

NET's Spring 2013 Coffee and Conversation Film Series Opens with 'The Powerbroker'

NET's spring schedule for the 2013 "Coffee and Conversation in the Community" film and discussion series opens at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20 with "The Powerbroker." The series screens at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center at 13th and Q streets on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

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

"The Powerbroker," directed by Bonnie Boswell, follows Whitney Young's journey from segregated Kentucky to the national campaign for equal rights. Young was one of the most celebrated and controversial leaders of the civil rights era. Unique among black leaders, he took the fight directly to the powerful white elite, gaining allies in business and government, including three presidents. Young had the difficult tasks of calming the fears of white allies, relieving the doubts of fellow civil rights leaders, and responding to attacks from the militant black power movement. This complex tale explores the public and private trials of the man at the center of the storm. For more on the film, go to www.whitneyyoungfilm.com. The discussion leader for this film is Shela Shanks, a civil rights attorney and community activist. Additional partners for "The Powerbroker" are NAACP and Nebraskans for Justice.

Other films in the spring series are:

Sunday, Feb. 17: "Soul Food Junkies." Soul food is a quintessential American cuisine, with a rich history and an abiding significance to black cultural identity. But with its core celebration of all things fried and smothered, it has also had lasting effects on African Americans' health, both for better and for worse. Byron Hurt's "Soul Food Junkies" looks at the past and future of soul food, from its roots in Western Africa, its incarnation in the American South, to its contribution to modern health crises in communities of color. Soul Food Junkies delves into the historical and controversial relationship between the African American community and soul food. For more on this film, go to www.itvs.org/films/soul-food-junkies. The discussion leader for this film is Georgia Jones, associate professor of nutrition and health sciences and soul food lecturer, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Additional partners for this "Soul Food Junkies" are UNL's Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences, the Malone Center and the National Council of Negro Women. Creative Seasonings will provide healthy-heart soul food for this event's reception.

Sunday, March 17: "Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines." Kristy Guevara-Flanagan's film "Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines" traces the fascinating evolution and legacy of Wonder Woman. From the birth of the comic book superheroine in the 1940s to the 1970s blockbuster TV series, "Wonder Women!" looks at how popular representations of powerful women often reflect society's anxieties about women's

liberation. The film goes behind the scenes with Lynda Carter, Lindsay Wagner, comic writers and artists, and real-life superheroines such as Gloria Steinem, Kathleen Hanna and others, who offer an enlightening and entertaining counterpoint to the male-dominated superhero genre. For more on the film, go to <http://wonderwomendoc.com/team/filmmakers/>. The discussion leader for this film will be a representative from the UNL Women's Center. Additional partners for "Wonder Women!" are the UNL Women's Center and the UNL Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Sunday, April 21: "The Island President." After leading a 20-year pro-democracy movement against the brutal regime of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, surviving repeated imprisonments and torture, Mohamed Nasheed, becomes president of the Maldives at 41, only to take on the enormous challenge of preserving his homeland. Considered the lowest-lying country in the world, a rise of a few meters in sea level would flood the 1,200 islands of the Maldives, rendering the country practically unlivable. Unless dramatic changes are made by the larger countries of the world, the Maldives will disappear under the ocean. Jon Shenk, Bonni Cohen and Richard Berge present a compelling look at Nasheed, a man confronting a problem greater than any other world leader has ever faced -- the literal survival of his country and everyone in it. For more on the film, go to <http://www.itvs.org/films/higher-ground>.

Sunday, May 19: "The Revolutionary Optimists." In the poorest neighborhoods of Calcutta, a lawyer turned social entrepreneur is empowering young girls and boys to take an active role in transforming their own lives. Amlan Ganguly doesn't rescue slum children; he empowers them to become change agents, battling poverty and transforming their neighborhoods with dramatic results. Filmed by Maren Grainger-Monsen and Nicole Newham over the course of several years "The Revolutionary Optimists" follows Amlan and three of the children he works with on an intimate journey through adolescence, as they fight for the better future he encourages them to imagine is deservedly theirs. For more on this film, go to www.itvs.org/films/revolutionary-optimists.

Sunday, June 16: "Love Free or Die." Filmmaker Macky Alston documents the true story of Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson, whose two defining passions the world cannot reconcile: his love for God and for his partner Mark. It is about church and state, love and marriage, faith and identity-and one man's struggle to dispel the notion that God's love has limits. In the film, Gene Robinson becomes the first openly gay person to be elected bishop in the high church traditions of Christendom. Bishop Robinson confronts those who use religion as an instrument of oppression, and claims a place in the church and society, not just for LGBT people, but for all. By changing the church, he can change the world. For more on this film, go to <http://www.itvs.org/films/love-free-or-die/>

The March and May 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>.

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

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