

NET's Fall 2012 Coffee and Conversation Film Series Focuses on Issues Facing Women and Girls

LINCOLN, Neb. (Sept. 10, 2012) - - NET launches the 2012 fall "Coffee and Conversation in the Community" film and discussion series at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23 with the local premiere of "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide." The series returns to the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center at 13th and Q streets on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

"Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide," directed by Maro Chermayeff, was filmed in 10 countries. Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas Kristof, Sheryl WuDunn and six celebrity activists examine the linked problems of sex trafficking and forced prostitution, gender-based violence, and maternal mortality. The entire program airs on NET Television in October and this is the local opportunity to see a sneak preview of two segments of the series: gender violence in Sierra Leone and sex trafficking in Cambodia. For more on the film, go to <http://communitycinema.org/films>. A showing is also scheduled in Omaha at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27 at Mammel Hall on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus in partnership with ICAN, the Institute for Career Advancement Needs (<http://icanglobal.net/index.cfm>).

"Coffee and Conversation" is free and open to the public. A community discussion in UNL's Van Brunt Visitors Center follows the screening. The films are shown in partnership with ITVS Community Cinema, Lincoln community radio station KZUM (89.3 FM), the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Other films in the series are:

Sunday, Oct. 21: "As Goes Janesville." Brad Lichtenstein's "As Goes Janesville" tells the story of Janesville, Wis., home of U.S. Congressman and GOP vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan (R-Wis.). The documentary follows three years in the lives of working people, business leaders and elected officials in one American town trying to reinvent itself amid America's worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. For more on the film, see <http://kartemquin.com/films/as-goes-janesville>.

Sunday, Nov. 18: "Solar Mamas." Jethane Noujaim's "Solar Mamas" documents the Barefoot College where women from all over the world, many without formal education, are trained as solar engineers so that they can bring electricity back to their homes. For more on this film, visit <http://www.itvs.org/films/solar-mamas>.

Sunday, Dec. 16: "Beauty Is Embarrassing." Part biography, part live performance, Neil Berkeley's "Beauty Is Embarrassing" traces Wayne White's career from an underground cartoonist in New York's East Village to his big break as a designer, puppeteer and voice-over

actor on Pee-Wee's Playhouse for which he won three Emmys. For more on this film, see <http://beautyisembarrassing.com/>.

The September and November films are part of "Women and Girls Lead," a multiyear public media initiative to focus, educate, and connect citizens worldwide in support of issues facing women and girls. For more on this initiative, go to <http://www.itvs.org/women-and-girls-lead>.

“Our vision for the ‘Coffee and Conversation’ series is to amplify the voices of women and girls as leaders, expand the understanding of gender equity and engage an international network of citizens and organizations to act locally and reach out globally,” said Marthaelen Florence, NET Community Engagement and Educational Outreach director.

For more information on the series and NET Community Engagement and Educational Outreach, check the NET website at <http://netNebraska.org/engage>.

CONTACT: NET Community Outreach director Marthaelen Florence, 402-470-6603 or mflorence@netNebraska.org.

RELEASE WRITTEN BY: Kim Hachiya, 402-470-6694, or khachiya@netNebraska.org.

NET Television:

NET1 is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral, and other news and public affairs programming; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.