

# Program Overview



## 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 September and May, 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 **900 events**, worked with more than **1200 partner organizations** and welcomed more than **50,000 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

### LOS ANGELES, CA

#### KCET STUDIOS

November 16, 2010

The KCET Studios were at capacity as more than 120 people attended the *Deep Down* screening, and participated in a post-screening panel with filmmakers Sally Rubin and Jen Gilomen in addition to a dynamic panel of local women leaders. The discussion was moderated by a representative from Natural Resources Defense Council, and included Allis Druffle of California Interfaith Power and Light, and Irma Munoz of Mujeres de la Tierra. Both Irma and Allis are community organizers working directly with groups to help them green their practices. While Allis works with congregations, Irma is working from the social justice angle. A large component of the evening's discussion was not to just talk about the impacts of any activity on the environment, but rather to look at the environment holistically.



### WASHINGTON, DC

#### BUSBOYS AND POETS

March 13, 2011

A packed audience filled *Busboys and Poets* for the Sunday afternoon screening of *Pushing the Elephant* which had a long wait list for RSVPs. Three actors from the Pulitzer Prize winning play *Ruined* joined the discussion along with Emira Woods from the Institute for Policy Studies and Maurice Clarey of Friends of the Congo. Caroline Slobodzian from the DC chapter of the UN Committee of US Women shared information on policy issues and UN research. The audience, which included many junior and high school students studying the play or the region in their geography courses, were grateful for the opportunity to learn more context to Rose Mapendo's story. Due to the demand for this event, the Arena Stage hosted a follow-up screening.



### ST. LOUIS, MO

#### MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM

June 2, 2011

The Missouri History Museum's auditorium was packed with 300 people who came to see and discuss *Two Spirits*. In the lobby we had many tables with information from groups who give support to the LGBT community including: St. Louis Gender Foundation, Kamikaze Production, Growing American Youth, National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis (NCCJSTL), the Family Resource Center and Nine Network. The panelists representing academia, policy, youth and advocates for the LGBT community were struck by the film's ability to help LGBT youth see the importance of finding and accepting who they are.



## COMMUNITY CINEMA

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



**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.

**“Bringing public television into a public arena increases our exposure to ideas, and issues and connects us with the personal and the local.”**



**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.



**DRENA S. CLAY** *Efforts of Grace, Inc., New Orleans*

New Orleans is a great city with rich history and diverse cultures. Partnering with ITVS and WYES has allowed me to connect community groups, partners, and educational institutions to engage in

meaningful dialogue about social issues. The post screening talk backs are heartfelt and allow individuals to heal or vent about issues in our city or nationwide. Ashé Cultural Arts Center is Louisiana's home for Community Cinema. Located in Central City, the center provides opportunities for community development. I am proud to say that Community Cinema is a weaving piece of our missions puzzle.



**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.



## 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 100 markets nationwide, and growing!**



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

Missouri History Museum, St. Louis, MO  
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  
Ashé Cultural Arts Center, New Orleans, LA  
Boston Public Library, Boston, MA  
John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI

### ALABAMA

- Mobile

### ALASKA

- Anchorage

### ARIZONA

- Green Valley
- Mesa
- Phoenix
- Tucson

### ARKANSAS

- Conway
- Little Rock

### CALIFORNIA

- Aliso Viejo
- Berkeley
- Culver City
- Eureka
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles
- Newbury Park
- San Bernardino
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Pedro
- San Rafael
- Thousand Oaks

### COLORADO

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

### CONNECTICUT

- Sherman

### FLORIDA

- Miami
- Tampa

### GEORGIA

- Atlanta
- Statesboro

### HAWAII

- Honolulu

### IDAHO

- Boise
- Pocatello

### ILLINOIS

- Carbondale
- Champaign
- Chicago
- Evanston
- Urbana

### INDIANA

- Indianapolis
- Evansville

### IOWA

- Des Moines
- Fort Madison

### KANSAS

- Manhattan

### KENTUCKY

- Lexington
- Louisville

### LOUISIANA

- New Orleans

### MASSACHUSETTS

- Boston

### MICHIGAN

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

### MINNESOTA

- St. Paul

### MISSOURI

- St. Louis
- Kansas City

### NEBRASKA

- Lincoln
- Scottsbluff
- Wayne
- Westpoint

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Concord
- Manchester
- Plymouth

### NEW MEXICO

- Albuquerque

### NEW YORK

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

### NORTH CAROLINA

- Chapel Hill
- Charlotte

### OHIO

- Columbus

### OKLAHOMA

- Tulsa

### OREGON

- Portland

### PENNSYLVANIA

- Glenside
- Philadelphia

### SOUTH CAROLINA

- Charleston

### TENNESSEE

- Nashville

### TEXAS

- Austin
- Houston

### VERMONT

- Brattleboro
- Burlington
- Rutland
- St. Johnsbury

### WASHINGTON

- Bellingham
- Olympia
- Seattle
- South Colby
- Tacoma
- Vashon Island

### WASHINGTON, DC

### WISCONSIN

- Madison
- 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](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/getinvolved)

### ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

*Independent Lens* is an Emmy Award-winning weekly series airing Thursday nights at 10:00 PM on PBS. 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](http://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 Thursday 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](http://www.itvs.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNITY CINEMA, VISIT:  
[WWW.COMMUNITYCINEMA.ORG](http://WWW.COMMUNITYCINEMA.ORG)

### Upcoming Community Cinema Presentations:



November 2011: *Deaf Jam*



January 2012: *Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock*



April 2012: *Hell and Back Again*

