featuring documentary films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Every month BMAC hosts a free public screening of a cutting-edge documentary film soon to be aired on PBS. Screenings are accompanied by community-based discussions and events, organized by BMAC, that bring together citizens, organizations, and public television stations in dialogue and action around important social issues.

Major support for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's 2010-2011 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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